

# **BRIDGEND & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**

## **BEGINNERS' BEEKEEPING COURSE 2018**

All sessions will take place at Bryngarw Country Park, starting in the Education Centre (next to the café) at 10.00 a.m on Sunday morning. After a brief theory session, we will walk up to the Association apiary in the ground of BLeaf Garden Centre nearby.

In the case of bad weather making it impossible to open the hives, sessions will continue in the Education Centre.

Participants will be given parking passes for free parking in the main car park.

The sessions will finish at 12.00 a.m.

Notes from the theory sessions will be available on our website after each session.

If course participants wish to start beekeeping this year, the Association will be able to source suitable bees for starter colonies, and will provide guidance on purchasing hives and equipment.

### **8 APRIL 2018: SESSION ONE - INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE**

Outline of the course, introduction to tutors and course participants.

Protective clothing: Participants should bring a pair of household rubber gloves and suitable footwear covering the ankles. We will supply bee suits until participants purchase their own.

We will (weather permitting) look inside a hive and get participants to handle frames of bees.

### **15 APRIL 2018: SESSION 2 - THE LIFE CYCLE OF A BEE COLONY**

A presentation on the Life cycle of honey bees.

We will then look at the hives, learning how to identify different castes of bees, plus brood, eggs, pollen, nectar etc.

### **22 APRIL 2018: SESSION 3 - THE HIVE**

Presentation on different hive types and the basic elements of a hive.

Demonstration of making up boxes, making frames etc. Participants will be able to take home the parts needed to make up a frame, to be brought completed to the next session.

Followed by a look at the hives in the apiary.

## **20 APRIL 2018: SESSION 4 - COLONY MANAGEMENT**

Presentation about annual management of a colony, looking at swarm control, feeding, frame management, adding supers.

Followed by practical application of managements techniques in the apiary.

## **6 MAY 2018: SESSION 5 - PESTS & DISEASES**

Presentation looking at the common diseases and pests of honeybees, and ways of dealing with them.

Followed by a look at the hives in the apiary, concentrating on health aspects.

## **13 MAY 2018: SESSION 6 - HONEYBEE REPRODUCTION**

Presentation looking at the reasons for swarming, swarm prevention, collecting swarms, splitting hives, making increase, queen rearing.

At the apiary, we go through hives, using the techniques discussed as necessary.

## **20 MAY 2018: SESSION 7 - BEE FORAGE**

Presentation about what bees feed on throughout the year.

At the hives, we will look for pollen colours, propolis, nectar etc.

### **NOTE:**

- *Weekly sessions will continue at the apiary on Sundays throughout June and July. These will be open to all members, and beginners are welcome to attend.*
- *In September we will be taking off supers of honey for extraction, and it is important that beginners attend this session.*
- *This will be followed by an evening session on September 11<sup>th</sup> at Coytrahe Community Hall when beginners will be able to extract and bottle the Apiary honey.*
- *In late September/early October we will be carrying out the Apiguard treatment against Varroa. This session is important for beginners.*
- *In late December/January we will carry out the Oxalic Acid Varroa treatment, again important for beginners to attend.*
- *Further details and dates for these sessions will be put on our website and Facebook page, and members will also be notified by email.*

