



The Ipswich & East Suffolk Beekeepers' Association; First Founded 1880, A Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. 1183025.

An Introduction to Beekeeping Course 2026 (and other beekeeping events)

Programme as at 1 September 2025 Course dates blue background

Event	Date & Place	Content	Comment
WhatsApp	I&ES BKA WhatsApp Group	Whatever!	To join, call Richard Allen: secretary.iesbka@suffolkbeekeepers.co.uk or 07889 028573.
Felixstowe Beekeepers	See comment	Discussion group	Meets 3 rd THURSDAY of each winter month (starting 18 th September) in the Kirton Pavilion, 2 Back Rd, Kirton, IP10 0QQ, What3words location ///florists.twitchy.cartoons. starting at 7:30. All are welcome. Contact: Chris Stephens chris.stephens@btinternet.com
Saturdays @ Café Flex	2 nd Saturdays of month	Bees, breakfast, coffee & chat 10:00 – 12:00.	A chance to stop and chat informally about bees, or anything else, with other beekeepers. Café Flex, Three Rivers Business Center, Felixstowe Road, Ipswich IP10 0BF. Please tell Sally Thurlow: salthurlow@gmail.com by email, WhatsApp or 07721 625313 if you are coming so we have enough seats (or cancel if we don't). Everyone is welcome.
Monthly I&ES BKA meeting	Wednesday 1st October	Clive de Bruyn, NDB: Beekeeping mistakes	Clive is a legend. He has recently delivered this same talk in Ireland at their summer school..
Monthly I&ES BKA meeting	Wednesday 5th November	Stewart Spinks:	Stewart is an expert who offers a wide variety of talks on practical beekeeping.
Monthly I&ES BKA meeting	Wednesday 3rd December	Neil Page: Skep making	This will be a practical session to get you started to finish at home afterwards.
Course 1 st session	Monday 2 March 7.30- 9:3pm, Dallinghoo Village Hall	General overview of bees and bee behaviour.	Mostly about Honey Bees – a scene setter for understanding
Monthly I&ES BKA meeting	Wed 4 Mar 7:30pm Scout Hall, Kesgrave	tbc	
Course 2 nd session	Monday 9 March 7.30pm	Beekeeping equipment – what to buy and what not.	In the end, you have to make up your own mind. We will be giving you some suppliers' catalogues. If you want advice, please ask.
Course 3 rd session	Monday 16 March 7.30pm	The beekeeping year – centred, naturally, on flowering plants.	What happens and what you need to do.
Course 4 th session	Monday 23 March 7.30pm	An overview: forage, honey, wax & stings.	Bringing things together
Course 5 th session	Monday 30 March 7.30pm	Pests and diseases. Sources of information	Problems. How to get started
Monthly I&ES BKA meeting	Wed 1 Apr 7:30pm Scout Hall, Kesgrave	tbc	
<i>Easter</i>	<i>Sunday 5 April 2026</i>		
Course 6 th session For ½ the group	Saturday 11 April 2:00 – 4:00pm	Handling bees	In our Wherstead teaching apiary. Location map provided.
Course 6 th session For the other ½ of group	Sunday 12 April 2:00 – 4:00pm	Handling bees	In our Wherstead teaching apiary. Location map provided.
BBKA Spring Convention	17 - 19 April	Many excellent talks; many suppliers of bee equipment; good social.	Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire TF10 8NB Accommodation very limited – book early!
Course final session	Sunday 19 April 10:00 – 4:00pm	Bee Health Day, practical bee handling, meet our Bee Inspector.	Please tell Jeremy if you cannot attend. There may be another similar event elsewhere
Wherstead Teaching Apiary opens	Sunday 26 April	See website: https://www.suffolkbeekeepers.co.uk/Ipswich_East_Suffolk_BKA.php	
SUFFOLK SHOW	27-28 May		