

Course description – provided by Sam

When: A six-week evening course, Monday Evenings at Martineau Gardens 6, 13, 20, 27 September, 4 and 11 October

Aims:- To teach an understanding of small scale beekeeping broken into 6 weekly sessions. This will allow delegates to understand what is involved in keeping bees. Although the course is predominantly classroom based, there will be some practical elements.

Week 1 Introduction to the course

Types of hives

Basic Equipment

Obtaining bees

Buying a Nucleus

Obtaining a swarm

Buying a complete colony

Precautions when obtaining bees

Reading list

Beekeeping association membership

Week 2 Honey bee life cycle.

Colony organisation.

Cycle of work in the apiary.

Autumn

Winter

Spring

Summer

Week 3 Swarming

Collecting

Prevention

Artificial swarm

Artificial swarm without finding the queen

Uniting stocks

Week 4 Plants

Stings

Moving bees

Hygiene

Week 5 Problems

Pests

Diseases

Week 6 Harvesting honey

Extracting honey

Processing honey

Feeding bees

Finally in conclusion