



Welcome

Introduction

Brief Outlines
about bees and what is
involved in being a
'beekeeper'

What is a honey bee?



It isn't

a Bumble bee, a hornet, or a wasp

This is a Honeybee



A Brief History of Beekeeping

Pre-history

honey hunting

Egyptians

hiving & harvesting

mid-19th Century

bee-management



Reverend
Lorenzo
Langstroth

Philadelphia
1890

father of
modern
beekeeping





How does the
honeybee live
?



What comes from a colony?

Essential to man

Pollination

Wax

Honey

Used by man

Pollen

Propolis

Royal jelly

Bee venom

The Beekeeping Year

Autumn - prepare for winter:



check: Stores
Safety
Equipment

Winter -



Monitor hive state & stores
Prepare equipment

Spring check stores, brood state & health



Make storage space
Manage colony build-up to
swarming

Summer -



check colony state & health
feed in June Gap if required
harvest surplus honey

Swarming

Why do bees swarm?

To create more colonies
or

Because of overcrowding
or both

Swarming



Just out

Too well
established!



Setting up an apiary – where, how & why?

Garden,
Farmland or
Allotment?

always:

Liaise with your neighbours, the
landowner, the allotment

Ideal site:

Easy access

Away from other beekeeper's apiaries

Hidden from road, paths (& thieves)

Safe flight path

Sheltered

Early sun & mid-day shade

Water nearby

Level ground

Room to work the hive



So much choice!



National



WBC

Langstroth



Bee's requirements

Right size cavity

weather-proof

Easily protected entrance

Space to expand

Entrance allowing ventilation

Safe from predators

Away from other colonies

Keeper's requirements

Suitable container, ideally wood?

Comb built on frames

Frames suspended in boxes to maintain bee space

Surplus stores easy to remove

Working *with* the bees

not destroying their hard work



£400 - £500 + bees min £550?



+ £150 - £200

Hazards

for you

for the bees

Stings

Pests

Allergies

Disease

Backache

Weather

Heavy weights

Predators

Beekeepers!



Varroa mite –
debilitator & vector for disease

Asian Hornet -
Predator of all pollinators



Petersfield Beekeepers Association

200 members, 130 beekeepers

A member of

Hampshire Beekeepers Association

1,200 beekeeping members in 13 associations

A member of

British Beekeepers Association

24,000 beekeeping members

Supported by

NBU & Beebase

Rewards

Honey

Satisfaction

and

an enhanced understanding
of the countryside and
the natural world