

So you are thinking about keeping bees?



Please read this first!

Time - Bees take time. Bees work to their own agenda – not yours, so you need to be time flexible.

During the spring when the bees get busy, they try to build up their number really quickly. The queen starts laying in earnest and the bee population within the hive builds rapidly. Weekly inspections are key at this time of year. Dependent upon the weather this is known as 'swarm season' and it is a natural way for the bees to increase in number. So if you cannot set aside time at least once a week – then maybe think again.....and leave the beekeeping until family/work commitments drop off for you to pursue your hobby without fretting.

Where - are you going to keep your bees?

Do you have a large garden? Or are you hemmed in on all sides with close neighbours?

Bees will swarm and understanding neighbours will reduce the worry greatly.

We do have three divisional apiaries for our members. However, there may be a waiting list for space.



Cost - the start-up costs for beekeeping are expensive.

A standard National Hive with 2 x supers (for honey collection) will cost approximately £ 245.50 (Flat pack price – you will need to build it!)

A full bee suit in the region of £ 80 - £ 195.00

Hive tools and smoker £ 47.50

And the bees and queen - £ 370.00

Total - £ 858.00 – so realistically allow a budget of £1000.00

We have given you a rough indication of cost due to feedback from our students this year. Some were rather surprised to learn the exact cost of beekeeping and felt it was prohibitive in pursuing beekeeping as a hobby.

However, most of our students do gain a lot of joy from beekeeping and if the hives are managed correctly you will enjoy a truly delicious honey harvest too! "

