

Cheshire Beekeepers' Association Education Programme

Winter Video Conferencing Study Groups 2025 - 2026

A couple of our winter study groups still have spaces available for the coming sessions – if you'd like to join the groups covering Module 2 (honey bee products and forage) or 3 (honey bee disease) then please get in touch either with the course tutors (given below) or with Lesley Jacques (lesley.jacques@me.com, tel. 07788 744086).

The CBKA winter study groups are loosely based on the syllabuses for the Module Examinations of the BBKA. These syllabuses can be found on the BBKA website, or contact Lesley Jacques (lesley.jacques@me.com) who will send you one.

Each course will consist of about nine sessions, beginning in October/November 2025 and ending in February/March 2026 in time for people to prepare to sit the examination if they so wish. The spring module exams will be held on 21st March. Please note there is absolutely no pressure on people to take the exam, nor any expectation that they should do so.

The Study Groups are open to any member of Cheshire Beekeepers' Association who has at least two years' experience of keeping bees. We expect that most sessions will be held over Zoom, thereby allowing members from across the county to participate without the need for sometimes lengthy journeys on winter evenings. In order to participate fully, participants will need a PC, laptop or tablet equipped with a webcam and microphone. The Zoom interface is easy to use and the tutors will typically send out links to the various sessions in good time.

There may be a small charge to cover costs of materials, Zoom license etc.

Further details of all the courses are on the CBKA web site www.cheshirebka.co.uk

Study Group Module 2 - Honey Bee Products and Forage

This study group will be led by Pete Sutcliffe. The first meeting of the group will be on **Thursday 13th October**, starting at 7.30pm, then 20th October, with meetings at roughly fortnightly intervals thereafter.

The Study Group will cover:

- Current UK statutory regulations effecting honey for sale
- Methods of uncapping honey, extractors, preparation and bottling of honey for sale and storage
- Moisture content and spoilage of honey
- Preparation of beeswax
- Bee products
- Major nectar and pollen producing plants and flowering periods
- Pollination and fertilisation
- Extra-floral nectaries
- The composition of nectar
- Factors affecting nectar secretion
- Honeydew honey
- The process of converting nectar to honey
- Analysis of the pollen content of honey

For further details, contact Pete Sutcliffe at sutcliffe.pete@gmail.com or Tel. 01477 532171.

Study Group Module 3 - Honey Bee Diseases

This study group will be led by Pam and Stuart Hatton. The first meeting of the group will be on **Monday 27th October**, starting at 7.30pm, with meetings at roughly fortnightly intervals thereafter.

The Study Group will cover:

- The various diseases of honeybee brood and adults, their signs and diagnosis
- Treatments available, their methods of use and efficacy
- Methods of treatment and control of Varroa, including Integrated Pest Management.
- Viruses affecting honeybees.
- Signs of poisoning in honeybees and action to be taken.
- The steps that can and should be taken by a beekeeper to prevent disease and its spread
- Knowledge of legally notifiable diseases and pests
- Legislation regarding the importation of honeybees
- The biology of the honeybee with relation to disease
- Damage caused to colonies and equipment by mice, woodpeckers and other pests, including wax moth, and how to prevent this.

For further details, contact Pam or Stuart Hatton at pamela.hatton200@btinternet.com, or Tel: 01925 263023

.....

If you have any questions about any of the above courses, or if you have suggestions for other training that CBKA could organise, please feel free to contact Lesley Jacques (contact details as above) – suggestions are always welcome!