



Pollen-8

8 workshops to help you understand beekeeping and support pollinators

Particularly suitable for new (and non) beekeepers, but also enlightening fun for established beekeepers

Cost: £60 (£7.50 per workshop) Email: office@hivehelpers.co.uk if interested

Week 1: INTRODUCTION: Meet each other, meet the hives, wild pollinator discussion.

- Hellos, all about Hive Helpers and how we approach beekeeping
- Slideshow of British pollinators
- Sorting out suits, safety briefing
- PRACTICAL: How to behave around active hives, viewing through the crown-board, observing hive entrances

Week 2: 'SAVE THE BEES': How the media got it wrong (and how we can start to put it right).

- Talk: Why pollinators are in decline, stark facts, London beekeeping and green deserts
- Honey bees vs wild pollinators – differences and similarities; swarms, stores and stings
- PRACTICAL: The strength of a hive

Week 3: WHAT IS NECTAR? Sweet rewards.

- Group discussion: History of *Homo sapiens*'s love of honey
- Talk: how nectar is turned into honey, what is honey analysis, and nectar-use by wild pollinators
- PRACTICAL: Honey tasting, processing combs and frame making

Week 4: WHAT IS POLLEN? The function and composition of pollen and why it's so important to pollinators, and us!

- Slideshow about why pollen evolved
- Pollen under the microscope
- Pollen as a product
- PRACTICAL: Looking at pollen cells within a hive, how bees use pollen, fitting a pollen trap to a hive

Week 5: POLLINATORS IN MY GARDEN: Identifying British pollinators

- The pollinators of Farnham Community Farm
- Who pollinates what?
- What supports pollinators in your garden? E.g. types of forage, water sources, habitat
- PRACTICAL: Wildflower and pollinator surveying

Week 6: DATA and DANCING: How do honeybees forage?

- Facts and figures, forage maps and the importance of getting to know your local area
- The waggle dance
- Dancing to death – the pesticide problem
- PRACTICAL: Observing the waggle dance. Dancing lessons...!

Week 7: HIVES, NESTS... and THE REST: how pollinators live and reproduce... and how you can help

- Talk about why honeybee roles, swarming and how different bees live in the wild
- PRACTICAL: Different parts of a national hive and can you put it together? Creating a bumblebee nest site

Week 8: THE POLLINATOR PLEDGE: How will you continue to help British pollinators?

- Improving your garden or local habitat for pollinators, lifestyle changes and raising awareness
- Conclusions, questions, making plans. Taking the pollinator pledge
- PRACTICAL: A last look at the bees