



YEOVIL BEE NEWS

March 2018

Welcome to the newsletter of the Yeovil & District Division of the, Somerset Beekeepers' Association. See also our website: www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk

**Next Meeting – David Maslen talks about
Queen not seen....how to??? Not in the Book"
7:30pm Tuesday 20th March
at East Coker Village Hall**

David is a great hands-on beekeeper and will certainly give us useful practical talk with lots of useful tips. The title of the talk gives him plenty of leeway!

David is President of Avon Beekeepers and their past chairman. He has been keeping bees since 1980 and is the voice of practical experience – what works, what doesn't, what you won't get out of the books plus running a two queen system!

It should be a great practical talk, not to be missed by any of our beekeepers.

Directions

To find the East Coker Village Hall from Yeovil:

From the West Coker Road, turn down Sandhurst Road by the Post Office/store (on the left after the PO if coming from the Quicksilver roundabout or on the right just before the PO if coming from the Bunford Hollow Roundabout). At East Coker (about 1.2 miles) turn left at the T junction. After about 400yds, turn right onto Halves Lane. The Village Hall is about 200ft on the right.

For SATNAV use post code: BA22 9JJ.

February Meeting:

Lynne Ingram was a fount of knowledge about all things OSR. From the developing of improved varieties which now have more "better" fats and oils (and less nectar) to the application of Neonicotinoids (yields have improved since these were banned!) and the lasting effects of Neonics in the soil; how long will it take before plants grown in old Neonic soil do not take up this lethal insecticide?

The bees must be prepared early in the season with a little stimulus feeding so that they are strong enough to work the crop well. And the crop needs to be removed as soon as ripe as OSR sets **very** quickly. The crop should be extracted within a few days of inserting the porter escapes otherwise you will need to scrape the crop off the frame foundation and then gently warmed up to separate the wax from the honey.

The honey sometimes has a "cabbagy" scent and has a very hard but fine set. It is therefore ideal for seeding otherwise coarse setting honey to get a nice set.

This talk was a thorough education for any beekeeper considering taking an OSR crop. Thank you Lynne!

From Jaqui's notes

Coming soon ...

Event	When	Where	Details
Divisional meeting	Tuesday 20th March	East Coker Village Hall	David Maslen talks on How to? (not in the book!)
Taunton Division Auction of Equipment	Sunday 25th March	Ruishton Village Hall TA3 5JD	Auction starts at 2pm
Divisional Apiary Meeting	Saturday 21st April	John Carnegie's Apiary	Pat Lehain leads a hands-on visit to the apiary
SBKA Special Lecture	Wednesday 25th April	Edgar Hall, Somerton TA11 6SB	Margaret Thomas NBD talks on Swarm Control for the Busy beekeeper
World Beekeeping Day	20th May	Worldwide	

BBWear Discount Offer

BBWear are suppliers of quality clothing and equipment. They are offering a discount (20%) for all fully paid up members.

More information is in the attached form. If you are interested in taking up this offer, please contact Sharon in the first instance.

BBWear website can be found here: <https://www.bbwear.co.uk/>

(Attachment: Association offer)

From Your Chairman

Hello all Beekeepers,

“No Honey no Money!” These are the words that pop repeatedly up in my presentation to the Beginners that I’m teaching at the moment. Of course this refers to swarming. It is a fact that most beekeepers give up beekeeping within the first two years of learning the craft because they do not master swarming.

Fun.

I have decided that beekeeping must be more fun for me as I get older. Collecting swarms and dealing with queen cells is fun because it is a challenge and challenges are always fun. I’m going to build a giant hive out of three brood boxes eventually and when the swarming time comes I’m going to re-sort the boxes with all the honey in the top, all the sealed brood in the middle box and all the unsealed brood plus the Queen in the lower box. One does this repeatedly while the while the time to swarming is upon us. Snelgrove advocates this one and this will be fun too. (On second thoughts wouldn’t this be ideal for my queen rearing clock split. See below))

Laughing Gas

This gas was used to render the bees docile and lethargic by someone in 1962! Laughing gas is Nitrous Oxide and it is interesting that some beekeepers place a sodium nitrate crystals in their smokers and that produces laughing gas too. It is said that it also causes the bees to lose their memory and so bees can be moved to a new geographical location without them relocating to the old site. You can tell I’ve been reading some old books!

Queen rearing.

Bill Paterson and I are going to do some queen rearing when the time is right and it is our desire to rear about 20 Queens and then split a giant colony into a Clock face with each nucleus set out 1 to 12 with no colony in the middle. You could look this up if you like by searching on the Internet for Vince Cook.

Excitement

The Yeovil Show is coming and hopefully we will go to the Sherborne Fair as well. It will be easier this year because we did so well last year.

Swarms

Swarms are coming much quicker than we think and if you feel you are able to collect swarms do tell our Secretary.

Poisoning and Oilseed Rape

We were treated to an excellent lecture on oilseed rape by Lynn Ingram and I learnt a lot too. I am certainly ramping up my bees ready to cope with the rape and have all my swarm preparations in order because bees often swarm when the OSR finishes. She runs all her colonies on double broods because she says that it’s so much easier to do splits when they are swarming. She had also lost 19 of her colonies due to a spray incident which must have been devastating.

And if you don’t think your bees are going to the rape then I suggest you get a chair and sit in front of your hive and see what pollen is romping in. Never will I forget my first bee inspector way back in the 70s when there was no rape and he looked at my pollen going in and said, “Ah! Oil seed rape!” Seeing my scepticism he marched to the edge of the field and pointed to the distant Quantock Hills where there was a slit of yellow. The distance was unimaginable but my bees were going there and collecting some of their pollen, and later I put it under a microscope at school and there it was OSR. You can tell it’s oil seed rape by the pollen shape and the fact that it is 25 µm which is a good measuring stick if you take up microscopy.

Beginners

One of my beginner beekeepers is a chemist of some eminence and has written an explanation about the chemicals that are sprayed on oilseed rape. Peter Winton (and his wife), the author, travels a long way to get my beekeeping teaching and it's a great shame he's not going to be in Yeovil division! I have a total of 27 to teach which includes one Rumanian and one American which makes a nice change.

Flow Hives.

Having had one owner of a Flow Hive come to me and say that I ought to buy one because they don't swarm I would caution all Flow Hive owners that you will get no honey if they swarm. With the same breath I'm dying to buy one cheaply because I think the market is going to be flooded by people who don't get any honey from them. I'm determined to make mine flow beautifully one day, maybe. I'm still not keen on no foundation in these hives and I would also be sorely tempted to double brood them.

May I wish you all a very good beekeeping year.

John Carnegie, Chairman

Wax Recycling into New Foundation

Do you have any rendered wax and would like it to be change into foundation? Malcolm Blake is attending the BBKA Spring Convention at Harper Adams University, Newport on 14 April 2018 and is willing to take your wax to the convention and return with new foundation ready for you to use as the beekeeping season gathers pace. The value obtained for old wax is far better this way than in exchanging it for other goods or for cash. Even better value is achieved if Malcolm takes more than 50lb of old wax to swap for foundation. The old wax must be clean and free from dross, dead bees, honey and general debris.

Many of our members have benefited from this service over the years; could it be you this year? Your wax and a completed wax-to-foundation order form (see attachment/enclosure) must be with Malcolm by Tuesday 10 April 2018. Any questions - contact Malcolm on 01460 242124 or email at sbeditor@yahoo.co.uk.

Malcolm Blake

Attachment: wax conv form

The Royal Bath & West Show - 30th May – 2nd June 2018

Once again it is the time to begin preparing for this Show, and again, helpers are needed to set up the stands and displays on Sunday 27th May, and stewards to help on the stands in the Marquee during the 4 days of the Show.

If you are interested in assisting in either setting up, or stewarding on Show days, or both, please contact Ken Tredgett on:- 01373 464736 or email: tredg@talktalk.net The rota for stewards is either a half day, morning from 9.00am to 1.30pm or afternoon from 1.00pm to 6.00pm or all day from 9.00am to 6.00pm.

Why not enjoy a good day out with half a day in the Bee & Honey Marquee and half the day visiting the Show with all it has to see and do. There is always a lot going on in the Marquee, and we always enjoy ourselves when "on duty". Plenty of tea and coffee available both during the set-up and the Show.

Ken Tredgett

Bee Rustling

40 colonies have been stolen near Bicester. Read all about it here:

http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/16052697.One_million_bees_stolen_from_farmer_s_field/

So a good reason to protect your colonies by perhaps branding them as Steve and marie have:

With the increase number of thefts, we decided to either electronically tag or brand our beehives. Due to the costs associated with GPS and complexities of batteries and tracking systems, we decided to take the cheap and easy option to 'brand' our equipment. We agreed on a brand design and attempted to make it unique so that it would be difficult to remove and/or alter.

We then shopped around and found a local metal smith who was willing to make up the design (cheaply). Other custom made or standardized branding irons (some electric) are available on the internet – at a ridiculous cost.

We contacted Brian Hill (see website 'Brianhillmetalcraft.co.uk') with our simple design and he made it for the princely sum of £30. One of Brians helping hands at the site is also a (Dorset) Beekeeper which helped ! Brians Forge locations are on his website at Ryme Intrinseca, near Yetminster (just South of Yeovil) at postcode DT9 6JX. From agreeing a design to collecting took less than a week.



We then put on a pair of leather gloves and heat up the branding iron with two petrol stoves/burners (camping equipment). We burn the wood directly and then spray water to cool it (utilizing a water mist sprayers). We decided to brand all our brood, super and roofs. Job done.

Some of you may remember Brian – he was in the adjacent tent (Forge) at the Yeovil Honey Show.

Steve & Marie

Cretan Bees

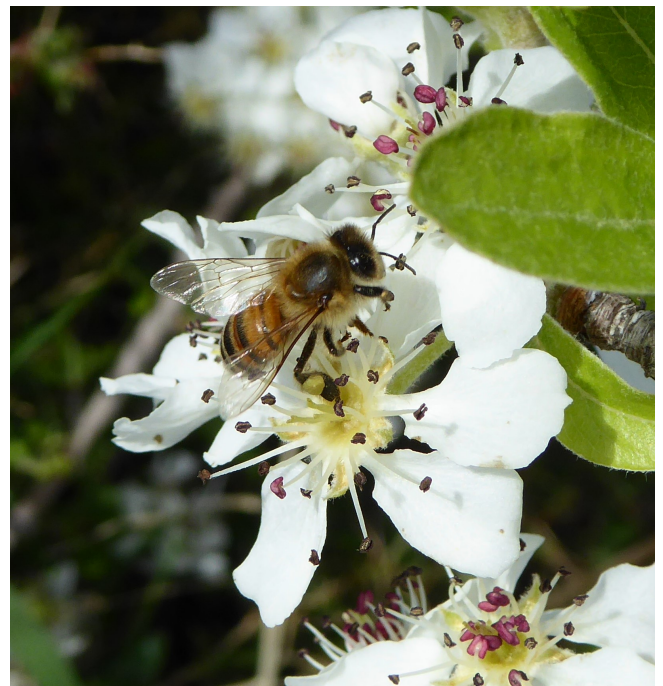
I have just returned from a visit to Crete where we saw several large apiaries in the local fields. This is the start of the most productive period for them before the hot dry summer starts. Of course I couldn't resist taking a few snaps....



One of the Apiaries: Note the two entrances on some of them (they must be nukes)



Bees on the move



Bees on a crop (not sure, may be Almond?)

2018 Honey Show

We are planning to stage another Grand Honey Show at the Yeovil Show again this year. Plans are underway and the Bernard Diaper has been invited to perform the honey judging. The date is 14th/15th July. Make sure you have this marked on your calendars.

So start getting your entries ready now! Don't wait until the last minute!

Britain's Position on Neonicotinoids Post-Brexit

Here is an article which suggests that Britain will adhere to and even strengthen the current EU ban on the use of neonicotinoids:

<http://www.wired.co.uk/article/will-new-evidence-on-neonicotinoids-strengthen-protection-for-britains-bees>

20 Interesting Facts about Bees

Friends of the Earth have produced a 20 point article about how lovely (and useful) bees are. Just follow this link to discover how many good things you are doing for our environment if you are keeping bees!

https://friendsoftheearth.uk/bees/20-facts-you-need-know-about-bees?gclid=CjwKCAiA_ojVBRAIEiwAOLRxI8FBguxfCpev9snj3Br9cInxhFmlbXI-GV4CvLjtMGfmzjKW-sWsnBoCJoUQAvD_BwE

Divisional officers

President	Nic Bard	01935 421623	Treasurer & membership secretary	Sharon Blake	01460 242124
Chairman	John Carnegie	01935 851234	Librarian	Jacqui Taylor	01963 220329
Vice-Chairman	Marvin Collins	01935 426153	Newsletter editor	Nic Bard Nic_bard@hotmail.com	07877 284545
Secretary	Steve & Marie Attrill	01935 475964	Mentor Liaison Officer	Vacant	
Divisional Web-Master	Toby Rutherford	tobyutherford@hotmail.com	County Delegates	Malcolm Blake Steve Attrill Andy Dobson	

The Yeovil division secretary email address is : yeovilbee@gmail.com.

Please contact any officer with your beekeeping or organisation comments and suggestions.

Please send any suggestions, articles or comments or ideas to share with our other members in the newsletter directly to the editor at nic_bard@hotmail.com.

Yeovil 2017/18 Programme

2018

- 20th Mar '18** - David Maslen at East Coker Village Hall
- 13th - 15th April** - BBKA Spring Convention. Harper Adams University, Shropshire
- 21st April** - Patrick Lehain leads apiary visit at John Carnegie's
- 25th April** - SBKA Special Lecture. Margaret Thomas talks on "Swarm Control for the Busy Beekeeper"
- 19th May** - Stuart Gould leads apiary visit at Marvin Collins' on swarming and swarm control.
- 16th June** - Roger Patterson leads apiary visit at Andrew Cooke's
- 14th/15th July** - The Yeovil Show and our Honey Show!
- 21st July** - Ivor Davis leads apiary visit at Malcolm and Sharon's
- 18th August** - Visit to Quantock Divisional Apiary
- 18th September** - Richard Ball talks about Beekeeping in Malta
- 16th October** - Jim Vivian-Griffiths talks about "Dancing Bees"
- 29th October** - Joint meeting with SW Division
- 20th November** - Divisional AGM
- 1st December** - Division Christmas Social skittles evening

2019

- 15th January** - Paddy Wallace from Quince Honey farm gives a talk
- 18th or 19th Feb** - Lecture Day speaker
- 19th March** - Pam Hunter gives a talk

April to August outside apiary meetings start at 2.30pm
Winter indoor meetings start at 7:30pm unless otherwise stated