



YEOVIL BEE NEWS

April 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 – Apiary Meeting

"What the Combs Tell us - and what we might do about it!"

lead by Pat Lehain

2:30pm Saturday 21st April

at John Carnegie's Apiary

Reading combs through the season can often give clues as to what has happened, what is happening now and what may happen next. But its not always clear what you might do about it. We will have a chance to discuss what options we might consider, how to make sure we don't make the same mistakes twice and hopefully share some experiences of what has worked (and not worked) for us.

Pat will lead the meeting but John will be on hand to open a different hive for the beginners group and those who have never been to an apiary beekeeping meeting before.

One of Pat's earliest memories as a small child was extracting honey with his grandfather. Having inherited his grandfather's beekeeping books, Pat eventually got round to keeping bees over 15 years ago. Having managed over twenty colonies at one time, he saw reason and tries to keep down to around ten colonies on Commercial and National brood chambers. Pat served over 10 years on the Committee of Somerton Division and Somerset BKA Council, currently serving on their executive committee.

Directions

See next page for detailed directions:

Directions to the April Apiary Meeting

This apiary has no parking so everybody has to park in Queen Camel. There is some parking in the High Street, The Glebe area behind the shop, and further on down the High Street (on the right coming from Yeovil, and on the left coming from The A303) there is a street called Mildmay Drive where there is parking also. All these places are within easy reach of the Marples room, Memorial Hall (BA22 7NF). I would suggest that we all assemble there at 2 p.m. to be down at the apiary at the end of Bindwell Lane by 2.30. Bindwell Lane is single track and there is no passing there to speak of. Should anybody be too infirm to walk 15 minutes slowly then they can drive down there to be dropped off.

I have booked the Marples room at the Hall from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. Here we can have tea and coffee et cetera. To walk from the Memorial Hall down to the apiary takes me a gentle 15 minute stroll. I would suggest that if it is cold then people should change in the Marples room and walk down or they can change at the apiary inside a shed if they are bashful, or on carpet which I shall provide outside the apiary. I will have six chairs down there for anybody who wishes to or needs to sit for whatever reason. I will also have an EpiPen.

Lastly, the Mildmay Arms do a very good lunch if anybody wants to come even earlier as it is a short walk from the pub to the Marples room. It being a Saturday lunch it might be prudent to ring the Mildmay Arms first if you want a meal. But there will always be plenty of beer and there is plenty of room down the apiary if you wish to hide and need a pee! Behind the shed is good.

For information on the day, contact John on 07850 558 960.

John

March Meeting: David Maslen

David Maslen is a true hands-on beekeeper. His talk was truly the voice of experience. He talked about handling the bees as well as the ever popular (dificult!) subject of Swarm Control, or should it be swarm management! Because swarms notoriously do their own thing. You will have more success in managing swarms and he discussed several methods which can be used, variations on the Pagden system. He had prepared some simple guides which he passed out at the end of the meeting.

I have attached copies to the newsletter email - they didn't scan well so I hope they are legible and undestandable. If you need help in deciphering them, just talk to one of our committee members who were there at the meeting.

Coming soon ...

Event	When	Where	Details
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
Divisional Apiary Meeting	Saturday 19th May	Marvin Collin's Apiary	Stuart Gould leads on "Swarming & Swarm Control"
World Beekeeping Day	20th May	Worldwide	

From Your Chairman

In the last cold blast I happened down to the bees at Bindwell when I spied on the lovely snowy surface, some bees in frozen formation on the white snow. When I picked one up it was clearly not dead but had been fooled into thinking it was a bright sunny day and had leapt out of the hive with joyous abandon. Blowing hot air onto its little body revived it somewhat and I pushed it back through the doorway where it disappeared. A good deed for the day but the others on the snow stayed there.

Of course the days before had been lovely and warm and I'd been down there watching the rivers of pollen flying into the hive like bounteous manna. How horrid it must have seemed to have one day like that and then freezing easterlies. All I could think of was that the bees would be huddled around all their newly born babies trying to keep them warm.

My March BeeCraft(You can get it online as well) had a wonderful article entitled the Voice Of Experience, Beekeeping Will Change You. It is not often that I laugh but this article was hilarious. While I do like the BBKA news I find BeeCraft equally as interesting if not more so. It has certainly got pages that are ideal for children. And talking of children, I found all my bee sheets that I used in the olden days with children at school all through the winter months so that when they came out in spring they were so much more enabled and knowledgeable. They used to study one sheet a week and then the following week they had a test on the sheet. There was a big chart up in the corridor to say who had passed what, and the children were extraordinarily competitive.

And talking about competitions I happened upon the exam results for 2015 and as I read down all the counties of who had passed what and the only county that had nothing was Somerset! Can it really be that we are the only county that didn't take an exam? Do remember that if you want to do an exam and buddy up, do contact me because I like the company.

Swarms; I had my first excitement on 7 April. The phone rang and it was a tree surgeon up a little lane just pass the enormous parking building at Yeovil hospital. He was sure that there was a swarm of bees in the tree that he was chopping down as there were so many bees there. I told him on the phone that this was highly unlikely at this time of year and could it be in the centre of the tree? He said that he could not proceed whatever the case unless he had say so from me as he had a very bad reaction to stings. I rang three people and there was no reply from any of them so the Yeovil swarm contingent were not available so muggins had to go out and see to them. When I got there, there was no way it could be a swarm of bees or a colony inside a tree trunk as the tree was spindly. However, I have never seen a sight like it and the noise of bees was deafening. Every single one of them had pollen baskets full or filling.



Luckily, the tree surgeon knew exactly what the tree was and it was a Goat Willow and one of the most spectacular pollen laden trees I have seen. My birthday is coming up and I want to plant one in the Bindwell Apiary!

My first Beginners came to Bindwell apiary on this day also and the weather was nice and warm in shirt sleeves so we went through two hives, one National and one 14 x 12 so they could see the contrast in the size of the brood nest. The former a semicircle and the latter a full circle. I did the usual, "Can you see the eggs?" All of them could on this occasion so none were recommended to go to SpecSavers!

Derek Richards and I have been on the case of hoovering up bees. I bought the hoover and Derek built the box. It is very sophisticated because he is one of the people who is in the Somerset Guild of Craftsmen. He has 2 long hives too which he built as well. He is also building our Honey Show Stands and we went off into Yeovil to buy the wood a few days ago. He doesn't know it yet but I have yet another plan which I want him to execute!

This is Derek Richards testing if the generator had enough oomph to drive the Hoover. It did, so if we are out in the countryside with no electric we can use this generator.

The Henry top detaches and has 2 speeds.

Below the Henry motor is a mesh so the bees not overheat in transit.

The black knob on the front is an open and close device so one can remove the hose without the bees escaping.

Inside is a fixed comb for the bees to cling on to.

There are 2 carrying handles.

At the rear are 4 clamps to remove the back and gain access to the bees.

We are dying to try it out in the field for real!

May I wish you all a very good beekeeping year.

John Carnegie, Chairman



Swarms

John Carnegie is our Divisional Swarm Co-ordinator. So if you are able to collect swarms or would like a swarm this year, please contact John on 07850 558 960.

There will be further emails about this so keep your eyes open for them!

The Yeovil Show: 14th & 15th July

We are again planning to have a "honey" tent in the Yeovil Show where we will show off everything bees as well as some live bee displays. The Show is on Saturday 14th July and Sunday 15th. If you can help :

- On the days before the show to assist with staging the tents and displays
- On the days after the show to assist with taking the displays down and tidying the site
- on one or both of the days by talking to our interested visitors about bees
- or help with selling honey bee products
- or assist with stewarding,

please get in touch with John or Nic as we will be co-ordinating the efforts.

We will be holding regular co-ordination meetings leading up to the show so please come along and see what we are planning and see how you can help. I will be sending out meeting invitations regularly so come along to any that you can make, but do let us know if you can help as this will help us with the planning.

2018 Divisional 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 judging. See just above for details of the show itself and attached is a preliminary copy of the show entry schedule and rules. Have a look through it and decide what you would like to enter. I am sure there are several classes that you all can enter. So you can start preparing your entries nice and early. We are a fairly "informal" show so no entries will be criticised! You are all encouraged to enter something and start some discussions!

If you have a problem with getting your entry to the show or collecting it afterwards, have a word with one of the committee members and they will provide what assistance they can. ALL your entries are needed to make the show a success.

2018: Asian Hornet found in UK already

You may already have received a missive from the NBU about a Hornet found in a cauliflower in Bury.

Full details here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/asian-hornet-identified-in-lancashire>

SBKA Special Lecture

This year's SBKA Special Lecture is on Wednesday 25th April at The Edgar Hall, Somerton, TA11 6SB. Margaret Thomas. CSP, NDB will be talking on the subject of "Swarm Control for the busy beekeeper". Margaret is an experience speaker (as well as beekeeper) and serves up a talk which will prepare you for the coming season.

Full details of the talk are on the SBKA web-site on the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/special-lecture-tickets-38538202802>

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

Repeated from last month:

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

Divisional officers

President	Nic Bard	01460 221698	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	Neil Cook	neil.cook@noware.co.uk	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

- 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
All indoor meetings next season will be in the Ilchester Pavilion