



# YEOVIL BEE NEWS

## October 2018

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

**Next Meeting – Indoor Meeting**  
**Jim Vivian-Griffiths talks about**  
**"Dancing Bees"**  
**7:30pm Tuesday 16th October**  
**at The Ilchester Pavilion**

Jim is a well qualified and interesting speaker and has a topic that I am sure will interest us all!

He writes this about himself:

My wife & I have been keeping bees in Monmouth and surrounding area since 2000. We currently have 28 colonies, and keep planning to reduce! I qualified as a Master Beekeeper in 2014, and received the Wax Chandlers Award. In 2015 I qualified as a Certified Lecturer with the Federation of Irish Beekeepers. I am an examiner for the BBKA Basic, Healthy Bees, and General Husbandry Assessments. I am also Trainer and Treasurer for Dean Forest BKA for more years than I can remember!

My talk on "The Dancing Bees" is all about the Waggle Dance, explaining how it works, and the theories of the evolution of the dance. I will discuss the scientific studies and the controversies between Von Frisch and others. Also the use of the dance by Lindauer and Seeley to identify new nesting sites for swarms. The practical study carried out by Sussex University using the waggle dance to interpret available foraging areas over several seasons.

See the next page for directions to the venue.

## Directions

The Ilchester Sports Pavilion is on Roman Road, Ilchester:

Post code BA22 8NW.

To find the Pavillion from the A303; turn onto the A37 at the Ilchester turn off and take the first turning on the right (before Ilchester roundabout). This is Roman Road and the Pavillion is the first building on the left.

From Yeovil; take the A37 North towards Ilchester. Take the first exit at the Ilchester roundabout towards the A303. Take the next left turning left onto Roman Road. The Pavilion is the first building on the left.

## October Joint Meeting: Monday 29th October

Our annual joint meeting with the SW Division follows hot on the heels of the regular meeting, only two weeks later, so make sure this is on your calendar as well!

The meeting starts at 7:30 pm in the Over Stratton Village Hall. Ged Marshall will talk about "Spring Management and Swarm Control".

Ged is a well known Bee Farmer, working about 300 colonies. He is a Master Bee Farmer and a well known queen and Nuc supplier of bees derived from Brother Adams stocks. So he certainly knows his bees.

Spring management leading to swarm control is one of the most important aspects of managing your colonies. This sets them up for the coming season (and honey crop) as well as preparing them for the winter and the next season.

Ged Marshall is a knowledgeable and engaging speaker so the joint meeting is a good opportunity to engage him. This is an event not to be missed!

The meeting is at the Over Stratton Village Hall. The post code is TA13 5LN and the parking area is the second entrance after the hall on the left.

## September Meeting: Richard Ball talked about Pollen

Richard presented his interest in analysing the pollen collected by his bees and not the expected talk about Beekeeping in Malta. Our apologies to any members who were disappointed about the change in subject.

Richard has been collecting the pollen collected by his bees to see where they are foraging. This means collecting the pollen, drying it and then sorting it. This sounds easier than it actually is as it takes several days to sort one batch of pollen!

It then has to be identified. Again, not as easy as it sounds! There are several good references to help identify the pollen from the colour. But it does depend on the light and there is a natural variation in colour of the pollen. So to accurately identify the source of the pollen, each type was mounted on a slide to be viewed with the microscope - again, not a simple or quick task!

To demonstrate the difficulties, pollen grains vary from those which are individually just discernable by the maked eye to those which need a powerful microscope and Richard brought a couple of examples to view under the microscope.

A very interesting and enlightening talk, even if it was not the expected subject!

**Nic**

## **Notice for Yeovil Division AGM, 2018**

**Tuesday 20th November**

**At the Ilchester Sports Pavilion**

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the 2017 AGM and Matters Arising
3. Reports from: Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman
4. Election of Auditor and Officers
5. Nomination of members for Honorary Membership
6. Any Other Business

As always, the AGM is the opportunity for the members of the division to have their say in the running of their Beekeeping group. Please come along and have your say. Let us know what we are doing right and what can be improved or what we are missing. This is your forum!

If you have any particular item you would like to include in the agenda, you must inform the secretary at least 14days before the meeting, by 4th November.

## Christmas Social Meeting

Every Christmas, the Yeovil Beekeepers and their partners get together for a social gathering. There are no talks but plenty of talking as we get together over a drink, a buffet and game of skittles (optional!).

This year, I have booked the Forester's Arms near Hardington Mandeville for the Saturday evening of 1st December. Full details of the event later but mark your calendar now for this relaxed social event.

**Nic**

## Coming soon ...

Event	When	Where	Details
Divisional Indoor Meeting	Tuesday 16th October	Illchester Pavilion	Jim Vivian-Griffiths talks about Dancing Bees
Joint Indoor Meeting with SW Division	Monday 29th October	Over Stratton Village Hall	Ged Marshall talks about Spring Management and Swarm Control
Divisional AGM	Tuesday 20th November	Illchester Pavilion	The annual General Meeting. Please come and have your say.
Christmas Social	Saturday 1st December	Foresters Arms	A Christmas Social evening with skittles and a cold buffet

## Asian Hornet Information - update

There are continuing reports of Asian Hornet sightings in the UK. A really worrying series of reports.

The best place to get the latest information links is the SBKA home page:

<https://www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk/>

and also at the NBU web-site:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/asian-hornet-uk-sightings-in-2018>

More information on the hornet traps at:

<http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/downloadNews.cfm?id=122>

And a video on how to make a trap:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=6&v=CR6MUekAjMo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=6&v=CR6MUekAjMo)

Please keep your eyes open for any hornets hawking on front of your hives and put out hornet traps to capture any predators. An invaluable monitoring device but do inspect and empty regularly!

## From Your Chairman

Dear fellow beekeepers,

Here I am in France and I was walking down a street and what do I see crawling across the pavement, an Asian hornet. So I put it into a glasses case having removed the glasses first of course and then we took it back to our house and over a time we decided to release it from the glasses case whereupon it flew round the room. My friends ran from the room and panicked madly because they knew that the local builder had been killed by an Asian hornet sting. Very sad indeed as he had anaphylactic shock and was rushed into Limoges hospital where he was then given more adrenaline but alas he died so all beware in case you are allergic to hornet stings particularly Asian hornet rather than English ones which do not sting in case you have heard otherwise, and always be careful because you never know when death is around the corner! Monsieur Hassan was a great friend of mine and I will miss him greatly. As you all know Asian hornets have free reign in France because they have not made the slightest effort to deal with them and when my French becomes better I will target the local village halls and as they need to be far more responsible.

Currently, I'm determined to keep this particular Asian hornet alive as it is a worker and not a Queen but it is still interesting because it has the little yellow tip on its backside and its yellow feet and I'm hoping to get it back to England alive in the luggage so that I can kill it with killing fluid which relaxes the body so that it doesn't crunch up and I can mounted onto a board so everybody can have a look at it.

I have a friend in Australia who is an expert drone flyer and I am going to contact him so that I can learn all about drone flying and ask him if it is possible to have an aerosol mounted on it and a lever which will spray insecticide into the nest and kill the whole lot. I can hear your brains all whizzing round thinking he's got to find the nest first. Well this bloke has a device on his drone which will track Asian hornets straight to their nest. Not only that, catching one and mounting a radio transmitter on one of them is simplicity itself. I am so looking forward to this because at present all the news I have heard is that it is very difficult to track workers back to the nest. If it works, I do hope I become a millionaire!

Do look at this video of a drone seeing off a hornet's nest:

[DRONE ANTI FRELONS ATILLA 2018](#)

A sad note to finish. Embiri Hassan, a good friend here in France, was mending a roof when he was stung by an Asian Hornet. He felt poorly and was rushed to the doctor who was nearby and injected him with Adrenalin. As a precaution an ambulance was on hand to take him to a big hospital. He survived to hospital and all that day they did everything to save him but to no avail and a young perfectly fit young man with a wife and children was cut down just like that.....

Happy Beekeeping!

**John Carnegie,**  
**Chairman**



## Browsing Asian Hornets

We have just returned from a visit to France, enjoying the many things that France can offer; which includes walking and cycling as well as the lovely wine, bread and cheeses. But, unfortunately, they also offer us the opportunity to observe the Asian Hornet at first hand. We spotted these collecting nectar from the ivy along with honey bees and other wild bees (leaving them all unharmed!).

*Nic*



*Nic*

## Bees in the News

Here are a few media articles you might find entertaining or interesting!

A swarm of bees invaded a car (last year's news but still entertaining!) :

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-40258679/bee-swarm-swamps-car-in-hull>

They are making lots of bee sculptures in Manchester. Has anyone been to see these yet?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-manchester-44506321/manchester-s-125-bee-swarm-sculptures-art-trail>

Fungi may be able to reduce the effects of some of the diseases brought by the Varroa mite:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/bees-mushroom-fungi-virus-colony-collapse-disorder-stop-disease-mites-a8568581.html>

Trump does it again; he is now permitting the use of Neonics in some US nature reserves:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-bees-gmo-crops-environment-barack-obama-wildlife-refuges-a8481881.html>

## Divisional officers

<b>President</b>	<b>Nic Bard</b>	<b>01460 221698</b>	<b>Treasurer &amp; membership secretary</b>	<b>Sharon Blake</b>	<b>01460 242124</b>
<b>Chairman</b>	<b>John Carnegie</b>	<b>01935 851234</b>	<b>Librarian</b>	<b>Jacqui Taylor</b>	<b>01963 220329</b>
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	<b>Marvin Collins</b>	<b>01935 426153</b>	<b>Newsletter editor</b>	<b>Nic Bard Nic_bard@hotmail.com</b>	<b>07877 284545</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Steve &amp; Marie Attrill</b>	<b>01935 475964</b>	<b>Mentor Liaison Officer</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	
<b>Divisional Web-Master</b>	<b>Neil Cook</b>	<b>neil.cook@noware.co.uk</b>	<b>County Delegates</b>	<b>Malcolm Blake Steve Attrill Andy Dobson</b>	

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.

Full details of our calendar, meetings, news and past newsletters are in the SBKA web-site and can be reached here:

<https://www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk/yeovil.html>

## **Yeovil 2018/19 Programme**

### **2018**

- 16th October** - Jim Vivian-Griffiths talks about "Dancing Bees"
- 29th October** - Joint meeting with SW Division at Over Stratton; Ged Marshall talks about "Spring Management & Swarm Control"
- 20th November** - Divisional AGM
- 1st December** - Division Christmas Social skittles evening

### **2019**

- 15th January** - Paddy Wallace from Quince Honey farm gives a talk
- 19th Feb** - Lecture Day speaker; Clare Densley talks about Pheromone Communication
- 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

Unless otherwise stated, all indoor meetings next season will be in the Ilchester Pavilion.

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