



YEOVIL BEE NEWS

December 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 – Indoor Meeting
Paddy Wallace talks about
"Beekeeping at Quince Honey Farm"
7:30pm Tuesday 15th January 2019
at The Ilchester Pavilion

Paddy Wallace has been keeping bees at Quince Honey Farm from a young age (about 50 years ago!) and has taken over looking after their bees from his father.

He will talk about the origins of the farm, some of their methods, how they have changed over the years and some of the difficulties and disasters of a lifetime of beekeeping. Moving on to discuss the future of the business as it moves onto its new site in 2019.

As you can see, Paddy has a wealth of practical beekeeping experience which he will share with us as well as describing the development of their Honey Farm and the commercial side of beekeeping.

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 Pavilion 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 Meeting: Tuesday 16th October

Have you ever wondered how a honey bee communicates with other honey bees when it spends most of its time in the hive in the dark? How can the other bees know about the waggle dances? How do the bees know which way the sun is? How do bees know that the sun has moved because time has lapsed?

On Tuesday 16 October Jim Vivian-Griffiths, who is a Master Beekeeper, visited with his wife, also a Master Beekeeper and gave an excellent talk on the communication of honey bees. All these questions and many more were answered in a clear, easy to understand, informative and entertaining manner. What a shame that so many of you missed one of the most interesting talks that we have had for a long time.

If we include registered, partner, associate members and beginners, Yeovil Division has over one hundred members and yet only six people attended this excellent talk. A great shame that more of you could not get to this really interesting talk!

Sharon and Malcolm Blake

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. This is a relaxed social event and it is not too late to come! Just contact John Carnegie if you want the cold buffet or otherwise, just turn up on the night for a warming drink (and skittles!).

Nic

Web-site Membership

Neil Cook has sent out emails to all members inviting them to join the "members only" part of the SBKA web-site. Most of these invitations were ignored, perhaps because they were seen as junk mail.

The messages were NOT junk. Neil will be sending out repeat invitations, so please look out for them, especially in your junk email folders. If you have any worries or concerns, please contact Neil on : neil.cook@noware.co.uk .

Lecture Day

The SBKA Lecture day is on Saturday 15th February, from 9:00 until 5:00. It is a full day of informative and interesting lectures. Tickets are only £5 which includes refreshments during the day, but bring your own lunch.

Tickets are available from the secretaries, Steve & Marie, and can be purchased at one of our meetings or contact them to purchase otherwise.

The full programme is:

9.00am Coffee

9.30am Opening by Ken Tredgett, SBKA President

9.35am Paulo Mielgo Vita (Europe) Ltd; Varroa

10.40am Prof. Stephen Martin; Deformed wing virus update

11.40am Coffee

12.10pm Derek Mitchell; Old saws – myths and physics of hives

1.10pm Lunch; Simon Jones RBI and his team will be available to help with your queries about bee diseases

2.20pm Thanks and presentations

2.30pm Clare Densley; Romancing the Honey Bee

3.30pm Raffle and tea

4.00pm Prof. Stephen Martin; Asian Hornets

5.00pm CLOSE

More details will be available on the SBKA web-site soon:

<https://www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk/lectures--workshops.html>

To contact Steve and Marie for tickets, phone : 01935 475964

Coming soon ...

Event	When	Where	Details
Christmas Social	Saturday 1st December	Foresters Arms	A Christmas Social evening with skittles and a cold buffet
Divisional Indoor Meeting	Tuesday 15th January	Ilchester Pavilion	Paddy Wallace talks about keeping bees at Quince Honey Farm
County Lecture Day	Saturday 15th February	Edgar Hall, Somerton	A full day of interesting Bee-themed lectures
Divisional Indoor Meeting	Tuesday 19th February	Ilchester Pavilion	Clare Densley talks about Pheromone Communication
Asian Hornet Action Team Meeting	10:30 Sunday 3rd March	To be decided	To discuss and arrange a Yeovil Action Team
Ilchester Pavilion	Tuesday 19th March	Ilchester Pavilion	Pam Hunter gives a talks

AGM Summary

Our Yeovil Divisional AGM was held on Tuesday 20th November. This is summary of the main points of the meeting:

- the minutes of last year's AGM were not available but a summary of the meeting was given by the secretary, Steve Attrill.
- The chairman's, secretary's and treasurer's reports were presented to the meeting.
- As both the BBKA and SBKA subscriptions are to remain unchanged next year, it was agreed to keep our subscriptions unchanged.
- The following officers and committee members were stepping down for next year:
 - - Marvin Collins - vice-chairman and committee member
 - Toby Rutherford - committee member
 - Trish Manning - committee member
 - Phil Hocking - committee member
 - Jacqui Taylor - committee member (but remaining as librarian)
- The following officers and committee members were elected:
 - President - Nic Bard
 - Chairman - John Carnegie
 - Vice Chairman - Neil Cook
 - Treasurer - Sharon Blake
 - Secretaries (joint) - Steve and Marie Attrill
 - Librarian - Jacqui Taylor
 - Website editor - neil Cook
 - committee members: Jill Purdie
Jo Dawson
 - County Delegate - Malcolm Blake
 - Deputy Delegates - Steve Attrill and Andy Dobson
- Sharon Blake was proposed to be nominated to County for Honorary membership of SBKA.

The full minutes of the meeting will be included in a following newsletter.

Nic Bard

Winter Beekeeping Reading

The Winter months are very quiet for the beekeeper once all the equipment has been cleaned and stored. So with nothing better to do, it is the best time to increase your knowledge and confidence in beekeeping by reading a little on the subject You can gain different opinions as well as increasing your knowledge.

The Division has an extensive library of books covering all aspects of beekeeping, suitable for beginners, general beekeeping, microscopy, dissection and many more topics. A full list of books is on the Yeovil Page of the SBKA web-site. Just click the link at the foot of the link-page (below) to see the full list:

[Yeovil Division page](#)

Jackie looks after the library and will bring a selection of books to all meetings (she can get to!) and can bring any requested book to the meeting or otherwise arrange to get it to you.

You can contact Jackie on : 01963 220329.

SBKA Council Meeting - 10 November 2018

The following are the main points of the meeting for your information prior to the meeting minutes appearing on the SBKA website.

Asian Hornets: The three proposals arising from the SBKA Executive meeting (22 Oct 2018) were passed, namely: to meet the costs of providing packs to Divisions to deal with Asian hornets, to support a mailing of publicity material to all members about Asian hornets in conjunction with the SBKA Year Book, to set an Asian hornet budget of £6000 for the 2019 financial year. It was also agreed that the donation of £3492 from Yeo Valley will be put to the Asian hornet action project costs. Lynne Ingram, Taunton Division and who is SBKA's lead person, is willing to give Asian hornet presentations to Divisions,

EFB: In light of the prevalence of EFB in the county, plans are in hand to hold a disease recognition day which will be called 'Reading The Comb' on a Saturday in May/June 2019. Somerton Division are investigating the use of their Divisional apiary and the availability of a hall in Somerton for this event. Members are encouraged to attend this event. Recognition of the symptoms of this disease is the first step in dealing with an outbreak.

Safeguarding Policy: This has been updated and will be available in the members' area of the SBKA website.

SBKA ADM Lunch: This 2-course lunch will cost £15.

Lecture Day: 16 February 2019. Tickets for this event are now available from our secretary, Steve Attrill.

SBKA Yearbook. Bridget Knudson, Wedmore Division, needs to have the divisional programme and membership details by 12 January 2019.

The next Council meeting will be on 5 January 2019, Steve Attrill will be attending on your behalf.

Malcolm Blake

Yeovil Delegate to SBKA

From Your Chairman

Hello all beekeepers, this is a very short chairman's message just like the shortest day which comes in less than a month. From that moment onwards the bees know the days are getting longer and longer and now is the time you should be in your sheds cleaning all sorts of bits of kit, making smoker cartridges and making plans for next year's honey show. My Mead needs racking off and putting into bottles before Christmas. Already I have bought a stainless steel Bain Marie ready for making my wax blocks and suchlike as I wish to display as much as possible and enter as much as possible in next year's Honey Show!

I am so looking forward to the skittles night because I enjoy the competition! I hope there are some good skittlers coming to challenge for the famous wooden skep trophy! Do try and come even if you haven't let anybody know.

I was taken on a very long walk today by PE teacher who was walking in the countryside when he came across what he thought was a colony of bees building in the hedge or just below. He offered to take me there in his off time and I asked if I should bring my wellingtons and he said no. Bad mistake. Many fields and many hedges and slippery styles came and went when we came upon where he saw the bee's colony. Sadly it was a rather bedraggled wasp's nest down what appeared to be a badger hole. I suppose the exercise was very good for me and my rather good black shoes needed a good polish anyway.

Thank you to all of you who have contacted me with reference to honey jars for next year. There's going to be a goodly order so far and you're not too late to join in. You still have until 12 December which is the cut-off point so think long-term, think positive, think lots of honey. There is nothing quite so annoying as running out of honey jars.

I go down to the bees on 21 December because I know that on that day all the bees in that colony will shiver and raise the colonies temperature with excitement because they know that the days are going to get longer. In keeping with my belief that I'm getting better all the time I do have a large number of frames of pollen in my freezer ready for the warm days in February when I can insert them and the Queen will get a big metaphorical kick up the backside and get laying full pelt and be mighty powerful ready for the oil seed rape.

May 2019 be the year when you get so much honey don't know what to do with it!

John Carnegie,

Chairman

Asian Hornet Action Team

I recently represented Yeovil Beekeepers at a meeting to discuss Asian Hornet Action Teams (AHAT). You will be aware that there have been a number of sightings this year in the UK and Asian hornet nests have been destroyed. Next year there will certainly be more, but what can we do?

As there are more confirmed sightings, it will become increasingly difficult for the Bee Inspectors to attend all these sightings. AHAT can work to help them by triangulating where the nest is located, but this needs a team if it is to be achievable. I emphasise that this is to locate a nest, professional pest controllers will be called in by NBU to deal with the destruction of the nest.

So if you think you would be interested in helping with this task in the Yeovil area, the next meeting is on Sunday 3 March 2019 at 10.30. Venue to be confirmed but it will be somewhere central for all of the Somerset BKA divisions.

Please do let me know if you can give some time to this. sbeditor@yahoo.co.uk

And now a few interesting facts about Asian hornets:

- Early in the year they like to feed on camellias.
- They migrate in spring and can travel up to 40 km each day.
- The nests start as embryo nests in a loft, shed or similar. They then relocate to a secondary nest which is usually high up.
- The life cycle from the egg being laid to emerging is between 30 and 40 days.
- The population of the average nest is about 6,000 but nests with 15,000 have been found.
- In the autumn the mature nest will contain up to 350 new queens (compared to the one queen in a honey bee colony) and 900 drones. Not all of these new queens will survive the forthcoming winter.
- The nests are extremely well insulated so difficult to find with heat seeking equipment.

So a few facts to give you something to think about. Please let me know if you can come to the meeting on 3 March 2019 to learn more about tracking Asian hornets to locate their nest.

Sharon Blake

Subscriptions for 2019 are now due

Subscriptions for 2019 are now due. The cost remains the same as last year, £32 for a full member, to include BDI cover for three colonies. This is £19 for BBKA, £5.50 for SBKA, £2 for BDI, £2 to the research fund and £3.50 for Yeovil Division. If you have more than three colonies you will need to add the following amount for BDI cover:

Total number of colonies:	up to 3	nil
	up to 5	£2.00
	up to 10	£5.25
	up to 15	£7.75
	up to 20	£9.50
	up to 25	£11.10
	up to 30	£13.60
	up to 35	£16.10
	up to 39	£18.10

The cost for Partner members is £23.50 and Associate members £6.

Any queries about this please phone Sharon Blake on 01460 242124

The membership form for 2019 is attached to this email. Please complete and send your subscription by post please, making your cheque payable to:

"SBKA Yeovil Division"

and send it to:

Mrs Sharon Blake, Stratton Court, Over Stratton, South Petherton, Somerset TA13 5LQ

Sharon Blake

Membership Secretary and Treasurer

Bees in California

I have just come back from a visit to California. A visit abroad is never complete without spotting some foraging honey bees and capturing a few photos of them. So feast your eyes on the following:



Apiary Available

Iain Lemon has recently vacated an apiary in the South Petherton area. It is in private property and the owner likes to have bees there to pollinate his wide range of organic plants. The owners are at home just about constantly so security is excellent and has never been an issue.

Iain suggested to him that he may be able to get a replacement beekeeper for his land, so is anyone interested?

Anyone who is interested can contact Iain on 07826 342152.

Bees in the News

Deconstructing the superfood that determines honeybee hierarchy (more interesting than it sounds):

<https://phys.org/news/2018-10-deconstructing-superfood-honeybee-hierarchy.amp>

Nic

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	Neil Cook	07747 012545	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.

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

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. More 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>