



YEOVIL BEE NEWS

March 2019

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

Lynne Ingram talks about

"The Asian Hornet and What we can do now"

7:30pm Tuesday 26th March 2019

at The Ilchester Pavilion

We have all heard a lot about this pest which is on our doorstep in France and the Channel Isles and is trying to get a foothold here in Great Britain. It will not be long before we will spy some here in the Yeovil Division. So what do we do and how do we counter it?

Lynne Ingram is the Somerset Asian Hornet Action Team (AHAT) leader. She has been to Jersey to assist with finding the many nests there and has written several articles describing the difficulties in tracking the hornets and exterminating their nests. She will address us on how to identify, capture, track and defend against this awful introduced pest.

It is vital that we are prepared for this pest. It has decimated the bees and honey crops in France, through Spain and Portugal. It will do the same here if we are not ready for it.

In preparation, SBKA have funded an Asian Hornet trap for every member. Andy is holding these traps and will bring them to the meeting to distribute. Sharon has the approved bait so you can assemble and prime your traps on the night.

Definitely a must attend meeting!

Directions

The Ilchester Sports Pavilion is on Roman Road, Ilchester:

Post code BA22 8NW.

To find the Pavilion 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.

February Meeting: Clare Densley talked about Pheromone Communication

A very well turned-out discussion by Clare Densley on Pheromone Communications with at least 11 members from Yeovil plus a large contingent, mainly from Somerset plus two new members which was fantastic to see. Clare travelled all the way from Devon (90 minutes away) and also spoke at the recent Lecture Day in Somerton.

Clare spoke methodically and informatively all about the amazing ways that bees communicate, namely through pheromones. She skillfully avoided too much inorganic chemistry lessons and described the many (10 or so) glands on the queen (in particular) that emit pheromones, many with long complicated chemistry names but were nicely summarized into 'basically this is what we think it does' sort of language. The talk concluded with a long question and answer session and the usual refreshments, courtesy of Andy Dobson. The key take-away was that we need to be careful about our perfumes and general 'smellies' we wear when going through our bees, but to remember that almost all bee-bee information is conveyed through tiny quantities of chemicals that are automatically and methodically secreted by the bees – the queen, workers, drones, brood and even the comb. It was fascinating to learn that Varroa 'tunes' into the chemical signature from brood used to inform the colony that it needs to be capped, popping into the cell prior immediately before. Varroa also adopts the 'smell' of the bee so that the bee does not try to clean it off. We also learnt that the Varroa might not be tapping into the bees blood but rather the fat-bodies. We also learnt something fascinating about cutting grass and its affect on the bees but I'll leave that for those who attended. A fascinating talk that really makes us appreciate how little we know about the chemical world of bees and covered a vast emerging subject that we have only just scratched the surface of.

Steve Attrill

Yeovil Division Honey Show 2019

The last few years we have been holding our honey show at the Yeovil Show. Unfortunately, the Yeovil Show is taking a year off in 2019 but hopes to return in 2020. The reason for this is that they use the Aldon fields for most of their parking. This year, the ownership of these fields has changed hands so the parking there is unsure and they unwilling to go ahead with this uncertainty. More information about this is at the following link: [Yeovil SHow News](#)

However, we wish to continue with our honey show so your committee will discuss the best way of doing this. It will probably be included with one of our other meetings or AGM, but watch this space and make sure that you keep some products back for the show!

Nic

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](#)

Jacqui 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 Jacqui on : 01963 220329.

Honey Jars

You will have all seen John's missive about purchasing of discounted honey jars last year. John made the order up to a full pallet with a personal purchase. So he has plenty of extra jars! If you need some jars but missed the original offer, just get in touch with John and see what he has left.

John can be contacted on 01935 851234 or email to killercarnegie@yahoo.co.uk .

Coming soon ...

Event	When	Where	Details
SBKA AGM	Saturday 16th March	Quantock Div, Enmore Park Golf Club	County AGM with guest speaker Chris Park; The Skep Beekeeper
Divisional Indoor Meeting	Tuesday 26th March	Ilchester Pavilion	Lynne Ingram talks about the Asian Hornet.
Beekeeping Equipment Auction	14:00 Sunday 24th March	Ruishton Village Hall TA3 5JD	Auction of secondhand equipment; see Taunton auction
BBKA Spring Convention	12th - 14th April	Harper Adams Uni, Newport	A long weekend of bee talks and trade stands. See SBKA web- site for links to more details.
Apiary Meeting	Saturday 20th April	Sarah & Mark Hamnett's Apiary	Apiary Meeting
SBKA Special Lecture	Wednesday 24th April	Edgar Hall, Somerton	Graham Royle will be speaking on the subject of Disease Recognition and his experience of dealing with EFB

The Great Wax Exchange

It is time to plan your renewal of brood comb to reduce disease and improve the health of your colonies. An approach we have thoroughly recommended for many years. To make this renewal cheaper, you can make use of your spare beeswax by exchanging it directly for foundation. Malcolm will be attending the BBKA Spring Convention and undertaking a bulk exchange of wax (which gets a much better deal!). If you want to take advantage of this exchange, complete the attached form and send to Malcolm at sbeditor@yahoo.co.uk.

From Your Chairman

Mystery. There I was loading up my compost heap when it came upon me that there was a swarm of bees arriving. Not so. I looked up into the apple tree which was still covered in mistletoe berries and the bees were working these or the leaves as if there was no more tomorrow. I have no idea what they were doing or what they were gathering.

Help. If any of you know what they were doing please let me know.

Drunk? As you will see from the picture this is of a very high alcohol content but allied Propolis, to Cocoa butter, Shea butter, Sweet Almond oil, Castor oil and vitamin E oil should allow me to make some Propolis ointment or tincture and this is one of my goals this year.

Methuselah. If any of the people who made Propolis ointment in the olden days still have the recipe please give me a copy as I find the contents of the little jars we made all those years back still perfect for burns and cuts and suchlike.

Happy days. These are upon us after the mad March weather is over and ends as sweet as a lamb and then we can crack on and do beekeeping and disappear into a world that will make you forget all your worries and emerge from the experience full of vim and vigour as another bumper year begins.

John Carnegie,

Chairman

Subscriptions for 2019 are now overdue

Can I remind all our Yeovil beekeepers who have not yet paid their subscriptions that they are now overdue. I have to make the final payments to BBKA, SBKA and BDI on 20 March and unfortunately I will not be at the March meeting. So can I ask you to either send a cheque or if you prefer you can drop your payment off at our house.

After that date your membership will have to be lapsed and you will not have any insurance cover, BBKA News etc. so I hope you will re-join.

Subscriptions for 2019 are now overdue. 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

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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

Asian Hornet Action Team

Asian Hornet

Do you have any camelias in your garden? Camelia are a favourite flower of the Asian hornet so do take a look; hopefully you will find nothing untoward.

Nick Fairweather and I attended the second SBKA Asian Hornet Action Team (AHAT) meeting last Sunday. We now have an Asian hornet 'tool box' so we are ready if there are any sightings of Asian hornet.

What does this mean, I hear you ask.

Well we all hope that it will not be needed but Nick Fairweather, Nic Bard and I will use this 'kit' to try to locate an Asian hornet nest after a possible sighting. If we do find one we will then be able to give the National Bee Unit (NBU) details of the location; they will then check our findings and if necessary, call in the authorised pest control people to destroy the nest. This system has been put in place to speed up the process by the searching being done locally before NBU are involved. This will become particularly relevant if NBU are inundated with sightings of Asian hornet this year.

What can you do to help?

- Be alert to what is around you and possible sightings.
- Collect your Asian hornet trap at the next Yeovil Beekeepers' meeting. The traps will come primed with an attractant. These traps have been purchased by Somerset Beekeepers (SBKA) and there is one for each member.
- Make other people aware. At the next meeting we will have display cards to go up in the libraries, garden clubs, parish notice boards, and anywhere where people might read them.
- Join the Asian Hornet Action Team. Just three of us is probably not going to be enough people if Asian hornets are sited in the 'Yeovil' area.
- Take a look at April 2019 April BBKA News which will give you more information about Asian hornet.

And finally, take a photo and report sightings of Asian hornet

- with the app Asian Hornet Watch

- on-line at www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/asianhornet

- by email to alertonnative@ceh.ac.uk

Sharon Blake

sbeditor@yahoo.co.uk

Swarms

The swarm season will be here before you know it. To make it easier for all to co-ordinate swarms gathering and distribution, please email me with your availability to gather swarms and the area you can cover so that we can contact you for swarms in your area.

And if you need any swarms to replace or increase stocks, also email me with the number of swarms you need and your location so that we can mate you with a swarm collection.

Nic

Nic_bard@hotmail.com

Bees in the Algarve

I have just returned from a holiday in the Algarve and, as always, I cannot resist looking at the availability of honey in the markets, hives in the countryside and bees on the flowers.

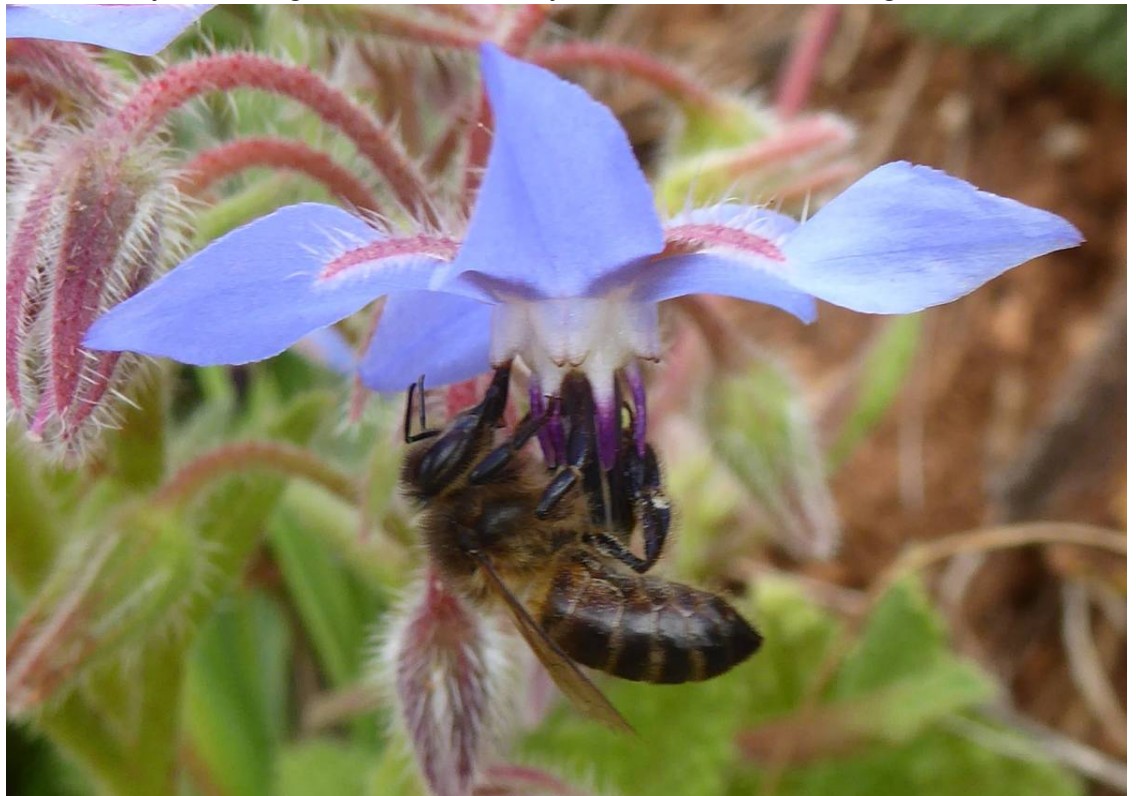
There is always a good selection of honeys in the markets, showing that the crop is still good. In spite of the presence of the Asian Hornet and the wildfires last year. Unlike France which had a lack of choice in the markets last year.

Here are a few bee photos:

A bee on some borage and an unknown whopper of a bee we found foraging. Anyone recognise it?

Just send me a reply if you do.

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	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 2019/20 Programme

2019

- 26th March** - Lynne Ingram talks about the Asian Hornet
- 20th April** - Apiary Meeting at Sara & Mark Hamnett's Apiary
- 18th May** - Apiary Meeting at John Carnegie's Bindwell Lane Apiary; Kevin Pope demonstrating
- 15th June** - Apiary Meeting; Somerset Cider Brandy Company and Burrow Hill Cider
- 13th July** - Apiary Meeting at Toffer Beaty's Apiary; Stuart Gould demonstrating
- 17 August** - Apiary Meeting at Marvin Collin's Apiary; Simon Jones demonstrating
- 17th September** - Andy Willis talks about "The Bee's Eye View of Beekeeping"
- 15th October** - Michael Keith Lucas gives a talk
- 29th October** - Joint meeting with SW division at Over Stratton
- 19th November** - Divisional AGM and Honey Show
- 3rd December** - Christmas social evening

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 website and can be reached here:

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