



YEOVIL BEE NEWS

April 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 – Apiary Meeting
Paul Harper will demonstrate
"Spring Inspection"
2:30pm Saturday 20th April
at Sara & Mark Hamnett's Apiary

It is spring and the bees have rushed into action with most colonies now bursting at the seams with bees and demanding attention. So how do we manage the colonies at this time of year? To discourage swarming, dividing to produce more colonies or queens and for hygiene? The year has definitely started and beekeepers need a (flexible) plan for the season. Come along and join the discussion and demonstration by a very experienced beekeeper, Paul Harper from the Central Division.

As always, interested non-members and novices are warmly welcomed as well as the more experienced beekeepers. Spare protection equipment will be available.

Sara Hamnett has kindly invited us to her apiary in Corton Denham, post code DT9 4LP, but please read the directions on the following page for access and parking instructions:

Directions

Sara has only be room in the driveway for about 1 or 2 cars. Middle Ridge Lane is quite wide in places and so visitors can park outside other houses and there is also room for parking near the pub (although being Easter Saturday may be busy). There is also room in the village hall car park which is next to the church.

Once in Corton Denham her house is down the road behind the Queen's Arms pub. The house is the last house on the right down Middle Ridge Lane or the first house on the left if you take the Putts Lane turning (Middle Ridge Lane and Putts Lane form a crescent). The house name, Highview House, is on the wall.

March Meeting: Lynne Ingram talked about the Asian Hornet

Our March Meeting had to be postponed when the speaker cancelled. So one a week later than planned, and with a new speaker booked, we welcomed Lynne Ingram, the Somerset BKA Asian Hornet Action Team (AHAT) coordinator telling us more about this threat to our bees.

Lynne went to Jersey last year to help the Jersey beekeepers when they discovered Asian hornet so she is speaking from experience not just the theory of what might happen if/when we find Asian hornet in Somerset.

She explained the life cycle and how the Asian hornet queen starts a new nest, which is small and in fact could be confused with a wasp's nest, low down and often in a building. See the photos.



This is at the start of the year but by the end of April the numbers of hornets are growing and a new nest will started and this is often built much higher; it can be 50 feet up in a tree or it could be in a hedgerow. As this nest grows, the hornets can add more layers to the outside making a nest up to 36 inches in diameter. So it is big but the experience to date in the UK is that they can still be difficult to see when in a tree that is in full leaf. As she showed in some of her slides.

It is in August and September that an Asian hornet is likely to be found predating our bees. After all, to an Asian hornet a hive of bees is so much potential food in one spot, but the Asian hornet predares on lots of other pollinators such as butterflies, moths, hover flies and the list goes on.

The Asian hornets are quite docile when they are away from their nest but if you get within five yards of a nest it is a different matter. And in France, which was the first European country to find Asian hornet in 2004, there have been serious consequences when people have been cutting a hedge where they were unaware of the Asian hornet nest within the hedge.

Unlike our honey bees, each nest can produce up to 300 – 350 viable new queens so the spread can be very quick.

Do we need to be concerned? YES. Do we need to spread the message about Asian hornet? YES.

I have a number of laminated posters from the Non-native Species Secretariat showing the Asian hornet so please do display these posters to spread the word. We need to be talking with garden groups,



walkers, gold clubs, everyone. Asian hornets are not just found in the countryside but can be in urban areas as well. Last year half the sightings in the UK were by members of the public.

I will bring more posters to each of the summer meetings as well as the attractant to go in your Asian hornet monitoring traps.

Your Yeovil AHAT is Sharon Blake, Nick Fairweather, Nic Bard, Andy Dobson and Jaqui Taylor. More people would be appreciated. Your role would be to help find the nest to aid the National Bee Unit (NBU). The concern is that NBU might be overwhelmed this year with Asian hornet calls. The role is to confirm sightings and find possible nests. If a nest is found, the NBU then come in, confirm the nest position and the nest is then destroyed by professional Pest Control Officers.

If by chance you find a nest, try to identify if it is a wasp, a European hornet or an Asian hornet nest. If it is the later do not attempt to destroy it yourself. Report it to any member of the AHAT.

Sharon Blake

These two pictures are of an early wasp nest to compare with the Hornet nest on the previous page.

Coming soon ...

Event	When	Where	Details
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	Sara & Mark Hamnett's Apiary	Paul Harper demonstrates the theme of "Spring Inspections"
SBKA Special Lecture	7:30pm Wednesday 24th April	Edgar Hall, Somerton	Graham Royle will be speaking on the subject of Disease Recognition and his experience of dealing with EFB
Apiary meeting	Saturday 18th May	John Carnegie's Apiary, Queen Camel	Kevin Pope demonstrates

SBKA Special Lecture

The County Special Lecture is free to all. No tickets are needed.

It is held in the Edgar Hall in Somerton on Wednesday 24th April evening at 7:30. Graham Hall, a Master Beekeeper and NDB, is speaking about disease recognition especially EFB. An interesting as well as useful talk. Somerset is one of the worst Counties for EFB (as I can testify to my cost!) so all our members should satisfy themselves that they know how to identify it and do not inadvertently spread it to others.

Full information from the SBKA web-site here :

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

From Your Chairman



John Carnegie,
Chairman

Asian Hornet Action Team

There has been plenty of information about the ever closer risk of the Asian Hornet and how difficult it is to detect and control the numbers. The effect we will see is on our colonies but all pollinators will be affected, from bumble bees and wasps to moths and butterflies and dragon flies. It will do serious damage to pollinators and therefore pollinated crops and fruit.

So use the traps that have been given to you free of charge and regularly monitor them. Also, dispense the leaflets and put up the posters where you can so that the public can also be engaged in spotting the Hornet before they get established. More are obtainable from Sharon.

And if you do spot one, take a photo and report all 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 is nearly upon us. A big thank you to some of our members who have volunteered to collect swarms, a vital service to the community.

Beekeepers in need of swarms have registered their interest as well. This interest will be passed to the collectors so they should easily find homes for any swarms.

If you have not yet registered an interest in swarm collecting or in need of a swarm, please let me know as soon as possible.

You can contact me on nic_bard@hotmail.com.

Nic

Can You Help?

As you can see below, we have a list of divisional officers with an empty slot. Can you help our beginners by putting them in touch with an experienced beekeeper who can help them through their early encounters with a hive of bees? It is a simple but vital task, so if you would like to help our beginners, please contact a committee member and volunteer your assistance.

Thank you,

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 20th April | - Apiary Meeting at Sara & Mark Hamnett's Apiary with Paul Harper demonstrating "Spring Inspection" |
| 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 web-site and can be reached here:

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