



# YEOVIL BEE NEWS

## May 2019

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 – Apiary Meeting**  
**Kevin Pope will demonstrate**  
**"Spring Colony Maintenance"**  
**2:30pm Saturday 18th May**  
**at John Carnegie's Bindwell Lane Apiary**

Spring has come quickly for our bees this year and they are very busy, making brood and many are making early swarm preparations. So our bees need extra attention now to discourage swarming and to use swarming to our advantage when it does occur. In addition, this is the best time of year to check for brood diseases (see the Forde Abbey note later in newsletter!); it is so important to find any signs early.

Kevin Pope is the Seasonal Bee Inspector for Dorset so is well practised in demonstrating and talking to groups. He will show us how to encourage and maintain our colonies, the disease signs to look out for and how to maintain good hygiene. It should be an interesting and busy afternoon!

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

John Carnegie has generously invited us to his Bindwell Lane Apiary in Queen Camel. The post code BA22 7NB will get you close but please read the directions for parking and to find the apiary on the next page.

## Directions

Directions to the day on May 18th Bee Keeping meeting at John Carnegie's Queen Camel Apiary. BA22 7NB

Arrive in Queen Camel. In the middle is a boarded up Health Centre on one side and a Memorial Hall on the other. There is parking at the Memorial Hall and in the streets opposite. From here one should walk towards Yeovil and then turn left at the triangle. A little way along the lane you will see Bindwell Lane. At the end of this lane is the apiary. There will be bee signs.

There is a map on the Yeovil beekeeping website should you need one. Follow the links from:

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

Tea, coffee and cake will be in the Memorial Hall after the meeting.

Contact on the day will be John on : 07850 558 960

## April Apiary Meeting Report

For Yeovil Beekeepers first practical meeting of the season we had some lovely weather; it was Easter Saturday and we were at Sara and Mark Hamnett's apiary. This was the first time that Yeovil Beekeepers have invited Paul Harper, the chairman of Central Division, to demonstrate at one of our summer meetings. Paul started with lots of tips; how to use a slow cooker to prepare your wax through to showing us a screen to go underneath the hive to deter the Asian hornet.

Sara had two colonies to go through, both appearing to have come in to spring as strong colonies. Paul went through them both with the skill of someone who is very comfortable handling bees. He marked and clipped both queens when he found them and even when one queen decided to go walk about on the ground, Paul remained calm. She was quietly picked up and put back in her colony; all very straight forward. So this was a prefect afternoon for beekeeping and it was encouraging to see so many of this year's beginners course at this meeting. They had the opportunity to handle the frames and, for some, to see eggs for the first time. Do you remember that day in your beekeeping?

And no beekeeping meeting would be complete without the opportunity to talk with other beekeepers and exchange a few ideas over tea and coffee afterwards. Not forgetting the delicious 'honey fruit fingers' made by Sara.

**Sharon Blake**

## Swarms

The swarm season is well and truly underway. A big thank you to some of our members who have volunteered to collect swarms, a vital service to the community. With the mild start to the season, we can expect plenty of swarms this year!

Beekeepers in need of swarms have registered their interest as well. This interest has been passed on 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](mailto:nic_bard@hotmail.com) .

**Nic**

## Coming soon ...

Event	When	Where	Details
Apiary meeting	Saturday 18th May	John Carnegie's Apiary, Queen Camel	Kevin Pope demonstrates
Bath & West Show	Wed 29th May to Sat 1st June	Bath & West Showground	Agricultural show with a large interesting Honey Tent
Read the Comb Day	Saturday 15th June	Ansford Academy, Castle Cary	A day covering identification and treatment of pests and diseases in the hive. Full details at: <a href="https://www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk/lectures--workshops.html">https://www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk/lectures--workshops.html</a>
Social meeting	Saturday 15th June	Somerset Cider Brandy Co. Burrow Hill Cider	Julian Temperley talks about his exploits at the cider company.

## The Great Wax Exchange

Malcolm again completed the wax exchange at the BBKA Spring Convention. This exchanges clean(ish) beeswax directly for new foundation. No money changes hands. Malcolm conducts this exchange every year on behalf of the Division. The more wax exchanged, the better deal we get in quantity of foundation.

However, this year only Malcolm and Sharon contributed wax to the scheme. No other beekeepers. I am sure most of you do need new foundation every year, so how do you obtain yours?

Do you purchase foundation directly from the supplier with the consequent higher cost?

Do you do your own wax exchange?

Do you not have any wax to exchange?

Is the timing wrong for you?

Do you do something else with your wax?

A lot of questions here, but please reply to let the committee know how we can best help you to get your fresh foundation. (Remembering that regular renewal of comb is essential to reduce the build up of disease and chemicals [pesticides etc.] in the comb.)

**Nic**

## June Meeting

Our June meeting takes us away from the apiary for a nice change of scene. We have been invited to The Cider Brandy Company for a talk (with samples) by Julian Temperley. It is on 15th June at 2:30. There is an entry fee of £5 per head, payable on the day.

An interesting alternative to beekeeping and a relaxing afternoon!

It is at:

The Somerset Cider Brandy Company and Burrow Hill Cider  
Pass Vale Farm, Kingsbury Episcopi, Martock, Somerset. TA12 6BU

## Chairman's Message

Time is racing forward, and I can't believe that there was a swarm in the middle of Yeovil in the early months of April. The weather has been fickle to say the least, and when I needed to go grafting it was well below 15°, so the best laid plans of mice and men do often go astray. But there is still time after the meeting on the 18th to do the clock formation trick.

I am moving house which is a horrid business very stressful but at least I'm not damaged by falling off my bicycle - yet! (Ed: on your bike John!)

We had a super meeting at the Hamnets and everybody managed to park quite happily. I do urge all of you to sally forth to many more meetings than you normally do. Not only is it fun but it's very nice to catch up with people you haven't seen for a while. On this occasion, too, the tea was simply luscious.

My hornet traps have been fantastic for catching queen wasps and the occasional English hornet. Before people get annoyed at the fact that I'm killing queen wasps you have to remember that a member not far from me lost all her hives to a wasp attack. Last Autumn down at my apiary in Queen Camel every colony had a jam jar on its roof and in front of it in an effort to make life more easy for the bees. I do say gleefully that we have killed upwards of 50 queen wasps in just a few weeks and the juice that was supplied for trapping Asian hornets was fantastic. I would love some more. I bought 2 more traps from Thornes and they supply 10 tubes to mix with liquid sugar which I have tried and they are useless and have not attracted one insect.

I suppose the above is really due to global warming but I am dubious about all statistics, I think everything goes in cycles.



***The Clock Arrangement***

Happy Beekeeping.

**John**

## Clean Beeswax

Do you have any spare clean beeswax? We have been contacted by Kinga Nowak via the SBKA website. He is looking for a local to Yeovil source of "food grade" beeswax.

If you can supply Kinga, contact by email on [kiniutek12@o2.pl](mailto:kiniutek12@o2.pl)



## EFB at Forde Abbey

Unfortunately, I have EFB in most of the colonies at Forde Abbey. Most have been destroyed with the rest being "shook-swarmed" onto fresh foundation.

We had an apiary meeting at Forde Abbey last year. I hope all who attended took the opportunity to clean their gloves with the washing soda solution I provided. This a vital as well as useful procedure to perform after each colony or apiary inspection as it will limit the spread of any disease (which may not be apparent yet) and also, usefully cleans off the sticky propolis, honey and wax from your gloves.

This is a reminder to all our beekeepers to look out for the signs of EFB. There are some talks and disease days to make you aware of the signs. So do look carefully at the brood during inspections, especially if there is a poor "spotty" brood pattern.

You may have heard that I have since had a further impediment to my beekeeping in the form of a broken collar bone! It has made getting to my apiaries difficult and I have to have assistance to lift those heavy (I wish!) supers.



***Here lie the remains of 4 colonies.  
Don't let it happen to you!  
Maintain hygiene and keep vigilant!***

**Nic**

## Schools

The best way to ensure that pollinators, including Honey Bees, have a prosperous future is by educating non-beekeepers about the importance of pollinators and how to provide for them. And the best way to influence this is to make sure that they know this from an early age. So what better way than go directly into schools to pass the message on and give them a hands-on experience.

I have just started introducing some school children to some of my bees and I am really encouraged by how interested they are in the their life and fascinated by seeing them in the hive. A bit of over-confidence led to a few stings which caused a bit of "consternation" but they are keen to come back for more!

If there is a school close to you, why not approach them and see if they would be interested in a talk about pollinators and even a hands-on experience? You will be really encouraged by their positive attitudes!

**Nic**

## Asian Hornet Action Team

You have had plenty of information and leaflets about the Asian Hornet, so I am just repeating the message to keep vigilant! 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](http://www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/asianhornet)
- by email to [alertonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:alertonnative@ceh.ac.uk)

**Sharon Blake**

[sbeditor@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sbeditor@yahoo.co.uk)

## New Mentor Liaison Officer

We welcome Claire Puckett to the post of Mentor Liaison for our Division. She will link our novices with more experienced members in our group. Thank you Claire for taking on this role.

So if you are a novice and would like the advice and assistance of an experienced mentor beekeeper, please get in touch with Claire and she will link you up.

Claire can be contacted on 07887 856680 or by email on [claire@scpuckett.plus.com](mailto:claire@scpuckett.plus.com),

**Nic**

## 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>Neil Cook</b>	<b>07747 012545</b>	<b>Newsletter editor</b>	<b>Nic Bard</b>	<b>07877 284545</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Steve &amp; Marie Attrill</b>	<b>01935 475964</b>	<b>Mentor Liaison Officer</b>	<b>Claire Puckett</b>	<b>07887 856680</b>
<b>Divisional Web-Master</b>	<b>Neil Cook</b>	<b><a href="mailto:neil.cook@noware.co.uk">neil.cook@noware.co.uk</a></b>	<b>County Delegates</b>	<b>Malcolm Blake Steve Attrill Andy Dobson</b>	

The Yeovil division secretary email address is : [yeovilbee@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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:

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## **Yeovil 2019/20 Programme**

### **2019**

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>18th May</b>       | - <b>Apiary Meeting at John Carnegie's Bindwell Lane Apiary; Kevin Pope demonstrating</b> |
| <b>15th June</b>      | - <b>Social Meeting; Somerset Cider Brandy Company and Burrow Hill Cider</b>              |
| <b>13th July</b>      | - <b>Apiary Meeting at Toffer Beaty's Apiary; Stuart Gould demonstrating</b>              |
| <b>17 August</b>      | - <b>Apiary Meeting at Marvin Collin's Apiary; Simon Jones demonstrating</b>              |
| <b>17th September</b> | - <b>Andy Willis talks about "The Bee's Eye View of Beekeeping"</b>                       |
| <b>15th October</b>   | - <b>Michael Keith Lucas gives a talk</b>   |
| <b>29th October</b>   | - <b>Joint meeting with SW division at Over Stratton</b>                                  |
| <b>19th November</b>  | - <b>Divisional AGM and Honey Show</b>  |
| <b>3rd December</b>   | - <b>Christmas social evening</b>   |

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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