



# YEOVIL BEE NEWS

## August 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  
At Marvin Collins Apiary  
2:30pm Saturday 17th August  
Marvin demonstrates**

**"Comb replacement, Varroa treatment and Preparing for Winter"**

We are invited to Marvin's apiary at Montacute for a demonstration of several "approaching winter" subjects. I know it is now August, but Winter is just around the corner and if your bees are to survive the Winter and be thriving in the Spring, now is the time to make those preparations; well before Winter is here!

Unfortunately, our booked demonstrator, Simon Jones, will probably not be able to come and demonstrate so Marvin has selected some subjects that he feels will be useful to our novices and experienced beekeepers to both discuss and demonstrate.

There will be opportunity for all Beekeepers to handle the bees and discuss the meeting subjects as well as raise any queries they may have with their own bees.

As always, beginners, novices and just interested friends are all welcome. Make sure you have clean protective garments and boots. We do have some veils for guests to borrow.

Any problems on the day, please contact Marvin on 07801 694 962.

Directions to the apiary are on the following page:

## Directions to Marvin Collins' Apiary

Please note that on a Google Map the road now re-named 'Montacute Road' used to be New Road, which does run into Yeovil Road, once in Montacute.

All members coming to the meeting should head for the Yeovil to Montacute Road. If travelling from Yeovil ( the west), there are considerable road works, due to Western Corridor improvements! Travel through the new Lufton estate (being built) & travel towards Montacute. Before you reach Montacute, on your right hand side you will see a Lodge Cottage on a sharp bend. Turn in here & I shall be there from 2 pm to direct parking, which will be inside the field gate, either on hard standing, or grass. If approaching from the east, through Montacute, drive out of Montacute and look to your left, after about 3/4 mile. You will see a lodge cottage near the gates into Montacute House Parkland. Look out for a white figure!

My 'out apiary' is situated in the middle of a Thatchers Cider Apple Orchard ! My bees are 'doing their bit' in aid of the Somerset cider industry! If the blossom is still out, it is an absolute joy to walk through.

If any members are unable to walk the relatively short distance to the apiary, I am able to drive my car nearer the site. I can provide three folding chairs for anyone needing to sit for a while. There are no toilet facilities, but some 'private' areas behind hedges & bushes!! There will be limited refreshments available, but I shall offer cold drinks and light bites. I would suggest that, particularly if warm, members do bring their own water supply. Having suffered from dehydration, I know only too well how dangerous this can be.

There are no alternative arrangements, in the event of inclement weather, unfortunately.

For those of you with Sat Nav:- The Lodge Cottage is known as 'Odcombe Lodge' Montacute Rd. Post Code BA22 8TN. This can be confusing as it comes up as Lower Odcombe. Please do not turn into Lower Odcombe, which is on the opposite side of the road.

For information on the day, contact Marvin on 07801 694 962.

## July Visit to Toffer Beattie's Apiary

A rather uncertain day brightened up for us at East Coker as we arrived at Toffer's Apiary. Stewart Gould arrived to help us with "Problem Solving". Although the weather has been quite good this season, the bees still manage to do the unexpected. They do seem to have a different idea about behaviour every year, with some queen mating problems as well as excessive swarming affecting us all!

Toffer's bees also had some uncertain queen conditions. We found some queens, some colonies with queens but not found and some without queens. Stuart demonstrated how to find (or not!) the queen, how to mark her and how to provide a queenless colony with a queen.

Stuart also showed us how to use a Snelgrove Board to unite colonies. A technique he has found to be more efficient and more likely to succeed than the more common newspaper method.

A fine day with some very well mannered bees and beekeepers was concluded with a delicious tea and cakes on the lawns.

Our thanks to Toffer for welcoming us to his apiary and to his family for a delicious tea.

**Nic**

## Coming soon ...

Event	When	Where	Details
Apiary meeting	Saturday 17th August	Marvin Collin's Apiary	Marvin demonstrates Comb replacement, Varroa treatment & preparing for Winter
Central Division Honey Show	Sunday 18th August	Mid Somerset Showground, Shepton Mallet	Mid Somerset Show: there are open classes for you to exhibit your produce
Melplash Show	Thursday 22nd August	West Bay	An agricultural show with a Honey Tent staged by West Dorset Beekeepers
Indoor Meeting	Tuesday 17th September	Illchester Pavilion	Andy Willis talks about "The Bee's Eye View of Beekeeping"
Indoor Meeting	Tuesday 15th October	Illchester Pavilion	Michael Keith Lucas gives a talk
Indoor Joint Meeting	Tuesday 29th October	Over Stratton Village Hall	Joint SW Division meeting. Andrew Durham talks about "The French Experience" with the Asian Hornet.

## Chairman's Message

Do bees follow you wherever you go? Because when I went to the Isles of Scilly I was walking across St Agnes when I came across a house with a strange plant outside and luckily there was a woman standing there tending her garden. In conversation with her I noticed honeybees heading in a stream towards what might have been a beehive behind her. I told her that I was a beekeeper and I wondered if she had a beehive? Well the upshot was she was just visiting daughter and her very elderly father was asleep in a hammock in the garden further on and these bees had invaded the cavity wall made of wood. She was so pleased to see me because the shed wall was in an alleyway so to speak so the chance of her father being stung was quite high if the bees were unpleasant. I bent down to find out where the bees were going in and out and had to remove some of the logs and other debris to discover where the bees were going in. The daughter was amazed that I wasn't stung and the bees indeed seemed to be extremely friendly but given this was in August I suggested that I go speak to the main inhabitants of the island and find out who the beekeeper was. These bees either had to be extricated or exterminated. Moreover, the one and only beekeeper on the island would have had Queen Cells even at this time of year because they rarely get frost. Most of the plants would do well in South Africa. I left afterwards and contacted the beekeeper who said he would sort it out.

If any of you came to the bee meeting in my apiary you would have heard the demonstrator say that these were the nicest bees he had come across but also the most powerful he had come across in terms of numbers. He advised breeding from it because it had such excellent characteristics. So far this year we have 60lbs of honey off it which was mostly oilseed rape and now we are due to take off in excess of 150lbs. Bill and I went through it the other day and at last we found the Queen who we duly marked and it is our intention, next year, to breed from it.

I hope your bees have done well too.

**John Carnegie,  
Chairman**

## Do You Make up Spare Nucs?

Do you prepare new queens using a Nucleus Hive or keep the old queens in one?

Nucs are a great way of preparing new queens in the Spring and Summer. But also a good way to maintain a spare queen through the Winter. Some of your queens in your main colonies may not last the Winter. Some colonies may be queenless in the Spring or be drone layers. This is where the spare queen really comes in useful as you can easily re-queen the failed colony to have a productive colony for the season. So why not make up a Nuc for the Winter with your old queens instead of disposing of them?

And if you do not need the spare queen, we will have plenty of new beekeepers who are looking for their first colony in the Spring. An over-Wintered Nuc is an ideal starter. So please consider maintaining a spare Nuc just for our beginners .... and it may be useful to you if you lose any queens over Winter?

## Divisional Honey Extractor

Yeovil Beekeepers Members may borrow the Division's Honey Extractor, settling tank or Heated Uncapping Tray free of charge. To borrow the 9-frame radial extractor or the settling tank, please contact Bill Paterson on 07789 693 203 or [patterson\\_32@sky.com](mailto:patterson_32@sky.com) in good time to arrange a loan. It comes with comprehensive instructions as well as advice!

The heated uncapping tray can similarly be borrowed from Nic Bard on 07877 284545 (or just reply to this email). The uncapping tray can be used for melting down honey which is set in the comb.

## Do You Need an Apiary Site?

We have received this message from Fiona James who has a potential site for an apiary.

"We live on a old apple farm and have a area that might be suitable for a number of hives. We were wondering if anyone near to us would like to keep some hives on our land. There is road access and we live in Halstock, near Yeovil."

If you are interested, please contact Fiona directly on : [skifijames@hotmail.com](mailto:skifijames@hotmail.com)

## World Champion Beekeeper

Congratulations to a young Scottish beekeeper who has been crowned as the best young beekeeper in the world in a meeting in Slovakia. More details in the article link below:

[https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scots-schoolboy-buzzing-after-being-17576442?utm\\_source=sharebar&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=sharebar](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scots-schoolboy-buzzing-after-being-17576442?utm_source=sharebar&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=sharebar)

## Too Many Swarms in Berlin

It seems beekeeping in the city of Berlin is too popular and novices are losing many swarms which settle in many unusual places as there is a shortage of suitable homes in the city. And result in keeping the swarm catchers busy! See the article in this link:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/aug/09/berlin-beekeepers-leave-swarms-without-homes-schwarmfangers>

## Can You Help us to Organise Yeovil Beekeepers?

Our chairman, John Carnegie, and secretaries, Steve & Marie Attrill, will be stepping down from their roles at our AGM in November this year. They have spent several years helping to organise Yeovil Beekeepers but now will be retiring from these roles. Could you consider taking on one of these roles?

The chairman makes sure that the group is providing the services that our members are looking for and runs our meetings.

The secretary organises the programme and our meetings, takes minutes where needed and handles external correspondence.

Of course, the roles do expand from the simple descriptions above and become as much as you want to put in.

There is an active committee to support and advise you so no need to feel out of your depth. If you are interested and would like more information, just contact any member of the committee. Their contact details are on the last page of this newsletter.

**Nic**

## Honey Show Help

Due to the cancellation of the Yeovil Show this year, our Honey Show will be held at our AGM in November with Suzie Perkins judging. Unfortunately, the Honey Show Secretary will be away for the AGM so I am asking if any of you members would be able to help organise the Honey Show on the day. I will be able to assist and advise with preparations but not in the couple of weeks beforehand.

If you would be able to help, please get in touch with me to discuss how you can help. No help, no Honey Show!

**Nic**

## Asian Hornets

So far this year there has only been the one sighting and that was in Hampshire. But we must not be complacent as the past few years have shown that September is the time that we might see Asian hornets taking an interest in our hives. So do look out for the details of 'Asian Hornet Week' which will be in September.

Having said we must be vigilant in looking for hawking Asian hornets in September, I am away for part of September, so any possible sightings, please contact Nick Fairweather on 01935 882620 for help and advice

Don't forget to maintain and monitor your Hornet trap and report any suspicious sightings via the Asian Hornet Watch App.

This is the web-site to monitor for reported sightings:.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/news/asian-hornet-uk-sightings-in-2018?utm\\_source=6d813b76-8e9a-4e9f-a096-0aab6ccb1392&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=immediate](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/asian-hornet-uk-sightings-in-2018?utm_source=6d813b76-8e9a-4e9f-a096-0aab6ccb1392&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

**Sharon Blake**

## 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>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](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:

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

## Yeovil 2019/20 Programme

### 2019

- 17 August** - **Apiary Meeting at Marvin Collin's Apiary where he will demonstrate Comb replacement, Varroa treatment and preparing for Winter**
- 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 - Andrew Durham talks about "The French Experience" with the Asian Hornet**
- 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>