



YEOVIL BEE NEWS

October 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

At Ilchester Pavilion

7:30pm, Tuesday 15th October

Lynne Ingram

Talks on

"Beekeeping in Morocco"

Lynne is probably better known for her pursuit of the Asian Hornet. But as a Master Beekeeper, she leads beekeeping tours of Morocco so has a wealth of interesting observations and beekeeping details from Morocco to share.

She is a Master beekeeper and has been keeping bees for over 30 years. She is an experienced teacher and lecturer as well as a BBKA examiner and assessor. She fell in love with Morocco 7 years ago and has been working with beekeepers from the Atlas Beekeepers Cooperative near Taroudant since then. She is passionate about bees and loves to be able to share that passion with others

The meeting will be, as usual, in the Ilchester Sports Pavilion 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.

September Indoor Meeting: Andy Willis

Another great presentation was received by a good turnout of 18 or so members at Ilchester Pavillion on the 17 Sep 19. Andy spoke about his experiences (having now 20-25 colonies) and covered 'Bees Eye View of beekeeping' covering everything from queens, swarming, diseases (Foul brood and varroa), plants, honey, pollens, honey extracting and his experiences of beekeeping in Greece. A really good holistic talk that covered all bases and highlighted several urban myths (that are exactly that) and yet often written as gospel in the books e.g. emerging queens kill all other queen cells – No they don't as one example. Andy then talked about managing differing beehives and their individual faux pas. Even the seasoned beekeepers learnt something and it was well received. Andy reflected on the real benefits of urban beekeeping over what at first sight appears perfect rural beekeeping (at Beaulieu –i.e. Lord Montagues gaff) and the statistics clearly proved his point. Many of his colonies averaged 6 supers (with some at 8 and his personal record of 10 supers! – on a single colony).

Andy spoke about 'a brood and a half' brood management (if they need it) and also Varroa control and the devastating effect it had when it first appeared.

The Division also thanked Liz Nicholson for hosting Andy during his long round trip from Southampton.

These Winter meetings provide newcomers with an absolute wealth of knowledge in a friendly relaxed setting (there are no stupid questions). Both seasoned and novices are both welcome to attend as we never stop learning and so much of the Beekeeping literature is simply wrong ! The Committee urges all beekeepers to come and sample these unique and varied talks that also support the Division.

Steve Attrill

Coming soon ...

Event	When	Where	Details
Indoor Meeting	Tuesday 15th October	Ilchester Pavilion	Lynne Ingram talks about "Beekeeping in Morocco "
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.
Divisional AGM and Honey Show	Tuesday 19th November	Ilchester Pavilion	Our Divisional AGM combined with a cut-down Honey Show
Divisional Christmas Social evening	6:30pm Tuesday 3rd December	The Royal Oak, Hardington Mandeville	Our annual Christmas skittles & buffet

Christmas Skittles & Buffet

We have arranged our annual Christmas Sociable meeting for Tuesday 3rd December. It is a Skittles & Buffet at the Royal Oak, Hardington Mandeville at 6.30pm. The cost is £12.00. Please contact Jill on jillpurdie@gmail.com if you'd like to come along. It will be great to see you there and partners are very welcome, if they would like to join us.

More information closer to the date.

October Joint Meeting

Our joint meeting between SW and Yeovil divisions will be on Tuesday 29th October at Over Stratton Village Hall.

The subject will be "The Asian Hornet - The French Experience"

The speaker, Cambridgeshire beekeeper Andrew Durham, has made a special study of the Asian Hornet. Drawing on French research, information from French beekeepers, and visits to France to investigate the problem posed by the Asian Hornet, Andrew has prepared a detailed briefing that covers:

- The Asian Hornet – why it is a problem to beekeepers and the opportunities for control over the annual cycle of the hornet.
- The invasion and spread of the hornet across France – which will give us an idea of the scale of the problem that we will face over here.
- Spring Trapping of Foundress Queens – a controversy that has driven a wedge between beekeepers and scientists.
- Nest location & destruction and the role of the French “referent” – a likely role for AHAT’s.
- Defence of the Apiary
- Managing the Bees through the predation period so as to minimise over-wintering losses.

The Hornet is poised on our borders so be forewarned!

Mentoring for new beekeepers: feedback please!

Thank you to those who replied to my recent email asking for feedback from new beekeepers and their mentors. I would encourage everyone who has not responded to get back to me soon, as your feedback will inform how we run the mentoring for next season. At the Committee meeting on 8 October we agreed that I would attend one of the final sessions of the 2020 Beginner Beekeepers course to introduce the mentoring scheme. The aim will be to get mentors in place for all those who plan to get bees, ready for the swarm season.

Claire,
Mentor Liaison Officer

Division Honey Show

All that lovely honey!

Why don't you show what you and your bees have achieved this year?

The Yeovil Honey Show is being held at the AGM on November 19 at Ilchester Pavilion.

There are plenty of classes even if you are new to beekeeping. See the show schedule and rules attached to this newsletter. **Good Luck!**

Jo Dawson



SBKA Website

I'm going to start with a question for you. When did you last look at the SBKA website (<https://www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk>)?

I expect a range of answers, including:

- Never, I don't use a computer
- Never, I didn't know we had one
- I looked at it at it about 12 years ago after it won a gold medal at Apimondia
- I use it all the time, it's a great resource to find out what's going on in my own division, but also all the other divisions and across the county.

I suspect not enough of you are in the last category, (hopefully none of you are in the first category - if you are, stop reading now!), and I hope this article will give you a flavour of what the SBKA website can give you. The website has several aims:

- 1) To inform and educate the public about honeybees.
- 2) To provide information and resources to SBKA members about beekeeping, and what's going on within the SBKA at a divisional and county level

Did you know that there are over 100 pages of information on the website, covering everything from beginners' courses, to equipment advice, to calendars of events including honey shows, apiary meetings and lectures. The site is maintained by myself, a member of the Yeovil Division, along with a webmaster from each division who maintains the pages and calendars for the other 11 divisions.

Here are a few highlights:

- Asian Hornet (<https://www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk/asian-hornet.html>) - Identification information, AHAT contacts for each division, loads of links to informative websites and resources
- Members' Blog - (<https://www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk/members-blog>) - Timely articles about beekeeping, bees, Asian hornet etc. A recent highlight for me was the article on making beeswax wraps, which are so popular at the moment (<https://www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk/beeswax-wraps.html>)
- Yeovil Division Page (<https://www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk/yeovil.html>) - This includes the calendar of all Yeovil events, the membership form, current and archived newsletters, contact information for the committee, and the list of divisional equipment and book library.
- Reporting and Recognising Foulbrood (<https://www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk/reporting-foulbrood.html>) - Loads of information on the disease that is so prevalent in Somerset.

The above gives you just a flavour of what the website can offer you, so fire up your computer or smartphone, and navigate to <https://www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk/>

Neil Cook

SBKA web-master

Asian Hornets

A fourth Asian Hornet sighting has been confirmed in England this year, this time in Christchurch in Dorset. Local AHAT teams sighted additional hornets and a nest has been destroyed. This latest find is approximately six miles from the sighting in New Milton, Hampshire this July.

In the Channel Islands over seventy Asian Hornet nests have been found in Jersey, two nests in Guernsey and one nest on Alderney.

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

Sharon Blake

Yeovil Division Host the SBKA AGM

2020 is the Yeovil Division's turn to host the Somerset County AGM. (It rotates each year around the Somerset Divisions). We will host a lunch at Frogmary Green Farm, South Petherton, followed by an interesting talk by Lynfa Davies and then the AGM.

You are all encouraged to attend as I am sure you will find all of these activities interesting and one of them delicious!

So put the event in your 2020 diaries for Saturday 28th March.

More details to follow.....

Apiary Site in Montacute

Do you need an apiary site near Montacute or can you help?

We have been contacted via the website as below:

"I was wondering if you would know of anyone who may like to keep bees at our farm in Montacute. I have kept bees myself before but my husband is very allergic to the stings so am looking for someone to keep them for us or to keep their own bee hives here in the cider orchard which would be a preference.

We are a conservation farm grazing Red Devons and sheep. If you know of anyone or have any ideas on how we might find someone to do this I would be extremely grateful.

Best wishes, Elizabeth McFarlane, Abbey Farm, Montacute, TA15 6UA. 01935 823556."

Please contact Elizabeth directly if you are interested.

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	Claire Puckett	07887 856680
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

- 15th October** - Lynne Ingram talks about Beekeeping in Morocco
- 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 skittles & buffet at the Royal Oak, Hardington Mandeville

2020

- 21st January** - Michael Keith Lucas talks on "The Use of Pollen in Forensic Science"
- 18th February** - Marin Anastosov talks on "The Discovery of Queen Substance"
- 17th March** - Simon Mills talks on TBD
- 28th March** - We host the County AGM at Frogmary Green Farm

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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