



## **Somerset Beekeepers' Association**

Tickets cost £5 and include light refreshments but not lunch. Tickets at £5 are available from Divisional Secretaries, by cheque from SBKA Treasurer Mrs C. Kennedy, Allways, West Shepton, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 5UH and online (plus 90p booking fee) through Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/annual-lecture-tickets-38346154380>

### **LECTURE DAY 2018**

**Saturday, February 17**

**9am – 5pm**

**at Edgar Hall, 8 Cary Court**

**Somerset Business Park**

**Somerton TA11 6SB**

Programme for the day:

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| 9.00am  | Coffee  |
| 9.30am  | Opening by Ken Tredgett, SBKA President   |
| 9.35am  | Queen Rearing – Ged Marshall  |
| 10.40am | Pollen – Michael Keith-Lucas  |
| 11.40am | Coffee  |
| 12.10pm | Honey bee nutrition is not only sugar– Paulo Mielgo, Vita (Europe) Ltd                      |
| 1.10pm  | Lunch   |
| 1.10pm  | Simon Jones RBI and his team will be available to help with your queries about bee diseases |
| 2.20pm  | Thanks and presentations  |
| 2.30pm  | A year in the life of a bee farmer – Ged Marshall   |
| 3.30pm  | Raffle and tea  |
| 4.00pm  | The evolution of plants and insects – Pam Hunter  |
| 5.00pm  | CLOSE   |

## **Ged Marshall - 'Queen Rearing' and 'A year in the life of a bee farmer'**



Ged Marshall, a commercial beekeeper since the 1980s, runs 200-400 hives and reaps about 10 tons of honey in a good year. Based in Buckinghamshire, he moves bees to Kent, Derbyshire and Northumberland to follow crops such as borage and heather.

He buys in 1,000 queens annually from Denmark and selects for honey production, aiming for large, hard-working colonies. He also buys Buckfast drones to saturate the area with good genes. He gives his bees plenty of space – often with a spare super above the crown board – feeds heavily and breeds for slow swarmers.

With so many hives to care for, the main disease inspection is in late summer. When the drones are gone he introduces new queens, replaces old combs and feeds the colony. In early Spring, again he feeds his bees (with candy such as Apifonda). The next inspection is in mid-March “when the pussy willow is out and I hear the first cuckoo, I count my colonies: they’ve made it through the winter”.

In May comes the first disease inspection of the year, and a check for signs of supersedure, and to make sure the queen has space to lay. Ged now pulls out frames of brood from prolific hives to boost the mediocre ones – but not the weakest hives.

## **Michael Keith-Lucas - 'Pollen'**



Michael Keith-Lucas is a retired Senior Tutor in Plant Sciences at the University of Reading and has specialised in woodland history, pollen archaeology and pollen in forensic science.

Pollen was first used to reconstruct the landscapes in which people lived in the past, but then archaeologists started asking more penetrating questions, such as what time of year did this person die?

These turn out to be exactly the sort of question that the police ask at the present day when bodies are discovered without any knowledge of when they died, so the archaeology leads directly into forensic science.

**Paulo Mielgo from Vita (Europe) Ltd – ‘Honey bee nutrition is not only sugar’**



Paulo at the church at Wooton St Lawrence, near Vita’s HQ, which was the parish church of the Rev Charles Butler, author of *The Feminine Monarchie*, published in 1623 and the first book to promote the idea that the head of a hive is a queen and not a king.

Paulo Mielgo, Vita Bee Health’s technical manager, has beekeeping in his blood! His surname is similar to the Spanish word for honey (miel) and his father has managed 700 hives in Argentina.

After gaining a degree from a veterinary college in Argentina, Paulo worked in many countries including Italy and South America and previously worked for Vita’s South American partner, Apilab. His current role involves working with researchers and universities to help develop new honey bee health and nutrition products. Vita researches, develops, manufactures and markets a range of honeybee health treatments.

**Pam Hunter C.Biol. F.S.Biol. FLS. MB.- ‘The evolution of plants and insects’**



By profession, Pam is a microbiologist who has spent about three decades in the pharmaceutical industry engaged in research into new antimicrobial agents. By inclination she has always had a love for all aspects of natural history and had a tendency to fill the house with plants and creatures of all sorts as a child. She was inspired by reading the wonderful Colin

Butler 'World of the Honey Bee' in the mid 1970s but somehow took just over 10 years to actually start beekeeping! By then she had quite a good background on the theoretical biology of bees and found the practical side equally fascinating. She is particularly interested in the interaction of bees and plants as well as the biology of these wonderful insects.

Pam lives in a very rural part of the centre of Sussex and has usually about 6-8 hives. She eventually started beekeeping in 1989. She is a member of the Exam Board of the BBKA and a member of BIBBA. She enjoys writing articles about beekeeping, especially the scientific aspects, and the interaction of plants and bees, Pam is a Master Beekeeper, a Chartered Biologist, Fellow of the Society of Biology and a fellow of the Linnaean Society.