

## Spaxton Village Hall News

Summer has whizzed by and we now seem to be well into the throes of autumn, so we are very pleased that the leaking roof in the pavilion has been attended to and provided the rain really has stopped coming in. We also plan an internal decoration to complement the new units, sink and blinds. In addition we have been fortunate enough to obtain a grant to pay for part of the new hearing loops, soon to be installed in both the main hall and the pavilion. Our thanks go to Somerset Community Foundation and to Jan who battled with the paperwork! We hope it will encourage those who have less than perfect hearing to attend more functions at the hall.

It has been lovely to see the children's playground so well used over the summer and we are also grateful to those of you who completed the questionnaire about new play equipment. The item most requested was an activity style play wall, something we planned even before the shop was built, so we are really pleased to see it would still be popular. Also we know some of the existing play equipment needs replacing so that is also on our agenda.....after the other projects have been completed.

Last but not least we would like to say thank you to the Parish Council for continuing to pay for the upkeep of the children's play area, this obviously leaves more money available for hall maintenance. We would also like to thank Mathew and Amanda Carver who do an excellent job of cutting the grass, banks and hedges plus alerting us to any potential problems, one of which is the continuing issue with dog poo on the playing field! This area is not for dogs, and we have recently replaced signs here advising this. *Please remember 'no dogs on the playing field'.*



1. Do you know how many bee flights are needed to collect 1 lb of honey?
2. How many miles would that be?
3. What noise does the bee make when it flies backwards?
4. How many eggs does a Queen bee lay in summer?

### **Learn about and learn to keep bees at one of the best Teaching Apiaries in the UK, just 2 miles from Spaxton**

At the Durleigh Landfill site, Quantock Beekeepers have reclaimed an acre of ground, planted it with wildflowers, created a wildlife pool and established an Apiary with about 30 colonies of bees. The number of beekeepers in the (new) Quantock Division of Somerset Beekeepers Association has risen from 15 (in 2007) to 120 this year (2015). Our apiary has been used for filming some of Springwatch, In the Mind of Animals (Prof Adam Hart and Chris Packham), and Points West (Mike Dilger). A number of Womens' Institute groups, and other organisations have enjoyed visiting. Bridgwater College has linked to the Apiary and Brymore School bring their pupils to the Apiary to learn about beekeeping. With the various pests and diseases honeybees cannot survive in the wild.

#### **If there were no beekeepers there would be no honeybees**

Our Beginners Course starts on Saturday 7 November at the apiary and thereafter at Brymore School on Tuesday evenings. It is free to members of Quantock Beekeepers. If you would like to know more ring Ken on 01278 671544 or email [ken@bush-cottage.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:ken@bush-cottage.freeserve.co.uk)

Answer to questions – 1. 50 000 visits, 2. 100 000 miles, 3. Zzub, zzub, zzub! 4. 1500 (3 times her body weight) every day.