



# Stroud Beekeepers Newsletter

## Supporting Beekeeping in the Five Valleys

MARCH  
2021

### Latest news

There is now a clear path out of lockdown and from 29<sup>th</sup> March we may be able to start gathering in groups of 6 which could mean apiary sessions can resume. We will keep everyone up to date with this.

But until then, we hope everyone has been taking advantage of the free webinars and zoom meetings that have been on offer to everyone. These have been very interesting, and we hope you managed to attend some of them but there is a link to some recordings in the "Dates for your diary" section.

Spring is just around the corner and soon we will all be busy with our bees. It's a good time to be preparing all your equipment for the year.

We will start this newsletter with a message and some advice from Chris Hancock for everyone.

This year has forced me to start to use Zoom and enabled me (sometimes!) to get to lectures which would not have been possible for me before.

It has been so enlightening and stimulating, and these lectures are usually open for all members to join. We have been sending out emails with the links for you to have access and they are listed on our website.

As someone who has been keeping bees for 11 or 12 years, I am learning so much through these lectures, and thank the organizers for those opportunities. Things have changed even in that short time, and the seasons are totally disrupted, by long periods of rain or heat, and fast changes in temperature.

I think that the most optimistic information I gained from zoom lectures on bee diseases, has been that we may be able to counteract [Chronic bee paralysis virus](#) transmission, which is so distressing to see when you feel there is no cure.



They have just discovered that this virus, which is transmitted between adult bees, has an incubation period of about a week.

The action which we can try is basically what the bees attempt, which is to keep affected bees out of the hive (they so often know what is needed, before we do). Because affected bees are not as fit to fly, the advice is to take the brood box away from its usual site (perhaps keeping the queen safe and warm enough during this process) and shake out all the bees well away from the hive. Shaking the bees up into the air, not onto the ground where they will cluster will mean that the healthy bees return and the bees with CBPV don't.

The healthier bees can fly back so when the box is replaced, fewer affected bees will manage to get home. This might have to be repeated. It is the only solution I have heard of once they have been affected. I will certainly try it if I see CBP developing in a colony.

[Chronic Bee Paralysis](#), which I encountered during the last two years for the first time, I understand, (if anyone else can correct me, please communicate!) happens when a hive with a high population is confined, and bees rub together, causing hairs to break and virus can enter through these broken, hollow hairs. It was most distressing to see piles of dead and dying bees by the entrance, with bees trying to evict those they can sense are ill, and not be able to do anything.

Cont.



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Since I lost my hive with it, I have watched the weather forecast even more, and if there is a long spell of rain forecast (as we have had over the last few years), I have sometimes put a super on just to give them more space and then they are less likely to be rubbing together and breaking those hairs. Most of my colonies are very strong and these are the ones at risk because of confined space. I did not have another outbreak this year, even though we had long periods of rain confinement. Obviously, there are other considerations with this action, because they will need to keep it warm enough, and I would not be as likely to do that for winter, but I did not have that problem during this last season, so maybe it worked.

Another very useful thing to know, was from Dr Jeff Pettis' experiments for transporting bee queens. He mentioned that the queen's fertility/ stored sperm is affected by extremes in temperature fluctuations and fluctuations in temperature above 38 degrees C and below 23 degrees C. I think that climate change is bringing sudden extremes of weather, and maintaining the hive temperature at a steady and safe level is going to become more of a problem. It confirmed my opinion that insulation is vital, to help regulate the fluctuations either way. I have always wrapped my bees up with insulation and been teased for that and feeding plenty, including pollen candy to give protein before and after deep winter-(needing to ensure that they don't fill all the brood cells, but I run on 2 brood boxes all year so that would be unlikely), but excepting for two colonies with newly, late mated young queens who were out for their flights during poor weather, I had not lost any colonies over winter (touching wood, now). That taught me not to bother with late queen-rearing because they were both poorly mated and ran out before Christmas. Learning goes on, and the most effective seems to be through mistakes, so keep that in mind if you have a 'disaster'! There is a lot to consider

Finally, some sad news about a former committee member of SBKA for people who may have known him. We have learned that Jim Divers sadly passed away in December after being diagnosed with cancer in August.

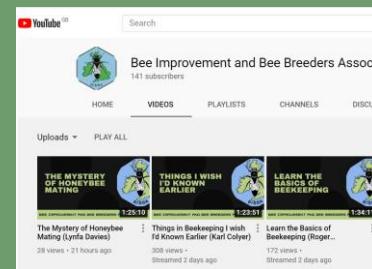
### Dates for your diary

Here is a list of some free Zoom events that are happening over the coming months from the BBKA and other organisations and details can be found below.

- [BBKA event calendar](#) – “navigate” to March 2021 to see what is going on.
- March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm – DFB Webinar “Slippery petals and Skilful bees” Registration - [here](#)

### Did you miss out on any of the BIBBA lectures?

Find them all on YouTube below to view at your leisure. Don't miss out.





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### Down at the apiary

All planning permission should be finalised by mid-March which will mean we can get on with the move and get the new shed put up.

The beginner's course from 2020 did not get the classroom sections completed due to Covid19 but these will now be completed weekly via zoom by Ed on Tuesday evenings in March.

We are working out a plan for the basic assessment for members who wish to study for it, and we will let everyone know once we have this finalised.

We still have some DN4 and SN4 (Hoffman type) frames for sale in packs of 10 for £12.50 per pack.

These are top quality new frames and offer good value for money for anyone.

We also still have fondant available to purchase and if you are interested in either of the above then please contact [Cherry](mailto:Cherry_(cherryorion@outlook.com)) ([cherryorion@outlook.com](mailto:cherryorion@outlook.com)) for more details on payment and collection

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We are always looking for what you would like to see in our newsletter, so if you have any articles, content or stories to share the pass them onto us here at the [newsletter](#) and we will feature them in a future edition.

#### Jobs for the month

- Check food reserves and top up with sugar syrup if warm enough
- Get spare supers and queen excluders ready
- Prepare some clean brood foundation ready for replacement
- Do a quick inspection if the weather is suitable
- Start thinking what you will need for swarm control
- Check out the events calendar and attend any free zoom meeting to increase your knowledge



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## Around the world of beekeeping

Here is our look at world of Beekeeping for this month. We hope you find the articles interesting.

As always, the full article can be found by clicking on the image.

- Bees and honeycomb helping with vaccines against Covid19



- Honeybees can solve maths problems – but may cheat a little



- Iron deficiency in bees due to Nosema seizing it from its host

