



# Bramble filling the supers!

**A**nother slim newsletter! If members have ideas for content, articles, pictures or beekeeping experiences to share please let me know. As Melvyn comments in his Missive; it would be good to hear what the divisions are up to.



In this month's County News BBKA President, Margaret Wilson explains how BBKA is continuing to use IT to keep the Association active during lockdown.

Melvyn shares his own and his division's experiences during lockdown whilst reflecting on the missed cruise!

And by courtesy of Ipswich & East Suffolk BKA (via ebees) we reproduce an article on CBPV. Take a look at Sussex in 2017!

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## BBKA 'Positive Thinking' Newsletter

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What a heat wave we have all had in the past couple of weeks. After all the cold and windy days, it was lovely to have sunshine wall-to-wall, although it was getting rather too hot for me in the end. However, my bees seemed to enjoy every minute and certainly the supers are very heavy, so a good crop of honey I hope.

Our Chair, Anne Rowberry, suggested a 'question page' on our web site; this is to raise awareness of various issues and we hope that you will be able to benefit from it. The first of these is about whether the wax moth was a problem last year.

So please log on to: [www.bbka.org.uk/questions-for-beekeepers](http://www.bbka.org.uk/questions-for-beekeepers). We will add questions each month and would welcome your comments and/or experiences. Thankfully, here in the North West, we do not have much wax moth, but you never know what each new year will bring, so it is good to be prepared.

Fundraising has of course affected the BBKA. If you shop online and use Amazon, the BBKA will benefit from you using the 'Amazon Smile' site. This is an identical site but allows you to choose a charity to which Amazon donates a small percentage of the total spent. You will find the BBKA on there and all donations from 'Amazon Smile' will be gratefully received, thank you.

We would also like to give a big thank you to all beekeepers collecting swarms. We have had several generous donations from satisfied householders, below are just some of the comments left on our donations page:

*'A huge thank you to Phil for arriving within half an hour to remove a large swarm from our tree.'*

*'Thank you for the advice from Richard somewhere near Bromley, Kent, who reassured me about the bees' nest in my garden and offered to help if the nest did not go away. It did.'*

Can I remind everyone again about the BBKA Forum as a useful place for discussing beekeeping:

<https://bbkaforum.co.uk/>. The use of this medium for information is proving to be very popular among beekeepers.

The recent session of committee meetings were held using IT technology and we managed to get all the meetings done in this way. It's certainly not the same as face-to-face and having the time to talk informally to other trustees and staff at Stoneleigh, but at least it has meant that we have been able to carry on. One benefit is that there were no expenses for travel or accommodation so that has helped with the finances. There is now a skeleton staff working from the office with others still working at home. Some others are on furlough, but with no exams or training sessions, the workload in that area is more or less non-existent at the moment. It will be so good to get back to normal with our education programmes, but of course we have to be sure that everything can be done safely.

Stay safe, look after yourselves, with the easing of the lockdown it would be so easy to forget some of the safety precautions that we still need to do to keep this disease at bay.

Take care.

***Margaret Wilson***

BBKA President

## Des Res for Honey Bees



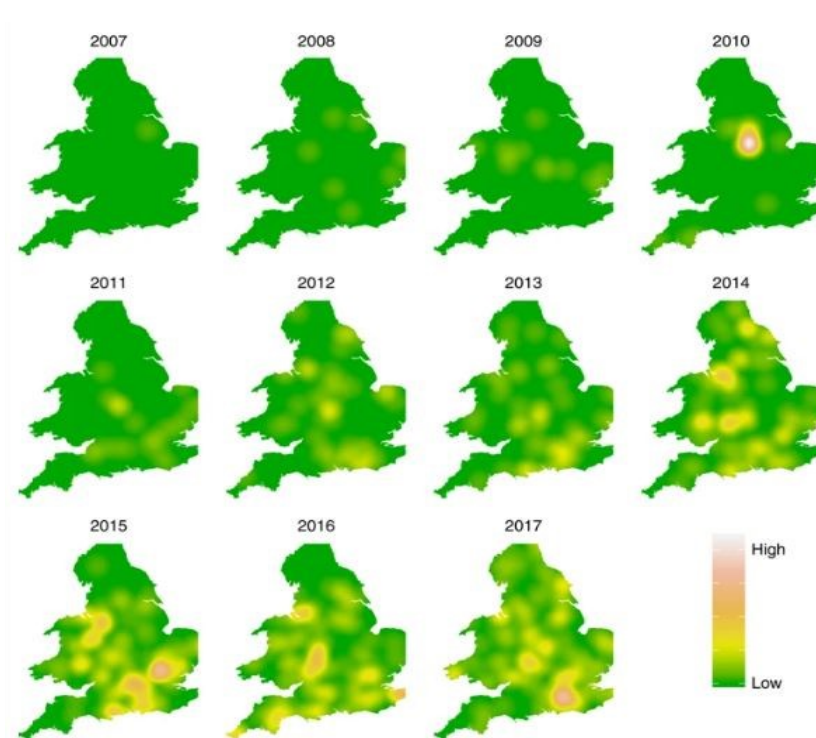
A farm landowner near Loxwood is offering a site for a small number of honey bee colonies in Tisman's Common.

If you are interested in keeping bees in this location please contact me in the first instance.

**Graham**

[secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)

## Chronic Bee Paralysis Virus - a growing threat



This image, showing the annual incidence of CBPV, is the crux of the discovery by a project between Newcastle University, Aberdeen University, the Bee Farmers' Association and the NBU.

CBPV is a growing threat, as evidenced by the increase in reported cases over the last 10 years or so. Key to the control of any such disease (as we well know with Covid 19) is to understand how it is transmitted.

Looking at the cases from year-to-year, it looks a bit odd. You might expect that from year-to-year it would expand out from its 'foothold', gradually covering the country.

But it's not like that.

From year-to-year, new cases pop up seemingly randomly. What's going on?

The pattern of cases indicates that disease clusters do not appear in the same positions year on year. The county boundaries for England and Wales were sourced from the Database of Global Administrative Areas (<http://GADM.org>).

It appears that there's a correlation between imported queens and the prevalence of CBPV, whether this means imported queens are bringing in the virus, or imported queens are more susceptible to a local variant of CBPV that doesn't affect native bees is not clear. The good news is that CBPV appears to die out over the winter.

To read the full research paper visit <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-15919-0>

*Reproduced courtesy of Ipswich & East Suffolk Beekeepers' Association via ebees*

## Melvyn's Missive

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*Chairman, Melvyn Essen continues to write for the County News.*

I should be writing this on our cabin balcony with the Baltic Sea going past at about 17 knots. But no - at home in Horsham for a change! We feel very fortunate that we have a large garden to amuse ourselves. The garden has two new additions which the birds are not pleased about; they can't get to the strawberries and raspberries and the numerous pigeons look through the net at the lettuce and brassicas. Our decorating project has been completed too, but more jobs seem to keep coming along.

All my colonies bar one had started to prepare to swarm - I should have been down to a handful of colonies now but seem to have more. I had a moment of weakness and popped a virgin queen and a queen cell from my favourite colony (got my timing out slightly) into a double nuc and advertised them when the queens were laying, with no interest; most of our members are happy with free swarms. Demand has outstripped swarm calls so the list is still active.

Our Central Sussex 2020 WhatsApp group has grown to 40 now and is very active with different subjects daily. Our new members have found it useful as well as our weekly Zoom meetings, and it's amusing seeing the new hairstyles. The WhatsApp group will probably carry on as it's very good for dealing with swarms and spare queens, also you can get advice very quickly, something we have all needed at some time.

It's strange not to have much communication between West Sussex divisions, the main messages are from Graham asking if I have anything to add to the thin newsletters. I guess most of us are trying to keep safe and are ensuring our own divisions are kept ticking over as it were, until the government guidelines change, which will be too late for this season of course. Some of our new members have bitten the bullet and have started keeping bees. They quickly realised any form of mentoring was not possible so with media help from other members they seem to be coping. I know if I was in that situation I couldn't wait until next year!

### **Melvyn**

[chairman@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:chairman@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)

## Around the Divisions

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Divisions are continuing to support members during these difficult times. Please speak to your Division if you need help.

### Central Sussex Division

Details from: Debbie Rowland, [chairman@centralsussexbka.org.uk](mailto:chairman@centralsussexbka.org.uk) or the Division's website: [www.centralsussexbka.org.uk](http://www.centralsussexbka.org.uk)

### Chichester Division

Details from: Ray Green, [secretary@chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk) or the Division's website: [www.chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk)

## Wisborough Green Division

Details from : Martina Hendry, [secretary@wgbka.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wgbka.org.uk) or website: [www.wgbka.org.uk](http://www.wgbka.org.uk).

The Division's Newsletter may be viewed or downloaded here: [www.wgbka.org.uk/Newsletters.html](http://www.wgbka.org.uk/Newsletters.html)

## Worthing Division

Details from: Debra Edwards, [dmcd.edwards@gmail.com](mailto:dmcd.edwards@gmail.com) or website: [www.worthingbeekeepers.org.uk](http://www.worthingbeekeepers.org.uk)

**We're on the web:**  
**[www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](http://www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)**

### MEMBERS' COUNTY NEWSLETTER

Thanks to all this month's contributors. If you don't have access to the internet and want further details of anything in this newsletter, please contact the Editor & County Secretary. Likewise, if you would like to contribute to future newsletters please send articles and photographs to:

Graham Elliott, Editor & County Secretary, no later than the 20th of the preceding month.  
[secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)



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