

Brighton & Lewes Beekeepers



A DIVISION OF THE SUSSEX BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

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EDITORIAL



Boiling up old frames

What a busy month! The Bee Market, frame cleaning, queen-rearing, swarms... Reports of all this and more in this issue.

Massive props to B&L members Hilary Osman and Shirley Light who organised two workshops making frame cleaning a social activity and therefore fun.

We don't all have a boiler full of roiling soda crystal solution to hand, nor half a dozen or so like-minded beekeepers with a need to clean up some old frames. But Hils and Shirley were happy to share, along with coffee & tea, and the most delicious coffee and walnut cakes.

For me, the result was a couple of boxes of clean frames, all ready to be re-used, and so much more economical than burning them and starting again from scratch.

So hats off to Shirley and Hilary.

And if there's a beekeeping activity that you would like to do but which, for want of time, equipment or just incentive, you struggle to get around to, drop anyone on the committee a line and maybe we can organise another workshop. I hear flat-pack hive building may be a goer.

Swarm season

Hasn't this year's swarm season kicked off with a bang? After last year's dearth of swarms, it seems this year is trying to make up for it. If you have an interesting swarm story, whether you captured one or you lost one, please let us know and we'll publish it here in the newsletter. Get a picture too!

Queen rearing

B&L members have been queen-rearing this month—with mixed success. Grafting has proven to be tricky, while the Nicot system, which removes manual handling, has been more successful—see below.

Manek Dubash, Editor



NEWSLETTER JUNE 2023

EVENTS

- Meetings and more
- See [back page](#) for details

NEXT MONTH

- Seasonal hints & tips
- News updates
- Latest events
- Asian hornet update

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS AND STORIES

Do you have interesting photos or video links you'd like to share? Or an insight from your beekeeping that would could enhance the hobby for others? Do you have skills that could be useful to other members? Anything else you'd like to see in this newsletter?

Ideas and contributions welcome; all contact details are on the [back page](#).

ONLINE



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QR link to our website

June



Honey bee on cotoneaster in spring

We've had a busy swarming month, one that's likely to continue for some weeks, almost as if the bees are trying to make up for the time lost during the miserable months of March and April.

And now I'm going to remind you of the possibility of another possible bad event: the June gap.

This is a period normally around June (surprise, surprise) when the last of the spring flowers (not just flowers but trees as well) have gone over and it's too early for the early summer trees and flowers to bloom.

The June gap is most often felt in rural areas dominated by intensive agriculture—like Sussex. The plentiful hawthorn blooms of hedgerows, hedgerow trees and gluts of autumn sown oil seed rape are largely over by June but the summer wild flowers are not yet at their peak and the heather is



The gap between oil seed rape and heather

still weeks away. Because of climate change we may not even get a gap this year, but the weather is, as always, very changeable and the bees may be confined to the hive for some time. This implies that it may need feeding.

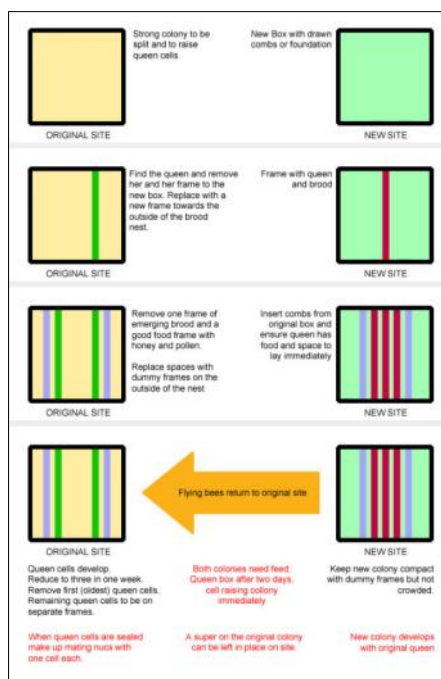
Remember, with the colony rapidly expanding, it can get through about 5kg of stores in a week, so count how much is in your hive/s. A brood frame filled on both sides weighs about 2.5kg. Check what percentage of each frame is covered by stores to calculate whether the colony will survive a prolonged period of confinement.

If in doubt feed them. Use either commercial, invert sugar syrup or make your own. I make mine in a ratio of one litre of water to one kg of sugar. You don't have to heat it but it helps to dissolve the sugar. Don't feed the colony with supers on or you'll end up with syrup in your supers.

Colony splitting

You'll probably need to split your colonies at some point, either to make increase or to help suppress the swarming instinct.

Unless you have a source of mated or virgin queens, it will take at least three weeks before you see any sign of new brood being laid in the queenless hive.



A splitting plan

About four or five days after splitting the colony, knock out all but one or two of the queen cells, and then leave them alone. You will only end up trying to inspect a very defensive colony and that's no fun for any of us. However, you will still need to continue with weekly inspections to ensure that new queen cells have not developed in your unsplit colonies.

Once the new queen has hatched and is laying, you will have to find and mark her. If you're really keen on selling on your queens, you'll use the internationally recognised colour for the year, as seen [here](#). Or if the eyes aren't what they were, use easily-seen colours like yellow or white.

Finding the queen

On a warm still day when the foragers are out working, open the hive. Picture what the queen looks like. Working smoothly, take out the first frame, if it has few bees on it, place on the ground near the entrance.

As you lift each frame from the hive, scan it in a zig-zag pattern from top to bottom and then around the sides.

Queens usually move away from the light, heading for the dark side, so you might see her as she goes over the top.

The queen has a very characteristic way of walking close to the comb and will also be trying, determinedly, to



A marked queen. Photo: Nigel Kermode

June (cont.)



Queen bee with her court

reach the darker side, so look for a bee on the march. Look for the longer abdomen and the longer brown legs. If you're lucky you'll see a 'court' of bees around her—see above.

If you haven't found her on your second pass through the hive, your next step is to pair up the frames.

Put two pairs of frames in a nuc with a space between them. Space the remaining frames in the main hive with at least a frame's gap between each pair. We know the queen avoids the light, so remove a pair of frames and open them like a book. Do this with each pair until you find the queen.

The last resort is to sift the bees through a queen excluder. As the name implies, all but the queen (and drones) will pass through the excluder.



Nicely filled super frame. Photo: David Evans, aka The Apiarist

Next steps

You will need to put supers on your hive. The first will need to go on when the hive has about nine seams of bees in it. Shuffle the frames as they fill to get evenly drawn combs. The next super should go on (above or below the existing) when the first super is nearly full.

If you have hives near oilseed rape (OSR) then you will need to extract the honey before it sets like concrete. Do not wait until the honey is capped: that's too late. Do the shake test before it is capped. Hold the frame upside down and shake vigorously. If nectar drips out, leave it for a few more days. If no nectar drips out, it's time to extract.

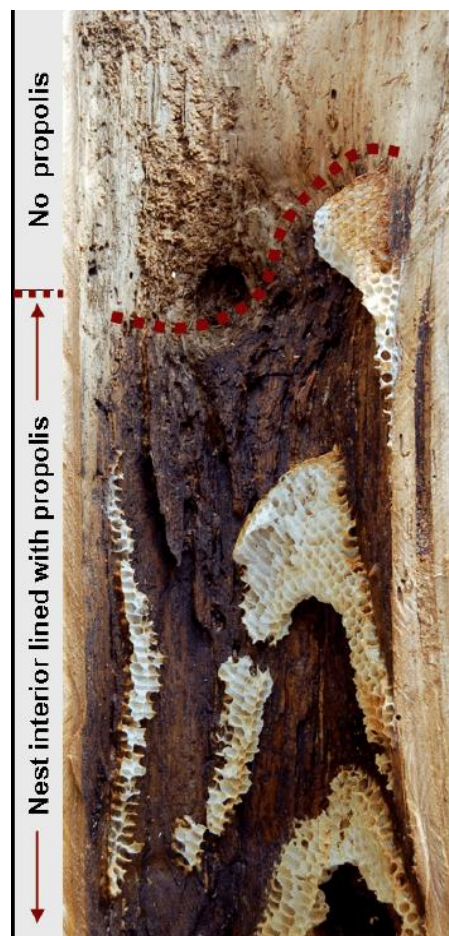
Continue to monitor the varroa mite count. An average of more than ten a day indicate that treatment is required urgently. If you have honey supers on use MAQS or another type of treatment that can be used when the supers are on. Formic Pro, which remains commercially available, unlike MAQS, is not approved for use with supers on, despite its active agent, formic acid, being the same as MAQS. This, I would suspect, is a consequence of both the cost and the time taken to achieve approval for medicines.

Otherwise treat with your preferred agent.

In the event you haven't been able to split your hive/s, always have a bait hive set up nearby; you never know, you might even catch someone else's bees.



Bees with deformed wing virus, transmitted by varroa mites



A cross-section of a feral honey bee hive within a tree cavity found September 2009. The nest interior where comb is present is coated in a thin layer of propolis creating a "propolis envelope" around the colony. Photo: [Michael D. Simone-Finstrom](#)

A quick recipe for bait hives is to make it smell like home—if you're a honey bee. Researchers have found that swarms of bees in the wild are much more likely to set up home in a tree cavity that has previously been used by bees than not.

So make it a reasonably sized hole: a National brood box is ideal. Put a manky old frame in there, just one frame, as the scout bees from a swarm will measure the size of the cavity and, if they keep bumping into frames, they are more likely to reject it.

With luck you'll be the recipient of free bees.

The Veiled Beekeeper



Graham Bubloz
Chairman

Words from the Chair

I am writing this piece prior to the Bee Market that will have taken place on 20 May by the time that you read it. Consequently, I hope that you enjoyed the day. My sincere thanks to Ann Butcher (wife of member Rick) who very kindly organised the refreshments stall on our behalf this year, and to our team that baked cakes beforehand and served on the day.

As you'll be fully aware, the weather was pretty dreadful this spring. From chatting with some members, it seems that many suffered with colony losses over the winter. Indeed, the weather detrimentally affected a number of our early out-apiary meetings, where we had to cancel at the last minute. *[it's got much better since, though! Ed.]*

Keep an eye on our programme of events page on our website for the next meetings and fingers crossed that the weather will be better. If you're a new beekeeper or if you don't yet have bees, do try, and come along. Make sure to keep an eye on your email in case of last-minute cancellations – and bring a mug for a cuppa and maybe a small cake to share.

Bee Chats

Another of our informal and unofficial Bee Chat gatherings takes place on Wednesday 7

June from 7.30pm, at The Cock Inn, Old Uckfield Road, Lewes, BN8 5RX. From the feedback received, it seems that having the opportunity to have a casual conversation with fellow enthusiasts over a pint is proving very popular. I hope to see you there.

More bees please

I've asked before, but I'll do it again: if you have a reason to split one of your hives, or if you have an unwanted swarm, please consider donating it to Brighton and Lewes Beekeepers – where we are very short of bees at some of our apiaries. Please contact Ian White on 07999 987097, or anyone on the committee - see any of the newsletters for contact details.

Workshop heaven

Finally, I attended two fantastic workshops recently: Frame Cleaning; and Microscopy (Nosema). These were at two completely different ends of the bee interest spectrum – and both were very informative, useful, and most of all thoroughly enjoyable. Consequently, I would encourage any member that hasn't been on any of the various workshops that are on offer, to sign up. It's a great way to get to know each other and to learn some new bee-related skills.



Manek Dubash
Asian Hornet
Team Co-ordinator

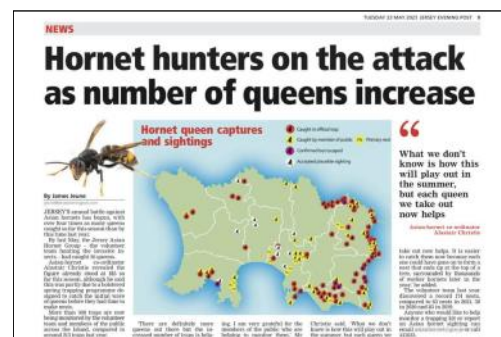
Asian Hornet report

They're back and in force! I'm talking about the Asian hornet queens on Jersey—just a few miles off our shores—where new records have already been set. But more about that later.

The latest news closer to home is the verified report of the fourth 2023 Asian hornet discovery, this time in Ashford, Kent.

The BBKA reports: "The insect was caught and will be analysed by scientists. This was a single hornet incursion and follow up activities will take place to raise risk awareness." The previous three discoveries, all found in April, were located in Newcastle—in an imported cauliflower no less; in Folkestone; and on the deck of a Poole to Cherbourg ferry.

I know I've said this before but we need to keep up our vigilance.



The situation on Jersey is reported via daily updates on the Jersey Asian Hornet Facebook group. Yesterday as I write this, on 26 May, two queens were found, the day before 11, before that eight, then 10, and so on. The total is now well over 200, clearly from the map above, blown over from France. This is us, if we don't watch out.

From our apiaries: Barcombe, Grassroots, Hove & Isfield

Barcombe



Wow, what a start to the season! It seems every farmer in the UK has decided to grow oil seed rape (OSR) this year and Barcombe is no exception: two massive fields of the stuff just behind the apiary has sent the bees wild. They have expanded massively and with that comes the time-consuming routine of controlling swarming.

So, over the last month supers have been deployed on all hives and one colony has been converted to double brood (two brood boxes on top of each other so the queen can use both).

As I type, I have two hives that seem queenless with no sign of any queen cells anywhere (I'm suspecting these are both OK as I have tested them with a frame of eggs from other colonies and they still haven't made queen cells), two other hives that are queenright and growing at an enormous pace, and one hive (the double brood) where I clearly missed a cell and swarmed.



Luckily I had clipped the queen on the this hive so the swarm was under the floor as obviously the queen couldn't fly away. So I shook them back in, removed the queen cells and now that colony is back to normal with the queen hopefully thinking that they have completed their swarming plans!

Unfortunately the weather scuppered our first apiary visit: it absolutely tipped it down all day.

However I have hosted bespoke sessions at Barcombe (especially with Valerie) so new beekeepers can observe and help manage the bees. I'm hoping these sessions are well received—please keep an eye on the B&L Buzz WhatsApp group for when I will be visiting.



Queen rearing

The biggest activity this month however has been the start of the queen-rearing programme I am doing at Barcombe. All our association apiaries are doing a queen rearing programme but Barcombe is a unusual: we are solely using a system called Nicot (see photo below). This system means you do not have to use grafting tools or paintbrushes to transfer an egg or larvae from the comb into a specially prepared cup. Instead the system forces the queen to lay directly into cups that are then unplugged and plugged directly into a wooden frame which the bees then draw out into queen cells.

The bees have been presented with these cups this morning (16 May) so I will report on the success/failure of this in next month's report.

Tony Birkbeck, Apiary Manager

Grassroots



Hurrah—Grassroots is now open!

A band of members helped clear the site, prune the hedging and re-positioned the hives within last season. This started with two hives on site, both queenright with gentle bees, one belonging to Hove apiary the other to Grassroots, both with last year's queens.

Winter work

Work for this season started in autumn 2022 when the bees from Hove were brought for a 'holiday' while some work was carried out to repair some fencing and to complete some landscaping. The colonies were treated with trickled oxalic acid, monitored, then fed fondant as necessary throughout the winter.

At the end of March, both hives were supered with brood boxes, brood was moved into the top box, the queen was left in the bottom box, her space filled with the frames of foundation then both hives fed with Candipolline to condition the queen and encourage her to lay in the new spaces created.

Both queens, despite the weather conditions, produced frames of brood in both hives.

New bees

The small and perfectly formed Novice Beekeepers was the first group to see the site this year. We spent the morning talking about hive types and the significance of the hive choices we make, followed with some information on how to manage hives to prevent swarming or, if that fails, how to react to finding swarm cells.

We then went to a new watering hole for training purposes, Tea Thyme in Hassocks for lunch, before continuing to the apiary. We looked at a caged

From our apiaries: Barcombe, Grassroots, Hove & Isfield

Grassroots (cont.)

queen; she is being introduced to a colony.

Then the group looked at the very first stage of the [Ben Harden queen rearing](#) going on.

I think there may be more queen rearing going on next year with our new beekeepers behind the grafting tools!

Splitting up

Then the colonies have been treated differently. Hove colonies were split at the end of April. The six-frame split was taken to Hove to start the apiary again. There were two frames of pollen and nectar, two of brood (one Brood in All Stages, or BIAS) with one of sealed brood and two frames of drawn comb. This should result in a queenright nuc by mid- to end of May.

The remaining queen and bees you can see to the right with straps, donated a mug of 'gormless' bees (thanks to Malcolm Wilkie for that unforgettable phrase, delivered at one of our last winter meetings earlier this year) for an Apidea and a virgin queen to create an Apidea for Hove.

That will need more management. More of that another time.



Queen rearing

Grassroots colony has been turned into a Ben Harden-style hive for queen rearing. A six-frame nuc has been made with spare frames of brood and stores from the wooden hive in the middle of the picture. I have asked members of the queen rearing group to write about what went on...

By the end of April, that colony has produced a nuc which should have a laying queen about the same time as the nuc in Hove.

But at Grassroots, a group of queen rearing beekeepers supported each other to graft larvae for the Ben Harden Hive. We are hoping for queen cells by the middle of May to share and create Apidea for the participants to take to their own apiaries or for Grassroots to use to increase colony numbers.

We have completed two rounds of Ben Harden-style grafting of larvae. The first round produced two cells out of five and the second one out of eight.

We all had a go at grafting, unfortunately we didn't get better at it!

Apidea in action

There are currently four Apidea in use on our queen rearing table. I am very proud of them. The next step is to introduce the mated queens into nucs to bring on for Hove Apiary and Grassroots for further observation. I have my fingers crossed.

The next queen rearing project at Grassroots will either be using the Miller or punch method. More next month with pictures as we go along.

Jude New, Apiary Manager

Hove

There's still not a huge amount of activity at Hove. At the end of April, we moved a poly nuc with six frames from Grassroots to Hove. This came from a hive with a double brood box, hence there were plenty of frames available.

A week later it was checked for queen cells, and several had been made, so we knocked down all but one, and left it to hatch. Unfortunately, the larva didn't hatch and was dead, so we added another frame of eggs and larvae in mid-May. We're hoping in the next few days that there will be a viable queen cell. We've added a super to give them more space as it is very busy with bees in there.

In the meantime, we have the remaining hive at Grassroots which is building up nicely, and we're planning to move it to Hove at some point in the near future.

Felicity Alder, Apiary Manager

Isfield

A couple of photos of the visit on 5 May, when queen rearing was attempted.

Photos by Graham Bubloz



Top photo: cell walls being cut back in order to get the grafting tool in.

Bottom photo: For grafting, good eyesight is at a premium.

Team Tony takes queen-rearing crown—for now



Team Tony, aka the Sith Lord

It's a nice thought being able to rear your own queens and not rely on imported bees or buying them from elsewhere. How hard could it be?



Certainly more complex than I initially imagined, but thanks to a number of meetings and lessons about queen rearing, I began to understand the process more.



On 26 May it was time to find out how many queen cells could be harvested from the Barcombe apiary. We walked in, full of anticipation. Soon after opening up the hive, home to the queen cells, the air was full of angry bees with Julie taking three stings to the face! Hope it didn't swell up too much!



It was a lovely surprise to see 14 capped queen cells which Manek removed carefully. These were then placed into their new homes, some nucs and some baby mating boxes [*I think he means mini-mating! Ed.*]. Now we have to wait and see how many of these new queens get mated.

Thanks Tony for running this little queen rearing operation at Barcombe, I've learnt lots and look forward to seeing the final results.

On this day I also learnt not to take off your suit too soon, I was just about to drive home and one of the angry Barcombe bees got me on the forehead. Ouch!

Words by Alex Smith
Photos by Graham Bubloz, Nigel Kermode and Alex Smith



Learning about nosema: the quiet bee-killer



This talk by retired biologist and experienced beekeeper, Gerald Legg—who is also of course a stalwart of Brighton & Lewes—was a wonderful opportunity for B&L members to learn about the Nosema disease which commonly can cause serious losses of adult honey bees and colonies in spring and autumn.

After a brief introduction from staff about Health and Safety guidelines around the laboratory, Gerald described the causes of Nosema.

Fungal spores

The two main types of microsporidian parasites were fungal: *Nosema apis* infecting *Apis mellifera*—European natives—which although may not kill a colony can weaken it, while *N. ceranae* originating from Asia is a more virulent strain and can kill a colony much faster.

A slide show illustrated how the bees became infected by the microorganisms and the ramifications clearly depicted. The bees pick up spores in contact with other infected bees and in soiled material where they can live for an exceptionally long time.

Bees can bear light infestations of Nosema, ably clearing it themselves, but heavier infestations can dwindle colonies as bees are unable to digest



food properly through damaged guts, the condition of the colony suffers becoming weaker and sicker fading away in autumn.

With a general lack of stores, Nosema builds up causing colonies to die in spring.

How can you tell?

N. apis may manifest as sick or dead bees at the hive entrance displaying swollen, greasy-looking bodies, trembling or holding their wings at odd angles. In *A. ceranae* the bees crawl outside the hive on grass and appear smaller than normal. Gerard reaffirmed that although there was no treatment for Nosema it can be minimised with good hygiene, preventing the spread of contamination to other colonies.

Unlike reading information from a textbook or somewhere else, Gerald provided added detail which made the talk extremely interesting; the various imageries inspired understanding. An outline specifying how we would collect, process, and analyse the spores using our own collected sample of dead bees made the procedural preparations straightforward.

Members coming along with a large quantity of bees were able to share with those unfortunately in need!



Microscopy at large

We all enjoyed arranging equipment; using a drop of suspension placed on a slide under a cover slip examining microscopically at x400 magnification.

Help was at hand from those familiar with handling equipment as members may never have used a microscope while others not since secondary school: the spores were gleaming ovals 6x3µm wide resembling 'cigar' shapes.

Excellent images. Reassurance was given that a few spores was nothing to be concerned about, however a lot of spores determined a high percentage of Nosema and unfortunately for some, the analysis confirmed their winter losses were due to this.

Gerald said that for those who have suspicions of an infestation who could not bring bees that he would be happy to assess them for us separately.

It was relaxing, illuminating teaching. A bonus was enabling us to cross paths with both established members and newer members not seen or spoken to before. Overall, a particularly good event.

**Words by Valerie Baxter-Smith
Microscopy images by Gerald Legg,
others by Bob Curtis**



2023 Bee Market finds a new home



B&L traditionally provides provender for the hungry traders and punters and traders. Thanks to Ann Butcher (centre) for organising the tea and cake stall, and to Hilary, Jude, Shirley, Ian, Pat, Peter, Ross, Lindsey, Frankie and Mim for taking the time, trouble and effort to bake the cakes and to Ann, Hilary, Shirley, Pat, Rick, and Norman for their hard work in running the stall all day. We took nearly £600 in sales.

This annual fixture in the Sussex Beekeeping Association's calendar, this year held on 20 May, moved to a new home this year, to Uckfield College. A fairly new facility, it offers up-to-date WiFi and mobile signal coverage—not something we might have been too

fussed about a few years back but, today without it, traders cannot do business.

The market was sited in in a fairly big hall—probably a bit too big for the fairly small number of stalls which seemed to be fewer compared to last year's event, which was held at the old venue in Heathfield Community College, a venue noted for its poor communication technology.



Punters headed for tea and cake, together with a good old chinwag about this and that. Photo: Manek Dubash



Ben and Maggi Pratt, trading as The Bee People, seemed to having a good day.



The trade hall at Uckfield College looked a bit empty compared to last year, with barely half a dozen stalls in evidence.

One notable absence was Park Farm Cottage, a hive product company run by B&L members Tony and Toni Birkbeck. Tony had broken his arm while downhill mountain biking at high speed and so was out of action. Sympathy, especially from Toni, was not notable for its presence...

The lunchtime lecture entitled *From Buckfast to Buckingham Palace* was given by Beecraft co-editor Richard Rickitt. He provided a fascinating insights into a range of locations where beekeeping has taken and does take place, including the gardens at Buck House, Buckfast Abbey, Exmoor and a host of others. Very entertaining.

After lunch came the equipment auction, a traditional fixture.

Manek Dubash

Photos by Graham Bubloz (except where indicated)



A core element of the Bee Market is the equipment auction, which took place after the lunchtime lecture, and once more held out the possibility of a bargain.

A fun morning—cleaning frames!



Six of us gathered on Sunday 30 April 2023 at Shirley's home in Laughton. We were there to learn how to clean up frames and comb. Shirley and Hilary hosted the event.

The weather was wonderful and we had a perfect location: in a barn, outdoors but covered in case of rain. On arrival, there were two large urns bubbling away, not with tea but water with a weak solution of soda crystals (something like two tablespoons to 20 litres of water.)

The first job was to identify suitable frames that would need to be replaced because the comb was too dark or dirty. Fortunately, Shirley had already



The image above shows extracted comb. Dark comb will be discarded, the rest melted using a solar extractor.



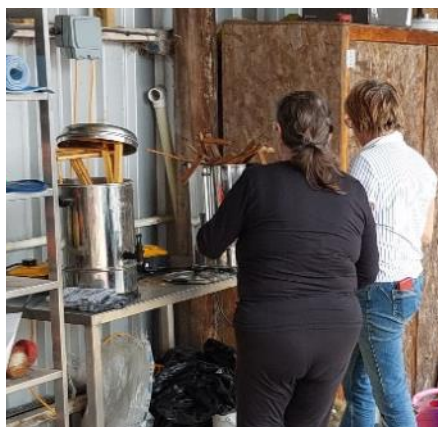
This image shows the setup with a good, sturdy bench to work on.

saved up 20 or more brood frames that were in need of cleaning so we set about the task of cleaning them.

We covered the benches with newspaper; it's a messy business cleaning frames. We were then instructed on how to remove the wax and the two bottom bars and also the wedge—the piece of wood that holds the foundation in place on a frame. The side bars and the top bars were left in place. We used a couple of large buckets to drop cut-out comb and dismantled frames into.

We needed a small hammer to knock out the bottom bars (I also used a hive tool) and we needed a hive tool to clean off as much wax and propolis as possible. The final stage was to drop scraped frames into the boiler.

The parts only stay in the boiler for about five minutes. A final wipe-down with a rag, and it was remarkable how well the final cleaned up (and sterilised) frames appeared. Hilary suggested that it is sensible to replace about a third of the wooden parts to



The boiler was at the back of the barn; you can see a few frames poking out

ensure that the frame's integrity remains intact.

Words and photos by Graham Bubloz



Above: frames before and after cleaning.

Below: Shirley shows off finished frames



Zoo releases wild animals—to beekeepers



Drusilla's near Alfriston is a popular animal park/zoo. Who knew that they did bees as well?

B&L member Maz went to Drusilla's over the bank holiday, where he saw a swarm of bees. He let us all know on the B+L Buzz group on WhatsApp, informed the park authorities, who looked on the website.

The park manager then contacted B&L Swarm Co-ordinator Ian White.

It soon became a chat with comments that Ian was on the case, but we heard the swarm was in the lions enclosure! He contacted me as Tony Birkbeck (who also has a bee-vac) had other arrangements the following day.



We turned up at the park and asked to see where the swarm was before we unloaded the car, which was stuffed with every bit of equipment to cover every eventuality. We proceeded to the play area, and to the maze. Up some rickety steps on the corner was where we had seen the video that we had been sent, and further along, bees were entering a hole and venturing into a hollow fibre glass structure. The bees were coming and going from a small hole near a pole.

Were the bees nested along the whole length of the fibre glass? A big cut out if it was.

Back at the car we loaded up a trolley with swarm boxes, hoover, buckets, smoker, and Ian's kit of sundries. We dressed up.



There were some strange looks from some of their punters but we proceeded back to the area, now closed to the general public.

Staff member Eddie bought us a crowbar, an extension lead and a couple of hammers. He had suffered from ticks the previous day and he didn't want to get stung today!

The wood was pretty rotten and Ian was in his element dismantling the wooden panel. Inside was a small cast swarm, which I hoovered up with my bee-vac. It was too dark to take a photo unfortunately. Ian started work at the other end in case there was another swarm there, but very little activity noticed whilst we had been there.



We were informed that there had been a colony, which they had killed, but there was still a smell of fermented honey so we investigated. With the wooden panel off it we saw the blackened combs. No activity, just fermenting honey.

We removed all of this but were they robbing this the day before? We left the nuc with the bees there and Ian returned later in the day to collect them. Details were exchanged, so we might be invited back to collect some more swarms and who knows, it might be in the lion enclosure next time!

Thanks to Maz for passing on B&L's details to the management.

Hilary Osman





B&L events 2023

All out-apiary meetings are subject to weather-related alteration or cancellation. Please keep an eye on emails and/or Facebook & WhatsApp Buzz for the latest updates.

Spring/summer apiary meetings

Date	Location	Topic
4 June	Hove (José)	Inspection & feeding for June gap
18 June	Barcombe (Tony)	Disease check, varroa counting

Bee Chats

Wednesday 7 June, 7.30pm, The Cock Inn, Ringmer

Wednesday 5 July, 7.30pm, The Sportsman, Goddards Green

Deadlines

Please send all contributions for the newsletter, **including photos**, to the Editor (details on right). Max. length: 500 words.

Copy deadline: 18th of the month before the publication date (except December: 11th). Email photos etc. for the website to Webmaster Gerald Legg (details on right).

Publication date: 25th of the month.

National Bee Unit inspectors

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Disclaimer

The Brighton and Lewes Division of the SBKA cannot accept any responsibility for loss, injury or damage sustained by persons in consequence of their participation in activities arranged by the Division.



Managed by the Community Development Foundation
Funded by the Office of the Third Sector



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