

Extraction of bees from a Sevenoaks Chimney March 2017.



The chimney had a slate capping but bees had found ways in through cracks in the cement.



Using a hive tool to cut comb away from the brick.



Oh boy, here we go!!!



Extracting the first section of comb.



Extracting more comb



Using a long handled slice to cut comb further down the chimney.



It was a cold day, so bees were using Sarah's body heat to keep warm?



More comb removal



Preparing to slice the comb to size to fit the frame.



Making the final cut.



At last the first brood comb for fitting into a frame.



Sarah reaching further down for more comb.



Reaching even further!!



Yet there's still more comb down there!



Here is a final view of some remaining comb deep down in the chimney.



Bees cuddling up for more body heat.

This is a pictorial account of extracting bees from a Sevenoaks chimney on 5th March 2017.

At 8 deg C this was a little too cold for the comfort of the bees but they had to be removed to allow the builder to carry out re-pointing work on the chimney.

We put the removed brood comb into a Poly-nuc. with some house bees. The queen had cleverly avoided us so we left a frame of brood dangling in the chimney to act as bait overnight.

I returned next day at 5.30 p.m. when all the flying bees should be back home only to find the remaining bees had had enough & had absconded. Not everything always goes to plan!

However it did mean that the builder could return next day unimpeded to cap off the chimney so that no bees could rob out the remaining honey or even worse set up a new colony.

*John Farrow and Sarah Rapley +
Photos by Louise Bayne.*