

Recent extractions from buildings, by Peter Hutton assisted by Vic. Webb.



There were a further four spaces to the left with bees and combs.



One of the three colonies under the floor; Vic helped me, just as well, since when I first visited site this was the only colony flying, it had about ten drones but no brood whatsoever, nor a queen. The combs of honey starting where I have cut across on the left hand side, extended back a further six foot under the floor. The next two colonies are not shown here, but in the next one and likewise for the third, both had queens and brood in all stages, albeit not overly strong with bees. Vic took these back to his apiary. It took us less than twenty minutes to transfer the bees per colony once the floor was up. We spent an hour getting honey comb out and into buckets. I had to return the following day to clear the honey comb away, probably 200lbs or so.



Bees from a queen less colony ran up onto their comb in nucleus box inside the building. As you see, not a lot of bees. They were united with the smaller of the other two lots.

St. Mary's Church, Hadlow extraction, from 60ft up their Church Clock Tower, by Sarah Rapley & John Farrow.



Bees were entering the Rag Stone Clock Tower to the left of this stone.



Another view, showing the 130ft Hadlow Tower in the background.



John the stonemason, making a start, by removing the first rag stone.



Bees like the top of John's veil either because it was a brand new bee suite or more likely they liked his brand of hair shampoo!



Sarah reaching at arm's length, into the hole, to pull out the last bit of comb.



This was the total amount of honeycomb retrieved – not much for a long established colony. Sarah was going to reclaim this in her solar wax melter. The red bucket originally had clean water to wash away all the honey that seems to get everywhere!!

We established that the bees had swarmed 10 days earlier and hence we found very little brood and no eggs. We found two virgin queens which John took away in a queen clip to add to a small nucleus he was creating and also to a small colony that had lost its queen.