



June Newsletter

2026



A worker exposes its Nasonov gland during an inspection...the gland releases a lemon-scented pheromone which attracts other bees to the location - which is why you may also know it by its common name 'the come-hither gland'

Photo: Ali Rosum

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Welcome

Despite the lack of rain (until today!) and the very cold nights, this Spring is shaping up to be one of the best for honey for many years. The stuff is simply pouring in - and a lot was gathered before the OSR was even in flower. This has produced a darker, aromatic honey that shouts hedgerows and fruit blossom. It is delicious. Of course, there is now also a lot of OSR, and beekeepers are faced with the usual dilemma of when to take it off and what to do with it once it's in the bucket and going solid. I think the best thing to do with it is make a batch of soft set but the market for that can be limited, it can go wrong and beginners often struggle with the process and give up. The OSR around the Wantage/Didcot area seems to have already mostly gone over, leaving me wondering what is coming next - are we headed for an early June gap? I'm hoping the rain over the last few days, followed by the blast of heat heading our way over the bank holiday weekend might rejuvenate nectar flows, particularly in the many trees in flower. Update: the field beans now seem to be producing incredible amounts of nectar and elderflowers are in full bloom



The OSR has produced some stunning frames this year - just look at the colour of those cappings...

One area I am struggling with at the moment is the requeening of my early splits. A warm spell prompted early swarm preparation, then bad weather made it difficult for new queens to get mated well. I have had to reunite 2 splits this week and others I have spoken to have also had problems. Hopefully we are now past that as the most recent splits seem to be producing nice new queens.

This month we have our usual columns together with Association reports. I've written a short piece on the pros and cons of Shook Swarms and finish with a small piece about Manuka honey which I hope you will find interesting.



Garden flowers will become an increasingly important source of pollen and nectar as we head into the June gap

So far, nobody has come forward to run the newsletter from August, so this may well be the antepenultimate issue. Please email news@valeanddownlandbees.org.uk if you are interested in taking over this role. I'm sure there is someone out there who would enjoy doing this. (only 3 more from me including this one)

John

Dates for your diary

<u>Newbury & District</u>
Sunday 31st May, 2–4pm at Oare Apiary, Members Meeting Saturday 13th June, Highclere Village Festival Sunday 28th June, 2–4pm at Oare Apiary, Members Meeting Sunday 26th July, 2–4pm at Oare Apiary, Members Meeting Sunday 23rd August, 2–4pm at Oare Apiary, Members Meeting Sunday 11th October, 2–4pm at Oare Apiary, Members Meeting
<u>Vale & Downland</u>
Every Saturday at Red Barn 1-2pm Beginners with bees, 2.30-4pm open members session Saturday 6th June - Public Open Session at the Red Barn (booking required) Saturday 17th October, Fun Honey Show (includes AGM) Drayton VH
22nd - 24th October - National Honey Show

Seen around the internet

Asian Hornet - Mallorca. At last, some good Asian YLH news. Spanish scientists have successfully eradicated YLH from Mallorca. In recognition, Slovenia has awarded them this year's 'Golden Bee Award'. More at link below:

<https://sloveniatimes.com/47672/spanish-scientists-who-defeated-asian-hornet-win-golden-bee-award>

Unfortunately, on the 23rd May, the Spanish government confirmed the first-ever detection of the YLH in Gran Canaria after a nest was found containing 93 YLH.

UK Beekeepers in Environmental Study Stunner Ex Vale Member Jennifer Shelton is the co-author of a new major UK study based on information gathered as part of the UK Honey Monitoring Scheme. The scheme provides a large database of samples collected by beekeepers across the UK in a way that no normal study could afford to do. Between 2018 and 2025, over 3,500 beekeepers contributed 5,789 honey samples. Some of those beekeepers are members of Vale & Newbury. The study establishes a baseline that will help future studies interpret land-use change, agri-environmental policy outcomes and climate-driven shifts in flowering resources. The full paper is available [here](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0347485):

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0347485>

US Data on early swarming An interesting article in 'The Guardian' reports on data showing early swarming in the USA could be a warning for us if warming trends continue. The warmer winter weather not only led to earlier swarming, but also allowed the colonies to raise brood almost all year round. This removes the natural winter break in the *Varroa destructor* reproductive lifecycle, resulting in high early season mite loads. I'll let you think about the implications of that. The Guardian article is linked below as well as the (updated daily!) tracking page for US swarming. I wish the UK had something like this.



<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/may/17/north-america-bees-early-swarm-season>

<https://beeswarmed.org/season>

As the UK warms,
will our *Varroa*
problem get worse?
© Gilles San Martin

What AI taxis and robots can learn from bees Fascinating article from 'The Conversation' about how our understanding of how bees navigate and see things can be applied to things like robot taxis by providing a blueprint for low-power, robust AI and autonomous systems that can cope with the real world. This is because evolution has taken the honeybee's tiny brain and wrung every last bit of capability and efficiency out of it - if it wasn't bees would set out foraging and just not come back - they have to get their navigation and risk assessing skills right if they want to live. Unlike many current AI systems which tend to do one task well, bees have to multitask all the time, parsing all of the information they are receiving to make continuous decisions.

<https://theconversation.com/what-ai-taxis-and-robots-can-learn-from-bees-283089>

Tips for June



Take care in the heat....

My top tips for June:

- Historically, June is quite high risk for the beekeeper. The colony is approaching its Summer peak at a time when natural food sources can suddenly disappear: the dreaded 'June gap'.
 - If you have taken all the Spring honey off, a large colony with 8+ frames of brood can starve in less than a week if a period of cold wet weather appears.
 - If the weather turns bad, heft and be prepared to feed light syrup (but not with supers on or honey may become adulterated)
- Your OSR crop should be almost complete by the start of June - don't leave it on to become rock hard
- Swarm season continues - continue your 7-day checks.
 - Make sure every visit to your apiary includes the kit you need to make a split - just in case
- Monitor for *Varroa* - after a period of not finding any, I am now seeing small numbers appearing in drone brood.
- Continue to monitor for disease
- Decide on what your primary **swarm control method** will be and prep your kit. The more hives you have, the more kit you need to have ready.
- Manage your **oilseed rape honey**. OSR can set in the frame in the same week it is collected, especially in a cold snap. Check regularly and be prepared to extract early. Once set it is impossible to extract. A shake test will tell you if the honey is ready or make sure you take your refractometer to the apiary with you.
- **Manage cold snaps** Colonies are expanding very rapidly but may still lack the level of stores needed to get through more than a few days of bad weather. Keep an eye out and be ready to give feed to get them through a sticky patch.
- **Monitor Mites**. Big slabs of brood provide an ideal breeding ground for varroa. Start monitoring mite levels and be prepared to act. If mite levels are high and it is warm, a shook swarm will both get your bees onto nice fresh comb and provide an opportunity to treat with oxalic acid in the broodless period.
- **Use your spare time to make up spare frames**. There is nothing worse than needing to do a manipulation and finding you haven't got enough frames ready.
- If it is very hot, always drink plenty of water and let someone know where you are and for how long.

A Herculean honey extraction from our Association Apiaries

We've had two teams running our weekly checks at our Association apiaries. This has resulted in highly productive bees this Spring. A huge thanks to the Oare and Mary Hare apiary teams! Mark Weller in particular gets a shout out for his incredible solo extraction of over seven supers from Oare. No mean feat and we are very grateful for his time and effort to get the task over the line.

Meanwhile for the Mary Hare team, it may have been raining outside, but inside a state-of-the-art honey shed deep in the heart of World's End, you might be forgiven for thinking you'd been airlifted to the Amazon rainforest. At a tropical 30 degrees to foil any oil seed rape honey from granulating, Andrew Fromant, Brian McGrath, Stephen Lockhart and Louisa Houghton gathered for the first Mary Hare Association Apiary honey extraction of 2026.

The process started early with Brian and Andrew taking ten supers from the hives at The Mary Hare ready to start extracting. While there wasn't room to swing a cat in the honey shed, there was just enough for us volunteers to take up our stations uncapping, spinning and replacing frames whilst trying to avoid getting too sticky – a challenge!

Fuelled by coffee and doughnuts, it was a fantastic team effort through a very long day which was both mentally and physically challenging. A full frame of honey is heavy! As always, every beekeeper has their own unique way of doing things, and there is always so much to learn from one another when we spend time together.

The ten extracted supers were returned to their hives later the same evening, even managing not to disrupt the beginners' course! No rest for a beekeeper though, the following day the honey was still being strained and run into drums, with a lot thick part set. Then the laborious job of cleaning the equipment needs to be done so that it can be returned spotless ready for the next extraction.

Extracting this much honey in one day is a task that's nothing short of Herculean. A huge thank you to Andrew for leading us all through the process, for making sure the honey we extracted is of the highest possible quality, for stopping us all from getting too sticky and for letting us use his incredible shed. Thanks also to Brian who stayed to help for the duration, to Stephen for his talents at the uncapping tray and to Louisa for bringing doughnuts.



Celebrating World Bee Day

On Saturday 16 May a hardy gang of NDKBA volunteers braved the changeable weather, worked out how to put up a gazebo for the first time, and celebrated World Bee Day at The Nature Discovery Centre in Thatcham.



Our events are a unique blend of skill, knowledge, nature and fun - that's a powerful draw. People are fascinated by bees. I love hearing voices from outside as families say, 'come on, let's check out the bee tent.' We have our observation hive at the front, so it's the first thing you see when you come in. It's worth it to see visitors literally stop in their tracks, agog as they look at worker bees on a frame of brood and stores, then try and find the queen.

There are always a ton of questions. I'm know I'm not alone in saying how much enjoyment we as volunteers get from answering them all, celebrating our queen spotters with an 'I saw the queen bee' sticker, and helping folks learn that little bit more about how amazing bees are.

Understanding bees is hugely important to the general public and I feel very grateful to be part of a such an enthusiastic and knowledgeable community of beekeepers that puts education, and having fun while you learn, at the heart of everything we do.

Newbury Beekeepers are on swarm standby

As we move into spring weather warms up and plants start to blossom, the hotter, longer days and lots of pollen triggers queen bees to start laying eggs again after her winter break. But as their colonies expand, hives run of space, when this happens the bees will decide it's time to find a new home.

When their hive is strong enough, bees will essentially split into two teams. The first, led by the old queen, will leave the hive to find a new home, leaving the second team, made up of the remaining workers in the original hive to raise a new queen. In this way all the bees have enough space to thrive.

Swarms take the form of thousands of bees, flying together to find their new home. On the journey, they often stop along the way, often in unusual places – playgrounds, park benches and even dustbins to name just a few. The worker



bees form a protective ball around their queen while scout bees go on ahead to look for a new place to live. This tight ball of bees can be caught by specialist 'swarm catchers,' placed in a temporary hive and rehomed safely.

If you come across a large swarm of bees then please call **Newbury Beekeepers' Swarm Collection Coordinators on 07555 180 260** so they can collect the swarm safely.

Then keep a safe distance and enjoy the incredible sight of watching a swarm of bees

Recipe of the month – Honey Biscuits

These melt-in-the-mouth biscuits are quick and easy to make, enjoy them while you can because they never last long!

Ingredients

- 100g soft butter
- 100g caster sugar
- 1 x large tablespoon honey
- 1 x level teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 x egg yolk
- 180g self-raising flour

Method

Beat butter and sugar together until, then add the honey and egg yolk. Mix well. Add cinnamon with the flour and mix to a soft dough. Take a teaspoon of the mixture and roll into balls. Cook in an oven for approximately 10 minutes at 175C. Enjoy!

Ready to extract? We have Association kit for hire!

With the weather warming up, our colonies are getting busy and thoughts turn to extracting the honey harvest. We have some great equipment to make the job easy for you with options to suit beekeepers and their budgets!

The Manual

1. Manual extractor on its own - £15
2. Manual extractor bundle - £20

Includes:

- Settling tank
- Stainless steel double strainer
- Electric uncapping knife
- Uncapping fork
- Electric uncapping tray

The Electric

1. Electric extractor on its own - £35
2. Electric extractor bundle - £40

Includes:

- Settling tank
- Stainless steel double strainer
- Electric uncapping knife
- Uncapping fork
- Electric uncapping tray

If you'd like to hire any of the equipment, please reach out to **Louisa Houghton** at equipment@newburybeekeepers.org.uk or **07876 575 603**. Full instructions (should you need them) will be provided!

Help and Volunteers needed

Volunteering for one of our events is a great way to meet the public and share your passion for and knowledge of beekeeping. If you can spare a morning or afternoon to help out, please reach out. If you'd like to get involved, let us know [by completing this short form](#) or emailing Becca at chair@newburybeekeepers.org.uk.

Here are the next dates for our diaries:

- Highclere Village festival - Saturday 13th June
- Newbury Show (including our honey show) - Saturday 19th September and Sunday 20th September. *This is our biggest event for NDBKA a chance to celebrate and educate.*

Looking for green-fingered gardeners!



As part of promoting the symbiotic relationship between bees and flowers we aim to have a display of plants that flower in September outside our Newbury Show Marquee.



If you're green-fingered or know of gardeners who are, and could plant some seeds now, then donate the plants to the display, or even create a pot with a mix of flowers for selling at the event, please get in touch with Becca - chair@newburybeekeepers.org.uk



We need sponsors for the Newbury Show

There is a fee for the marquee as well as historically a prize fund for our Honey Show. I will be compiling a sponsorship pack to give to local businesses who would then be able to have their logo displayed within our marquee and a gift of honey given.

If you know a company who may like to support of Honey and Bee tent – engaging public in understanding bees then please email me for more details. Many thanks, Becca

Vale & Downland BKA - John Broadbent

Apiary Update

The Saturday sessions are going well, with a good number of attendees. A reminder that timings are: **Beginners** with hives on the apiary 1pm - 2pm (please arrive by 12.45pm and the main **members** session is 2.30pm to 4pm. The proximity of the Red Barn to several fields of OSR means that we have already extracted quite a lot of association honey with lots more to come. On the beginners' side we have seen a record amount of honey extracted - normally we see a super's worth by the end of the season, whereas several hives have already had 2 supers extracted. Happy days. The extracting shed does get extremely hot though.

A reminder that beekeeping in this heat is a challenge - when you come to the apiary it is a good idea to bring a bottle of chilled water.

Please also remember the smoker rules! No lit smokers in the barn, no lighting smokers with nitriles on or hoods up.



The mysterious Hive 8 - How many queens will it have in it next week?



Simon demonstrates how to set up an apidea

Generally, we are pleased with progress at the apiary. After a poor Winter, when we were reduced to just 4 colonies, we are now back to 9+, all queenright (I think). We have had some good demos, including a full Pagden on Hive 6, which has successfully produced a new, nice looking, queen. Following the discovery of numerous virgin queens emerging in hive 8 we took the opportunity to demonstrate how to make up some apideas and popped them in...not too

successfully. One of the demo apideas I brought in with a queen cell donated by member Matt Frost has produced a very nice queen, and we are just waiting to check the brood pattern before using her to head up a colony.

YLH Update - Simon Rogers

The latest update on Yellow Legged Hornet sightings is on the BBKA and National Bee Unit websites. The latest being found in Upton, down in Dorset on the 10th of May.

Interestingly, I had a weekend fishing in Christchurch last weekend, not too many miles from the confirmed sighting. I now find myself sub-consciously, double-checking my fishing kit and van for any YLH's.

Sad though it sounds, I think it will become inevitable that we all need to be on our guard going forward.

This brings me into what we have been doing, to get ourselves ready for any incursions. On Saturday the 9th of May, we held a start-up meeting at Red Barn. There were 22 members in attendance, I would like to thank them for their enthusiasm and input. A special thanks goes to, Kevin Norton and Richard Wigzell for helping with the note taking. It produced 13 pages of ideas, target audiences and what we should be doing. Going back to my days with Xerox, we used to call these brainstorming sessions. From these sessions, you bracket the ideas under topic headings and that drives an action / working document. I have nearly completed the bracketing, trying to get it out to the membership for the weekend. This will go out as a separate Mailchimp communication, to all at the Vale and Downland membership.



The 9th of May YLH meeting was well attended and generated a lot of ideas

I have provisionally planned a follow up meeting, again at Red Barn on the 6th of June. This is where I intend to have the working document available for review and aligning responsibilities. I have already had members volunteer to lead engagements with schools, colleges and universities (thank you).

For those interested in joining the meeting on the 6th, all are welcome and a reminder will go out the week before. Still planning to engage with the neighbouring associations, I felt that we should get our plans in place beforehand. Please keep your YLH traps (which ever one you are using), topped up and inspected regularly.

Surprising the number of traps that could be out there, without doing anything else. We have over 140 members, taking partners, county and juniors from the numbers, still leaves over 100. If everyone had a trap at home, their apiaries, place of work and children's schools, potentially you could have over 200 active traps.

Food for thought.

Members Sunday Apiary Visit and Afternoon Tea

On the 17th May, we gathered at Helen Davison's apiary at Stanford in the Vale. We used to do these every year but have got out of the habit. For those who didn't attend, you missed a great session. Helen started by showing us her apiary and talking about what is going on with various hives. She then did a fabulous demonstration of a shook swarm - finding the queen very quickly and isolating her in a clip for safekeeping. This is always the most nerve wracking part of any demonstration - once that is done you know the rest will go well. (Ed: I've written a small piece after the Vale news on the pros and cons of a shook swarm as I know it's a bit of a marmite manipulation)

After the demonstration we gathered under Helen's gazebo and ate our fill of the bring and share goodies that everyone had brought along. Huge thanks to Helen for setting this up and carrying it through so well. We already have a



Finding the Queen is always a good start



Left: Helen opens up the hive in preparation for the shook swarm. Above: A great opportunity for members to chat about how their beekeeping season is going

potential second event in the offing, so watch out for any emails. Thanks to Ali Rosum for the photos - a proper camera and macro lens (and photographic skill!) makes a huge difference.

Education

We now have 2 Basic and 3 Honey Bee Health Assessments booked in for later in the Summer and the application date has now passed. Good luck to everyone involved.

If anybody wants any specific manipulation demonstrating during the season, just let us know and we will try and set it up for a Saturday session. I have had a small number of requests for a Queen rearing day and another wax workshop but would need more people to attend to make it worthwhile. If you are interested, please let me know. These would probably be held on a Sunday and may entail a small charge for materials used.

Steventon School Bees



We have started working again with Ms Sandy Jaeger at Steventon Primary School with the school hive. We have had 9 children so far and run through a basic inspection and answered all their questions (so many questions!). It is always refreshing to see how engaged the children are and how much they enjoy the honey tasting at the end of the session. We have 43 children in total signed up - a

Left: Ms Jaeger (right) and Sheenagh (left) supervise the children in a hive inspection. Usually, all the children hold a frame for a souvenir photo of themselves with the bees

record, so fingers crossed for good weather on Thursdays.

PS. This scene from a horror movie has appeared in a young tree in my main apiary. Does anyone know what they are likely to be? Google tells me they are 'Tented Moths' but I can't identify the species. Should I be worried? It looks like 100+ large caterpillars inside.

John



Shook Swarm - Yes or No?

As described in the Vale news above, Trustee Helen Davison demonstrated a shook swarm. Partly because I asked her to, partly because it was good practice for her upcoming Honey Bee Health Assessment and partly because she has found them to be very successful. But I know this manipulation is controversial with some, and in online forums I can only describe some responses to questions about them as abusive. Below, I briefly describe the process and list some pros and cons. You can make your own mind up.

The manipulation itself is quite simple, the hardest part being to find and isolate the queen. I know some are not confident in picking up a queen and placing her in a travel cage, but you can use a queen clip or one handed queen catcher.

Once the queen is isolated, lift the whole box to one side, together with the floor.

Place a new floor on the stand, then a queen excluder then a clean brood box filled with frames of either foundation or freshly drawn and sterilised brood comb (I tend to save any newly drawn comb in case I need to do a Bailey Comb Change for a weak colony, so just use foundation).

Remove the central 2 or 3 frames from the centre of the new box to make a space, then one by one take each frame from the old box and shake/brush every bee into the new box. It helps to have another covered brood box to put each frame in once shaken off, to prevent bees flying back onto them.

Once all the bees are in the box, gently lower the central frames back into place - you will find they won't go all the way down because there is a huge pile of bees in the way - just rest them gently in place and the bees will move out of the way and let them sink down into position.

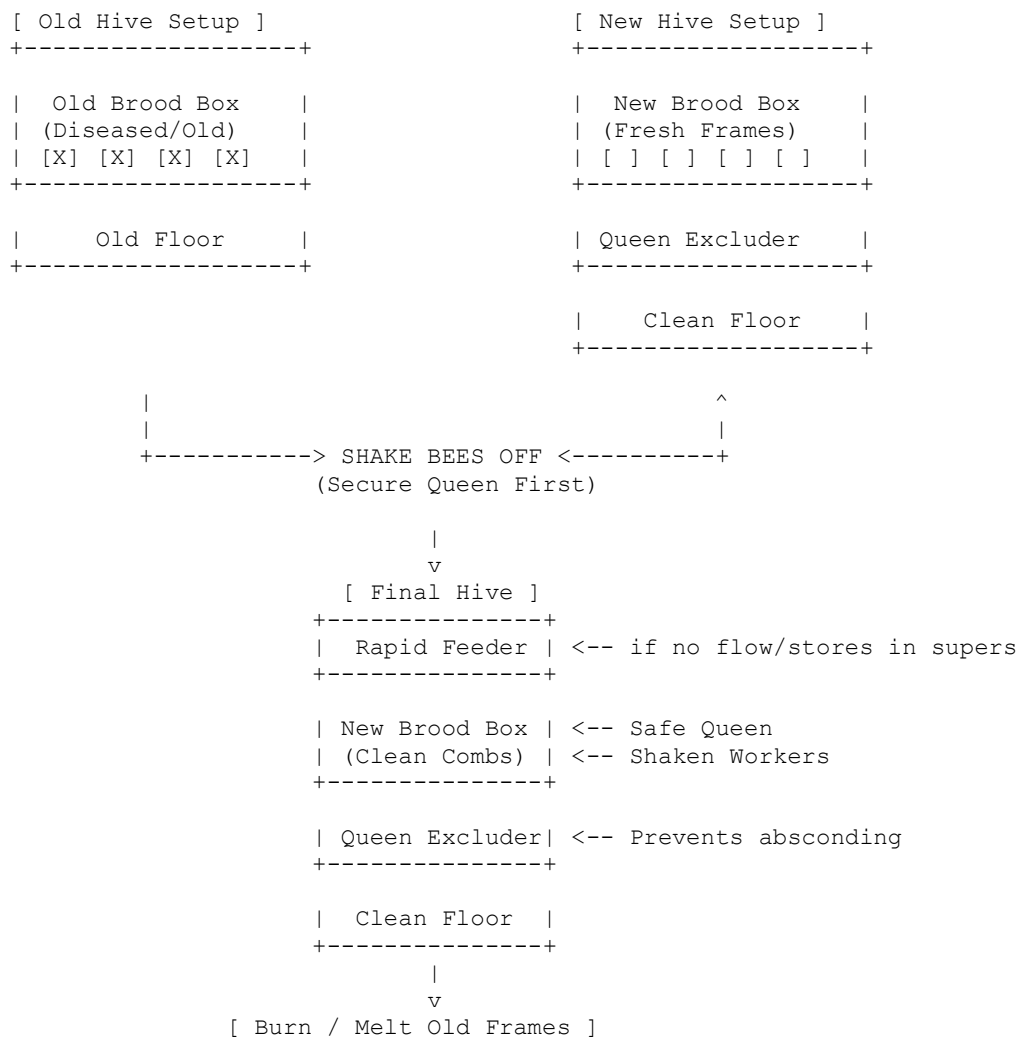
Now, reintroduce the queen into one of the seams between 2 central frames and then place a crownboard on top with an English or Miller feeder on top filled with 1:1 light syrup using an eke or empty super as an eke. Then the roof.



Shook Swarm - a simple manoeuvre that just requires you to hold your nerve

Done!

If you have supers on with honey, or there is a flow on, you can just put a 2nd queen excluder on top of the new brood box, then the supers. No need to feed.



The queen excluder between the floor and the brood box is a precaution to stop the bees absconding - with no brood in the box there is not a lot to hold the bees in place. The qe means the queen cannot leave and the bees will not abandon her. Once the first comb is drawn and the queen is laying, you can remove the bottom qe. Warning - I know from personal experience that if you use a thin plastic or zinc excluder it is easy to miss it and leave in for several weeks! Don't! Make a note in your hive records to remove the qe once the queen is laying.

The old frames can be either burned or wax rendered down and frames boil washed for reuse.

Pros

This replaces yearly frame replacement which aims to replace all frames over a 3 year period. I always find that by the time I have worked the mankiest frames to the outside of the box for removal, the queen has caught up with me and laid it up. It also provides a clean box and floor which is more hygienic.

All contaminated comb is removed in one go, greatly lowering the herbicide/pesticide load that is stored in the wax. Also, each generation raised in old cells slightly decreases the size as they are cleaned and relined (old pupal cases get embedded as well) this eventually results in undersized cells and stunted bees. This gives all new fresh comb of the correct size. Pathogens responsible for EFB, Nosema and chalkbrood are removed

Queens love fresh new comb; they will lay it up very quickly. The colony blossoms.

90% of the varroa load, sealed inside the brood is removed in one go. This is the biggest advantage. Until new brood is laid, the only remaining varroa are in the phoretic stage on the bees and can be easily targeted with an oxalic acid trickle. This knocks the overall varroa count to almost nothing, resulting in much healthier bees.

Mimics a swarm - resetting any swarm urge (hopefully for the rest of the season).

After a few weeks you will be unable to tell the colony has been shook swarmed - it will just be a clean box, bursting with brood.

Cons

You lose all the brood - a lot of bees and the resources that have gone into making them. This seems to be most people's major criticism.

Slight risk to Queen if mishandled.

The shaking off is stressful (to bees and beekeeper!).

You need warm weather and a good flow or feeder if the bees are to successfully draw the wax.

Careful timing helps - just before the Spring flow ends is a good time as the new bees are then ready in time for the Summer flow.



Old frames are best disposed of by burning - do not let other bees rob them out in case they are harbouring disease

You need a strong colony, with lots of young bees.

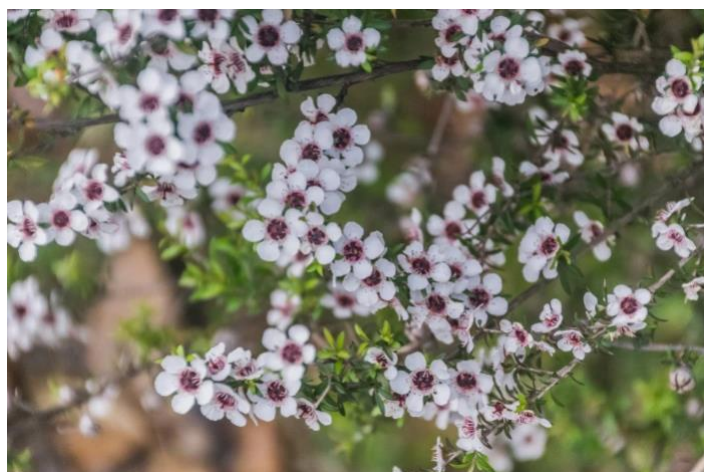
Final thought. I always hesitate before doing this as I look at all the brood I am removing and think about the work and resources that have gone into it. But I have never regretted doing it. When Helen demonstrated to us, she pointed out the hive behind her that she had shook swarmed earlier in the season - it is now bursting with bees and had already produced **198lb** of honey, with more to come. That's incredible.

Manuka Honey

I couldn't resist a very short piece about Manuka Honey. During my recent visit to New Zealand, I consumed copious amounts of Manuka Honey. It is much cheaper there than it is here - so much so that it doesn't even have to be protected in the shops by anti-theft devices and could be used as your main honey if you wished. I know some don't like the taste, but I think it definitely grows on you.

The Manuka plant has an interesting history. In November 1769, Captain Cook took *Endeavour* to Mercury Bay located on the Coromandel Peninsula in New Zealand, to observe the passage of Mercury across the Sun (having already observed the passage of Venus from Tahiti). On board were 2 botanists - Banks and Solander. They collected the Manuka Bush, scientific name *Leptospermum scoparium*, but I prefer the name 'Captain Cook's Tea Tree'.

Long before the honey was popular, New Zealand Māori revered the Manuka tree as a treasure, using it to treat fevers, stomach problems, burns and coughs. It was only with the arrival of the European *Apis Mellifera* honey bee in



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Yes, in NZ you can even buy Manuka Honey in a squeeze bottle!

1839 that Manuka honey was collected.

At the time, Manuka honey was considered as a low value, thick and bitter, problem honey. So much so that it was often given to dairy farmers for animal feed. In fact, large areas of Manuka were cleared to grow better food for cattle.

It was only in the 1980s that biochemist Dr Peter Molan discovered that Manuka honey contained powerful antibacterial properties above and beyond the normal peroxide antibacterial properties that all honey contains. Manuka honey was reborn as a superfood.

The unique active chemical is Methylglyoxal (MGO) which is why you will normally see Manuka Honey graded by the amount of MGO present. The number indicates the minimum concentration of MGO measured in milligrams per kilogram of honey. In general, an MGO of 30-150 is best for everyday use. 250-500 - mid to high medicinal strength and 550-1000+ maximum strength used for advanced medicinal support.

You can grow Manuka in the UK - the RHS sell it, noting it needs full sun and a sheltered position and is hardy down to -10C - so that's probably just Cornwall then...

Footnote: Endeavour's company included a botanical artist, Sydney Parkinson, who drew all the plants discovered. On return, copper plates were made of his drawings but they were not used and lost to history...until they were discovered 200 years later in the bottom of a lift shaft at the British Museum. A limited edition run of the plates was finally made in the 2000's. (Thanks to Robert Scotland for this info)

Adverts

Mo

Warming cabinet with thermostat , in good condition. Purchased from Thornes. Holds two 30 lb buckets. £100.

Tel Mo Cox 07768715278

Ben Tichband - SIPA Honey Bees Limited

We have Buckfast mated queens, virgins, Nucleus and full colonies for sale. We can supply on National or 14x12, alternatively as packages for top bar and other hive types. All our bees are raised in our own West Berkshire apiaries. We offer a 10% discount to members of NDBKA and VDBKA. info@honeybeenucs.co.uk

John Belcher

Please call John Belcher on 01189842321 or 07929586037 or email johnthebeeman8@gmail.com for bees, hive equipment, extraction supplies, feed, and general requirements for beekeeping, mostly in stock in Pangbourne RG8 7LB or available online from supplier.

Beckys Beezzzs Ltd

Nucs of bees, UK Bred mated queens, beekeeping equipment, bee feed & treatments beckysbeesonlineshop.co.uk 01264 351104

Please note: All Newbury & Vale members can place an advert free of charge for up to 3 months. Adverts should preferably be 5 lines or less.