

Chelsfield House Bee Extraction.



Sarah was contacted some while ago about these two colonies at the front and back of the old Schoolmaster's House in Chelsfield. They were entering under the external wood cladding, building their colonies between the 200mm Joists. So we waited for the warmer weather this April to begin their removal.

Here Sarah is making a start by removing the floorboards underneath the landing passage way carpet.



Removing one of the boards reveals the honeycomb and although there looks like a good number of bees this turned out to be the smaller of the two colonies.

We cut out the entire comb and transferred it to frames and secured it with rubber bands.

Turning the board over shows how some of it was still attached.

Having filled 7 frames, we placed these in the Bee-vac.

Sealing the bee-vac with its roof, we used a Henry vacuum to draw a vacuum and suck up the remaining bees.



We placed the poly nuc. of the bee-vac outside on the porch roof to attract any returning foraging bees. The bees fanning at the entrance gave us confidence that the queen was inside.

Back Bedroom.



Exposing the colony in the back bedroom was more challenging as we had to cut the floor boards along the first joist. As they were nailed down underneath the skirting board they could only be lifted up part way.

So it was difficult using the bee-vac and we were uncertain whether we had the queen.

But this later picture shows we did!!!



Listing the equipment required:

Transport: 50+ year old Morris 1000.



Anyone familiar with this vehicle will know the restrictive size of the boot. So a 2nd vehicle was needed to transport all the required items of equipment. Namely:

Trug + numerous buckets to contain wax etc. Claw hammer, crow bars, rope, bungy straps, extension cable, fish slice, large knife and jig-saw. Two Poly Nucs and an Eke.

Bee-vac.



Bee-vac:

Comprising Henry vacuum, standard Poly Nucleus + Eke & second suction hose.

**Sevenoaks Extraction Team:
Sarah Rapley & John Farrow, April 2021**