

Swarm of Bees in a Water Butt.

It's fairly common to get a call about bees in a plastic compost bin but not a call concerning water butts.

However Sue Knights saw a request on Face Book for help in dealing with bees in the base of a water butt. As she was nearby in Plaxtol, she contacted me and we met on site one sunny Saturday afternoon.

The bees were entering the damaged area of the base of the water butt, so we asked the owners to empty the water before our visit so we could gain access to the base.



As you can see the bees had been occupying the base long enough to build 4 strips of honeycomb.



Once the base had been inverted it was a simple matter of cutting the comb to size to fit the frames in the nucleus box, where we used rubber bands to hold them in place.





We knocked the remaining bees in front of the nucleus for them to walk in over the next half an hour whilst we had a cup of tea!!

We gave the base back to the owner for repair and to remove all traces of honeycomb and smell of honey thus reducing the risk of another colony of



bees taking up residence.



Finally Sue called much later in the evening when all



the flying bees had returned to close them and take them home.

John then found the next person on our Swarm Request List to give them a new home.

Sue Knights & John Farrow August 2019