

At our February 2020 meeting Steve Riley, chairman of Westerham Branch, gave a very interesting talk on Queen Frame Trapping [QFT] for varroa control, without using chemicals.

The first phase of the project was carried out during 2018. A group of 7 beekeepers worked together, across 8 different apiaries with 28 colonies in total. The sharing of knowledge and experiences was important (and fun!) and this was facilitated by a “chat room”.

They tried several techniques for comparison to reduce mites, one of which included Queen Frame Traps [QFT].

These QFT's were installed ahead of the winter bees being laid from August onwards.

What became clear was that QFTs were the most effective in reducing varroa, over all the other methods.

Of the 28 colonies involved in the project, 26 came through the winter in good shape. 2 colonies had queen issues, probably from late supersedures, but overall, a very pleasing and successful outcome.

I have uplifted the links below that are on the Westerham Branch website, including how to make a Queen Frame Trap using a plastic queen excluder + a piano hinge + a few other items all for under £10!!

By comparison, a metal QFT is available for £42 from bee-equipment.co.uk, as shown here:-
Different sizes of QFT's are available from Thornes for £56 up to £70.



Hold the Ctrl button and left click on:

What would the bees do in the wild?

<http://westerham.kbka.org.uk/natural-beekeeping/>

Treatment Free Methods.

<http://westerham.kbka.org.uk/treatment-free-methods/>

How to Make the Westerham Queen Frame Trap.

<http://westerham.kbka.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/QFT-instructions.pdf>

Reducing varroa without mitacides.

<http://westerham.kbka.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/TF-Comb-Baiting.pdf>

John Farrow Feb 2020