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BEE SAFARI MAY 19

Twenty of us met for coffee and croissants Bajka and Roberts place in Coombe to start our Bee Safari with the two Regional Bee Inspectors Eric James and Hazel Vallis. We divided into two groups; Group A visited 6 apiaries in Coombe, Gorran Churchtown, Gorran Haven and Tregony. Group B visited another 6 apiaries in Hendra, Polgooth ,Polmassick , Summercourt, St Newlyn East and Cubert. The Roseland Group area is quite extensive! Both groups met for a pasty lunch at Tom White's place in Tregony; thanks to Tom and Anne-Marie and Bajka and Robert for hosting.
Eric showed us a severe case of sacbrood and explained that the virus is transmitted via the queen so, in this severe case, re-queening was necessary. In less severe cases, treatment now with VarroaMed should improve the situation until a fuller autumn treatment. In fact, pretty much all the hives we inspected has evidence of sac-brood and we all (hopefully) became more adept at recognising the slightly more sunken and perforated brood cell capping. One of Harriets' hives conveniently swarmed an hour before we arrived so we were able to demonstrate how to collect and hive a swarm to newbies William and Liz who took it home. One of Toms hives was unexpectedly lacking in food stores so needed feeding urgently. A great day of beekeeping and making new friends. HS