

Gayton News

Est. 1988



Gayton Open Gardens



Autumn
2026

Issue 172

Publication

Gayton News is brought to you by the Gayton Information & Communications Action Team. While we may edit submissions for clarity or length, the views expressed remain those of the contributors.

250 copies of each issue are delivered throughout the village by our wonderful team of volunteers — thank you!

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We welcome your stories and articles:

gaytonnews@gayton-northants.co.uk

The deadline for submissions for the

Winter Issue is: **20th November 2026**

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Rate	A5 Page	Half Page	Quarter page
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Community	£16	£8	£4
Business	£32	£16	n/a
Enterprise	£64	£32	n/a

Contents:

Page	Article
2.	Editor's Welcome & Village Contacts
3.	Village Calendar
4. - 5.	Open Gardens
6. - 7.	Telephone Changes
8.	Advert - Gigaclear
9.	Notices: Alms Charities Parish NDP Meeting
10.	Advert - Eykyn Arms
11. - 12.	Village Hall
13.	Advert - Walfinch
14. - 15.	Gayton Gardeners & Allotment Society Evergreen Club
16.	Gumball Rally
17. - 18.	Notices: Cream Tea Church Open Day
19. - 21.	A Beekeeper's Year
22.	Gayton & Tiffeld Community Minibus
Back	Advert- Colin Ellis, Tree Surgeon

Welcome!

Phew! What a Scorchers! That's Summer Over!

Somehow the Open Gardens event sneaked in before the hot weather really got going and they were even worried about something called "rain" (I have no idea what that is...)

The photos of the Gardens seem to show a different world, of lush green lawns and brilliant blooms!

The school garden was ready to go for the day and since then I see that they have had a beautiful wall mural painted in the school grounds, maybe they'll invite us all to see it this Autumn?

But do you have anything to enter for the Produce Show? Maybe you've had a great summer and are going to steal all the prizes?

It's not too late to enter!

As always, we have a wonderful Autumn of events lined up, and I'm sure we'll soon be enjoying roaring fires round the pub whilst listening to more excellent music!

Finally, please do not forget that The Gumball Rally is in November, so there is plenty of time to support these super fellas, who have done so much good for the village.

Regards,

Colin Simmonds, Editor, Gayton News

gaytonnews@gayton-northants.co.uk

01604 858933

Village Contacts:

Email Addresses:

allotments@gayton-northants.co.uk

chaingang@gayton-northants.co.uk

clerk@gaytonparishcouncil.gov.uk

events@gayton-northants.co.uk

evergreens@gayton-northants.co.uk

gaytonnews@gayton-northants.co.uk

gcht@gayton-northants.co.uk

GICAT@gayton-northants.co.uk

minibus@gayton-northants.co.uk

nhw@gayton-northants.co.uk

parishpathwarden@gayton-northants.co.uk

villagehallbookings@gayton-northants.co.uk

villagehallcommittee@gayton-northants.co.uk

villagemessages@gayton-northants.co.uk

walks@gayton-northants.co.uk

webadmin@gayton-northants.co.uk

30 Aug, Sun 16:00 – 21:00 BBQ, Disco @ Cocktails @ The Eykyn Arms	16 Oct, Fri20:30 – 21:30 Bingo @ The Eykyn Arms
2 Sept, Wed20:00 – 22:00 MUSIC Pub Quiz @ Eykyn Arms	23 Oct, Fri20:30 – 21:30 Bingo @ The Eykyn Arms
4Sept, Fri20:30 – 21:30 Bingo @ The Eykyn Arms	25 Oct, Sun All day Daylight Saving Time ends
5 Sept, Sat13:00 – 17:00 Gayton Village Produce Show in Village Hall	10:00 – 11:00 CW Family Communion at Gayton Church
9 Sept, Wed10:00 – 11:30 Evergreens @ Eykyn Arms for tea, coffee & chat	27 Oct, Tue 18:30 – 21:30 Jazz & Blues Night @ The Eykyn Arms
11 Sept, Fri20:30 – 21:30 Bingo @ The Eykyn Arms	17:30 -20:00 Pizzas by Wood Oven @The Eykyn
12 Sept, Saturday, 10:30 PC NDP Update Meeting – Gayton Church	28 Oct, Wed20:00 – 22:00 Pub Quiz @ Eykyn Arms
13Sept, Sun10:00 – 13:00 Gayton Walkers Monthly Walk	30 Oct, Fri20:30 – 21:30 Bingo @ The Eykyn Arms
16 Sept, Wed20:00 – 22:00 Pub Quiz @ Eykyn Arms	6 Nov, Fri20:30 – 21:30 Bingo @ The Eykyn Arms
17 Sept, Thu19:30 Parish Meeting Village Hall	8 Nov, Sun 10:00 – 13:00 Gayton Walkers Monthly Walk
18 Sept, Fri20:30 – 21:30 Bingo @ The Eykyn Arms	11 Nov, Wed 10:00 – 11:30 Evergreens @ Eykyn Arms for tea, coffee & chat
25 Sept, Fri20:30 – 21:30 Bingo @ The Eykyn Arms	11 Nov, Wed 20:00 – 22:00 Pub Quiz @ Eykyn Arms
26 Sept, Sat All day St Marys Church Open Day	13 Nov, Fri20:30 – 21:30 Bingo @ The Eykyn Arms
27 Sept, Sun10:00 – 11:00 CW Family Communion at Gayton Church	20 Nov, Fri20:30 – 21:30 Bingo @ The Eykyn Arms
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Get your event in the Village calendar:
events@gayton-northants.co.uk

Gayton Open Gardens and Teddy Bear Trail, Sunday 7th June 2026

We had already had a taste of things to come when the Spring Bank Holiday weekend brought glorious sunshine and high temperatures.

However, the week prior to the Open Gardens, we had heavy rain and gardeners were worried that they wouldn't be able to get their gardens looking their best before the opening on Sunday. Although rain was forecast for the afternoon, we were lucky to have a dry but windy day.

It was very nice to see familiar faces return to visit the gardens; we

also had new visitors and an increased number of families with younger children very keen to take part in the Teddy Bear Trail. Eleven correct names on the answer sheet was rewarded with a prize of a small Gayton teddy bear.

Eight gardens were open, as well as the Gayton Allotments,

Gayton Millennium Spinney and new for this year, Gayton School Garden.



School garden

There were two new gardens for visitors to enjoy, both of which had been developed with new planting, including trees and flowerbeds.



One garden with an emphasis on accessibility and low maintenance.



The other had been redesigned with new hard landscaping which would provide a garden which future proofed safety and ease of maintenance on a sloping site.

The Millennium Spinney provided a resting place in the shady glade seating area and a chance to linger and enjoy being in close contact with nature.

Once again, a welcome addition to the day was the free shuttle minibus service around the village kindly driven by Peter Baxter and John Rogers.

Afternoon teas were served in the church with a great selection of homemade cakes and scones. There was also a well- stocked plant stall, which sold locally grown ornamental and vegetable plants. No air miles here!

This was the 11th year of Gayton Open Gardens, it has developed into a community event that many residents get involved in.



Many thanks go to all the volunteers who made this event so successful. The gardeners, who worked so hard to get their gardens ready for opening, the cake makers, the tea makers, the washers up and the clearers up, those who did 'meet and greet', those who helped set up the church on the day and provided flowers for the tea tables. Thank you also for the donations of plants for the stall and to those who sold the plants on the day.

The total money raised for the church was £1201.90, which will go some way to pay for the urgent repairs to the church roof following the severe weather over the winter months.

Joy Ayre, and Carol Coppock

The UK Telephone Network is Changing – What Does It Mean for Gayton?

You may have heard that the UK's traditional telephone network is being switched off. So, what does it mean for households in Gayton?

The old **Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN)** the familiar telephone system, is being replaced by **Digital Voice**, where telephone calls are carried over a broadband connection. The old network is being progressively retired, with the switch-off planned for **31 January 2027**. Your provider should contact you when your service is ready to change.

Will I still have a telephone?

Yes, if you want it! For most people, the change should be straightforward. You can keep your **existing telephone number** and continue using your current handset. However, instead of using the telephone socket, it will connect to the broadband router or an adapter supplied by your provider.

What about power cuts?

This is one of the most important differences.

Traditional landlines could continue working during a power cut because the telephone network supplied power to the line. Digital Voice relies on your broadband router, which needs electricity from your house supply. (so you'll need a power outlet near the router).

If you rely on your landline for emergency calls, particularly if you have poor mobile coverage, speak to your provider before being

moved to Digital Voice. Providers have specific responsibilities towards vulnerable customers and should make appropriate arrangements where necessary. ([Ofcom](#) for more details)

What about alarms?

Don't forget that your telephone line may be used for more than making calls!

If you have a **burglar alarm, personal alarm, telecare/medical equipment, fax or other device** connected to your telephone line, check with the equipment **supplier** before your service changes. Don't assume that it will continue to work with Digital Voice.

What are the options in Gayton?

The good news is that Gayton has benefited from the rollout of **Full Fibre broadband**. Gigaclear has a full-fibre network in the village, while Openreach is also rolling out Full Fibre in Northamptonshire. Other providers can supply a Broadband connection over the existing infrastructure

Availability varies between properties, so check your own address rather than relying on what a neighbour has.

You could:

- Stay with your current provider and move to its Digital Voice service.
- Change to another broadband provider offering Digital Voice.
- Move to a Full Fibre service if one is available at your property.
- Decide that you no longer need a landline and rely on a mobile phone instead.

Openreach provides an address checker at: ([Openreach Fibre Checker](#))

Don't forget your email address!

This is easy to overlook when changing provider.

If your email address was supplied by your telephone or broadband company – for example, one ending **@btinternet.com** – check what happens to it before changing provider. Different companies have different policies; some allow you to retain the address, while others may charge for continued use or eventually close the account. ([Ofcom](#))

It is really worth moving to an **independent email service**, such as **Gmail** or **Outlook**, before changing broadband provider. You can then gradually tell your contacts about your new address without being tied to a particular broadband company.

What should I do now?

There is **no need to panic**. Your provider should contact you before your service is changed.

However, it is worth checking with them:

- ✓ *Can I keep my existing telephone number?*
- ✓ *What broadband/Full Fibre services are available at my address?*
- ✓ *Is my email address provided by my current telephone company?*
- ✓ *Do I have an alarm or other equipment using my telephone line?*
- ✓ *What happens to my telephone during a power cut?*
- ✓ *What will the new service cost?*

For most households, the move to Digital Voice should be relatively painless. The

important thing is to understand what you have now and check your options before making any changes.

The Communication Team will be happy to hear from residents who have questions or useful experiences relating to the change, so we can share information with the village.

I recently met with the Gigaclear Team when they visited Gayton and I do genuinely believe that they are a helpful and professional provider. They provided this quote:

"Gigaclear has been proudly serving the Gayton community with ultrafast full fibre broadband for over two years, helping residents enjoy fast, reliable connectivity for work, entertainment, and everyday life.

Roisin McGettigan, Community Engagement Manager at Gigaclear, said: "We're proud to have been part of the Gayton community for over two years, providing residents with the reliable, full fibre broadband they need. It's fantastic to see more people discovering the benefits of a network that's already transforming how people live and work."

If you haven't made the switch yet, now's a great time to see what's available. Find out more at www.gigaclear.com/lockin

And, I would add, that when you are at renewal time, you can always contact them to negotiate a more competitive price than their "standard" price!

Regards, Colin **Simmonds – GICAT chair**
GICAT@gayton-northants.co.uk

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15x
FASTER
THAN
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Finding it difficult to cope with the rising cost of living?

Struggling to pay for those extras at school or college?

Gayton Alms Charities may be able to help.

For information contact David Coppock, Chair of Trustees, on 01604 859645.

All calls and any subsequent applications will be dealt with in strictest confidence.

Please note: Anyone applying for assistance must be resident in the Parish of Gayton.

Gayton Neighbourhood Development Plan Progress Update

The draft Gayton Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is now taking shape, and the Parish Council would like to invite all residents to a community update meeting.

Saturday 12 September

10.30am

St Mary's Church, Gayton

Refreshments will be served

This meeting will share the progress made so far and outline the next steps in developing the plan.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan will help guide future development in Gayton, ensuring that any growth reflects the character of our village and supports the needs and priorities of local residents. Your input is vital, and we encourage everyone to come along, hear the latest updates, and take part in shaping Gayton's future.

Eykyn Arms Music & Events

For those who *still* don't know, our local pub is an absolute delight! Visitors often mention its friendliness, welcoming atmosphere and inclusive approach, and you can be assured of a warm welcome from Karen & John.

They are keen to hear from **YOU** about what **YOU** want from your local pub! Get in Touch! Kazzam94@hotmail.co.uk or 07808 844030.

Excellent local real ales & cider, plus a thoughtfully selected range of lagers, wine and Prosecco accompany the ever-changing menu of lovely food – and maybe a cocktail!

Moreover, they are nominated for "Most Friendly Dog Pub" and "Great Entertainment". In Sarah Bool's (MP) Best Pub Awards 2026! I think that they deserve your vote! <https://www.sarahbool.uk/campaigns/best-pub-awards-2026-vote-now>

Sunday 30th August 4-9pm **BBQ, Disco & Cocktails**

Bank Holiday Weekend merriment!

Wednesday 2nd September 8-10pm **Music Pub Quiz**

Teams of up to 6 who like their music!
£1/head

Friday 4th September 8:30-9:30pm **Bingo**

Every Friday, Every week!

Wednesday 16 September 8-10pm **General Knowledge Pub Quiz**

Then every alternate week.
Teams of up to 6. £1/head.

Saturday 19th September 8:30pm

Boss & The Hogs

Experience the best of live modern country music.
Luke Combs, Keith Urban, Eagles, & Dolly Parton!

Monday 21st September 7:30pm

Open Mic

"Mack & Wood" host a night for all artists to show their talent. Oct, Nov & Dec, - tba.

Tuesday 29th September 7-10pm

Jazz & Blues Night

Cliff Brown and the House Band plus Guests.
Burgers from the Pub and Wood Fired Pizzas by The Wood Oven (outside) 5:30-8:30pm

Friday 9th October 8:30pm

All About Everything

Female-fronted four-piece covers band
Iconic classics to contemporary hits.

Tuesday 27th October 7-10pm

Jazz & Blues Night

Special Guest tba

Saturday 31st October 8:30pm

Park Royal

Classic hits, vintage twists on old tunes, and club classics from the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s

Saturday 7th November 8:30pm

Similar Jones

Party Band - Classic Rock / Motown / Indie / Pop

Tuesday 24th November 7-10pm

Jazz & Blues Night

Special Guest tba

Saturday 28th November 8:30pm

Dee-Ja Vu Band

A 5-piece band playing rock, pop, and disco.

Village Hall Update



It's been a busy six months at the hall, here's a round-up of everything that's happened, thanks to some brilliant volunteers.

Bringing the electrics up to date

In February, villager **Martyn Cheeseman** and his colleague **Darren Meakin** from **Amplius** used one of their Employee Volunteer Days to begin modernising our electrics.



One of the biggest jobs was replacing the old pre-payment meters, partly funded by the Gayton Gumball and Santa's visit to Gayton, allowing hirers to pay with modern £1 coins for their electricity and heating usage. Martyn and Darren also replaced light switches, tested the earth strip, fixed a heater switch, and tackled many more jobs besides.

A productive maintenance day

On the same day, my husband **Karl** and I used volunteer days from our employer, the **ICAEW**, to work through our maintenance list, cleaning carpets, fixing skirting boards, cleaning walls and windows and carrying out a full table and chair audit.

Livia Cheeseman also joined the team, helping



with cleaning and did a great job in replacing broken toilet tiles.

It was a hugely productive day, with plenty of jobs crossed off the list.

Finishing the job in April

Martyn and Darren didn't stop there. In April



they returned with fellow colleague and villager **Jos Holigan** and Karl to replace all our up-lighters with more economical ones, install new illuminated emergency exit signs, and replace our electrical boards, culminating in a

full Electrical Inspection Certificate that satisfies our insurers.

This work has saved the hall a considerable amount in labour costs, and the committee is enormously grateful to everyone who gave up their volunteer days to help out.

Thank you

A huge thank you to **Amplius** and the **ICAEW**, and to Martyn, Darren, Jos, Karl and Liv, along with the Gayton Gumball and Santa's visit to Gayton, for all their efforts in improving the hall

Get involved

We hope to make this an annual event so if you have skills the hall could use, or your employer offers volunteer days, please get in touch and we'll be in contact next year to arrange the **2027 Gayton Village Hall Maintenance Day**.

Keep an eye on Facebook and the village email for news of some upcoming food vendor pop-ups too!

Leandra Bramham

Chair, Gayton Village Hall Management Committee



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At Walfinch our carers always encourage at least ten minutes of activity during visits of 1 hour or more.

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01327 439009 or via email
northampton@walfinch.com
walfinch.com



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Allotment News

As I write this, the hosepipe ban is still in operation meaning we are all exercising our biceps carrying dozens of watering cans to water what parched crops we have this season. It's been extra hard to grow anything that requires lots of watering and on top of that, the critters came in and munched most of the sweetcorn on the plots!

Produce Show

Sept 5th 1-4pm

Yes, I know what you're thinking..... you haven't anything to enter! Either it's died in the extreme heat or it's been munched by foxes, badgers, flea beetles etc.!

However, having had a wander round the plots, there are lots of fruit and veg surviving which could be entered into the Show: tomatoes, potatoes, onions, to name but a few possibilities.

There's a Class for virtually everything, wonky veg, unusual veg, flowers, herbs. If you're a cook there are Classes for cakes, bread, jam, and chutney. Or just come along for a cup of tea and a delicious slice of homemade cake ☺

Adult Handicraft classes include Art, photography, knitting, crochet, macramé, embroidery, flower arrangement.

There are lots of **Children's Classes** for Cooking and Art/Handicraft and some of these Classes have a prize for the winner.

Personally I love to see the Miniature Gardens in a seed tray, they are beautiful and fun for the kids to create.

Bake some cookies, paint a picture!



There will be a Plant Stall, so if you have spares to donate or are looking for something different, come and have a look!

Free entry for Guess the Weight competition with a box of chocs for the winner. We would be very grateful for donations of cakes for the refreshments and Raffle prizes please.

One thing for certain is that there will be lovely cake and refreshments, so please come along and enjoy the show.

Entry forms must be in no later than:

Thursday Sept 3rd 9.00pm.

Entry forms are in the Show Schedule, which has been distributed by, Village Messenger Email, Facebook groups and the Summer issue of the Gayton News, but if you need a copy please send me an email:

hilaryglanville6@gmail.com

Working Party Saturday Sept 19th 10-12am

A couple of maintenance jobs to be tackled - painting the swap shop shed and clearing in front of the road hedge so it can be trimmed at a later date.

Please come and help us to maintain your beautiful site, the more the merrier. Tools will be provided but shears, loppers, and gloves would be useful.

Maintenance of taps: please use the taps gently, don't be tempted to twist them round as this will eventually result in leaks. There is a hosepipe attached for the purpose of filling the butts so you can dunk cans. Please report any leaks to Hilary or Roy ASAP.

Finally, our **AGM will take place on: November 28th, Village Hall at 10.30am.**

Come, support us, and have your say.

Perhaps you would be able to join us on the Committee? We are very friendly, only 5 meetings a year!

If you would like to know more, contact any Committee Member.

We have a small plot available, which would suit a starter. Contact Carl Hamilton if you think you might be interested.

carlhamiltonat5@gmail.com

Hilary Glanville

Evergreen Club

Our very popular meetings continue on the second Wednesday of each month at the Eykyn Arms at 10.00am.

A warm welcome awaits new and existing members.

Why not join us for a chat and enjoy coffee, tea or hot chocolate with a toasted teacake or something more substantial from the breakfast menu- delicious!

Dates of the meetings for the rest of 2026 are:

Wednesday 9th September

Wednesday 14th October

Wednesday 11th November

All at the Eykyn Arms starting at 10.00 am.

Further information from:

Carol Coppock 01604 859645

carol.coppock14@gmail.com

Manja Ronne 01604 859253

ManjaRonne@btinternet.com

Gayton Gumball Rally goes “Over There”

Thursday 5th to Tuesday 10th November 2026

The “Target for Today” may have changed, but the objectives & enthusiasm remain the same!

The team are delighted to have successfully purchased the steel “Tommy” silhouette, which they hope to install on the Pound in the centre of the village, close to the village sign.

The Tommy will commemorate the role of the Northamptonshire Yeomanry, who landed on Gold Beach as part of the 33rd Armoured Brigade. Equipped with Sherman tanks, they provided essential support to British infantry during the Normandy campaign.

Their vision is for the Pound Tommy to become a focal point for Remembrance in the village, perhaps surrounded by planted and crocheted poppies – something that has proved very popular in other villages.

The team think that an alternative suggestion of the Church grounds would be an excellent location for a second memorial, which the Church Council can consider in due course.

They have now approached the Parish Council for formal endorsement of the proposal.

If you support the idea, please let the Parish Council know!

And so, back to the Rally...

There was apparently some concern about November weather causing ferry cancellations – although I personally suspect that some of the crew just aren’t very good sailors!

So, instead, they’re joining “The Underground” and invading the continent via the Channel Tunnel.

Their mission is firmly focused on the D-Day beaches, leaving the WW1 battlefields for another adventure! They’ll start at “Sword” Beach and Pegasus Bridge, before heading to Arromanches for “Gold”, Grandcamp-Maisy for “Omaha”, and then “Utah”. They’ll finish at Courseulles-sur-Mer for “Juno”, followed by the Remembrance Sunday Service.

Then comes the small matter of driving several elderly French cars – each costing no more than £500 – all the way back to Gayton, where they will be sold to add to the funds raised!

You’ll read elsewhere in this issue about the excellent initiatives that have resulted from the funds that these guys have raised...

Please keep an eye out for fundraising events throughout the autumn. The team will greatly appreciate any contribution, large or small, towards their efforts.

For further information, contact **Les (07885 677734)** or **Martyn (07933 845016)**, the Gayton News Editor, or simply find the boys in the front bar of the Eykyn Arms!

Look out for updates via Village Messenger and the village Facebook group.

Good luck to the Gumball Rally Crew – and safe travels “Over There”!



Cream Tea

♥ in memory of ♥

Laura

♥

in aid of **Meningitis Now** charity



**Meningitis
now**

*We fight
Meningitis.
Together.*



**GAYTON
VILLAGE HALL**



**SATURDAY
12TH SEPTEMBER
2026**



2:00 pm – 4:30 pm

♥

Enjoy a traditional
cream tea
and help support
a wonderful cause.

TICKETS:

£5

♥ **ALL WELCOME** ♥

Supporting Meningitis Now in memory of Laura ♥



Page 17 of 22

Save the Date — 26 September —



Join us for an Open Day at **St Mary's Church, Gayton**
between **10:00 and 14:00** on **Saturday 26th September 2026.**

Meet us for a chat, enjoy tours of the church and bell tower,
hear from historical and nature experts, listen to organ recitals
and enjoy tea, coffee and cake.

There will also be toys, games and a children's treasure hunt
for the younger ones, as well as activities organised
by Gayton Primary school.

The day will conclude at **14:00** with a special presentation of
the "Gayton Record" by the Arts Society Church Recorders
to our Vicar Marion Reynolds.



St Mary's Church, Gayton

A Beekeeper's Year

The Beekeepers' Year – Autumn

As summer ends, my attention changes from managing space for the bees and their honey, to preparing the colony for the months ahead. Spring and summer are about expansion and gathering; autumn is about making sure the bees are healthy, well-fed and ready for what comes next.

The Honey Harvest

Early autumn sees the final honey harvest. However, I always leave sufficient stores for the bees themselves. If natural stores become inadequate, supplementary feeding with sugar syrup may be necessary.

Autumn inspections are now less about creating space for an expanding colony and more about checking its condition – the strength of the colony, the queen, brood levels and, importantly, its food reserves.

The Winter Bees

One of the most fascinating things happening inside the hive now is the production of **winter bees**.

The worker bees that have spent the summer flying from flower to flower have relatively short lives of 6 weeks. The bees produced in the late summer and autumn “brood” are physiologically different and can live for six months! They will form the core of the colony through the colder months.

Good autumn brood production is therefore important, and I will be checking for a queen producing plenty of good-quality brood.

Varroa Control

Another key autumn job is controlling **Varroa**. These mites reproduce in sealed brood, weakening bees, and transmitting viruses.

Late summer and autumn are particularly important times to monitor and, where necessary, treat for Varroa. A colony can look perfectly healthy while still carrying a significant mite burden, so regular monitoring is essential.

The Unwelcome Visitors

Autumn can also bring another problem to the apiary: **Wasps**.

As the summer progresses and their own food sources become less plentiful, wasps can become increasingly interested in honeybee colonies, as well as my Beer! A strong colony can usually defend itself, but weaker colonies can come under considerable pressure.

This is another reason why autumn inspections are important. I ensure that the colony is strong enough to defend its entrance and, I reduce the entrance to make it easier for the bees to protect their home.

The Yellow-Legged Hornet

There is another threat that beekeepers and the public increasingly need to watch for: the **Yellow-Legged Hornet (YLH)**, (*Vespa velutina*) (previously called Asian Hornet).

But, firstly let me disabuse you of the idea that our **European Hornet** (*Vespa crabro*) resembles the YLH in its destructiveness. Put aside the exaggerated stories of aggression: the European hornet is alert, gentle and wary of humans, they are wonderful creatures!

The YLH is a **non-native invasive species** and is a voracious predator of honeybees and many other insects. The UK has an ongoing surveillance and eradication programme, and early reporting of suspected sightings is vital.

The yellow-legged hornet has a dark, velvety body, a yellow-orange band towards the rear of its abdomen and distinctive yellow-tipped legs. It is about 5mm shorter than the native European Hornet



Yellow Legged Hornet (25-30mm long)

Everyone can help. If you see a suspected yellow-legged hornet in your garden, while out walking or elsewhere, take a photograph if you can do so safely and report it through the **Asian Hornet Watch** App or the official online reporting system. Don't approach or disturb a suspected nest.

https://risc.brc.ac.uk/alert.php?species=asian_hornet

You don't need to be certain of your identification – experts can assess the photograph. It is far better to report a suspected sighting that turns out to be a native hornet than to miss a genuine one.

Getting the Hive Ready

By late autumn, I'll have checked that the colony has sufficient food, Varroa is under control and the hive is secure and weatherproof. Roofs, stands, and straps are checked, particularly with autumn storms approaching!

A Season of Change

Only a few weeks ago the apiary may have been full of activity, with bees returning laden with nectar and pollen. Now the pace is slowing.

But inside the hive, there is still plenty happening. Winter bees are being produced, food stores are being organised and the colony is changing with the season.

For the beekeeper, autumn is about getting everything in place: **a healthy colony, a healthy queen, adequate food, controlled Varroa and a secure hive.**

Once those jobs are done, I can sit back and let the bees get on with it.

It will get cold and wet with minimal daylight and little opportunity for new forage – but that's a story for Winter.

Colin Simmonds. Tel: 858933

Alert!

Report sightings of this species:

- with the iPhone and Android recording app: **Asian Hornet Watch**
- online at: www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/asianhornet
- by email: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk



Yellow-legged hornet (aka Asian hornet)

Species Description

Scientific name: *Vespa velutina*

Native to: Asia

Habitat: Nests usually high in trees and man made structures, sometimes closer to the ground; hunts honey bees, other insects and also feeds on fruit and flowers.

Not easily confused with any other species. Dark brown or black velvety body. Characteristically dark abdomen and yellow tipped legs. Smaller than the native European Hornet.

Introduced to France in 2004 where it has spread rapidly. A number of sightings have been recorded in the UK since 2016. High possibility of introduction through, for example, soil associated with imported plants, cut flowers, fruit, garden items (furniture, plant pots), freight containers, in vehicles, or in/on untreated timber. The possibility that it could fly across the Channel has not been ruled out.

A highly aggressive predator of native insects. Poses a significant threat to honey bees and other pollinators.

Do not disturb an active nest. Members of the public who suspect they have found a yellow-legged hornet should report it with a photo using the details provided in the red box at the top of this ID sheet.



David Walker

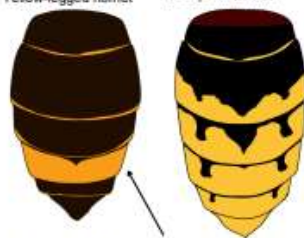
Key ID Features



David Walker

Yellow-legged hornet

European hornet



Yellow-legged hornet abdomen is almost entirely dark except for 4th abdominal segment.



Yellow-legged hornet "hawking" for honey bee prey

J. Hazaire

GAYTON AND TIFFIELD COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

MINIBUS TIMETABLE AND FARES - From 1st JANUARY 2025 TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS ONLY

FARES: BUS PASSES - FREE. ALL OTHER FARES £3 SINGLE.

BUS TO TOWCESTER IS A SCHEDULED SERVICE

BUS TO NORTHAMPTON IS A REQUEST SERVICE ONLY

Please note that timetable may be subject to minor delays depending on unforeseen circumstances



TO TOWCESTER - SCHEDULED SERVICE

Stage	Gayton - Start	9:30	Dep	Gayton - Hillcrest Rd, Five Ways, High St, Back Lane
1	Tiffield	9:40		High Street - North and South
	Eastcote	9:50		High Street - Eastcote Arms
	Pattishall	9:55		Pattishall - Church St, Fosters Booth Rd, Leys Rd, Pool Close
	Astcote	10:00		Astcote School, High Street
	Towcester - Arrive	10:05	Arr	Towcester - Tesco, Aldi, B&M - Market Square - Waitrose

TO NORTHAMPTON - BY REQUEST

2	Towcester - Depart	10:10	Dep	Towcester - Waitrose
	Northampton	10:25		Tesco Mereway
	Northampton	10:35		Morrisons
	Northampton - Arrive	10:40	Arr	Northampton - Drapery

RETURN FROM TOWCESTER - SCHEDULED SERVICE

3	Towcester - Depart	11:15	Dep	Towcester - Waitrose - Market Square
	Towcester	11:20		Towcester - Tesco/Aldi/B & M
	Tiffield	11:25		Tiffield, High Street South and North
	Gayton	11:30		Gayton (Hillcrest Rd, Five Ways, High St, Back Lane)
	Eastcote	11:35		High Street, Eastcote Arms
	Astcote	11:40		Astcote - School, High Street
	Pattishall	11:45	Arr	Pattishall - Church St, Fosters Booth Rd, Leys Rd, Pool Close

RETURN FROM NORTHAMPTON - BY REQUEST - COLLECTION TIMES TO BE CONFIRMED BY PASSENGERS

4	Northampton - Depart	Approx 12:05	Dep	Northampton - Drapery
	Northampton	12:10		Northampton - Morrisons
	Northampton	12:15		Northampton - Tesco Mereway
	Gayton	12:25		Gayton (Hillcrest Rd, Five Ways, High St, Back Lane)
	Tiffield	12:30		Tiffield - High Street North and South
	Eastcote	12:40		High Street, Eastcote Arms
	Astcote	12:45		Astcote - School, High Street
	Pattishall - Arrive	12:50	Arr	Pattishall - Church St, Fosters Booth Rd, Leys Rd, Pool Close



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