

The Tivvy Buzzette

Tiverton Beekeepers Newsletter

October 2025



Chairman's Broodbox

Hi all - it's difficult to know where to start this month. I've just come back from a visit to a local resident who contacted us about bees in their property. I was told that the bees had only arrived a few days previously and had gained access through a plastic grill in their soffit had made their way down or up the tube and some had escaped via the extractor into their bathroom. It seemed strange to me that bees should seem to be swarming late into October so I asked for a photo. The following was sent to me.



Not entirely conclusive but the bee looked more like a wasp to me. I made a visit to the property today so that I could be sure. It confirmed my suspicion that they were wasps so I gave the property owners a choice of options on how they could deal with them. Many of you have told me recently about your experience of wasps this late in the year and I have to confess that about a week ago I discovered wasps had taken over one of my weaker hives - always a sad and heartbreaking experience.

The Branch Annual Meeting is on Wednesday 19th November starting at 7.30pm. Please come along to hear what we got up to as a Branch over the last twelve months and what you would like us to do over the next year. It is traditional at this meeting that our members bring along a jar their bees' honey so we can compare colour, viscosity and flavour across the whole of Mid Devon. Any size jar will do, it doesn't have to be labelled and it doesn't have to be to show standard. We are always amazed at the difference in honey made across a relatively small area such as Mid Devon. And home made cakes are always welcome.

The Annual Meeting is a reminder that this Devon Beekeeper's (DBKA) Year 2025 is coming to an end. You will soon be able to apply for your membership for 2026 -



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Masthead photo by Kat Smith: <https://www.pexels.com>

unfortunately the British Beekeepers Association have needed to increase their subscription. Fortunately DBKA and our Branch at Tiverton have not increased their subscriptions. By the end of November you should have received an on-line renewal form or a hard copy if you are not available on-line.

We hope you have enjoyed the last year as a member and found it good value for money. Indeed in my opinion, if you have come to our last two members meetings alone, it would have been excellent value for money. Claire

Densley and Martin Hann and Dan Basterfield are three of the most experienced and successful beekeepers in the Country let alone the South West - they are sought after speakers at National Beekeepers Conventions. They come to Tiverton Beekeepers annually, thanks to the great organising skills of our programme coordinator, Lesley Ayre.

We hope to see you at the Annual Meeting.

Happy Beekeeping
Tony

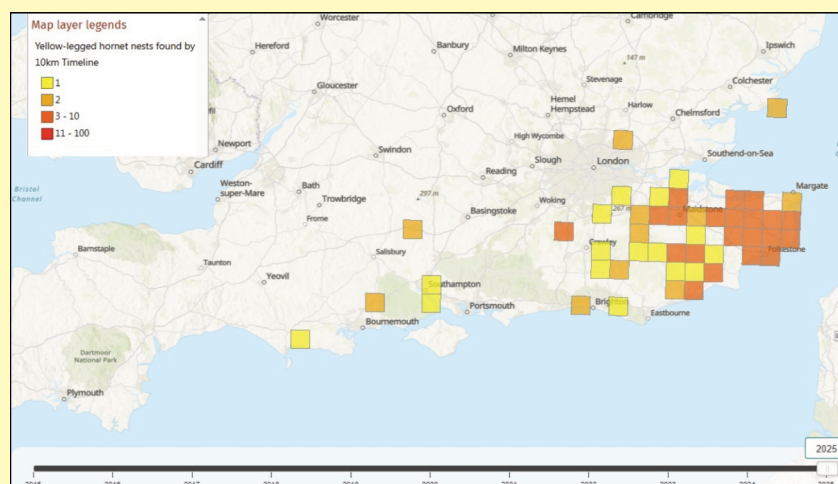
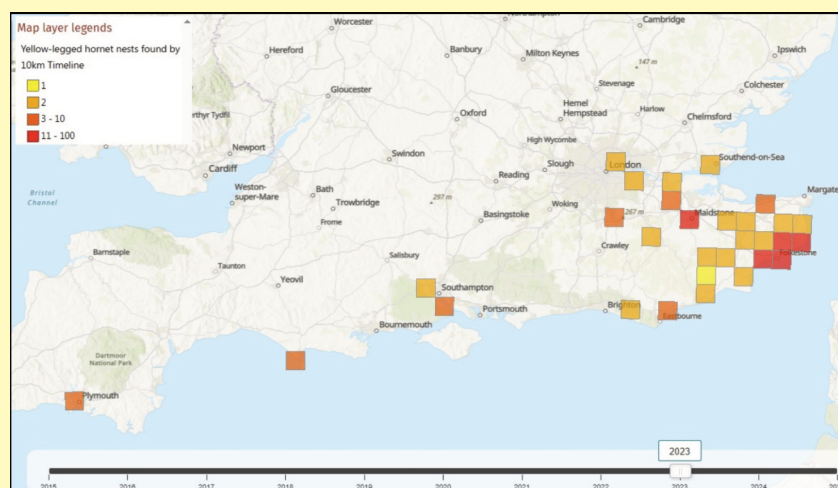
Yellow Legged Hornet Report

The current total number of Yellow Legged Asian Hornet nests found in the UK this year is 155 and the NBU anticipates finding further nests before the winter sets in.

The **2023 top map** shows where 81 nests were found. The main concentration of over 50 nests was at the port of Dover and surrounding areas.

The **2025 bottom map** shows the nests are creeping westward. In 2023 a large majority of the nests were in Kent, now East Sussex has quite a population.

The NBU has done a fantastic job finding and destroying nests but a couple of nests in Kent have already been identified as UK second generation and as other European countries lose control over their Asian Hornet populations, more Yellow Legged hornets are hitching rides on ferries, lorries and cars



into the UK. As beekeepers we need to keep vigilant and make sure we have the Asian Hornet Watch App on our phones. You never know when you may come across one. They've

reached as far as Weymouth this year.

Tracy Frankpitt
Yellow Legged Hornet
Co-ordinator

2025 Calendar

November

Wed 19th Branch AGM

December

Saturday 6th Christmas Social

2026 Calendar

January

Branch Meeting

Wed 21st

Sarah and William Lines – Bees and Elephants in Uganda

February

Branch Meeting

Wed 18th

Alexander Paines – Gardening for wildlife

November Apiary tasks

In November, we beekeepers should focus on securing the hives for winter by ensuring they are level and weather-proof, fitting mouse guards, and strapping roofs against the wind.

Other tasks include

- checking food stores with a heft test, and if needed, providing fondant
- take verroa counts and treat if necessary
- reviewing colony records, and start planning for the next season,
- cleaning or repairing equipment.

The Buzzette

Last date for submission for the next issue is **20th November**.

Send your news and views to
buzzette@tivertonbeekeepers.uk

The Christmas Social

You and your partner are invited to the annual Tiverton Beekeepers Christmas Social. A great opportunity to meet other beekeepers and to catch up and socialise. It is on Saturday 6th December at 7.00pm at Uplowman Village Hall.

The menu is lasagne or vegetable lasagne with salad and garlic bread.

Chicken curry or vegetable curry with rice, naan, poppadom's and mango chutney.

Followed by a choice of puddings.

The cost is £15pp.

The club will be providing a welcome festive drink. But please bring your own choice of drinks for the rest of the night. Could you let Vicky know your options and confirm you have paid by 31st October by emailing **vjmorrish@outlook.com**

Bank details are: Tiverton Branch Beekeepers Association Registered Charity

Sort code: 60 21 27

Account no: 06514553

Please include the following reference. CM followed by your surname.



*It was tricky checking the verroa board when we recently visited our hives, as you can see the bees had been quite happily building comb under the hive, we thought that this meant that they were crowded and needed more space in the hive, anyone else got any ideas? **FS Buzzette Editor***