



Newsletter

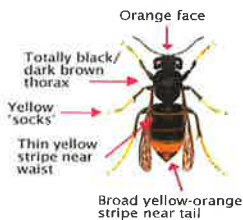
Spring 2024



Be Alert for Asian hornets!

Asian or yellow-legged hornets (scientific name *Vespa velutina*) were accidentally introduced into France in around 2004. Now they have spread through much of Western Europe. They are serious predators of honey bees, and also attack bumblebees, solitary bees and other insects. They defend their nests aggressively and will attack anyone who gets too close: **never approach a nest**. Since 2016, there have been sightings of the Asian hornet in the UK, and a few nests have been found.

Asian hornet actual size



Asian hornets are generally smaller (25-30 mm head to tail) than our native hornet, the European hornet (*Vespa crabro*), which is 30-35 mm head to tail (but can seem much bigger!). They are easy to distinguish because Asian hornets are mostly dark brown/black, with yellow 'socks' and an orange-yellow band near the tail. Native hornets look like very large wasps, with brown legs and bright yellow and black/brown markings. Native hornets fly both night and day, while Asian hornets fly only during the day.

If you see this insect PLEASE REPORT IT!



Asian hornet REPORT



Native hornet do not report

The best way to report the Asian hornet is by using the app: 'Asian Hornet Watch', or you can send photos and location details to: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

For identification help and advice in your area, go to www.bbka.org.uk (British Beekeepers' Association), hover over 'Asian Hornet' and choose 'Asian Hornet Action Team map' from the dropdown menu. Click on a pin on the map for local contact details.

60 Minute Spruce

The Parish Council is pleased to be supporting the Fremington & District Community Group with its "60 Minute Spruce" events throughout the Parish. On Saturday 4th May the first group met to spruce up the Centre of Fremington, the group was productive and has now set up a volunteer group who will meet on the third Tuesday of the month to undertake an hour of sprucing. The group is moving to other areas of the parish in June, July & August. Please contact the Community Group or Parish Council for more information.



The Beechfield Centre

The Beechfield Centre has a community hall and separate changing rooms (with showers) available for hire. The Community Hall is a bright and airy space with tables and chairs to sit up to 50 people and a modern well equipped kitchen. There is a car park onsite, however, parking cannot be guaranteed.

The centre has weekly classes from baby and pregnancy yoga to Zumba and "is such a lovely area to be able to celebrate birthdays".

For more information please like and follow our new Facebook page for The Beechfield Centre (search The Beechfield Centre, Fremington) or look at our website www.fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Ellerslie Road New Play Area

The Parish Council is pleased to confirm that the Ellerslie Road Play Area upgrades have now been completed and the area is open for use. The Parish Council was lucky enough to secure just over £55,000 in Section 106 funding to complete the works. Ward Cllrs Walker & Cann have worked hard with the local school to provide the equipment requested by younger members of the community.



Shortfall in UK crops

According to the BBC around 17% more crops will fail this year compared to 2023 and food producers may have to import more from overseas potentially increasing costs. The UK has had one of the wettest winters on record and the wet weather has left many fields too wet to be planted. So what does this mean for our local community? It means that due to Climate Change and the extreme weather patterns that our country is experiencing we could see an increase in our food costs, especially our staples which include wheat such as cereals and bread, the UK Flour Millers Trader Association has said that the expect this summer's wheat crop to be 40% lower than last year. Our local farmers may also take a financial hit.





Let's Talk Fremington



A mental health support group

Tuesdays 12pm – 2pm
Beechfield Centre, Fremington

Facilitated by 2 qualified and experienced therapists,
Let's Talk is a safe, supportive space for you to talk through every day
challenges, improve well-being, self-esteem and
increase positivity.



This group is proudly sponsored by Fremington Parish Council.



Call us on 01271 267 474 or

email

admin@claritynorthdevon.org.uk

BAACP membership 00216701

Registered Charity: 1053224

Parish Councillors

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Chairman of Council
01271 326914

Cllr Joy Cann
Vice Chairman of Council
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Cllr Sam Adams
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Cllr Jim Bell
01271 860989

Cllr Frank Biederman
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Cllr Jeff Bridgeman
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Cllr Neil Denton
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