

## Nottingham Allotment newsletter

This newsletter is a new addition to the Allotment website. It is in fact a reduced version of the Good Life (the Allotment magazine).

### **Elephant Hawk moth found on the Allotment**

It's not every day you find an Elephant Hawk on the allotment! At least it's friendly; it told me it only eats weeds but might want a nibble at my fuchsia if we keep it at home, so back to the allotment it goes!

The Elephant Hawk-moth is a medium-sized hawk-moth, on the wing from May to July and active at dusk. It is commonly found in parks and gardens, as well as woodland edges, rough grassland and sand dunes. The caterpillars are seen from July to September and are very characteristic: greyish-green or brown with two enormous, black eyespots towards the head or as we thought yin-yang symbols. When disturbed, they swell up to show these spots and scare-off predators.

The caterpillars feed on willow herbs, fuchsia and bedstraw and the adults feed on nectar.

The caterpillars overwinter as chrysalides, hidden amongst low vegetation or in the soil.



This article was contributed by plot-holder Ralph

## **Threat to Honey Bees**



A species of Asian hornet that can grow to four times the size of British honey bees could be heading towards Britain. – Metro

**Bee afraid: Deadly hornets winging way to UK could threaten our honey bees**

**Asian hornets head for Britain: Public warned swarms which deliver vicious sting are coming across the Channel. They like honey and will attach bee hives to steal some, killing the bees in the process. Their sting is worse than an ordinary hornet, but unlike bees they do not die when they sting.**

- **Vespa velutina nigrithorax attacks honey bees and spreads quickly**
- **Species believed to have arrived from China via France in September**
- **Defra asks beekeepers to report sightings of the invasive hornet**

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2411944/Asian-hornets-head-Britain-Public-warned-swarms-deliver-vicious-sting-coming-English-Channel.html#ixzz2eJyk9pBQ>

## Clive's Chrysanthemums



Clive's has been growing Chrysanthemums on his plot with help and advice from Brian. Clive wants to thank Brian for assistance.