

1

GREAT CRESTED NEWT

(*Triturus cristatus*)

Also known as 'Warty newts' they look like mini dinosaurs! Newts are amphibians, breeding in ponds during the spring and spending most of the rest of the year feeding on invertebrates in woodland, hedgerows, marshes and grassland. They hibernate underground, among tree roots and in old walls. They are almost black in colour, with spotted flanks and a striking, orange belly. The pattern of spots on each newt is as unique as a fingerprint. Males develop a distinctive, long, wavy crest along the body and tail during the breeding season. When they are trying to attract females, the males stand on their front legs, arch their back and wave their tail around as if they are dancing!

LENGTH: UP TO 17CM
LIFESPAN: 6-15 YEARS
EGGS: UP TO 200

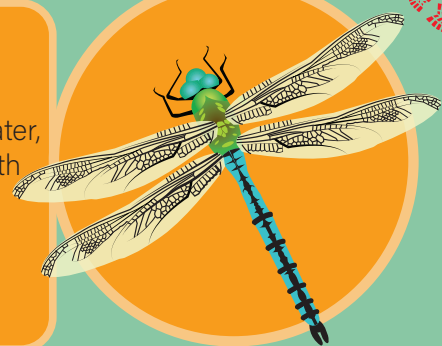
GREAT CRESTED
NEWTs ARE A
PROTECTED
SPECIES

2

EMPEROR DRAGONFLY

(*Anax imperator*)

One of the biggest and fastest European dragonflies. They live near water, laying their eggs on pondweed. The male has a sky blue abdomen with a central dark line. The female usually has a green abdomen with a central dark line but can occasionally be blue. Both have very large, bulbous eyes. They feed on other insects, catching and eating their prey in the air. The winged adults live for only one to eight weeks.



3

AELFRITH'S PATH

The path leads through a wooded area on the eastern edge of the green. In prehistoric times, this whole area was dense forest and it has been inhabited by humans for thousands of years. During construction of a runway for the Second World War airfield to the east of the village, a whole vase containing over 2000 coins from the reign of Maximian (307 AD) was dug up from an earthwork known as Aelfrith's Dyke. Imagine the history of the area as you walk along the path!

5

BADGERS

(*Meles meles*)

An unmistakable mammal. They have a large, grey body with a short, fluffy tail, black belly and paws, and a black-and-white striped face. They are the UK's largest land predator and are one of the most well-known British species. They use their strong front paws to dig for food and to create their hobbit-like burrows, called 'setts'.



BADGERS CAN
EAT SEVERAL
HUNDRED
EARTHWORMS
A NIGHT!

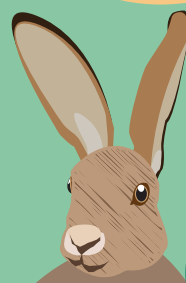
TAIL: 15CM
LENGTH: 75-100CM
LIFESPAN: 5-8 YEARS
WEIGHT: 8-12KG

6

BROWN HARE

(*Lepus europaeus*)

Known for their long, black-tipped ears and fast running. Hares are larger than rabbits and have longer legs and longer ears. They have golden-brown fur, with a pale belly and a white tail. They don't dig burrows, but shelter in 'forms', which are shallow depressions in the ground or grass. When fleeing predators they run in a zig-zag pattern. They sometimes fight each other (known as 'boxing') in the mating season, generally acting mad as a 'March hare'!



BABY HARES
ARE CALLED
LEVERETS

4

THE GREEN MAN

A legendary being who symbolises the close relationship between human beings and the natural world. To some people, he represents a figure who is an environmental guardian. To others he is a symbol of rebirth, representing the cycle of new growth that occurs every spring.



START

7

A MAZE!

A maze is a complicated pattern of paths made by humans as a puzzle. **Can you find your way through the maze on the Millennium Green?** The Maze mosaic explores the link between man-made patterns (Midnight Maze) and patterns found in nature... Look carefully and prepare to be a-mazed!

Sunflowers (*Helianthus annuus*) are more than just beautiful flowers or food for birds - they're also a mathematical marvel. The pattern of seeds within a sunflower follows the famous Fibonacci sequence: 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34....

Different species of spiders weave webs with different patterns to catch their prey. The Garden Spider (*Araneus diadematus*) weaves a spiral web.

Caterpillars sometimes have spots or striped patterns to warn off predators. The caterpillar of the Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*) butterfly is black with a yellow stripe.

The shell of the Garden snail (*Cornu aspersum* / *Helix aspersa*) grows in a spiral pattern.

The arrangement of veins on the Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) leaf is called the venation pattern.

10

FINISH

WOODLAND FAIRY

Fairies of various kinds have been reported throughout the centuries, ranging from miniscule, right up to the size of a human. Woodland Fairies are said to look like tiny humans with wings and to have magical powers, but they are very rarely seen so it's hard to be sure. The KBS Millennium Green Woodland Fairy is believed to live underground and to play a musical instrument to pass the time. **They are private creatures so, if you spot one, make sure to keep the location a secret!**

GREEN WOODPECKER

(*Picus viridis*)

The largest of the three woodpeckers that breed in Britain. They have a heavy-looking body, a short tail and a strong, long bill. They are green on the upper parts with a paler belly, bright yellow rump and red on the top of the head. The black 'moustache' has a red centre in males. They have an undulating flight and a loud, laughing call, which is called a 'yaffle'. They are usually solitary birds but pair for life. They have one brood per year of 5-7 eggs, making their nest in holes in live wood.



LENGTH: 30-34CM
WINGSPAN: 40-42CM
WEIGHT: 180-220G
LIFESPAN: 5 YEARS
FAVE FOOD: ANTS

8

9

MOLE

(*Talpa europaea*)

Stocky little animals with a wedge-shaped body and short tail. They are covered in black, velvety fur, with tiny eyes, a long, pink nose and two big, shovel-like 'hands' for front paws. Moles are very rarely seen as they spend most of their lives burrowing underground hunting for earthworms to eat. The brown mounds of earth that appear on lawns can make them very unpopular, but they are the unsung heroes of the animal world! Moles help make the soil healthier by aerating it, which allows plants to grow better and their tunnels improve soil drainage, which helps stop flooding. They help control bugs too.



11

BEE ORCHID

(*Ophrys apifera*)

Nature plays a trick with this flower! When the Bee Orchid flowers - usually in June or July in the UK - each one looks like a small, furry bee sitting on a big, pale pink flower. The aim is to attract real bees to pollinate the flowers. The leaves form a whorl at the base. A central spike with between one and twelve flowers appears and grows to a height of 15-50cm. The things that look like petals are called 'sepals'.



12

MARBLED WHITE BUTTERFLY

(*Melanargia galathea*)

Pale brown or lime green caterpillars emerge from small, round, white eggs. These hibernate over Winter then re-emerge to eat and grow bigger before forming their chrysalis and emerging three weeks later as butterflies. The attractive, medium-sized butterflies are white with distinctive black-chequered markings and a wingspan of 53-58mm. Adults may be found roosting halfway down tall grass stems where they lay their eggs. They are attracted to purple flowers such as Wild Marjoram, Field Scabious, Thistles, and Common Knapweed.

