



**WILDLIFE NEWS
DAZZLING DRAGONS
JUNIOR RANGER NEWS
VISIT OUR SITES**

GREEN GANG SUMMER 2021

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WILDLIFE NEWS

OIL BEETLES

Ranger Jason spotted an oil beetle at Whinless Down. They get their name because when they're scared they make tiny drops of poisonous oil to scare off predators. Young beetles are a little naughty as they live uninvited in the homes of mining bees where they eat the bee's food (pollen and nectar).



Oil Beetle

GREAT TIT CHICKS

Ranger Flora has been caring for four baby great tit chicks who don't have their parents to look after them. They have big, bright yellow mouths which they open wide to get attention at feeding time! Once they've learnt to fly they will be ready to go back to the wild where they belong.



Great Tit Chicks

BEE-EATERS

10 bee-eaters were spotted at Whinless Down in Dover. These rare birds get their name because they eat bees! They migrate from Africa each year and are beautiful, brightly coloured birds.



Bee-eaters

MAGNIFICENT MOTHS

We are part of Butterfly Conservation's Magnificent Moths project which is celebrating rare moths in east Kent. Keep an eye out for moth themed events coming soon!



Fiery Clearwing Moth

LOVE YOUR PLANET: DAZZLING DRAGONS

CELEBRATE DRAGONFLY WEEK

National Dragonfly Week is organised by the British Dragonfly Society and runs from Saturday 17th July until Sunday 25th July to celebrate dragonflies. Get involved by checking out the British Dragonfly Society's website (www.british-dragonflies.org.uk) and social media (#dragonflyweek) for activities, games and information.

Dragonflies are flying insects which have been around since before dinosaurs existed.



Broad Bodied Chaser



Dragonflies can't bite or sting people but are really good hunters which is good for us as they eat lots of flies & mosquitoes.

HELP DRAGONFLIES—CREATE A WILDLIFE POND

Did you know dragonflies live for years underwater but only for a few weeks as flying adults. When underwater they're called nymphs, you might have found some when pond dipping.

If you want to help dragonflies you could build a wildlife pond which dragonfly nymphs will live in. If you can't build one at home then you could ask your school. If you already have a pond then you could check it's suitable for wildlife—no fish, not too shaded and with pond plants, such as water-crowfoot, water-lily and water mint, which nymphs and other wildlife will use to hide in.

Dragonflies can fly at about 30 miles an hour (that's faster than Usain Bolt!)



A dragonfly nymph

DRAGONFLY FUN

Why do dragons sleep during the day?

So they can fight knights!



Emperor Dragonfly

MAKE A DRAGONFLY

WHAT YOU NEED: a long thin stick, card (from the recycling bin), colourful found objects (leaves, petals etc), scissors, glue.

1. Cut out 2 pairs of card wings then cut out and stick on colourful found objects until the card is covered. You can trim any extra bits off using scissors.
2. Stick the pairs of wings on to the stick, leaving a small gap for eyes.
3. To make the eyes either use found objects like berries or small stones, or cut them out from your found objects, and stick on. Dragonflies have big eyes which touch each other so remember to make them nice and big.
4. Your dragonfly is now ready to fly around and hunt for some yummy mosquitoes.

GO ON A DRAGON HUNT

Head to a pond or stream with a pair of binoculars on a sunny day and see if you can spot any dragonflies or damselflies (dragonflies sit with their wings open, damselflies with their wings closed). The British Dragonfly Society website is a good place to look for help identifying them (www.british-dragonflies.org.uk)

Romney Warren, the River Dour and Samphire Hoe are all great places to look.



JUNIOR RANGERS NEWS

GET SNAPPING

Junior Rangers can take photos of how they celebrate World Environment Day to work towards their next badge. Just email your photos to wccp@dover.gov.uk

JOIN THE HUNDREDS OF LOCAL JUNIOR RANGERS!

The Junior Rangers take a closer look at wildlife & ecology by taking part in WCCP & RMCP events and activities.

It only costs £5 to join and by completing activities or attending events you progress through the levels from Junior Ranger (5 events) to Peregrine (40 events) earning badges, certificates and wildlife themed prizes along the way.

To join please email wccp@dover.gov.uk



What kind of snake is good at maths?

An adder!

What do you call a snail on a ship?

A snailor!



VISIT OUR SITES

WCCP & RMCP manage sites from Romney Marsh to Dover which you can visit. Please park considerately and follow the countryside code.



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