



# Butterflies and Dragonflies



Butterflies begin their lives as eggs which hatch out into caterpillars. Some caterpillars are furry, some are smooth. Many are green so that they are camouflaged against the leaves which they eat.

Can you see any caterpillars or leaves that they have been munching?



Caterpillars turn into chrysalises, which turn into butterflies. Some stay as a chrysalis for just a few weeks but some will stay like that all winter before hatching out into a butterfly the next spring.

## How many of these butterflies can you spot at Wildwood?

Hint: Butterflies love the sunshine, so make sure you keep a good lookout in sunny places.

Hint: This is buddleia. It is sometimes called the butterfly bush because they like it so much. See if you can see any of its purple flowers near the shop.



Peacock (red with colourful spots)



Meadow Brown (two small orange patches)



Gatekeeper (four large orange patches)



Painted Lady (white specks on wing, not bars)



Large White (large and white!)



Tortoiseshell (black and white bars on top of orange wings)



Red Admiral (black with red and white markings)



Comma (orange speckled with brown)



Ringlet (brown with small dark spots)

## How many of these dragonflies can you spot at Wildwood?

Is it a dragonfly or a damselfly?  
Damselflies rest with their wings folded down by their sides. Dragonflies rest with their wings sticking out.

Is it a hawkler or a darter dragonfly? Darters have shorter, fatter bodies and often perch on reeds waiting for prey. Hawklers are longer and thinner and fly around catching other insects.

Hint: Keep a lookout near all our ponds - dragonflies are often found resting or hunting near water.



Ruddy Darter Dragonfly (bright red)



Southern hawkler Dragonfly (black with blue and yellow markings)



Broad-bodied Chaser Dragonfly (blue)



Common Blue Damselfly (blue and black striped)



Golden-ringed Dragonfly (yellow and black striped)



Large Red Damselfly (bright red)