

Nature Newsletter from: The Willesden Green Town Team

Get the children to look for:

Your garden and any green space you find, has a hidden world living within it.

In *The Garden* magazine this March they mentioned 4 different groups of wildlife invertebrates you can find. But you need get down on your knees or even your stomach and look very carefully to see them.

The first group are **Herbivores**.

Herbivores eat herbs - well living plants and if your prize Basil or Lettuce is gone in the morning and you find holes in your plant leaves, this means that they have been at work eating.

Now we don't like them making holes but generally speaking in this Hidden World there is a bug eat bug lifestyle, so many of these creatures will be eaten by others - take caterpillars - they love lettuce and cabbage but they are also good food for birds and their chicks.



Aphids are very tiny green insects that suck the sap out of plant stems. Here's an interesting fact - aphids are all female and are born pregnant.



But Ladybirds love to eat them... as do some birds.

=====

Predators

Some invertebrates are predators. Like Ladybirds. They eat other creatures. These include a lot of beetles, spiders of course, and some wasps. Be careful of the Wolf Spider though. It doesn't have a web but sits in the longer grass and plants and bites - it will bite anyone that comes near it and if it bites a human you can have a very nasty reaction to the bite.



=====

The third type of invertebrate you can find in your green space is a **Detritivore**.

These are good. They feed on the detritus in our green spaces and recycle it into nutrients for our plants.

Woodlice are perhaps the most common recycler you can find. They are very ancient creatures and have been in the same form for millions of years. They probably

originated in the sea and then moved onto the land. When disturbed they often roll up into tight balls tucking their legs and head inside their hard shells.



=====

The fourth invertebrate is **Omnivorous**. This unfortunately means that they eat everything, good or bad. They are generalists. Sometimes they eat the larvae of weevils (which are bad) and sometimes they eat plant seeds. Mostly they eat dead plant and animal material though so help with the recycling in the green space.

The Black Clock Beetle is one most commonly found.

