

# WABBIT'S ADVENTURES IN THE GARDEN

**The Summer Day**



**Written and produced by Ignite!**

This is my friend, Wabbit. He's a rabbit.



Some of you may have met Wabbit before.

Do you remember that Wabbit has been keeping safe and having fun in the garden?

Did you read Wabbit's story about the clouds?

One of the things that Wabbit likes best – apart from nibbling leaves – is watching the day go by in the garden and all the plants and creatures that live there.

Wabbit says he knows a lot about nature.

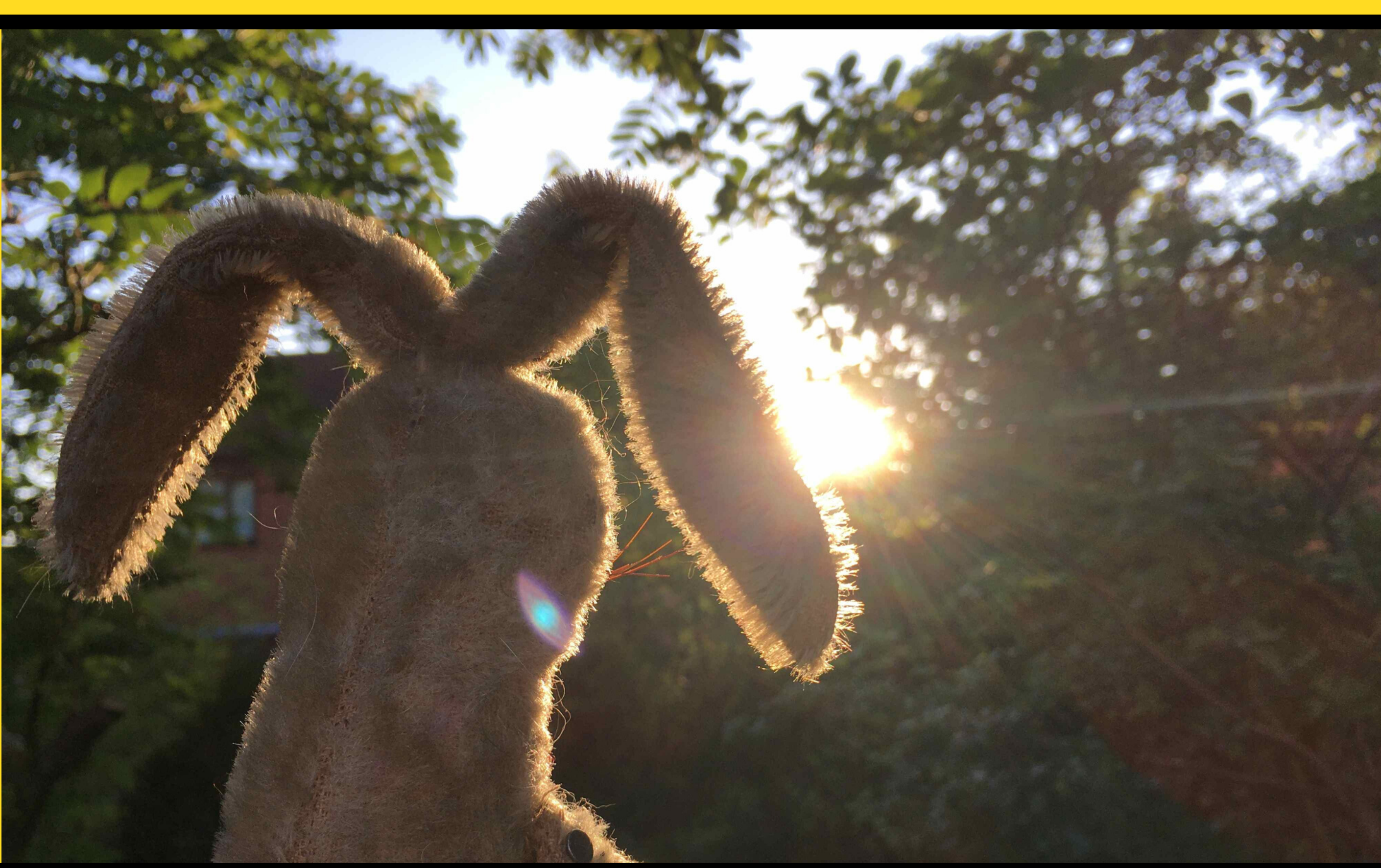


Shall we see how much he really knows?

Wabbit likes to be up and about at day break, as the sun rises.

He says he is an early bird and up with the lark.

Can you guess why getting up early is like birds waking up in the morning?



Wabbit had to get up at 5am to watch this sunrise.

Because he was up so early, he could also listen to the Dawn Chorus.

Yes, that's right, when the birds wake up they sing to perform what we call the Dawn Chorus.

Have you ever heard the Dawn Chorus in your garden?



It is quite hard to do, but if you can wake up early, it is lovely to go outside and listen to the Dawn Chorus, especially in spring and early summer.

Where does the sun rise where you are? What part of the sky, or the horizon? Is it always in the same place?

After all that singing, Wabbit could see that the birds were ready for some breakfast – they were nibbling away at the birdfeeder!

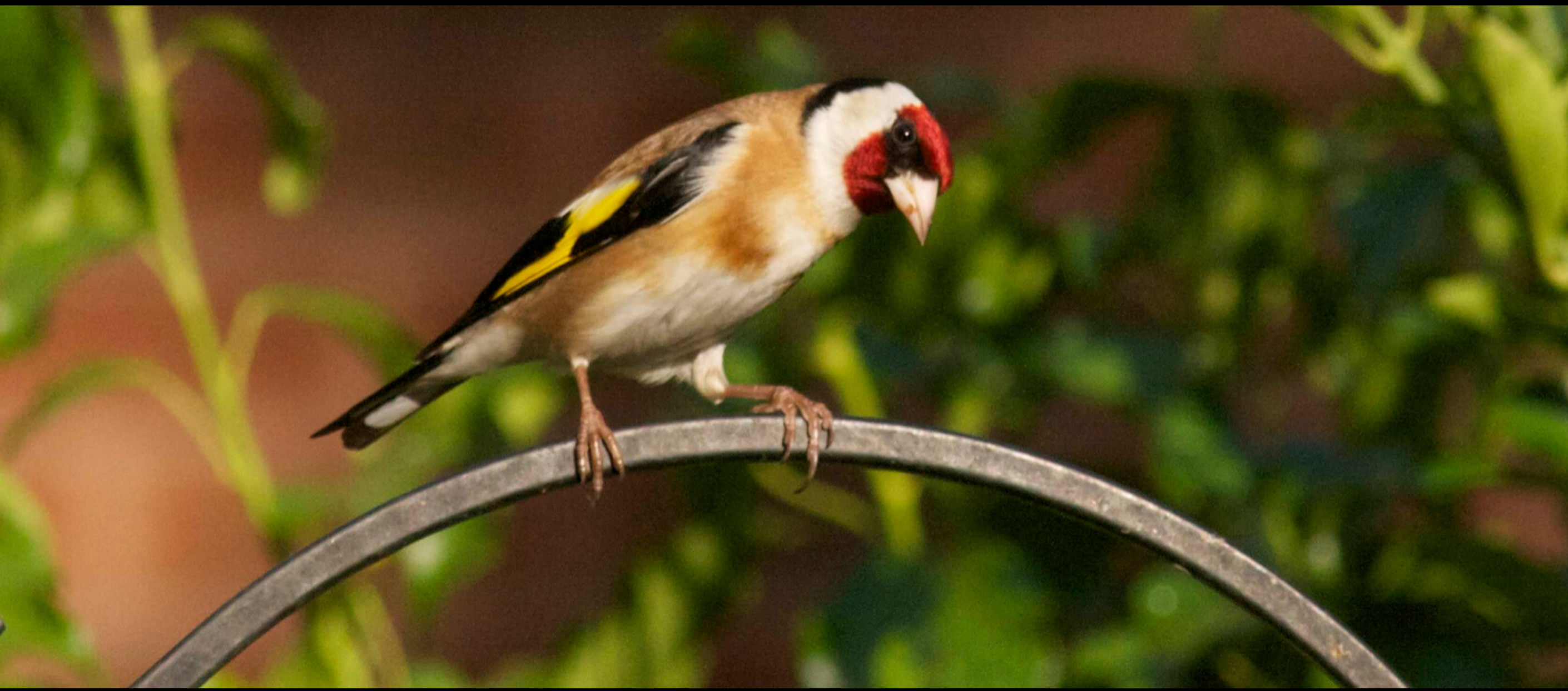


When birds are ready to leave their nests they are called fledglings. They can fly short distances, but sometimes the parent birds still have to feed them.

Wabbit watched a baby blackbird. It looks like it is waiting for a feed from its parent, doesn't it?

I wonder what it likes to eat best?

Wabbit then saw a baby blue tit on the bird feeder and a goldfinch sitting nearby.

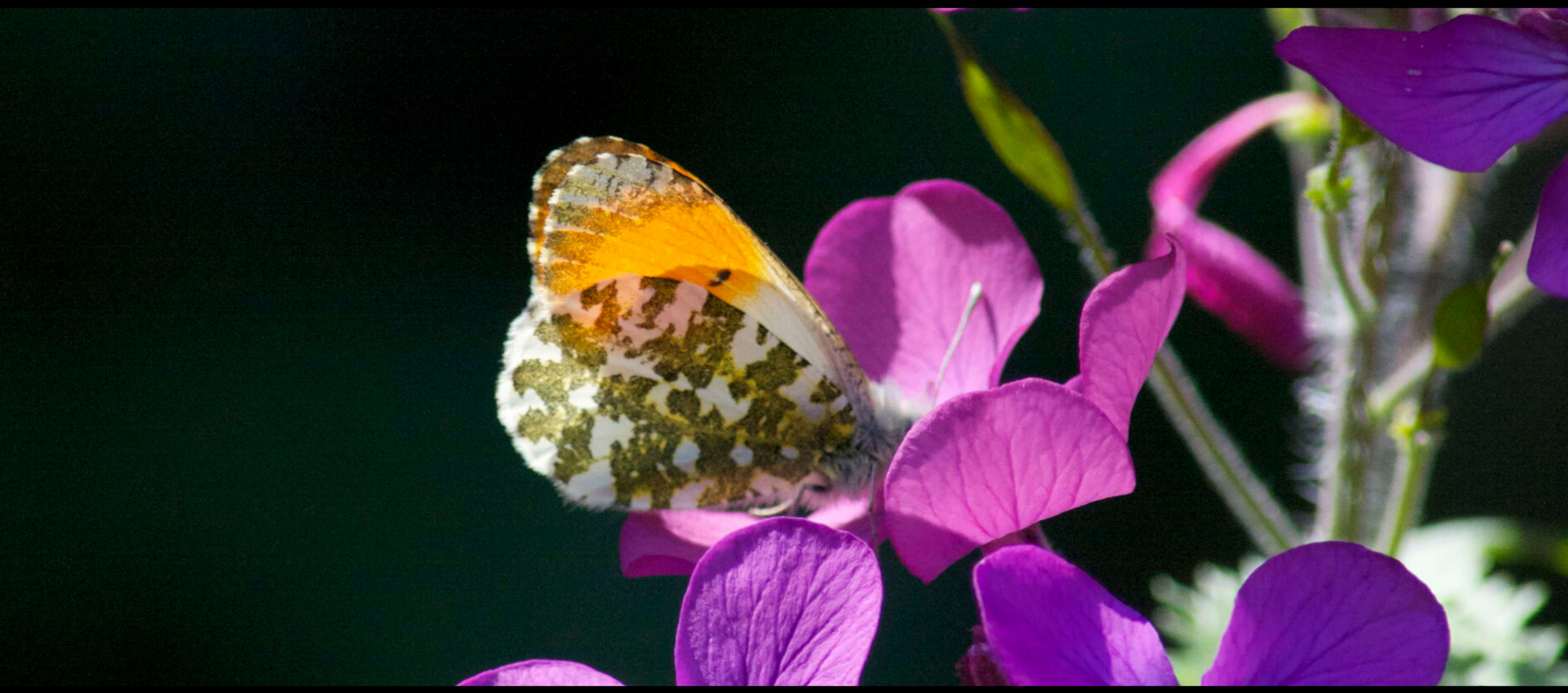


Wabbit really liked looking at the different colours on all the birds he could see in the garden.

What different coloured birds have you seen?

It was a nice sunny day, and as the sun climbed higher in the sky, and the day got warmer, Wabbit watched the insects starting to feed on flowers and rest on plants.

Butterflies like to spread their wings when they sit on leaves to warm them.



Some butterflies look the same as the leaves they settle on. Why do you think that might be?



Wabbit could also see a moth sitting on a leaf and he could hear a lovely big fat bumble bee, buzzing on a flower.



Wabbit wondered how bumble bees fly, they look so heavy.

Wabbit found a nice flower, and gave it a good sniff. Rabbits have a very good sense of smell and this flower reminded him of the meadows near the warren when he was a baby rabbit.



Do some smells remind you of different things or different times?

This flower is called feverfew, and lots of people think it is a weed.

But it does have a strong smell that some people think helps you get a good night's sleep.



Some flowers and leaves have smells and flavours that are useful in cooking; they are called herbs, and one of Wabbit's favourites is mint.

Wabbit found another of his favourite plants - he likes this one because its leaves are soft and furry.

Have you noticed that some leaves feel different?



When I told Wabbit that this plant is sometimes called Rabbit's Ears, he was very happy.

The afternoon turned into evening and, as it was still nice and sunny and warm, Wabbit took a nap in his hammock.



Wabbit watched as the shadows moved across the garden.

He thought that was quite a good way of telling what time it was.

The evening became chilly and Wabbit watched as the sun started to slide down the sky.

The sun sets in the other side of the garden from the sunrise.



Where does the sun set where you live?

And then the sky turned red. It is very beautiful, isn't it?



Wabbit thought about his day.

Wabbit wondered how it might have been different at a different time of year.

To find out, Wabbit made a promise to himself to spend a day in the garden in spring, autumn and winter too.

This book was written and produced by Ignite! as part of a series for the StoryParks 2020 project, supported by Nottingham City Council and The Nottingham Building Society.

The book is intended to be used at storytime with young children, and as a resource for families to observe and get curious about how the environment and natural spaces change throughout the day and at different times of year.

Find out more about StoryParks at [www.storyparksnottingham.com](http://www.storyparksnottingham.com) or @StoryParks

Find out more about Ignite! at [www.ignitefutures.org.uk](http://www.ignitefutures.org.uk) or @IgniteFutures

