

# GRASSHOPPERS AND CRICKETS

## WEX MEETING 5 JULY 08

On this sheet there are some facts about grasshoppers and crickets. You will see that there are some missing words – try to find the right words to put in from the list of words here. You can use the words more than once. Don't worry if you don't know the right answer – just guess - it is only for fun!

### List of words

**predators, crickets, nymph, long, grasshoppers, abdomen, back legs, antennae, night, grass, wings, front legs, soil, short, animal matter, skin, legs, fly**

There are eleven species of grasshoppers in Britain and all but one of them are able to \_\_\_\_\_. All grasshoppers have three pairs of \_\_\_\_\_. The very strong \_\_\_\_\_ mean that they can leap a long way – up to twenty times the length of its own body.

The main difference between a grasshopper and a cricket is that crickets tend to have \_\_\_\_\_ antennae but grasshoppers have \_\_\_\_\_ antennae. Grasshoppers are vegetarians and eat mainly \_\_\_\_\_ but crickets eat \_\_\_\_\_ as well. Most \_\_\_\_\_ come out at dusk whereas \_\_\_\_\_ tend to be out and about during the day.

The males of both of these insects stridulate (sing) to attract the females. \_\_\_\_\_ do this by rubbing their wings together while \_\_\_\_\_ rub their long back legs against their wings. Grasshoppers detect sound by means of little 'ears' at the base of their \_\_\_\_\_. In crickets these areas are on their \_\_\_\_\_.

Bush crickets belong to the same order as grasshoppers but have much longer \_\_\_\_\_. They are at least partly carnivorous and are often active at \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ of crickets and grasshoppers include the common wasp, the kestrel, the noctule bat, red ants, spiders and small rodents.

Crickets and grasshoppers have a similar life cycle. The eggs are laid in the \_\_\_\_\_. The eggs hatch and a \_\_\_\_\_ emerges. It is pale in colour and does not have any \_\_\_\_\_ but otherwise looks just like an adult. It is a hearty eater and it spends much of its life eating and growing larger. The \_\_\_\_\_ sheds its \_\_\_\_\_ several times as it grows. When it does this for the last time the adult insect emerges.