



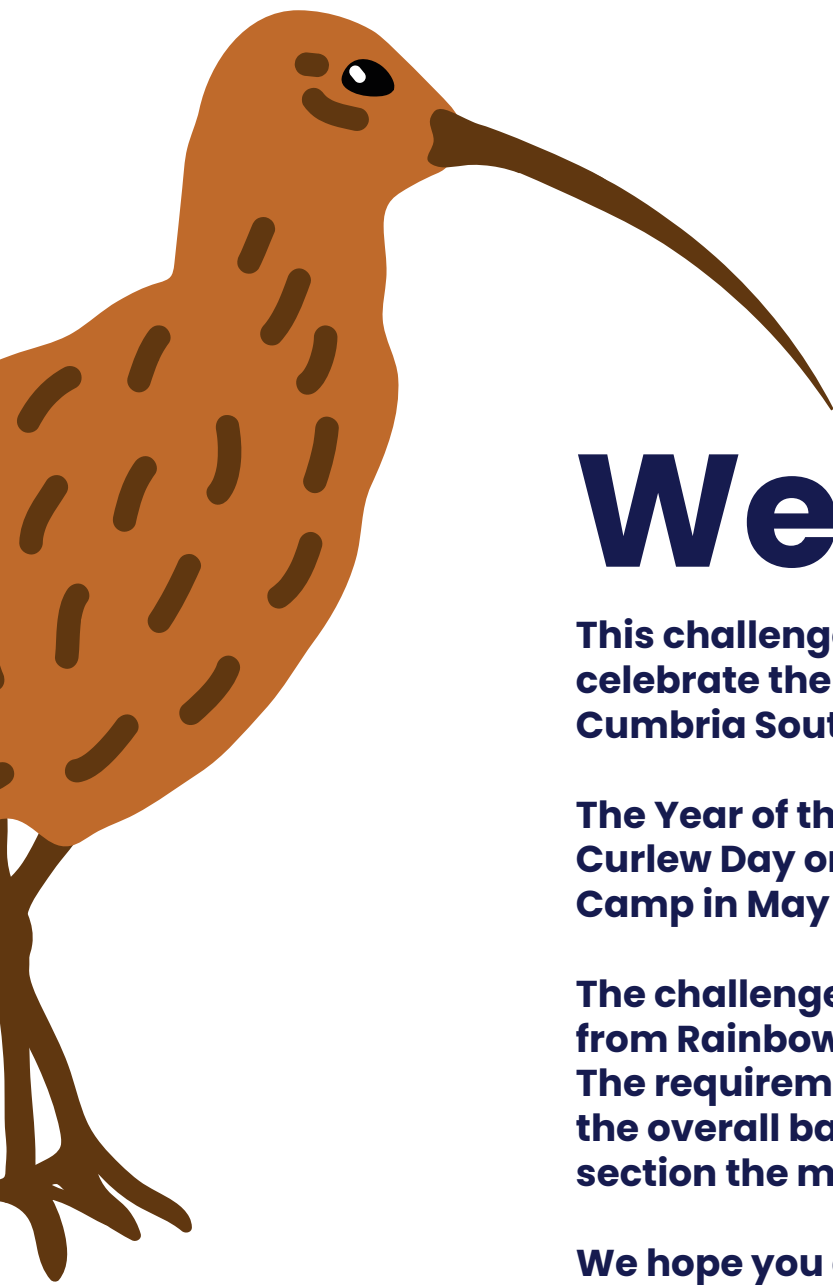
Girlguiding

Cumbria South
county

Operation Curlew

50th Birthday Challenge





Welcome

This challenge pack has been created to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Girlguiding Cumbria South county.

The Year of the Curlew will run from World Curlew Day on 21st April 2023 until our County Camp in May 2024.

**The challenge pack is suitable for all members from Rainbows to Rangers.
The requirements for the individual elements of the overall badge are adjusted according to the section the members belong to.**

We hope you and your units enjoy discovering more about our enigmatic and endangered emblem!

The Operation Curlew challenge team



Operation Curlew Challenge

Writers: Jess Broome
and Ellie Parnell

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Challenge Pack design: Sam Mason

Celebrating

To gain this element of the badge, help us celebrate 50 years of Girlguiding Cumbria South county by completing something from at least two of the three sections;

1. Happy birthday Girlguiding Cumbria South!
2. World Curlew Day, or
3. St Beuno and the Curlew.

How much you do for each part will vary depending on the age group and/or the needs of your unit, but the idea is that you celebrate at least two of the events above.

1. Happy birthday Girlguiding Cumbria South!

1. Go to a celebration event or hold a 50th birthday party

Plan a unit or division party

Younger members could be involved in deciding what their party will involve: where it will be celebrated, what games will be played, what music there will be and what food and drink will be shared. Sixers or Patrol Leaders could take a lead in planning the event. Older members could be more involved in organising an event and inviting younger units to join them.

Every good party needs some games – here's a few to get you started:

- Pin the bill on on the curlew **See appendix 2.**
- Sleeping Curlews.
- An adaptation of Duck, Duck, Goose, but played as Blackbird, Blackbird, Curlew.
- Musical Statues – each time the music stops, players to freeze in a curlew pose.

Join us at our County Camp in May 2024

Open to members of Girlguiding Cumbria South county, what could be better than celebrating our 50th Birthday with hundreds of your guiding friends?!

2. Test yourself with our Anything But Standard quiz based on our county standard (flag)

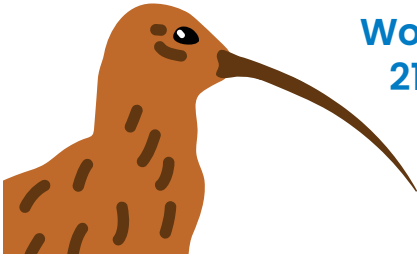
See appendix 1.

3. Play Cumbria South Bingo

as part of your party or lead up to your celebration **See appendix 3.**



2. World curlew day



World Curlew Day is held on the 21st of April and is an initiative to raise awareness of why curlews need to be protected.

1. Find out more about World Curlew Day:



<https://www.wwt.org.uk/world-curlew-day/>

<https://www.curlewaction.org/world-curlew-day/>

Explain to your unit what World Curlew Day is and why it is celebrated.

2. Hold an event to celebrate or mark World Curlew Day

This may involve starting to understand what kind of bird curlews are, where they live, why they are in danger and what we can do to help protect them.

You may wish to include some activities from the 'Understanding' section of the badge within your event.

Your event could take the form of a party that celebrates curlews. Invite participants to find out more about these special birds; building awareness of the need to protect them to encourage participants to then take action to support curlews.

You may wish to invite members of the community to share with them the importance of protecting curlews.

You could consider special things to include at the event such as songs to share. You could even create your own bird song to share at the event.

Useful links

Curlew song recorded at RSPB Geltsdale and Hadrian's Wall:

https://youtu.be/B9yx0_BlghA

RSPB Curlew Call Audio:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wild-life-guides/bird-a-z/curlew/>

RSPB Curlew Sounds project:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/conservation/projects/the-curlew-sounds-project/>



3. St Beuno and the curlew

There are numerous stories associated with St Beuno, including *St Beuno and the Curlew*; St Beuno is the patron saint of curlews.

In this story, St Beuno was travelling by boat when he accidentally dropped his precious sermon book into the sea.

Then a curlew came, picked up the book, and placed it away from the tide. To thank the curlew for his kindness, St Beuno decreed that curlews would be protected by ensuring their nesting places would be difficult to find in the future.

Read the full story of *St Beuno and the Curlew* at: 

<https://www.curlewaction.org/about-curlews/>

1. Share the story of St Beuno and the Curlew with your unit, then discuss the meaning of compassion and kindness within this.

You could carry out some role play of the story within a group.

2. Discuss within your unit how we can show kindness towards birds (this can be all species of birds, not just curlews).

Some suggestions might include putting food out for the birds in your garden, putting clean water out for birds, making bird houses or making a bird bath.

Give young members a choice of how they could show kindness towards birds and then enable them to help birds in their chosen ways, e.g. by building birds houses.

Older members could take further action by carrying out conservation work, such as at Leighton Moss or Hadrian's Wall, within the 'Supporting' section of the badge.

Both the 50th Birthday and World Curlew Day could be linked with the Know Myself Reflect Stage 2 Skill Builder 'Celebrate!'

3. Celebrate St Beuno's Day in your unit meeting.

St. Bueno's Day, like World Curlew Day, is celebrated on the 21st of April. Why not include the story of St Beuno as part of a World Curlew Day celebration?

Useful links 

RSPB

Suggestions on how to help birds:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/how-you-can-help-birds>



Understanding

This section is all about curlews – how to identify them, where they live, what they eat and more!

To help you plan your activities, we have indicated approximately how long each activity will take.

To gain this element of the badge:

Rainbows should complete 3 activities plus the Curlew quiz,

Brownies should complete 4 activities plus the Curlew quiz,

Guides and Rangers should complete 6 activities plus the relevant quiz.

Curlew quiz found in Appendix 7a and 7b

1. Appearance

30 min

Without having seen a picture of a curlew, draw what you think one might look like. When you have finished your drawing, compare your version with a picture of an actual curlew.

2. Sound

60 min

Make your own whistle, then try to recreate the sound of a curlew call. Compare your creation with a recording of a curlew. See **appendix 6** for whistle-making ideas.

3. Habitat

30 min

Look at a picture of a curlew (**appendix 4**) and identify its key features. How do you think they help a curlew? Do you think they would be useful in a particular type of habitat? Why? What might that habitat be?

4. Diet

30 mins

Chopstick game. Players sit in a circle, and take turns rolling a die.

Whenever someone rolls a six, they move to the centre of the circle where there are chopsticks and a bowl full of jelly worms.

They use the chopsticks to pick up ONE jelly worm at a time and eat it, before going for the next.

Whenever somebody else rolls a six, it is their turn to go into the centre, replacing the person who is currently there.

Continue playing until everyone has had a go.

5. Migration Activity A

60 min

Make a curlew calendar and/or map showing times of year (seasons) when, and where, curlews migrate to for both feeding and nesting

This could be illustrated and include notes explaining why these habitats are important during different seasons.



6. Migration Activity B

30 min

To play this game you need one copy of the migration game sheet (**Appendix 5**) per player.

The leader needs to cut out the food tokens. and 5 sets of egg cards. A set of eggs should be given to each player (they need to write their names on the back of each set). It is their job to look after these egg cards. The 5 sets of egg cards represent the average five-year lifespan of a curlew.

One end of the hall is the '**coast**', where a leader distributes some of the food tokens on the floor.

The game then starts, with the players (acting as curlews) trying to collect as many food tokens as they can, before a leader calls "**it's getting warmer**". At this point the players have to run '**inland**', to the other end of the hall, and put down **one of their egg tokens**.

A leader then disturbs the players who run to the middle of the hall while the leader picks up a selection of the eggs (approx. 60%). These represent the eggs that are destroyed!

The players then return '**inland**' to pick up any of their remaining eggs. While this is happening the other leader tops up the food at the '**coast**' end of the hall.

The leader should now call "**it's getting colder**", sending the curlews back to the coast, where they start gathering food again. The game repeats 4 more times for the five 'years' of the curlew's lifespan.

The game is scored by counting the number of food items and eggs each player has at the end.

Each item of food is worth 2pts and all remaining eggs are worth 5pts.

7. Bird Spotting

30 - 90 min

Outdoor activity

Go outside in your local area; either directly outside your normal meeting space, or go for a walk to a green space such as your local park etc.

Have a look around and make a list of the different birds you see. If you come across a bird that you don't recognise, you could use Google, a bird identification app or the RSPB website to identify them.

While you are having a look around don't forget to listen as well. Can you identify the different bird calls?

You could also take a trip to a coast, wetland or estuary in July - February. This could be to somewhere like RSPB Leighton Moss and Hodbarrow, Morecambe Bay, or one of the county's many estuaries.

Did you manage to see/hear a Curlew?
How many?

8. Breeding

30 mins

Outdoor activity

In a grassy place mark out a defined playing area. Players take two or three potatoes each and hide them together, in the grass..

Players then have two minutes to count how many potatoes they can see from where they are standing.

Next they should compare this to the number they can find when actually searching for potatoes.

Discuss the shape and colour of curlew eggs and why they choose a particular type of habitat to nest in.

This would be a good opportunity to discuss with older girls, the importance of sensitive land management by farmers.

Further help

The following PDF will be handy to print and take with you on your adventure!

Morecambe Bay Partnership:
<https://www.morecambebay.org.uk/downloads/Birds-of-the-Bay-leaflet-web-version.pdf>

RSPB website: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/identify-a-bird/>



Supporting

Take action, raise awareness and potentially even raise funds to help support the curlew!

Some of the raising awareness activities will overlap with potential ways to raise funds, coffee mornings and craftivism creations if you charge for them etc.

These will count for both parts of the element, so you don't have to do another raising awareness activity ... but it wouldn't hurt! There are also opportunities for some of our older members to get hands on to help protect curlews by working on a conservation project.

To gain this element:

Rainbows should complete at least one individual and one unit activity from the raise awareness section of this element.

Brownies should complete at least one individual and one unit activity from the raise awareness section of this element, and they will hopefully also complete a fundraising activity.

Guides and Rangers should complete at least one individual and one unit activity from the raise awareness section of this element, and try to complete a couple of fundraising activities. Guides will hopefully get the chance to be involved in a conservation event, e.g. trip to Leighton Moss, or Hadrian's Wall.



1. Raising awareness: individual activities

The girls completing this section of the badge all need to do at least one individual activity.

This activity could be carried out in a unit meeting or at home, with the girls bringing in evidence of what they have done.

This activity allows the girls to choose what they want to do, as not all girls have to do the same activity. There are a range of options listed below that they can do, but if they have an idea that isn't listed that is great too!

Whilst girls only need to complete one individual activity to raise awareness of curlews, they can opt to do more than one if they wish.

These activities can be carried out at any point in the year, and they can be repeated as the girls feel necessary. There are no time constraints on how long the girls have, and the time, commitment and dedication put in will vary depending on the girl and which activity they have chosen to carry out.

Design and create a curlew mascot. Publicise the mascot and tell people about the plight of the curlew when they ask about your mascot.

Make a video about the plight of the curlew, and post where people can see it.

Make sure to have parental approval and only post the video where you are happy with it being seen. Some Girlguiding pages are less public than YouTube etc.

You could always just ask a teacher to play it in assembly rather than posting it to the public.

Create a page on social media about the plight of the curlew and try to get the page to 100+ followers.

Before you begin, make sure you are old enough to be on the social media site that you want to use.

Make a poster about the plight of the Curlew, and arrange for the poster to be displayed somewhere it can be seen e.g. school, local community halls, community notice boards in shops, signs in fields etc.

Make a leaflet about the plight of the curlew and give it to someone to read e.g. a teacher, family member etc.

If the leaflet is made digitally, you could even print multiple copies out and post them to people in your local area.

Give a presentation to a group of five or more people about the plight of the curlew. This could be at school, at a library, at your unit meeting etc.

Create a play/dance to represent the plight of the Curlew. Recruit other people to join if needed. Perform it to at least five people.

Write a blog post for The Guiding Vibe (14+) about the plight of the curlew.

Who knows, this could lead to you becoming an Uber Blogger!

2. Raising awareness: group activities

The girls completing this sector of the badge need to take part in a group activity. The group could be the entire unit, or the unit could be split into smaller groups e.g. patrols, this way girls get more say over the activity they do.

There are a range of activity suggestions of things the group can do, but if they have an idea that isn't listed, that's fine too! While girls only need to complete one group activity to raise awareness of curlews, they can opt to do more than one. You could even do one as a patrol/six activity and one as a whole unit!

As a group **draft a letter** to send to local farmers and landowners, alerting them to the decline in the curlew population.

Highlight the agricultural practices that can have a negative impact on the curlew population and suggest ways that habitats could be improved.

Invite another unit to your meeting and give a presentation about the plight of the curlew.

This could also be done as a play or a narrated dance. You could even make it interactive, involving the girls from the other unit.

As a group go out in your local area to **talk to members of the public** about the plight of the curlew, explaining how they can help, and find out more.

Host a coffee morning where you give a presentation about the plight of the curlews. This could be for parents, or you could even open it up to the local community!

As a group carry out a **craftivism activity**, that will get people talking about curlews.

This could be working as a group to create something small that you can hand out to people to remind them about the curlews. Or you could bring the whole group's efforts together to create one large talking point, which would bring the attention to curlews.

3. Raising funds

You could raise money to help support the **RSPB's Curlew Recovery Programme** as part of your challenge:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/conservation/projects/curlew-recovery-programme/how-you-can-help/>

There are various ways in which you can fundraise in aid of supporting curlews. Here are some suggestions to get you started:

Make up bird food packs or make pine cone feeders perfect for birds in winter. Sell them alongside the bird boxes at a coffee morning to raise funds.

Make sure you check what is appropriate to feed birds before putting food together.

The RSPB have instructions for making pine cone feeders: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/globalassets/downloads/documents/kids-and-schools/make-a-pine-cone-bird-feeder.pdf>

Be aware of what you are including in bird feeders if you or someone taking part in the activity has a nut allergy.

Hold a coffee morning with a presentation about the plight of curlews, where refreshments can be sold to raise money.

You could create cake decorations that celebrate the curlew or Cumbria South's 50th Birthday.

Take part in a **craftivism activity**. This will vary depending on the age group, but could include making curlew keyrings, cross-stitch curlews, needle felting curlews or knitting curlew hats. You could then sell these crafts to raise money.

There is an RSPB design for a hat which could be followed: https://www.rspb.org.uk/globalassets/downloads/documents/conservation-projects/curlew-hat-final-pattern_23-april.pdf

Hold a bird related dance, music or talent show, e.g. to share your curlew dance moves.

All profits from the tickets could be in aid of the curlew recovery programme.

Rangers: complete part of your **Volunteering interest badge** by raising money for the RSPB Curlew Recovery Programme..

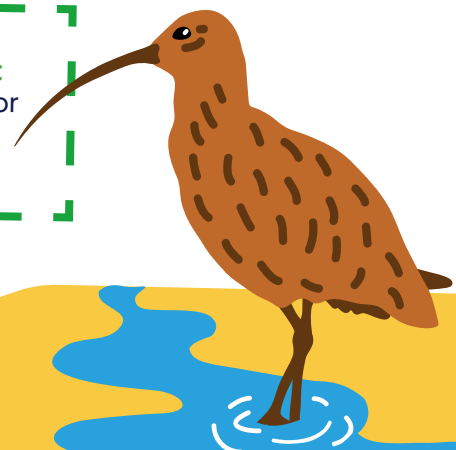
Take part in a sponsored event, such as a sponsored bird watch or a sponsored walk.

Use your **tool skills** to build bird boxes that could be sold to raise money.

Working on this could link to the Live Smart Stage 2 Skills Builder - 'Tool School' and the Brownie UMA 'In a Fix!'

Why not complete these activities first to develop your skills before making a bird box?

Hold a curlew/bird drawing contest with participants paying a fee to enter the competition.



Appendix 1: Anything but standard!

Take part in the Cumbria South Quiz based on our County Standard as part of your party or in the lead up to your celebration.

There are various ways of delivering a quiz. For questions that are multiple choice, younger members may prefer to have a different corner or part of the room to go to for each answer. Each location would represent a different answer, then the children receive a token (counter) from each location if they get a correct answer.

Anything but standard quiz – for younger members

You may wish to look closely at the standard badge first, before covering it up and answering the questions.

1 What does the county standard badge represent/mean?

- a. The curlew.
- b. Girlguiding Cumbria South.
- c. The mountains of Cumbria.
- d. The Rainbow/Brownie Promise.

2 What type of fish is on the badge?

- a. Cod.
- b. Haddock.
- c. Salmon.
- d. Mussels.

3 Which of these animals are on the badge?

- a. A wild boar.
- b. A chicken.
- c. A cow.
- d. A pig.

4 What type of tree is on the badge?

- a. An oak tree.
- b. A birch tree.
- c. A Christmas tree.
- d. An apple tree.

5 Which well-known Girlguiding motto appears on the standard?

- a. Do your best.
- b. Be prepared.
- c. Work hard.
- d. Upraise.

Quiz Answers – Younger Members:

- 1. B – Girlguiding Cumbria South.
- 2. C – salmon.
- 3. A – wild boar.
- 4. D – an apple tree.
- 5. D – be prepared.

Anything but standard quiz – for older members

- 1** What does the Curlew on the standard represent?
 - a. Protecting birds.
 - b. The county badge.
 - c. The Legend of St Beuno.
 - d. World Curlew Day.

- 2** Which village or town does the ship on the badge represent?
 - a. Barrow-in-Furness.
 - b. Milnthorpe.
 - c. Ambleside.
 - d. Appleby-in-Westmorland.

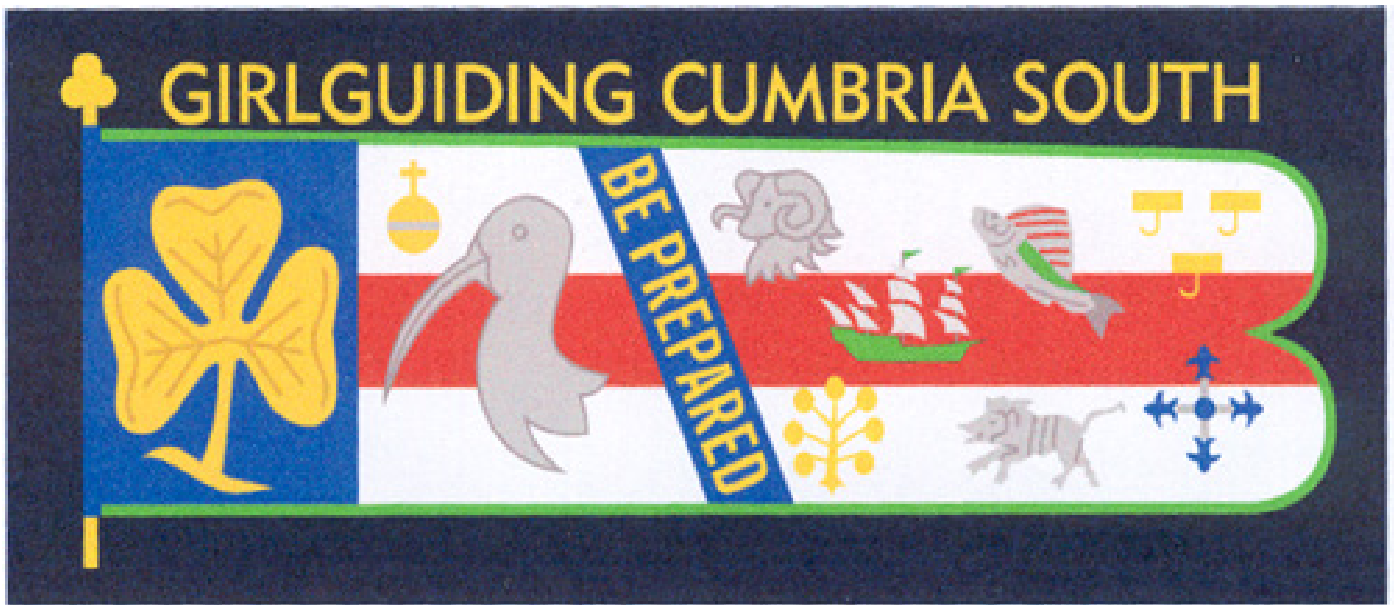
- 3** What area of the county does the Wild Boar represent?
 - a. Windermere and the Lyth Valley.
 - b. Kirkby Lonsdale and Sedbergh.
 - c. Appleby and the Eden Valley.
 - d. Kendal.

- 4** The Tenter Hooks represent a trade based in Kendal. What type of trade was this?
 - a. Stone.
 - b. Steel.
 - c. Wool.
 - d. Coal.

- 5** When was this standard made?
 - a. In Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation year in 1953.
 - b. In 2000 at the start of the 21st century,
 - c. When Brownies, known as Rosebuds at the time, first started meeting in 1914.
 - d. After World War Two, in 1945.

Quiz Answers – Older Members

1. B – The County badge.
2. B – Milnthorpe.
3. A – Windermere and the Lyth Valley.
4. C – Wool.
5. A – In Queen Elizabeth's Coronation year in 1953.



The Standard now used by Girlguiding Cumbria South was made for Westmorland County and dedicated at Kendal Parish Church on 7 June 1953.

It was designed by Mrs Williamson of the Royal College of Art and made by Nuns of St Peter's Convent, Wakefield, Yorkshire all of whom had been Guides. The Standard cost £98.

In 1974 the new county of Cumbria South decided to use the Westmorland County standard and the county badge of Westmorland, the Curlew.

The emblems represent:

Orb: the standard was made in Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation year – 1953.

Curlew: County badge.

Apple tree: Appleby and Eden Valley.

Cross: Shap Abbey Cross.

Herdwick ram: Ambleside.

Ship: Milnthorpe.

Salmon: Leaping up the Lune Valley.

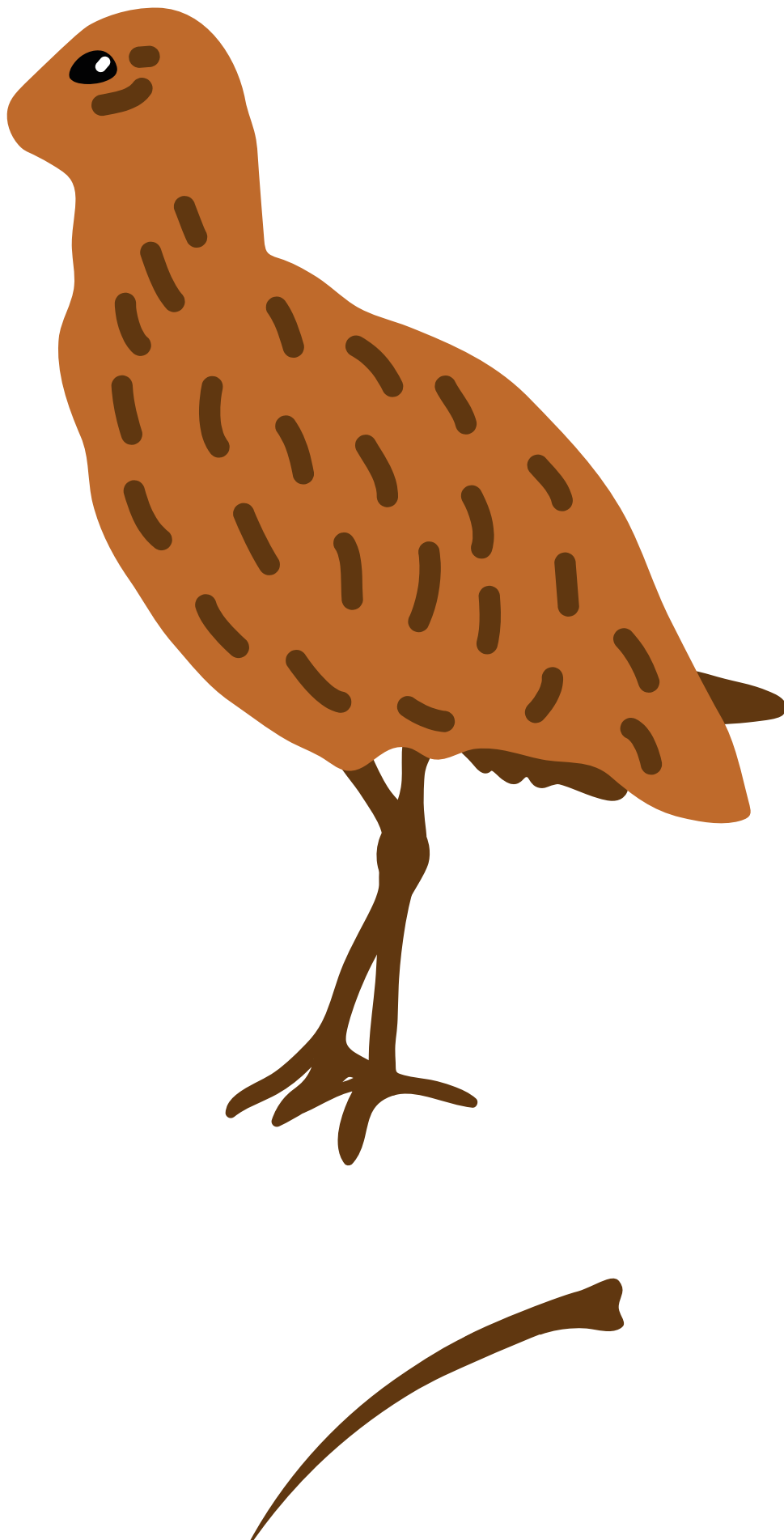
Tenter hooks: Wool trade in Kendal.

Wild boar: Windermere and Lyth Valley.

Red band: from the arms of the ancient Barony of Kendal.

Green fringed edge: Kendal green coloured wool.

Appendix 2: Pin the bill on the curlew



Appendix 3: Cumbria South bingo

Calling cards:

wool	Curlew	Herdwick sheep	Kendal Mint cake
Grasmere Gingerbread	Park House Hawkshead	Windermere	Barrow division
Duddon division	Kendal division	Kent Lune division	Lakes division
North Lonsdale division	Atlantic salmon	wild boar	apple tree
Beatrix Potter	Scafell Pike	Lake District National Park	William Wordsworth

Bingo card 1:

Scafell Pike	Atlantic salmon	Barrow division
Herdwick sheep	Kendal Mint Cake	Park House, Hawkshead

Bingo card 2:

Kent Lune division	Park House, Hawkshead	Grasmere Gingerbread
Atlantic salmon	Beatrix Potter	Curlew

Bingo card 3:

Windermere	Kendal division	Atlantic salmon
Wild boar	Apple tree	William Wordsworth

Bingo card 4:

North Lonsdale division	Curlew	Apple tree
William Wordsworth	Kendal Mint Cake	Beatrix Potter

Bingo card 5:

Herdwick sheep	Lakes division	Wool
Grasmere Gingerbread	William Wordsworth	Wild boar

Bingo card 6:

Kendal Mint Cake	Windermere	Grasmere Gingerbread
Atlantic salmon	Wild boar	Duddon division

Appendix 4: Curlew pictures



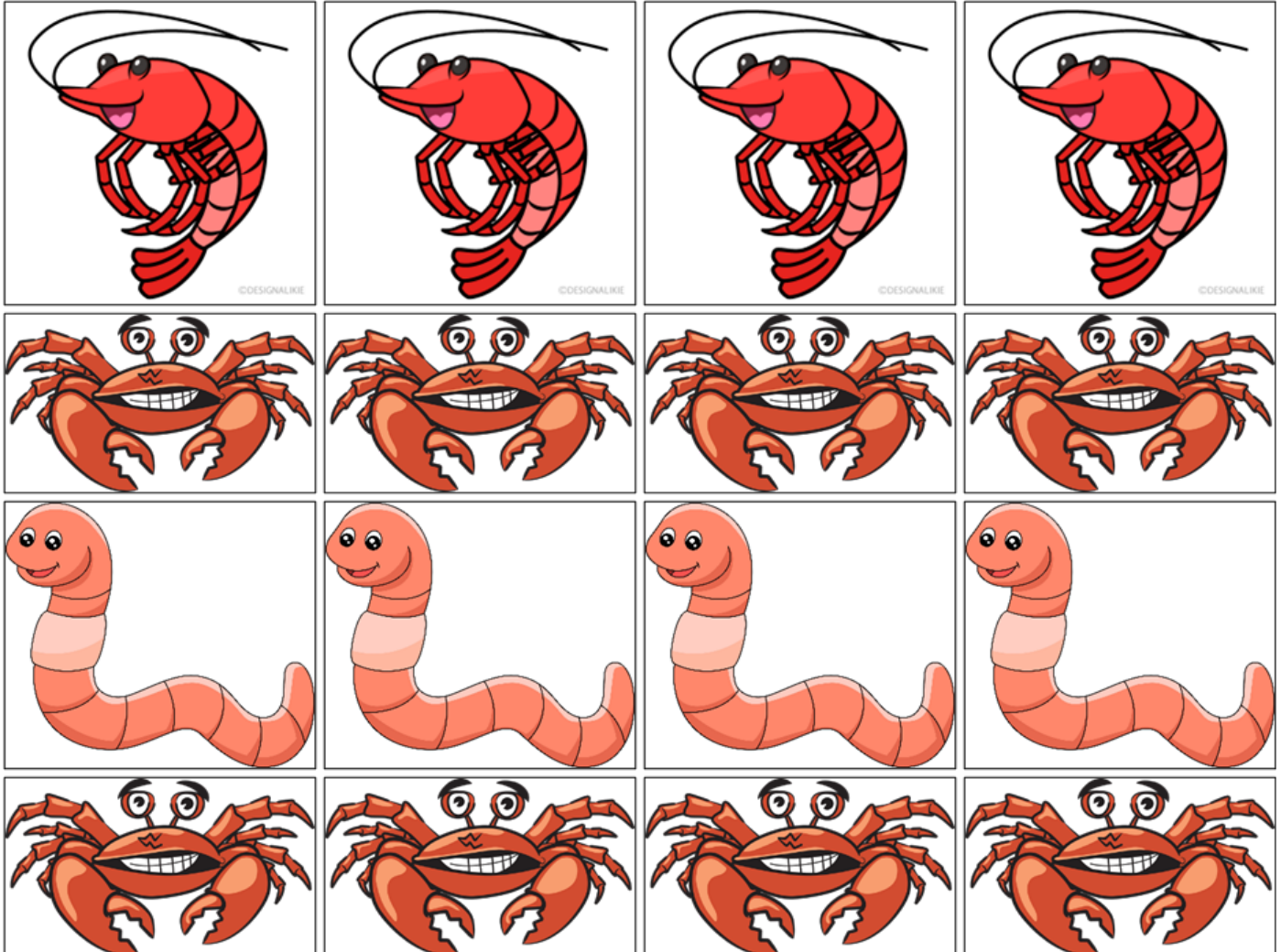
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Appendix 5: Migration game

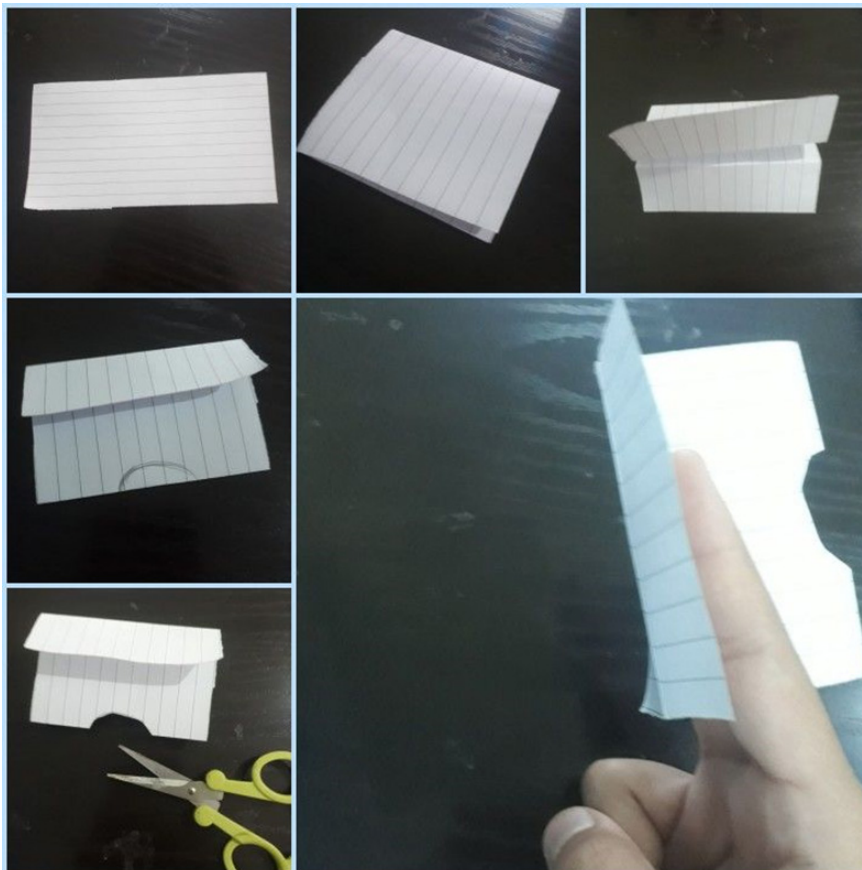
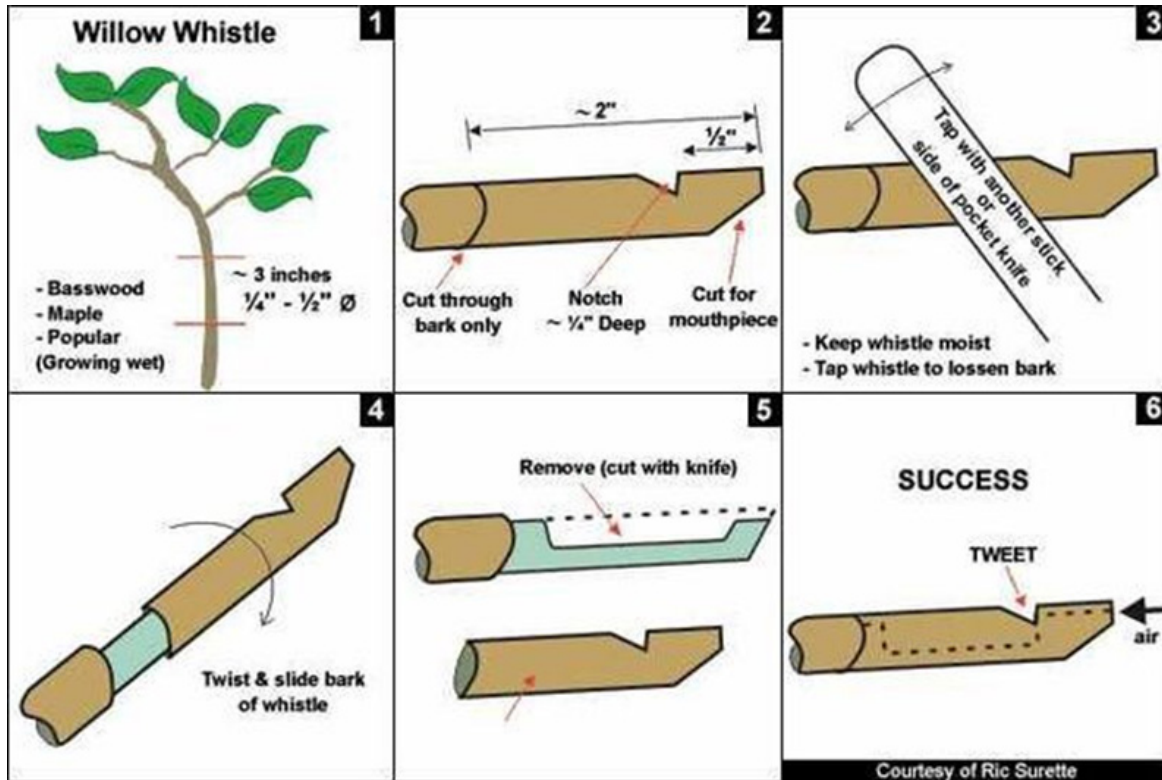
Anything but standard quiz – for older members



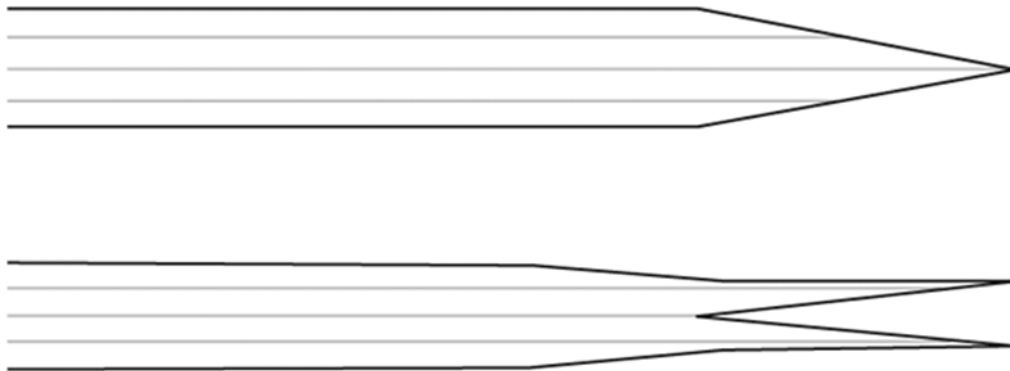
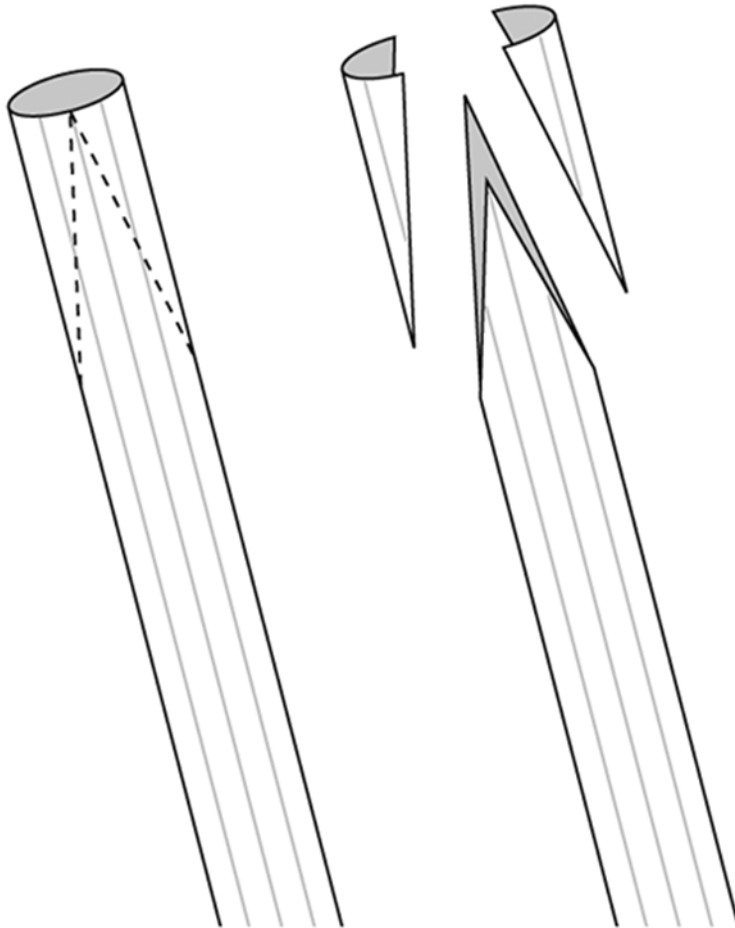
Appendix 5a: Curlew eggs



Appendix 6: Whistle-making ideas



Making a whistle from a straw



Appendix 7a:

Curlew quiz for younger members

1 Name two features of a curlew.

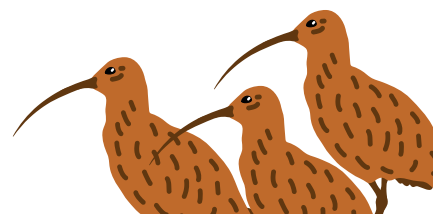
2 What vegetable do curlew eggs look like?

- a. Turnips
- b. Potatoes
- c. Brussel Sprouts
- d. Carrots

3 Name something that curlews eat.

4 Where do curlews live in winter?

5 Where do curlews live when breeding?



Appendix 7b:

Curlew quiz for older members



1

Name three features of a curlew, and give a reason how each helps curlews live in their chosen habitat.

2

On average, how many eggs does a curlew lay at one time, and what do these eggs look like?

3

Name something that curlews eat, and describe how they use their bills to catch their food.

4

Where do curlews live in the winter months, and what time of year do they return to this location?

5

Where do curlews migrate to in the spring, and why do they move there?

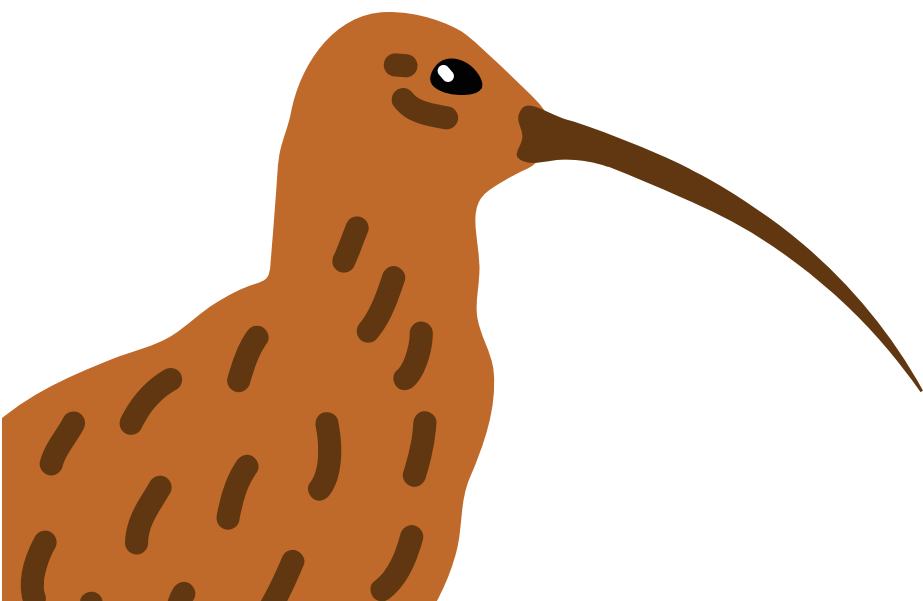
Appendix 7: Curlew quiz answers

Curlew Quiz Answers – younger members

1. Any two from; long legs, long bill, long toes, brown plumage.
2. Potatoes
3. Any from; worms, shellfish, shrimp.
4. Curlews winter by the coast, Morecambe bay is a good example.
5. Curlews migrate inland, flying to places like Northumberland and East Anglia. Eggs are regularly laid in fields.

Curlew Quiz Answers – older members

1. Any three from; long legs, long bill, long toes, brown plumage. With valid reasons for why they are beneficial.
2. A curlew lays 3-5 eggs at one time. The eggs are speckled pale brown, and they look a bit like potatoes.
3. Any from; worms, shellfish, shrimp. They use their bills like chopsticks/tweezers to pick up the food, throw it into the air and catch it to eat.
4. Curlews winter by the coast, Morecambe bay is a good example. They return to the coast around July.
5. Curlews migrate inland, flying to places like Northumberland and East Anglia. They move inland to breed and lay their eggs in the fields.



Operation Curlew badge order form



Coming soon ...

Details of how to order all four badges that make up the Operation Curlew challenge badge

