

## Message from the newts.

The great crested newts have been living happily in and around their ponds for many years. Something awful has started to happen lately and they don't know what to do about it. After all, they are small, rather shy, creatures.

They have spoken to me about their concerns and have asked if any of the children can help them.

Gus says that people are starting to dump things in the pond. Some of it is rubbish such as plastic bags, sweet and crisp wrappers which young newts might try to eat and get sore tummies.

Some of it is old shoes, bikes, scooters and shopping trolleys that Cara says makes the pond look really untidy. They might get caught up in these things and be injured.

Some people are putting fish in the ponds and this means that they can't lay their eggs because the fish eat them.

Gus and Cara say that the worst things are pots with paint in them and drums with chemicals in them. These things stop the water plants growing and mean that the whole food chain is affected, and their young newts will have nothing to eat and might die.

Can you design a poster that we can put up near the ponds asking people not to do this?

Can you think of a way of getting the rubbish out of the ponds?