



Annual Review 2015



Horrid ground-weaver © John Walters

Saving the small things that run the planet



Matt Shardlow— CEO

Buglife has been active throughout the UK and further afield in 2015, preventing and reversing declines in species by protecting and improving their habitats. Success depends on building partnerships and wider support. B-lines are a great example of partnership in action. Working with 90 local authorities and many conservation organisations we have launched B-line maps covering much of England. Filling these wildlife corridors with fields of wild flowers will help bees and other threatened wildlife to thrive and move about again.

In 2015 we coordinated Tansy beetle conservation and established a new colony of the Wart-biter cricket. These and other animals would become nationally extinct without help. Overseas we delivered a fantastic Darwin Fund project on St. Helena, there is now much improved understanding of the island's amazing invertebrate fauna. The challenges facing bugs remain pressing, while we see progress on bees and pollinators freshwater invertebrates are similarly threatened but their peril is often overlooked.

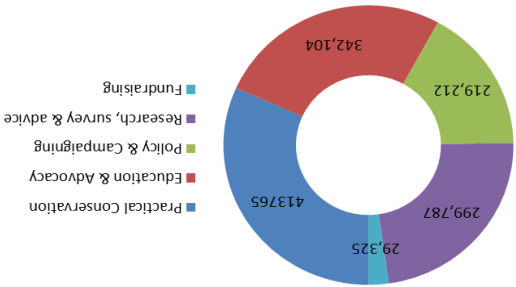
The charity has made fundraising advancements, with increasing contributions from businesses to support our work. This will have to continue apace so that we can tackle the many threats to invertebrate biodiversity.

Freshwaters for the Future

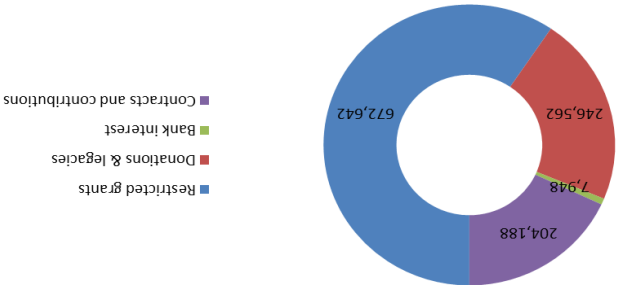
Saving the small things that manage our water is the aim of Buglife’s new Freshwater Strategy. Over 3,800 invertebrate species in the UK spend at least part of their lifecycle in freshwater. They play a vital role in maintaining clean water; they help to break down and filter organic matter and provide a food source for fish, birds and mammals. Their presence is the standard indicator of the health of the habitat they live in.

- Aquatic invertebrates should be more widely understood, cherished and properly valued for the services they provide
- Reducing pollution and improving the cleanliness of water is essential to healthy aquatic ecosystems
- Biosecurity, eradication and mitigation measures must be improved because of the extreme vulnerability of freshwater species and habitats to damage from invasive non-native species
- Climate change is an urgent threat to aquatic ecosystems and actions to make them more resilient must be implemented now
- Efforts to conserve aquatic habitats have focussed on rivers and lakes, but most invertebrate biodiversity lives in small, marginal and dynamic water bodies, these are much more fragile and require improved protection from damage
- The use of peat in horticulture destroys wildlife, it is a disgrace and must halt
- Freshwater invertebrate populations tell us how healthy our environment is and they must be properly monitored and understood
- Some freshwater species are now so vulnerable that specific, targeted conservation action and legislative changes are required to save them from extinction

Expenditure £1,304,193



Income £1,131,340



President – Germaine Greer
Chairman – Mark Felton
CEO – Matt Shardlow
Buglife – The Invertebrate Conservation Trust is a registered charity at Bug House, Ham Lane, Orton Waterville, Peterborough, PE2 5UJ
Registered Charity No: 1092293, Scottish Charity No: SC040004, Company No: 4132695
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Our Vision

A wildlife-rich planet where species, including invertebrates, thrive alongside people.

Our Mission: To achieve sustainable populations and stop the extinction of invertebrates.

We will accomplish this by protecting, improving and expanding their habitats and strengthening the respect given to bug species by:-

- Mobilising, inspiring, enabling and persuading others to take action, through the development and dissemination of knowledge and values.
- Undertaking practical conservation projects.
- Promoting the value of invertebrates and raising awareness about the challenges to their survival.
- Shaping the development of relevant legislation and policy.

10K E-news subscribers
27K Twitter followers
Projects working with over 500 volunteers
Over 10k people directly engaged at events

And a special thank you to all of our members, volunteers, trustees and staff.

Horrid ground-weaver

During 2015 Buglife fought off plans to develop Radford Quarry in Plymouth. The site is one of only three known for the endemic Horrid ground-weaver (*Nothophantes horridus*) a tiny money spider named after its Latin suffix *horridus* meaning hairy. Buglife then crowdfunded to hunt for this elusive spider that has never been photographed alive and then finally produced the first living images of the spider.



© John Walters

Slamannan Bog

Buglife have now installed the 1,000th dam in the Slamannan bog restoration project, which is helping to repair damaged lowland raised peat bogs in central Scotland. One year into this exciting project, Buglife have installed dams across more than 110 hectares of damaged bog (an area larger than 270 football pitches!) and cleared over 8 hectares of invasive conifers and scrub, near Cumbernauld. Drainage of upland bogs and peat-lands speeds the flow of rainwater into rivers, and greatly increasing the risk of downstream flooding following storms. During December 2015, the dammed areas of Fannyside Muir captured over 150 million litres of rainwater, slowing its progress into already swollen local burns and rivers and creating habitat for rare beetles and spiders.



© Scott Shanks

2015 in Review



Waitrose Christmas and Trading

On the commercial side Buglife have continued to grow opportunities becoming the 2015 beneficiary of the Waitrose Christmas cards and another stunning J Crew shirt. We have also established a trading arm called Buglife Services Ltd. that carries out commercial survey and advice work ploughing all profits back into the charity.



© Andrew Whitehouse

Wales and Northern Ireland

Buglife has continued to develop our presence in Wales including finding the Blue ground beetle (*Carabus intricatus*), a creature so rare that it was once thought to be extinct in the UK, in Coed Maesmelin, in Skewen near Neath, a wood in the care of the Woodland Trust (Coed Cadw). Buglife also now has a volunteer Northern Ireland Officer who has already done sterling work building links with potential partners opening the door to a future funded presence in the country.

Urban Buzz

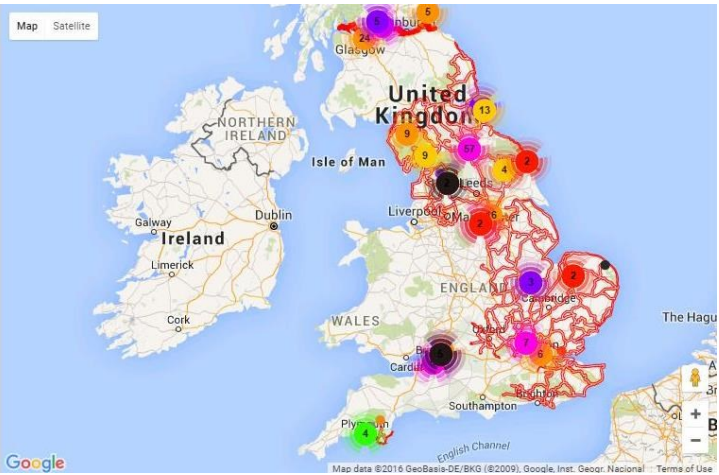
It's going to start buzzing in our cities after Buglife secured funding from Biffa Award for our most ambitious project ever! Urban Buzz will work with local people in Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Ipswich, Leeds, Leicester, Plymouth and York to design and deliver flower rich areas to benefit bees, butterflies and other pollinators. This £1 million project will run over three years with each urban centre receiving 18 months of intensive support.



© Michelle Bales

B-Lines

Buglife's B-Lines initiative has continued to flourish during 2015 with on the ground work in north and south-west England, and Norfolk and Suffolk adding to the area of the UK now mapped. In addition, we successfully funded a farmland advisory post for pollinators covering Kent and Sussex with money from Farmcare, Ecotricity and Natural England.



© Suzanne Burgess

Fife's Buzzing

Fife's Buzzing, funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and Fife Environment Trust, is a three year project which is splashing colour across the Kingdom of Fife with the help of schoolchildren and community groups. The project is creating wildflower meadows to add new and exciting features to local parks and green spaces across Fife in order to provide a space for learning, inspiration and to attract wildlife. Already 12 wildflower-rich grasslands have been created across the Kingdom. Over 1,000 people have been involved, including 18 schools, 8 community groups and the Community Pay-back by Offenders Scheme. Many hours of hard work have been contributed to help make our parks more colourful and better for bees and other pollinators.



© Liza Fowler

St Helena

Buglife's Bugs on the Brink project on the island of St Helena is coming to a close with the production of a definitive guide to the island's invertebrates. During the lifetime of the project several species thought globally extinct such as Basilewsky's cranefly (above), and Lelup's centipede, neither seen for 45 years were rediscovered. A number of bugs new to the island were also discovered on the remote Atlantic island. Often called the 'Galapagos of the South Atlantic' the island's flora and fauna has evolved in extreme isolation, resulting in more than 460 invertebrate species that are not found anywhere else on Earth. St Helena has over 30% of the endemic species in the UK and all of the Overseas Territories combined.