

Annual Review - 2005



"Buglife is a small conservation charity that deals with invertebrates: not the sexiest or cuddliest of beasts, true. But this is a feisty organisation that punches above its weight"

Simon Barnes, The Times



Buglife project - Poster/leaflets – part-funded by Defra. Buglife has to date produced eight posters/leaflets which have proved incredibly popular



Buglife project - Soft Rock Cliffs funded by Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. Soft Rock Cliffs are one of those habitats that exist on the edge, threatened from all sides with few friends
Picture: West of Eype-Dorset © Andrew Whitehouse

A word from our chair

So much is now happening in Buglife that my few words reflect only a selection of the highlights.

Buglife's name continues to maintain a high profile in many quarters, extending from promoting public participation such as the highly successful Scarlet Malachite beetle survey through to policy level. Without our campaigning there would have been no withdrawal of a highly toxic sheep-dip chemical or an amendment to the Clean Neighbourhood Bill that protects populations of invertebrates in the countryside.

Our soft rock cliffs conservation work, funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, has successfully attracted additional funding which has enabled us to undertake more surveys around the coast. The poster/leaflets produced as part of our Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats project, which is part-funded by Defra, continue to be extremely popular.

It is essential to pursue both practical conservation methods and to build public awareness and support. David Attenborough's *Life in the Undergrowth* TV series was not only highly popular with the public; it also resulted in 240,000 hits on the Buglife website. Germaine Greer, in *Big Brother*, nominated Buglife as her charity. The media regularly report what we have to say. And our individual membership nearly doubled, to just over 500 Friends.

In conclusion, a good year, and we are now facing the challenges of 2006, not least securing funding to enable us to grow and become even more effective.

Alan Stubbs
Chair – Buglife, The Invertebrate Conservation Trust

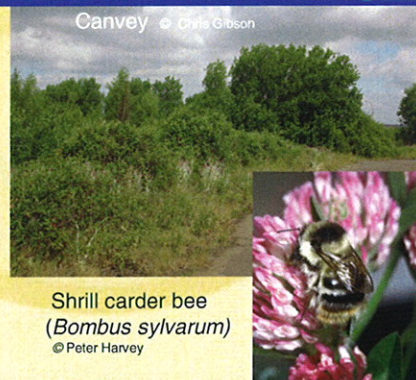
Conserving the small things that run the world

Buglife – saving important bug habitats

In the past year we have worked to protect habitats that are home to endangered invertebrates and have helped to save:

- 9 sites
- 267 populations of Red Data Book species
- 37 populations of Priority Species listed in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan
- 437 populations of Nationally Scarce species

AND we have surveyed over 300 sites



Canvey © Chris Gibson

Shrill carder bee
(*Bombus sylvarum*)
© Peter Harvey

Scarlet Malachite Hunt

This year Buglife carried out an extremely



Scarlet malachite beetle
(*Malachinus aeneus*)

© John Feltwell

successful Scarlet malachite beetle hunt. Buglife asked residents in Essex to report sightings of this extraordinarily beautiful and rare beetle. Robert Coleman a University of East Anglia student camped out on a village green in Essex to study

the beetle's ecology. The survey attracted an enormous amount of media interest which consequently generated huge public participation resulting in the discovering of five new sites for the beetle.

Buglife will widen the survey in 2006 to include other areas where the beetle has been previously seen.

Sterile Neighbourhoods

Buglife has saved insect populations all over England and Wales from threat of extermination. The Government's 'Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill' contained a clause that enabled local authorities to declare insect populations on farmland and nature reserves to be a 'statutory nuisance' and to compel land owners to destroy the populations. Buglife argued that the clause put at risk wild populations of invertebrates living in the countryside.



Dungfly (*Scathophaga stercoraria*)
one of the species threatened by
the bill

© Dragiša Savić

After gaining support from opposition parties and partner conservation organisations, Buglife won an amendment to the legislation. Buglife's role in securing the amendment was publicly recognized by Alun Michael, Minister for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Canvey Success

On 2 July 2005 Germaine Greer, Buglife Vice President attended the opening of Canvey Wick as a SSSI site. It is largely thanks to the campaign initiated by Buglife that this site has been saved. Buglife is now fundraising in order to promote the site as an exemplary brownfield habitat.



Brown-banded carder bee (*Bombus humilis*) - protected by the new SSSI
© Sam Ashfield



Five-banded weevil wasp
(*Cerceris quinquefasciata*)
© Mike Edwards
One of the many rare
invertebrate species found
on brownfield sites



© Natural Associates

All of a Buzz in the Thames Gateway

This project is carrying out research into the importance of brownfield (previously developed) land in supporting invertebrate populations and planning for the sustainable management of the ecosystem

Conserving the small things that run the world

Buglife – building support for invertebrates

Media coverage is central to raising awareness of the threats facing invertebrate biodiversity. During the past year we have had:

- 4 TV interviews
- 6 articles in national newspapers
- 20 radio interviews
- 13 articles in magazines and local newspapers



Buglife saluted

The Times newspaper saluted Buglife for gathering the evidence, presenting the case and waging the campaign which led to the Veterinary Medicines Directorate suspending the license to sell the synthetic pyrethroid Cypermethrin for sheep dipping on environmental grounds.

Cypermethrin is pernicious stuff. It only takes a few drops in a river to kill the invertebrate life for some six miles downstream, and it is estimated that at least 1,000 miles of river are ecologically destroyed by sheep dip every year. Kill the invertebrates and you starve the fish, birds and mammals that live off them.

If the manufacturers want to sell Cypermethrin again, they must demonstrate that it is not causing environmental damage. Buglife is hesitant to applaud a victory until it's in the bag, but the manufacturers will find it enormously difficult to argue this case.

Buglife out and about



Drive to safeguard endangered snails

Buglife is leading a campaign to stop an internationally endangered snail being taken from the wild to be served up on plates. The snail is under threat from rustlers who are making money by selling it to restaurants.



Roman Snail (*Helix pomatia*)

© Dragiša Savić

The Roman snail is the largest snail in Britain and can grow as big as a golf ball. But experts fear that it is facing extinction unless the Government takes action quickly. Snail rustling isn't illegal in the UK. Despite them being on the EU Habitat Directive, there are no measures to protect them in the UK.

Excerpt - The Times

"Creepy crawlies may bug you, but we can't survive without them"

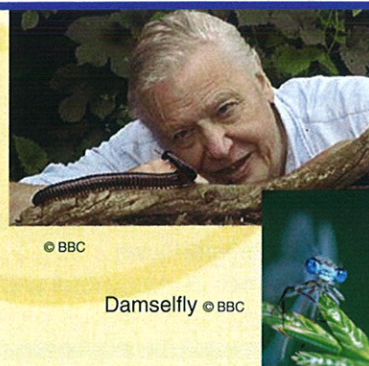
Perhaps you don't like bugs. Perhaps you think that the world would be a better place without those creeping and crawling things that spoil picnics, make you jump and make out of doors a difficult place to be. So let us wipe out invertebrate life, and see where that gets us. A better world? Well, for a start, it's a world without freshwater fish, but that hardly begins to tell you about the importance of bugs to human life.

Most pollination takes place because of insects. Two out of every three forkfuls that you put into your mouth are the result of pollination. Soil is normally reckoned to be quite important for plants, and for soil you need earthworms. By one estimate worms create 16 billion quidsworth of topsoil every year. We must learn to love our bugs or if we can't, then at least to cherish them. We are, after all, sunk if we don't"
Simon Barnes, The Times.

Conserving the small things that run the world

"I am delighted to know that Buglife has had such good feed-back about the Undergrowth series. It is very good of you to give me life membership and, needless to say, I accept with great pleasure"

Sir David Attenborough



Life in the Undergrowth

On 3rd November 2005 Buglife members and other attendees were treated to some truly amazing previews of the BBC natural history series *Life In The Undergrowth* by series producer Mike Salisbury.

More than 150 people attended the Buglife event at Cambridge University Museum of Zoology. The event raised over £700 to help support our conservation projects.

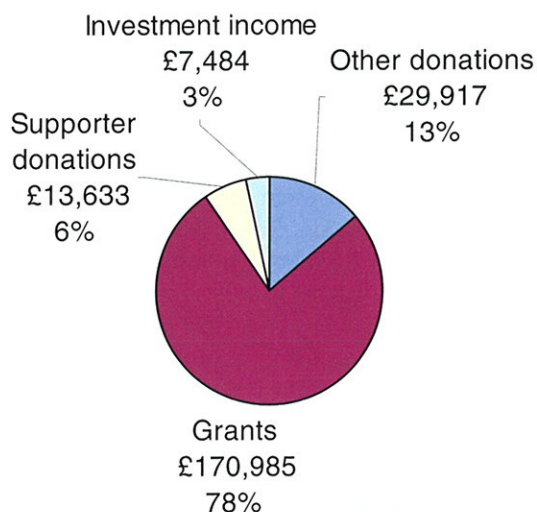
The series, presented by legendary natural history broadcaster Sir David Attenborough, opened people's eyes to the fascinating world of terrestrial invertebrates. Buglife set up a mini website to cover the series which received an amazing 103,700 hits directly after episode one.

Sir David Attenborough has been given a honorary life membership by Buglife in recognition of his contribution to invertebrate conservation.

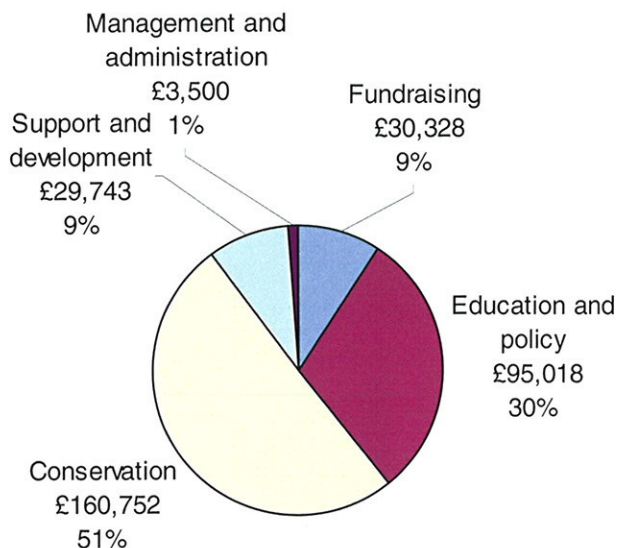
A big thank you for the terrific support we have received from many so quarters such as our volunteers who have given up their time to help, particularly, Mike Salisbury, Germaine Greer, Stephen Arnott, Mokgethi Morake, Rebecca Robinson, Ben Jones, John Graham and all our trustees. Our friends whose donations have contributed enormously to our core work. The following organisations who have given us grants: Bridge House Trust, Carymoor Environmental Trust, Cecil Pilkington Charitable Trust, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Ernest Cook Trust, Environment Agency, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, English Nature, English Nature (ALSF), Essex Wildlife Trust, Hamamellis Trust, Heritage Lottery Fund, Idlewild Trust, Jack Patston Charitable Trust, John Spedan Lewis Foundation, John Storey Trust, Kent Wildlife Trust, Roger Vere Foundation, Shears Foundation, Sylvia and Colin Shepherd Charitable Trust, William Dean Trust, William Haddon Trust, World Wildlife Fund. And our corporate sponsors: Anglian Water, Notcutts Garden Centres, Jaddcards.

Your impact on our finances

INCOME



EXPENDITURE



Conserving the small things that run the world