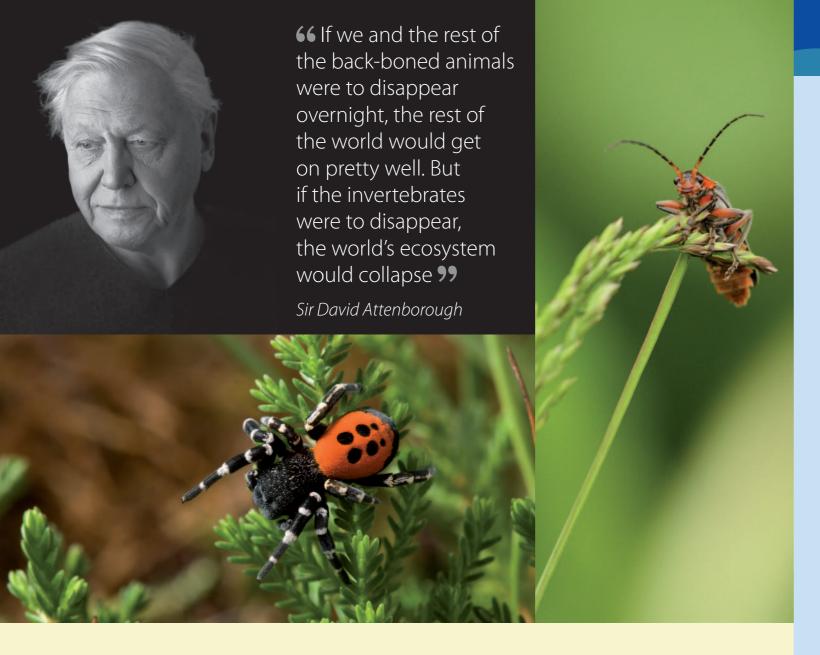




Annual Review 2011



A big thank you

To the many people and organisations who have given us so much support and help this year: our members and donors, who have contributed enormously; our staff who have worked tirelessly to promote invertebrate conservation; and our trustees who have enthusiastically and professionally overseen Buglife. A special mention goes to Buglife's volunteers for their huge contribution. Thanks also to our dedicated President and Vice-Presidents for promoting invertebrate conservation so effectively.

We are grateful to the following organisations that have provided financial support or other gifts this year.

A & D Charitable Trust, Amateur Entomologists' Society, Anglian Water, Badenoch and Strathspey Conservation Group, Balfour-Browne Club, Bees, Wasps and Ants Recording Society, Biological Recording in Scotland, British Arachnological Society, British Dragonfly Society, British Entomological and Natural History Society, British Myriapod and Isopod Group, BBC Wildlife Fund, British Wildlife Publishing Ltd,

Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Butterfly Conservation, Co-operative, Cath Hodgson, Cecil Pilkington Charitable Trust, Cobb Charity, Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Entomological Society, Dipterists Forum, Don Peregrine Trading Ltd, D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, Dumfries and Galloway Council, **Dumfries and Galloway Environmental** Records Centre, Ecover, Edinburgh Entomological Club, Environment Agency, Essex Environment Trust, Falkirk Environment Trust, Flora Locale, Fothergills, Friends of Epping Forest, Friends of Roundwood Primary School, Garfield Weston Foundation, Give As You Live, Glasgow City Council Landfill Tax Fund, Glasgow City Council, Habitat Aid, Hanson Ltd, Hawke sport optics, Henry C Hoare Charitable Trust, Hesley Group, Jack Patston Charitable Trust, Karris Ltd, Lancashire and Cheshire Entomological Society, Leggett Charitable Trust, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Lowepro, Manchester City Council, Marchwood, Mercedes Formula One, Minox, Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, Natural England, Neals Yard, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Open Air Laboratories (OPAL), Octink, Opticron, Patagonia Environmental Grants, People's Trust for Endangered Species,

Plantlife, Pond Conservation, North London Organic Gardeners, Polmont Probus Club, Royal Entomological Society of London, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Rutland Natural History Society, Scottish Natural Heritage, SITA Trust, Staffordshire Invertebrate Group, Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre, The Cecil Pilkington Charitable Trust, Sumptuosity, The Broads Authority, The Central Scotland Green Network Development Fund, The Darwin Initiative, The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, The Grasslands Trust, The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), The Manifold Trust, The Oxfordshire Biological Records Centre, The Pennon Environment Trust, The Percy Hadley Foundation, The Rainford Trust, The Riverfly Partnership, The Robertson Trust, The St Mary's Charity, The Tubney Charitable Trust, The Wildlife Trusts, The Wild Trout Trust The Will Charitable Trust, Thorntons Budgens, Ulster Wildlife Trust, University of Leeds, Veolia Environmental Trust, Waste Recycling Environmental Limited (WREN), Wessex Water, Wharfedale Naturalist Society, Whitley Wildlife Trust, Wiggly Wigglers, Wildlife watching supplies, Wildsounds, World of Woodlice, Xerces Society, Yorkshire Naturalists Union, Yorkshire Ventures.

A word from our Chair

2011 has been an exciting year of growth and development for Buglife. Thanks to funding from the Tubney Charitable Trust we have been able to spend this year reviewing our operations and planning for growth. We opened our first office in South West England, expanded our operations in Scotland and made preparations for a dedicated marketing and communications team to give us a stronger conservation delivery capacity. The Tubney grant is being invested in Buglife over a 3 to 5 year period and will help Buglife to grow, and recruit more staff, so that we can do more to conserve bugs into the future. 2011 has been an important year for representing invertebrates in environmental policy and planning.

Buglife has been making the case for invertebrates that form the bulk of our biodiversity by voicing our concerns over DEFRA's Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services report. We have been fighting for adequate consideration for invertebrates in the new National Planning Policy Framework, a key part of the Government reforms to make the planning system less complex, more accessible and promote sustainable growth.

We continue to protect and improve habitats for invertebrates, and in May we launched an exciting new project to 'Get Britain Buzzing' with pollinating insects. With more than two-thirds of UK pollinators in decline and many threatened with extinction, the plight of insect pollinators is urgent. In 2011 we began a pilot project to create 'B-Lines' across the landscape by restoring strips of wildflower habitat in the Yorkshire countryside and began work in Scotland to 'Get Glasgow Buzzing' creating wildflower habitats in an urban environment. We also celebrated the installation of our sixth living roof in central London.

Our work on brownfields continues, and with funding from Scottish Natural Heritage we were able to continue the 'alert mapping' for brownfields in Scotland. We also re-visited the 2008 'All of a Buzz in the Thames Gateway' report data to establish how many brownfield sites had been developed or degraded in the last 4 years to highlight the need for urgent change in government policy.

We continued to work internationally and thanks to funding from the Darwin Initiative 'Challenge Fund' Buglife visited St Helena, a UK Overseas Territory, in April 2011. The aim of the visit was to build relationships and lay the foundations for invertebrate conservation on St Helena, one of the world's most isolated, inhabited islands.

Raising awareness and increasing understanding of invertebrates is an important element of Buglife's work and this year with funding from the Robertson Trust we developed an education pack for primary schools in Scotland. Thanks to funding from the Environment Agency we launched a new website on crayfish for the public and professionals. In March we launched Buglife Facebook and Twitter accounts and had great success using these accounts to promote our spring oil beetle survey for which we received over a thousand records. We have also delivered an extensive outreach programme including public talks, workshops and bug walks for hundreds of people.

Buglife's achievements and progress in conserving invertebrates during the year would not have been possible without the support of our members and donors, funders and volunteers. Thanks also to our expert member organisations and other conservation bodies who have helped our work this year. Buglife's staff, volunteers and trustees have continued to work tirelessly for invertebrate conservation and their enthusiasm and energy is greatly appreciated.

a. E. Muls

Alan Stubbs Chairman

About Buglife

Buglife is the only organisation in Europe devoted to the conservation of all invertebrates, and we are actively working to save Britain's rarest little animals, everything from bees to beetles, worms to woodlice and jumping spiders to jellyfish. There are more than 40,000 invertebrate species in the UK, and many of these are under threat as never before.

Invertebrates are vitally important to a healthy planet – humans and other life forms could not survive without them. The food we eat, the fish we catch, the birds we see, the flowers we smell and the hum of life we hear, simply would

not exist without bugs. Invertebrates underpin life on earth and without them the world's ecosystems would collapse.

Invertebrates are facing an extinction crisis

Today, thousands of invertebrate species are declining and many are heading towards extinction. Worldwide 150,000 species could be gone by 2050 if the world does nothing. Each invertebrate species plays a unique and important role in the web of life, but once lost, they cannot be replaced. Many invertebrates have incredible life stories yet to be told, and we literally don't know what we are on the brink of losing.

Buglife's aim is to halt the extinction of invertebrate species and to achieve sustainable populations of invertebrates. We are working hard to achieve this through:

- Undertaking practical conservation projects that will contribute to achieving our aim.
- Promoting the environmental importance of invertebrates and raising awareness about the challenges to their survival.
- Assisting in the development of legislation and policy that will ensure the conservation of invertebrates.
- Developing and disseminating knowledge about how to conserve invertebrates.
- Encouraging and supporting invertebrate conservation initiatives by other organisations in the UK, Europe and worldwide.

Ditches are important for bugs

Ditches can be a good habitat for the Fen raft spider (Dolomedes plantarius).

After three years of fieldwork to investigate the value of grazing marsh ditches, Buglife has produced a scientific report and a series of advice sheets to help conserve this important habitat for rare and endangered bugs. Thanks to funding from Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and supporting

organisations, we have produced five advice sheets for landowners on habitat creation, restoration and management, agri-environment schemes, and coastal realignment for grazing marsh ditches. We have also produced a scientific report for professional surveyors including a UK



Cattle by a grazing marsh ditch

standard methodology for surveying grazing marsh ditches. The report is available on our website and the advice sheets have been distributed to numerous organisations; these are great tools for getting grazing marsh ditches recognized as an important habitat for rare and endangered bugs.

Representing the small things

2011 has been an important year for restructuring the way wildlife conservation is carried out in England. Buglife has been making the case for



the invertebrates that form the bulk of our biodiversity by voicing our concerns over DEFRA's Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services report. The strategy looks at how England will implement its international and EU commitments to biodiversity including the UK Governments pledge to "halt biodiversity loss and reverse this trend where possible" by 2020. We voiced our concerns that focussing on habitat conservation may not deliver for species. Many rare and endangered invertebrates have such complex and specific requirements that a broad habitat conservation focus would not benefit them. We now await DEFRA's delivery plan for the strategy, due to be published in spring 2012, and we will continue to feed into the discussion on how best to deliver biodiversity.



Biodiverse green roofs for London's wildlife



Biodiverse green roofs are great for pollinating insects.

In 2011 we celebrated the installation of our sixth biodiverse green roof in central London. The three-year project with Livingroofs.org was funded by the SITA Trust and aimed to show people how important biodiverse green roofs are as a habitat for bugs in some of the most densely populated areas of London. The six roofs have been planted with wildflowers rich in pollen and nectar, and some even have bee banks and log piles to provide nesting and shelter for bugs.



We held public workshops on the roofs and monitored the invertebrates visiting the roofs as part of a study to improve any future biodiverse green

roof designs. The final stage of the project is to produce a best practice guide for biodiverse green roofs which was published in spring 2012.

Draft National Planning Policy Framework what it means for bugs!

Buglife has been fighting for adequate consideration for invertebrates in the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF is a key part of the Government reforms to make the planning system less complex, more accessible, and promote sustainable growth, and was published in March 2012.

In October 2011 we sent a written response to the first consultation of the NPPF, and recently as part of the Wildlife and Countryside Link we met with Greg Clarke, Minister for Planning and Central and Local Government, to discuss our concerns over the direction and content of the NPPF. Our main concern is that if targets are set to prioritise development on brownfield over greenfield sites then we would need to see a redefinition of 'previously developed land' (brownfield) to ensure those sites of high wildlife value are protected.

We are currently awaiting the final NPPF and we hope that our written response and the verbal discussions are enough to secure a framework that protects

and enhances our biodiversity assets by having the natural environment and sustainability at its core.



site in Essex.

Mapping Thames Gateway brownfields



Bug hunting at Canvey Wick, a brownfield site in the Thames Gateway.

In 2011 Buglife had some alarming news that over a third of brownfield sites considered good for bugs in the Thames Gateway had been destroyed. We re-visited the 2008 'All of a Buzz in the Thames Gateway' report data to establish how many brownfield sites had been developed or degraded in the last 4 years. The status of over 450 brownfield sites was updated by using aerial images, site visits and through the

monitoring of planning permissions. The report revealed that if you include pending planning applications over half of the brownfield sites in the Thames Gateway will be destroyed in the near future. The Thames Gateway is a nationally important site for invertebrates due to its nutrient poor soil and warm dry climate. It is home to a number of rare and endangered species including Shrill carder bumblebee (Bombus sylvarum) and Five-banded weevil wasp (Cerceris quinquefasciata).

In recent years brownfield habitats have started to move up the conservation agenda and brownfield was added as a UKBAP Priority Habitat in 2007. However, these findings suggest that the biodiversity value of brownfield sites continues to be ignored, especially by decision makers and developers, as key sites are being lost, threatening



Five-banded weevil wasp (Cerceris quinquefasciata).

the future of the unique Thames Gateway invertebrate populations. The next phase of the project is to host a brownfield workshop for the planning community and ecological consultants. The report is available to download from the Buglife website.

New crayfish website



In 2012 Buglife, the Environment Agency and crayfish expert Stephanie Peay launched a new website on crayfish at www.crayfish.org.uk. The website was designed to bring up to

date crayfish information into a central location. It includes content on the UK's native White-clawed crayfish (Austropotambius pallipes) as well as information about non-native crayfish



White-clawed crayfish (Austropotambius pallipes)

species, their impacts and control. There are professional reports available to download including a toolkit on how to develop a catchment-scale conservation strategy for White-clawed crayfish. There are also details of some of the successful translocations of White-clawed crayfish to safe havens know as 'ark sites'. The website has received hundreds of visits helping to bring crayfish to the forefront of invertebrate conservation.

B-Lines – wildflower creation for pollinators

In 2011 Buglife began an exciting pilot project to create and restore strips of wildflower habitat in the Yorkshire countryside. Through B-Lines we aim to halt the decline in many of our insect pollinators and restore some of the 3 million hectares of wildflower-rich grassland lost in Britain since the 1940s. Thanks to funding from the Co-operative's Plan

Bee campaign and with support from other organisations, we successfully mapped potential locations for B-Lines across Yorkshire helping us to target our efforts. In autumn we sowed the seeds for eight hectares of wildflower habitat for pollinating insects such as bees, butterflies and moths. In October, we hosted the national B-Lines workshop, bringing

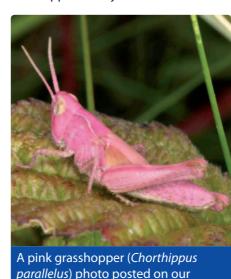
together conservation and farming organisations and representatives from several universities. The workshop discussed how to roll out the concept of B-Lines to new counties. The next phase of the project is to secure more wildflower creation and restoration in Yorkshire and to develop funding and support for landowners to develop B-Lines throughout the UK.





Buglife on the social media scene @ buzz_dont_tweet

In March 2011 Buglife launched Facebook and Twitter accounts. Having a presence on social media sites has been a good way for us to communicate with existing and new supporters. By December



Facebook account

2011 we had 1505 followers on our Twitter account and 530 'likes' on our Facebook page. The accounts have proven to be a successful forum for sharing bug news stories and identifying bugs from photographs.



6

Oil beetle hunt

PLEASE WATCH OUT FOR OIL BEETLES!

Oil beetles like to dig their nest burrows in bare ground on footpaths – please take care not to step on them! Have you seen an oil beetle today? Please send your sightings and photographs to the oil beetle conservation project: www.buglife.org.uk



Watch out for oil beetles – a poster used on sites where oil beetles are found In spring 2011 Nick Baker, Buglife Vice President, helped us launch the national oil beetle survey. This asked people to look out for oil beetles and send us a photo record.

Oil beetles are incredible insects, but they are under threat. Four of the UK's oil beetles are thought to be extinct, and the remaining four species have suffered drastic declines due to changes in the way the countryside is managed.

Thanks to funding from Natural England and support from the National Trust and Oxford University Museum of Natural History, the public survey was a great success. We secured national media coverage and received more than a thousand new records from across the UK. In November we began analysing the public oil beetle records, identifying the species and plotting the distribution onto a map. In December we began writing a management plan for landowners



Violet oil beetle (Meloe violaceus)

and started writing up the 2011 public survey results. These publications are now available on our website. The next stage of the project is to distribute our reports and use our findings to aid the conservation of these species.

Buglife Scotland expands



Buglife expanded operations in Scotland this year to help deliver elements of the Strategy for Scottish Invertebrate Conservation. With funding from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) we have published habitat management guidance on public open space, ponds, dead wood, woodland and grasslands.

We engaged hundreds of people through public talks, bug walks, and events such as BBC Live and Deadly in Glasgow and Gardening Scotland in Edinburgh. Our workshop on springtails; pseudoscorpions; and spiders continued to be a huge success, booking up in minutes. Thanks to funding from the Robertson Trust, we created our first education pack, 'Marvellous Minibeasts', for primary school children.

Our work on brownfields in Scotland continues. With funding from SNH we were able to further progress the 'alert mapping' for brownfields which we began in 2010. We have now assessed over 8,500 hectares of vacant and derelict land to determine if it might qualify for invertebrate protection. Survey work

on brownfields in Falkirk finished this year and the next step is to maintain pockets of high quality brownfield land throughout the Falkirk area.

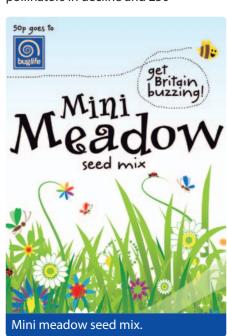
In May we launched our 'Get Glasgow Buzzing' project. This three-year project, funded by the Landfill Communities Fund, will work with Glasgow City Council to transform mown grassland in parks around Glasgow into colourful and wildlife-rich wildflower meadows. These wildflower meadows will benefit a whole range of invertebrates as well as other wildlife.

We had some exciting news from our Solway Firth survey finding a second ever Scottish population of the Blind agate snail (*Ceciloides acicula*). Thanks to funding from SNH, the survey report has identified sites that are of particular importance for invertebrates. During 2011 Buglife hosted BTCV Natural Talent apprentice, Daisy Shepperd, who looked at management techniques on lowland raised bogs that benefit invertebrates.



Celebrities help to 'Get Britain Buzzing'

In May 2011 Buglife launched an exciting new project to 'Get Britain Buzzing' with pollinating insects. With more than two-thirds of UK pollinators in decline and 250



threatened with extinction, the plight of insect pollinators is urgent.

In May, Germaine Greer, Buglife President, hosted an event at The Royal Society in London, asking policy makers, businesses and conservationists for their support to reverse the pollinator decline and address the threats that pollinating insects face.

Shortly after the launch we received pledges of support from various people and companies including the supermarket chain Budgens Thornton's who agreed to sell Buglife's first wildflower seed mix 'Mini Meadows' in their two London stores.

The 'Mini Meadows' wildflower mix was created with Habitat Aid and included native wildflowers rich in pollen and nectar, including Greater knapweed (Centaurea scabiosa) and Cornflower (Centaurea cyanus). The profits from the seed pack sales came to Buglife



Germaine Greer, Buglife President, and The Insect Circus at our 'Get Britain Buzzing' event.

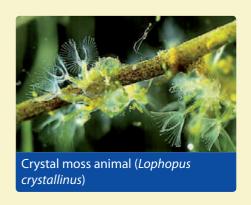
and the Budgens Thornton's 'Food from the Sky' project to grow food on the supermarket roof.

The next part of the project is to roll the 'Mini meadows' wildflower mix into more Budgens stores and hope that shoppers will sow the seeds, helping to increase wildflower habitat across UK gardens.

Crystal moss animal found in Welsh River Wye

In 2011 we had some fantastic news that our survey work in the Welsh River Wye had revealed two new populations of the Crystal moss animal (*Lophopus crystallinus*). This is a freshwater bryozoan, a relative of the corals that lives in small colonies. Once a common species in southern England, it was pushed to the brink of extinction in 2006. We commissioned surveys of the River

Wye using a new survey technique which looked for statoblasts (hardy seed-like structures) in flood debris. The Crystal moss animals appeared at two different sites on the river bringing the number of catchments supporting this creature from three in 2006 to 20 in 2011. The next step of the project is to understand the reasons for the decline of this animal to aid future conservation efforts.



Ragwort persecution – setting the record straight



Buglife has been working with considerable success to ensure that ragwort facts are respected, and myths and misinformation are tackled. Ragwort is a native plant that supports more that 30 species of invertebrate. It contains toxins that can damage the livers of horses, but the risk is often exaggerated. There has been an active

campaign to eradicate the plant for many years, but Buglife and other wildlife charities have tried to make sure that the response is proportional to the risk and that wildlife is not destroyed unnecessarily. In 2011 Buglife member Neil Jones successfully involved the Advertising Standards Authority in getting misleading information about

ragwort removed from company and council websites. In September Richard Benyon MP, Biodiversity Minister, posted on Facebook that -'I hate ragwort'. There were more than 30 objections posted in response. Subsequently he took down his Facebook post. Prof. Derek Knottenbelt has long been the figurehead of the anti-ragwort campaign claiming at least 1,000 horses die each year from ragwort poisoning. John Robertson, who runs the 'Poison Garden Website' made Freedom of Information requests to Prof. Knottenbelt and the University of Liverpool. Following a recent claim by Prof. Knottenbelt that ten horses die from ragwort at the University of Liverpool veterinary clinic every year, the University's statistics revealed that there were six suspected cases of liver poisoning at the clinic in the last five years, but none were confirmed and ragwort was not directly implicated in any of the cases. Buglife will continue to ensure that ragwort continues to be valued in the countryside.

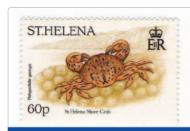
Saving the unique bugs of St Helena

Thanks to funding from the Darwin Initiative 'Challenge Fund', Buglife visited St Helena, a UK Overseas Territory, in April 2011. The aim of the visit was to build relationships and lay the foundations for invertebrate conservation on St Helena, one of the world's most isolated, inhabited islands. St Helena supports more than 400 endemic species – those that are found nowhere else on Earth. Many of the island's unique invertebrates are threatened by habitat loss and the impacts of non-native plants and animals. Many are on the brink

of extinction, with some, such as the iconic Giant Earwig (*Labidura herculeana*), feared lost within living memory. We met with the St Helena National Trust (the island government's conservationists) and other local partners to produce a framework for conserving St Helena's invertebrates. Additional funding received from the Darwin Initiative will allow Buglife to support St Helena with the resources for invertebrate conservation including training for local conservation staff and supporting environmental education in St Helena's schools.



Bug hunting with a local school in St Helena.



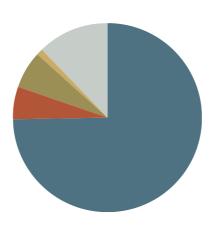




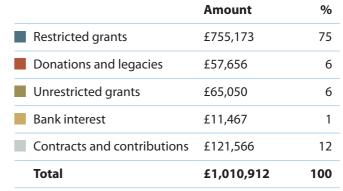


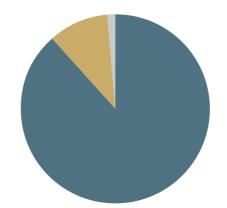
St Helena postage stamps

Our finances



Income





Expenditure

	Amount	%
Charitable activities	£725,469	89
Fundraising	£82,641	10
Governance costs	£11,272	1
Total	£819,382	100

A. E. Mullson Alan Stubbs Matt Shardlow
Chief Executive

President:Germaine Greer

Vice-president: Steve Backshall **Vice-president:** Nick Baker

Vice-president: Edward O Wilson

Photography credits (from top left, clockwise)

Front cover

Chairman

 Black oil beetle (Meloe proscarabeus) © Heath McDonald

Page 2

- Sir David Attenborough
 © Richard Boll Photography
 (NPG Commission)
- Soldier Beetle (Cantharis sp.)
 Greg Hitchcock www. grhphotography.co.uk
- Ladybird spider (*Eresus* cinnaberinus) © Stephen Dalton

Page 4

- Fen raft spider (*Dolomedes* plantarius) on reed © MJ Clark
- Cattle by a grazing marsh ditch © Roger Key
- Living roof © Clare Dinham
- Hoverfly © Livingroofs.org

Page 5

- Wasp spider (Argiope bruennichi)
 Greg Hitchcock www.grhphotography.co.uk
- 7-spot ladybird (*Coccinella* 7-punctata) © Heath McDonald
- Sand pit in Essex© Peter Harvey

Page 6

- Sarah Henshall, Rebecca Shepherd and members, Canvey Wick 14.8.11 © Buglife
- Five-banded weevil wasp (Cerceris quinquefasciata)
 Mike Edwards
- A white-tailed bumblebee on knapweed © Richard Smith
- Wildflower meadow
 © Richard Smith

Page 7

• Crayfish website © Buglife

- White-clawed crayfish (Austropotambius pallipes)

 © John Mason
- Buglife twitter account © Buglife
- Pink grasshopper (*Chorthippus* parallelus) © Steve Trewhella

Page 8

- Oil beetle poster © Buglife
- Violet oil beetle (*Meloe violaceus*) © Phil Roxby
- Mini meadow seed mix packet
 © Budgens
- Buglife president Germaine Greer and The Insect Circus
 Alex Broadway/SWpix.com

Page 9

- Cranhill park wildflower meadow © Suzie Bairner
- Pseudoscorpion workshop
 © Chris Cathrine

• Crystal moss animal (Lophopus crystallinus) © micrographia

Page 10

- Cinnabar moths, a soldier beetle and small skipper on Ragwort
 © Chris Hatfield
- St Helena bug hunt
 © Richard Smith
- St Helena stamp
 © Post Office

Back cover

- Dark green fritillary (Argynnis aglaja) © Heath McDonald
- Four-spotted chaser dragonfly (Libellula quadrimaculata)
 Ross Hoddinott
- Red-tailed bumblebee (Bombus lapidarius) © Heath McDonald
- Male banded demoiselle (Calopteryx splendens)
 © Ross Hoddinott



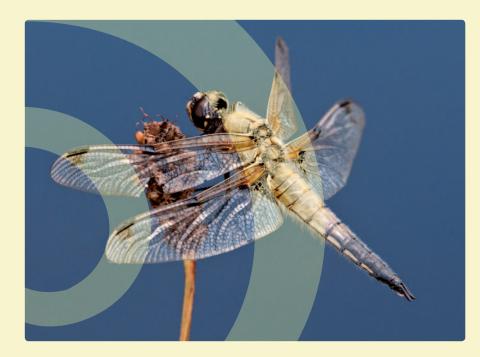
Front cover

Oil beetle (*Meloe proscarabeus*)

Back cover (from top left, clockwise)

Dark green fritillary (Argynnis aglaja)
Four-spotted chaser dragonfly (Libellula quadrimaculata)
Red-tailed bumblebee (Bombus lapidarius)
Male banded demoiselle (Calopteryx splendens)





Contact details

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