

On a very hot day we ran our annual bug hunt, with about 70 people attending/helping out.

We hunted through the meadow with sweep nets, collection pots and found numerous spiders, soldier beetles, butterflies (lots of meadow browns), moths, a bush-cricket, grasshoppers and a splendid common spotted longhorn beetle (similar to the more common wasp beetle often seen scuttling over dead logs).



We broke open horse chestnut leaves to find the caterpillars of the horse chestnut leaf miner micro-moth ("It does what it - says on the can!") and shook the branches of an oak tree on to a white sheet to reveal many spiders, bugs and earwigs.



"BUG" HUNT 10th JULY



Incidentally, I am told to write that the "bug" hunt should be called a small animal hunt as technically a bug is a particular group of insects that feed by a sucking mouthpart.

After lunch, with all the FOHP drink and food gone and donations in the pots, we continued. For the first time FOHP went aquatic - to be precise,



At Pond 6 (the large pond on the western boundary) we netted and examined close-up water scorpions (actually a large flattened insect with large front pincers and an air tube as a tail), flatworms, male and pregnant female stickleback fish, this year's froglets (actually found on dry land), various diving beetles,



pond-dipping! Contrary to some expectations this does not involve dipping children in ponds, but rather children (and parents too - some of whom were very keen) netting for aquatic life.



leeches, bivalve orb-shells, water boatmen, mayfly larvae, caddis fly larvae, pondskaters, freshwater hoglice and freshwater shrimps (also known as Gammarus and in no way glamorous!)

