

Beetles concert Sun July 6th

The Bioblitz had provided evidence of the rich entomological understorey of the churchyard at Sutterby. Covered in nettles and goose grass it may be, but there is a world of sometimes frenzied activity taking place. It is amazing what is going on on the hog weed...

So We were so pleased when Charlie Barnes agreed to run a Beetles Master Class to introduce a group of us to the wonderful world of beetles. Daunted initially by the sheer number of beetles we might encounter, we spent an enjoyable evening lifting leaves, peering under stones and perfecting our hand,eye, and specimen tube coordination.

What did we learn?

- that there are far more beetles than we had ever imagined
- that we will probably never be able to learn the names of more than 4 (make that 3 by the time we have had a night's sleep)
- that there is a lot going on under our feet, of which we are mostly unaware
- that in Sutterby churchyard we are probably never more than 2feet from a beetle
- that they vomit in a most unattractive way if threatened

But perhaps most importantly we learnt to look. We learnt to marvel at an infrastructure, which has been in place since before the church was built. Strange to think that today's beetles provide a living link to the prehistory of our village.