

Bat Conservation Trust



Pete Guest Award: 2012 Nominations

Background

The Pete Guest Award is given in memory of Pete Guest who was an inspirational figure in the bat conservation movement for more than 20 years. Each year, the bat world is invited to nominate individuals who have made an outstanding practical contribution to bat conservation. The criteria for the award includes: dedication, innovation, enthusiasm and inspiration in making a difference, both to bats and to people, helping make BCT's vision become a reality.

Previous winners of the award are:

- 2011 Peter & Maggie Andrews
- 2010 Roger Ransome
- 2009 Sue Swift
- 2008 Tom McOwat
- 2007 Phil Birkinshaw
- 2006 John Haddow
- 2005 Phil Richardson
- 2004 Tony Hutson
- 2003 Jenny Clark*
- 2002 Shirley Thompson*



* BCT set up an award for “Outstanding voluntary contribution to bat conservation” in 2002, winners received a framed picture. Following Pete’s death, the Trustees proposed a new award in Pete’s name as a way of honouring his contribution to bat conservation. They also proposed that a formal trophy be sculptured, first awarded in 2004. This then replaced the award set-up in 2002.

This Year's Nominations

Eleven bat workers (one joint nomination) have been nominated for the Pete Guest award in 2012:

Name	Voting reference (see How to Vote)
Matt Dodds	PGAMattDodds
Daniel Hargreaves	PGADanielHargreaves
Jenny Harris	PGAJennyHarris
Sally Humphreys	PGASallyHumphreys
Colin Morris	PGAColinMorris
Steve Parker	PGASteveParker
Liz Platt	PGALizPlatt
Jan Ragg	PGAJanRagg
James Shipman	PGAJamesShipman
Graham & Donna Street	PGAGraham&DonnaStreet

Supporting statements submitted with nominations are enclosed in Appendices 1-10.

How to Vote

To register your vote by **email**:

- Please copy and paste the relevant voting reference (see table above) into the subject of a new email
- Write your name and bat group, only, in the main body of text
- Email to: worledge@bats.org.uk by **5 pm on Thursday 13th September**

Please be aware that, if the voting reference has not been entered correctly, your vote may not be registered. Therefore please double check before sending.

To register your vote by **post**:

- Print out and complete the form in Appendix 11
- Return to the form to: Pete Guest Award, FAO Lisa Worledge, Bat Conservation Trust, Quadrant House, 250 Kennington Lane, London. SE11 5RD by **Thursday 13th September**

Postal votes received after Thursday 13th September will not be valid, therefore please ensure you allow sufficient time for delivery.

To register your vote in person:

- Complete and return the form in Appendix 9
- Bring it to the Bat Worker Forum on **Friday 14th September** 2012 at the University of York
- Submit it on request to the Chair

Please note that you are only allowed one vote. Your name will be stored by BCT solely for the purpose of imposing this rule. Names will not be published or announced publically.

The Decision Process

The nominee with the greatest number of votes will be announced at the Bat Worker Forum on Friday 14th September. The Pete Guest Award will be formally awarded on the Sunday at the National Bat Conference.

Appendices

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Appendix 1

Supporting statements for Matt Dodds

Chris Watts

North Buckinghamshire Bat Group

I'd like to nominate Matt Dodds for this year's Pete Guest Award because Matt has volunteered so much of his spare time to train members of the North Bucks Bat Group that I sometimes think that he has an identical clone and that there is really two Matts!

Julia Clark

Devon & North Buckinghamshire Bat Groups

Matt is the trainer at the North Bucks Bat Group. Matt volunteers a large amount of his spare time to train and educate volunteers in Bucks & Oxfordshire in all things bats! He organises the training programme for Natural England Roost Volunteer trainees (an intense winter programme) and also co-ordinates survey opportunities in the survey season.

Hannah Bilston

North Buckinghamshire Bat Group

Matt has helped me so much over the 5 years I have known him. He is never too busy to help anyone in the bat group out and is such a kind, and generous person. He has trained so many bat workers and his passion for bats is so infectious!

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Appendix 2

Supporting statements for Daniel Hargreaves

Tony Moulin

Yatton & Congresbury Wildlife Action Group (YACWAG)

Daniel Hargreaves moved to Yatton about 5 years ago. He soon joined YACWAG (a small, local nature conservation charity) and immediately began to share his skills, knowledge and experience. He told me that he saw his first bat when he was 7 years old and since then has been totally hooked. YACWAG had set up a bat project in 2004 and had participated annually in two NBMP transects. The group was, however, lacking any support from an experienced bat worker to further expand the project. The impetus that the group has had since then has been due entirely to Daniel's arrival on our patch. Daniel's enthusiasm is infectious to people of all ages. He is a great communicator and has given inspiring talks to community organisations and nearby wildlife groups which have greatly increased the profile of our local bats. He has trained many local volunteers in a friendly and positive manner, helping them to gain experience and greatly increasing our capacity to carry out work to help bats.

Whether it is education, technical expertise or batcare, Daniel's work for bats is tireless. His dedication is often described as 'incredible' and is in the tradition of those old amateur naturalists whose enthusiasm founded nature conservation in Britain, as his work is completely voluntary. Locally it includes training, monitoring roosts, talking to householders, leading walks and giving talks. With Daniel's help we have put up and monitor twice a year about 80 bat boxes. He is also helping several YACWAG members work towards becoming licensed bat workers.

Daniel has taken the lead with our Batmap Project, obtaining a grant of £6,000 for bat tracking equipment. Ground-breaking work has been done with the Nathusius Pipistrelle, roosting having been discovered in North Somerset for the first time by Daniel. His work locally using radio-tracking will be used to inform policies to protect bats in North Somerset.

However, his work with our group is only a small part of the picture. Daniel has worked with several bat groups nationally, from Sussex to South Lancs, and Avon to Herts & Middlesex. He has given amazing talks on his field trip to Honduras to bat groups from North Bucks to Fife! He has helped and trained volunteers from these bat groups, including at the swarming events at Box, Wiltshire. Daniel's skills have also been exported and exciting bat work in Trinidad & Tobago, Thailand and Nicaragua would never have happened without his support and commitment. His expeditions directly benefit bat conservation efforts in these regions and have led to further exciting collaborations back home.

Using social media like Facebook Daniel's communications about bat research worldwide keep many UK and international bat workers informed and entertained.

Working with no personal agenda Daniel is a force for good who is widely respected and very helpful to bat projects across the UK and beyond, from YACWAG and the Cotswold Water Park to Nietoperek in Poland, Trinibats and Thaibats etc. and probably lots more that we know nothing of! The Pete Guest award would be a fitting recognition of how special the sum of all these efforts is!

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Appendix 3

Supporting statements for Jenny Harris

Terry Durnin

Leicestershire & Rutland Bat Group

My nominee is Jenny Harris for the Pete Guest Award, who has dedicated herself to working with bats and Bat People for probably more than 30 years.

Most of this time she has run and supported the Leicestershire and Rutland Bat Group and trained local bat workers devotedly. She has always been available to discuss problems and is the Local Bat Group's most involved worker. Even after many happy years of bat work I always seem to learn something new when I am out with her and know that her knowledge of the bat world is probably one of the best in the Country. Jenny is a real diplomat and talks regularly to many organisations from WI's to Probus, Rotary, Scouts Guides and Young Farmers.

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Appendix 4

Supporting statements for Sally Humphreys

Win Quinney

Dorset Bat Group

Sally tirelessly works for the benefit of bats in Dorset. She gives her time free of charge in order to collect, triage, treat, and re-release casualty bats. I know only of 2 holidays which she has taken in the last 5 years. As well as caring for injured and ill bats, Sally participates fully in roost visits, gives talks to schools and other youth groups (cubs, beavers etc.) and basically gets involved with anything which raises the profile of bat conservation.

She has spent the last 3 years seeking out a site for a large bat flight and continuously spends large amounts of time fundraising so that now a site has been located the project can move forward. Innovative and hardworking, Sally collects old electrical equipment, strips it down and recovers the copper from cables, and converts this to cash at the local scrap metal merchant. This cash is paid into a dedicated bat account and will provide a significant portion of the flight funds.

She works very closely with David Holah of Piddle Valley Vets to improve the recovery rate of sick bats which come into her care. For example she achieved a wonderful result when one of the bats whose arm bone had been pinned recovered enough to fly again.

In addition to this, Sally is always happy to share her experience with curious members of the public and bat carers face to face and is very active on bat care forums to try to ensure the welfare of bats near and far. In short, a very real ambassador for bats.

Anon

Dorset Bat Group

Sally is especially enthusiastic about her role of caring for downed bats. She seems to have dozens at any one time and drives many miles to meet people with 'patients'. I met her yesterday, for example, at a veterinary surgery to hand over a young pip. She was there for other reasons and had taken her collection of bats because they would need feeding before she was due to be back home. I think that's dedication.

I've also been at one of her educational evenings where she speaks about her work – again, she's enthusiastic and very good at imparting a can-do attitude.

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Appendix 5

Supporting statements for Colin Morris

Julia Clark

Devon & North Bucks Bat Groups

I'd like to nominate Colin Morris of Vincent Wildlife Trust for all of the hard work he has committed to rare bat species such as greater horseshoe, lesser horseshoe and Bechstein's bats

Emily Newton

On behalf of the Dorset Bat Group

Dorset Bat Group would like to nominate Colin Morris for the Pete Guest Award. Colin Morris is very dedicated to bat conservation and has been a member of the Bat Group since the mid 1980's in fact; Colin Morris is batman!

I have heard this said on many occasions, and have to say – I wholeheartedly agree with the sentiment. The depth of knowledge and experience that he has gained over decades of batwork, as a volunteer bat worker and also in his employment with the Vincent Wildlife Trust, is immense. Colin is very well known and justifiably held in very high regard as the go to person for any bat query in the region. He always finds time to answer any bat question or situation put to him, no matter how obscure it may be! Colin recognises that there is a need for training, education and experience in bat work – and is always willing to take part in that development role crucial to the training of naturalists hoping to gain an insight into this area.

A very good sense of humour, coupled with a desire to share his knowledge (and occasionally his chocolate!) makes Colin a fantastic role model. His box checks and roost counts are booked up literally years in advance, and I have known many excited and totally inspired individuals who have progressed into bat work purely through their experience with Colin Morris.

The ultimate in professionalism, Colin approaches all of his bat work with due care and attention – and the welfare of the bats is always at the very forefront of any activity.

I feel that Colin thoroughly deserves to be recognised by his fellow bat workers, not only for the work he has done over the years, but also for his vision in recognising that the future of bats depends on a dedicated team of people – and the part he is playing in ensuring that there are plenty of inspired and motivated people to add to this team.

Some of Colin's work has involved:

- Being one of the first chairmen for Dorset Bat Group
- Radio-tracked Bechstein's bats from artificial roosts on a DWT Reserve
- Radio-tracked greater horseshoe bats from a VWT Reserve. Bryanston
- Radio-tracked Bechstein's bats from a VWT Reserve.
- Three year survey of farm buildings; over 700 building surveys
- Ice-house clearance to secure a hibernacula for greater horseshoe bats – Child Okeford.
- Set up bat box projects throughout England, Wales and Ireland
- Organised the construction of the Worlds' first cave ever excavated in solid rock for hibernating bats (Bryanston).
- Constructed a second (larger) cave in solid rock, for hibernating bats (Bryanston).

- Designed and managed the construction of artificial nursery sites for horseshoe bats in England, Wales and Ireland.
- Designed and managed the fitting of security grilles and gates on many winter sites – Child Okeford, Axminster, Morcomblake, Worth Matravers, Nether Compton.
- Project managed the refurbishment of many greater and lesser horseshoe roost/buildings.
- Designed (and built) an artificial ‘cool tower’ for the use in small, lesser horseshoe sites.
- Designed a new style of ‘successful’ bat box.
- Designed a device to allow bats access into a new or refurbished roof/roost; the Morris Bat slate.
- Research into the dynamics of a Bechstein’s nursery colony in artificial roosts on a DWT reserve
- The above statement only scratches the surface of Colin’s dedication, innovation, enthusiasm and inspiration in making a difference, both to bats and to people and also demonstrates how he contributes to BCT’s visions.

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Appendix 6

Supporting statements for Steve Parker

Roger Jones

Sussex Bat Group

I want to nominate Steve Parker, therefore BCT know probably more of what he achieves than I do.

I first met him on the Trainers course in about 2002, since then we meet up at conferences and of late to assist on hibernation counts in North Wales, I know of the work he puts into training roost visitors, some of the work he does with BCT, but there is much, much more he does with bat rescues (with Fi) etc.

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Appendix 7

Supporting statements for Liz Platt

Derek Saunders

Devon Bat Group

I would like to nominate Liz Platt for the Pete Guest award. Her dedication to bat conservation is outstanding. She is one of the leading Bat carers in Devon. Also her survey work and public awareness work is an inspiration. I believe that all her hard work and dedication should be officially recognised and rewarded.

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Appendix 8

Supporting statements for Jan Ragg

Colin Edwards

Essex Bat Group, Cambridge Bat Group and Beds Bat Group

I would like to nominate Jan Ragg of Essex Bat Group for the Pete Guest Award.

As many may be aware Jan's main focus is relating to the care, rehabilitation and release of bats back to the wild. Jan's dedication to the task is unrelenting and is an inspiration to many. Over 275 bats (9 different species) went through Jan's bat hospital last year, many of which were babies needing constant day and night care. The bats always come first and none are ever turned away, even if it means putting her own health on the line. (Last year Jan had to be taken into hospital due to exhaustion through putting the bats first). There aren't many that would give that much to the cause of conserving our wonderful bats. Anyone who has tried to rehabilitate a bat knows how difficult this is, to cope with this many bats from across 7 or more counties....how would you cope? On top of this Jan provides training in bat care, offers regular help via the on-line UK Bat Care site to assist less knowledgeable carers, completes NBMP surveys, runs a flight cage, provides walks and talks to local wild life centres encouraging others to become interested in bats. Also NE surveys are part of the job along with providing training in the surveying techniques to those looking to become licensed bat workers...her efforts are endless and I genuinely believe there is no other person more worthy of receiving this award...bats are a way of life to Jan and have been for well over a dozen years.

As for the criteria for the award:

Dedication - I know of no other person with as much dedication as Jan in any walk of life, her dedication is total.....there is no other way to describe it.

Innovative - years of experience have provided a wealth of knowledge leading to innovative ways of doing things. Things I've seen are such as; how to splint a bats forearm, how to design a high quality early release box, how to best dress a bat box to meet a bats needs, a simple but very effective labelling system to provide status and treatment requirements for each bat in the system. Also there is a mountain of data which I'm sure one day will be written up with some theories being backed up by the data collected.

Enthusiasm - speaks for itself, who would do this every year without having the drive and enthusiasm to succeed. Jan's enthusiasm for her bat work is second to none.

Inspiring - certainly Jan has inspired many in to bat care, not on such a scale as her own set up, but definitely to share her knowledge and help with the cause - to save and conserve our bats.

Making a difference to bats - I'm sure if the bats could thank her then they would. Jan's success rate in rehabilitating and releasing injured bats is very high (around the 70% mark). There is an apt saying relating to mankind that should not just be taken in respect of one species - 'he who saves but one life saves the world'.

Making a difference to people - certainly I have gained experiences that will always be with me that have spurred on my interest in bats and encouraged me to get more involved. Flying a Parti-coloured bat is one of many, releasing a Barbastelle another. As for the public, the vast majority, especially

the children, react positively and enthusiastically when invited to the release of the bat they had found and that Jan has nurtured back to health.

The BCT acts as a point of contact for the public who find a bat and the BCT pass on the phone numbers of people like me who collect the bat and take it to someone like Jan, where the hard work is carried out. Without people such as Jan, the whole system would grind to a halt, so is she making the BCT's vision a reality...no doubt about it. Thus I urge any of you who have been influenced by Jan's dedication to give her your support in respect of this award. Just take a minute to think of the skill and dedication that goes into what Jan does on a voluntary basis.....and it's not just a one off activity, it's every day, every week, for many years. The BCT needs people like this.

Sue Burton

Remus Memorial Horse Sanctuary

I would like to second Colin's nomination of Jan Ragg please.

I find it sad that every year her hard work and efforts get overlooked as she is a truly dedicated and inspirational lady who makes a huge difference to the bat world.

This time of year Jan is a prisoner in her own home. She starts feeding at 5 am and is lucky to get to bed by 1am, despite this she still helps and advises other bat carers and ambulance drivers. Essex and the larger bat world are very lucky to have her

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Appendix 9

Supporting statements for James Shipman

Joanne Lucas

Berkshire & South Buckinghamshire Bat Group

Could I please nominate James Shipman for the Pete Guest Award. Over the past two years he has immersed himself in bats, spending well over 400 hours volunteering with them. His key focus is on bat conservation and welfare, helping others to learn and encouraging them to become involved in a range of bat activities. He has voluntarily become a bat carer and runs the bat care helpline for Berkshire, with a small team of trained carers and ambulance drivers.

He is inspirational to anyone who is in the early stages of working with bats and his level of dedication has proved what can be achieved with persistence and enthusiasm. He now runs bat walks, talks, box checks and next year will be contributing to the West Berkshire Living Landscapes project which will allow other members of the bat group to become involved with a large range of bat activities. He has contributed many records for BCT through bat caring and surveying.

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Appendix 10

Supporting statements for Graham & Donna Street

Colin Pope

On behalf of the Isle of Wight Bat Group

The Isle of Wight Bat Group would like to nominate Graham & Donna Street from the Isle of Wight Bat Hospital for the Pete Guest Award.

Graham & Donna started the Isle of Wight Bat Hospital in 1997 after developing a passion for bats a year earlier. In their own time, they have converted their spare bedroom and part of their dining room into purpose-built aviaries suitable for housing short and long-term patients. They run a mobile bat unit to collect and release bats at any time of the day or night. Since starting the Bat Hospital they have worked long and hard to get the message across and they are now known throughout the Island.

They always pay particular attention to customer care. No call goes unanswered and they always follow up calls with visits and information, thereby spreading the word of bat conservation and inspiring others to conserve bats.

Over the years, Donna has developed considerable expertise in bat recovery techniques and she has a high success rate. She has had particular success with the rearing of very young bats.

Graham gives regular talks and guided walks to all age groups and is very successful in getting publicity for bats.

Their enthusiasm and dedication is undiminished. They never take a holiday off the Island and frequently have interrupted nights feeding baby bats or following up calls from the public.

Moreover, increasingly they are working with other bat workers, bat carers and research students across the country to assist them and help with increasing our knowledge of bats. Graham regularly contributes to University research. At present he is assisting the University of Reading with their research into the affect of roofing felt and substitutes on bats and their behaviour.

Between them, they have raised the profile of bats on the Island. If ever there is a problem locally, they are generally the first to be asked and they can be relied upon to give good practical advice and try to ensure that any works affecting bats are carried out within the law.

Colin Pope

Senior Ecology Officer, Isle of Wight Council and member of the Isle of Wight Bat Group

In addition, Graham has used his skills to run a consultancy service. He carries out surveys and produces reports for planning related development. In my role as Ecology Officer with the local authority Planning Authority, we have a very good working relationship which enables us to try to secure the best opportunities for bat conservation.

Carol Flux

Natural Enterprise (the trading entity of the Island 2000 charity) and member of the Isle of Wight Bat Group

We regularly employ Graham to help us with our consultancy work. Naturally Graham always puts the well-being of bats foremost, but works hard to reach a mutually satisfactory solution and engage customers in such a way that they see their bats as assets rather than liabilities.

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Appendix 11

Voting form

If you would prefer to vote by post, or in person at the Bat Worker Forum, please print this page, fill in the details below, and either:

- Return to: Pete Guest Award, FAO Lisa Worledge, Bat Conservation Trust, Quadrant House, 250 Kennington Lane, London. SE11 5RD by **Thursday 13th September**

OR

- Bring along to the Bat Worker Forum on **Friday 14th September** at the University of York

Your Name	
Bat Group	
Name of nominee for whom you'd like to vote	

A copy of this form is also available to download in word format from the BCT website at:
www.bats.org.uk/pages/nationalconferenceawards.html

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