

Bat Conservation Trust



Pete Guest Award: 2013 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 people 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:

- 2012 Daniel Hargreaves
- 2011 Peter & Maggie Andrews
- 2010 Roger Ransome
- 2009 Sue Swift
- 2008 Tom McOwat
- 2007 Phil Birkinshaw
- 2006 John Hadow
- 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

Four bat workers have been nominated for the Pete Guest award in 2013:

Name	Voting reference (see How to Vote)
Gail Armstrong	PGAGailArmstrong
Maggie Brown	PGAMaggieBrown
Charlie Liggett	PGACHarlieLiggett
Lou Pickersgill	PGALouPickersgill

Supporting statements submitted with nominations are enclosed in Appendices 1-4.

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: lworledge@bats.org.uk by **5 pm on Friday 30th August**

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 voting form sent with this document
- Return to the form to: Pete Guest Award, FAO Lisa Worledge, Bat Conservation Trust, Quadrant House, 250 Kennington Lane, London. SE11 5RD by **Friday 30th August**

Postal votes received after 30th August will not be valid, therefore please ensure you allow sufficient time for delivery.

Please note that there will not be an opportunity to vote in person at the Bat Workers Forum this year. This was agreed at the 2012 Forum and means that the award is able to be presented already engraved with the winners name at the National Bat Conference.

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 13th September. The Pete Guest Award will be formally awarded on Sunday 15th September at the National Bat Conference.

Appendices

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Appendix 1

Supporting statement for Gail Armstrong

James Shipman

Chairperson of Berks and South Bucks Bat Group

I would like to nominate Gail Armstrong.

Gail Armstrong has been involved with bats for many years and for those who know her will know that she is an amazing 'batty' person with an amazing personality! If it wasn't for Gail I would never have been involved with bats. I went on her handling course as the first ever thing I did with bats and I was hooked. For anyone who knows me they will know how enthusiastic and excited over anything revolving around bats and Gail is the one to thank for this. I think Gail deserves this award for her years of work with bats, bat care and involvement with BCT. She has helped many well known bat workers around now get to where they are and I think she is very easily forgotten for the work she does behind the scenes with bats.

I would have never have found this amazing hobby and interest if it wasn't for Gail and I hope you can understand how much she means to me as a bat worker and as a friend. Please share my vote for Gail!

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Appendix 2

Supporting statement for Maggie Brown

Susan Shimeld Kevern

Dorset Bat Group, Wiltshire Bat Group and BCT Registered Bat Carer

I am nominating Maggie Brown.

In the early days Maggie was a pioneer working hard, all on her own, when so little was known about bats; bat care, bat rehabilitation and their welfare.

Maggie has done so much for bats and people over the years and continues to do so. Not only does she produce a quarterly Newsletter but she also contributes to many other publications as well as having written and produced the Bat Care Manual; an invaluable guide to bat care for rehabilitators.

Maggie helps to organise training, networking events, workshops and also speaks at conferences. She is always willing and on-hand to speak with anyone that contacts her for advice or information, night and day. She is happy to share her wealth of experience and knowledge whether it be to do with the care of bats: orphaned babies, adults, injured bats, or whether it be to do with bat conservation and the many other bat related issues. Maggie does all this and more whilst still being hands-on and caring for bats at her West Yorkshire Bat Hospital. She is gentle, patient, understanding, extremely knowledgeable about bats and their needs – and is also so modest about all she has achieved.

Maggie has helped so many bats and has also encouraged and been the inspiration for many bat carers and bat enthusiasts over the years. I admire her tremendously and cannot thank her enough for all the time and help she has given me and so many others along the way. Her stamina and her hard work deserves to be recognised.

Maggie's dedication to bats; her enthusiasm and concern for their welfare, plus the protection of their habitat; is an inspiration to us all. Her work has made an immense difference both to bats and to people and she has also truly helped to make BCT's vision become a reality. Maggie Brown is my Bat Guru.

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Appendix 3

Supporting statement for Charlie Liggett

Lawrence Armstrong

Leicestershire & Rutland Bat Group

I would like to nominate Charlie Liggett of the Merseyside and West Lancashire Bat Group. Charlie has many years service devoted to bat conservation and has been involved in countless projects for children and adults. He has also trained many people in acquiring licenses to work with bats and assists on RSPB sites. In between all of this, Charlie also works within a charitable capacity in prisons in the North West.

Charlie is a humourist, a natural historian, a traveller and one hell of a guy.

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Appendix 4

Supporting statement for Lou Pickersgill

Liz Biron

Somerset Bat Group

I would like to nominate Lou Pickersgill for this award. Many people will be aware that Lou sadly lost her fight with cancer in June but she was the most amazing, enthusiastic and dedicated bat worker.

She not only kept all the communications of the Somerset Bat group flowing freely, but was an unstinting supporter/ attender of every event/ recording session going as well as doing much of the ground work for planning transects for the Somerset Big Bat Surveys. I feel this is the perfect opportunity to acknowledge the enormous contribution she made to bats and bat recording in Somerset.

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