
This email has been sent to bat group contacts only.
Please forward this information to others in your group.

Dear bat group member,

Hello and welcome to the May edition of the Bat Group Bulletin! In this issue you can read about exciting news from BCT, along with refreshing your knowledge on field work related topics.

Please use the interactive contents list to jump to the topics of most interest to you.

1. Link to Watch the Celebration of Tony Hutson's Life.	1
2. Director of Conservation Announcement.	1
3. Head of Conservation Services Recruitment.	2
4. Bat Tree and Bat Rock Habitat Keys.	2
5. NMBP Annual Report.	2
6. Retained EU Law Bill Update.	2
7. Nominations for Vincent Weir Scientific Award.	2
8. Keynote Speaker for the National Bat Conference 2023.	3
9. Surveys with the National Bat Monitoring Programme.	3
10. Rabies Pre-Exposure Vaccinations Reminder.	3
11. COVID-19 and Field Work/Bat Care Reminder.	3
12. Online Dead Bat Pack Request Form Reminder.	3
13. Matched Fundraising Opportunity for Local Groups.	4
14. Request for 'Bats on Holiday' Stories for Bat News.	4
15. Nominations for the Pete Guest Award 2023.	4
16. Key Dates for Your Diary.	4
17. Bat Research Papers, Reports & Other Batty Media.	5

1. Link to Watch the Celebration of Tony Hutson's Life. We were extremely saddened to hear of the death of one of the founders of the Bat Conservation Trust, Tony Hutson, in February. You can read the BCT tribute to Tony along with an obituary written by Prof. Paul Racey and Dr Peter Lina on our website <https://bit.ly/3IJx8ln> and, for those of you who are BCT members, in the spring edition of Bat news. There was a celebration of Tony's life in March and the recording of that service is available online from the Sussex Bat Group website at: www.sussexbatgroup.org.uk (see the bottom of the page after the obituary for Tony).

2. Director of Conservation Announcement. We are sad to let you know that Carol Williams will be stepping down as BCT's Director of Conservation at the end of June. Carol has been an authoritative and inspiring voice for BCT for over 15 years and for bat conservation in the UK for far longer. The good news is that Carol won't be leaving BCT completely but will have an ongoing role (approximately a day a week) to support key areas of work. We are sure that you'll join BCT staff in wishing Carol the very best for her semi-retirement!

We are pleased to announce that Lisa Worledge will be taking over as Director of Conservation, in a phased way, when Carol retires at the end of June. Lisa will be known to many in the bat world as a result of her work whilst Head of Conservation Services at BCT, having originally started in the role of Partnerships Officer, supporting bat groups, back in 2011. Lisa combines a passion for bat

[Back to contents](#)

conservation with extensive experience from a range of different BCT programmes and collaborations. We are delighted that she will now be joining our senior management team.

As we are in the process of recruiting a new Head of Conservation Services (see item 3), Lisa's transition will be phased across the summer until her replacement is in post. If you need the specific contribution of BCT's Director of Conservation from the beginning of July until the new Head of Conservation Services is in post, please email both Kit Stoner CEO (kstoner@bats.org.uk) and Lisa Worledge (lworledge@bats.org.uk), and they will do their best to help.

3. Head of Conservation Services Recruitment. This is a great opportunity to join BCT in a managerial role. The Head of Conservation Services role is responsible for a sub-set of the BCT Conservation Team (helpline, training and conferences, bat groups and country officers), as well as key project areas. The deadline for applications is 10am Monday **12th June**, with interviews on Wednesday 21st June. More details are available on the BCT website at: <https://bit.ly/3C8jD1a> including the job description and application form.

4. Bat Tree and Bat Rock Habitat Keys. BCT are delighted to announce that, as of 17th April 2023, Henry Andrews has very generously handed over the ongoing management of the [Bat Tree Habitat Key](#) (BTHK) and [Bat Rock Habitat Key](#) (BRHK) Projects to us. This includes responsibility for the relevant databases and websites, and we will be updating them over the coming weeks and months. If you are a user of either of these projects then please do continue to submit your records on the usual recording form, noting the new email address for submissions. Please also note the need for relevant survey licences when carrying out survey work that could impact bats in trees.

BCT would like to thank Henry for all of his hard work and expertise in developing these projects and for the outstanding contribution they have made to bat conservation. Henry has kindly offered for any income generated by his two books ([Bat Roosts in Trees](#) and [Bat Roosts in Rock](#)) to come to BCT to support the ongoing management of the projects. We look forward to working with users of the project and further developing it in the future when we can secure further funding to develop this valuable resource.

5. NMBP Annual Report. The annual report produced by the National Bat Monitoring Programme is now available on our website. The latest scientific findings show encouraging continuing signs of slow recovery at national scales for several of the species being monitored, including our two horseshoe species. However, a closer look shows there is variation in bat population trends across England, Wales and Scotland. You can find the report here: <https://bit.ly/3oyOvQV>, and a news piece about it here: <https://bit.ly/3OCOivh>. To get involved in helping collect the data that feeds into this report, see item 9 in this bulletin.

6. Retained EU Law Bill Update. Thank you to everyone who has helped over the last few months in challenging this highly damaging piece of legislation. A lot has happened with the Retained EU Law Bill over the last few weeks, and it is likely to change again soon but an update was long overdue. While the government has changed its approach to how the Bill deals with existing legislation it still hands power to government ministers to weaken or remove laws without adequate parliamentary scrutiny or consultation. Please visit this webpage for more details: <https://bit.ly/3OIJrZC>.

7. Nominations for Vincent Weir Scientific Award. The [Vincent Weir Scientific Award](#) for bat research is NOW OPEN and taking nominations – the closing date is Friday **30th June 2023**. This award aims to reward and encourage research on the conservation biology of bats by new researchers, and to recognise the late Hon. Vincent Weir's major contributions to bat conservation over many years. To nominate a candidate for consideration, please contact Dr Parvathy Venugopal

(pvenugopal@bats.org.uk) giving a **brief (300 word) justification** of your nomination and **supplying pdfs of the publications** for which they are nominated.

8. Keynote Speaker for the National Bat Conference 2023. This year's National Bat Conference will be held on **15th – 17th September** at the University of Nottingham. We're delighted to announce that the Keynote Speaker will be Prof. Kirsty Park of University of Stirling and former BCT Trustee. You can get to know Kirsty a little through the series of videos being released on social media over the next couple of weeks. In the third one, she tells us what she'll be talking about at the conference! Remember, you can book your early bird discounted in-person tickets until 12th June. Check this page for the latest on the programme and booking links: <https://bit.ly/2SyHhRB>. Any questions please email conference@bats.org.uk.

9. Surveys with the National Bat Monitoring Programme. Our long-running heterodyne bat detector surveys take place again throughout July and August. The **Field Survey** (July) involves monitoring common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, noctule and serotine while walking a route within a 1km square. We are particularly keen to get more sites surveyed in the north of England, Scotland and Wales. Read more about [how to take part in the Field Survey](#) and select a survey square near you. The **Waterway Survey** takes place in August and involves monitoring Daubenton's bat along a 1km stretch of waterway. This survey is a good place to start if you are relatively new to bat detecting. Read more about [how to take part in the Waterway Survey](#) and select a site near you. [Watch our video](#) on selecting survey sites for the Field Survey and Waterway Survey. See our [bat detector workshops](#) if you would like training on bat detector and survey skills needed to take part in these surveys. If you would like us to arrange training for your bat group, please contact Rosie McCallum at RMcCallum@bats.org.uk.

10. Rabies Pre-Exposure Vaccinations Reminder. For some years now pre-exposure rabies vaccinations have been made available free of charge **only** for people who handle bats regularly, do so solely in a voluntary capacity, and have completed their training. Whilst we are happy to answer questions about process and support volunteers, please do read the BCT webpage at: <https://bit.ly/389eF5F> before contacting us (the page has information for both volunteers and professionals across the UK). If you are training people in bat handling, we recommend you read the webpage to ensure you are providing the correct information to your trainees. If you still have questions once you have read the webpage, please email Lisa Worledge (lworledge@bats.org.uk).

11. COVID-19 and Field Work/Bat Care Reminder. If you are undertaking field work or bat care activities, please note the guidance from the IUCN Bat Specialist Group's (BSG) OneHealth Working Group in relation to COVID-19. The guidance for field workers will be updated shortly (although the advice on good practice field hygiene is unchanged) and new, more general, disease risk management guidance for fieldworkers will be published later this year. The guidance for bat rehabilitators, last updated in June 2021 remains current.

Anyone handling bats or working in close proximity (<2m) to bats, should be wearing an appropriate mask in addition to taking other precautions (inc. wearing appropriate gloves when handling bats) to prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) from humans to bats.

The IUCN BSG OneHealth publications can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3dmmo3j>.

12. Online Dead Bat Pack Request Form Reminder. A reminder to carers and other bat workers who may regularly come across dead bats. We support passive testing of dead bats by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) to test for rabies, which is found in a small number of bats in the UK. We have an online request form for dead bat packs, which can be found on our website:

<https://bit.ly/43sVj5S>. This is the most efficient way of requesting packs and is preferable to emailing. Thank you!

13. Matched Fundraising Opportunity for Local Groups. Save our Wild Isles Community Fund is supporting local communities to protect and restore nature in their local area, giving you £2 for every £1 you raise! Find out more here: <https://bit.ly/3MVmpNK>.

14. Request for 'Bats on Holiday' Stories for Bat News. We are looking for stories and anecdotes of your holiday bat experiences, to put together into an article in our membership magazines. If interested, please email a short blurb (max 200 words) and photos if you have them, to batgroups@bats.org.uk.

15. Nominations for the Pete Guest Award 2023. We are pleased to invite nominations for the Pete Guest Award 2023, which recognises individuals who have made an outstanding practical contribution to bat conservation. The award is presented in memory of Pete Guest, who was an inspirational figure in bat conservation for more than 20 years. For details on how to nominate please see: <https://bit.ly/3hwiCXT>. The deadline is 9am on Thursday **22nd June**.

16. Key Dates for Your Diary. Watch this space for dates and reminders of conferences, BCT training and other events you may be interested in. Please do utilise the extra publicity for your events by getting them added to the [BCT events page](#). For more information about training please see our [training pages](#) or email the training team on training@bats.org.uk. You can also get updates straight to your inbox by signing up to BCT's events mailing list here: <https://bit.ly/3a2g0M0>.

BCT Events and Training. BCT is now running a hybrid program of online and in-person events.

- **June – Bats in Churches heritage cleaning workshops.** While primarily targeted at church volunteers, we want to extend the invitation to bat group members too:
 - [Sat 3rd June](#): St Margaret of Antioch, Wellington, Herefordshire
 - [Fri 16th June](#): Grafham church, St Andrew's, Surrey
 - [Sat 17th June](#): St Nicholas, Newton Blossomville, Buckinghamshire
- **15th June – NMBP Using Your Ears workshop.** Online workshop to train sonic memory and aid species ID using a heterodyne detector in the field: <https://bit.ly/3BYgH7s>.
- **20th June-25th July – British Bats, their ecology and conservation.** Six-session online course designed for those new to bats wanting to develop a broader understanding of bat ecology, threats and conservation action: <https://bit.ly/42arupQ>.
- **15th–17th September – National Bat Conference.** Book your early bird place! This year's hybrid National Bat Conference will be held at the University of Nottingham. Check this page to read the latest: <https://bit.ly/2SyHhRB>.
- **28th Sept & 2nd Oct – Bats for Building Professionals.** Online course for anyone responsible for buildings and their renovation, development, maintenance or design: <https://bit.ly/3UMgxrr>.
- **3rd October – Bat Workers Forum.** Save the date for this year's online event. Details and booking to be added to this page: <https://bit.ly/3MYERoC>

Bat Group Events. If your bat group would like to promote an online talk that is open to members of other bat groups, then please email batgroups@bats.org.uk to be included in this section.

Other Events and Training.

- **1st-3rd June – Children's Art Workshops with Emma Reynolds.** Four workshops and a storytelling session each day. At Martin Mere, Lancashire. <https://bit.ly/3qbggnA>

- **Ongoing – Bat Acoustics Analysis.** Online course from BatAbility containing 14 modules and more than 15 hours of content to develop your skills in bat call analysis and, if you want, undertake a graded examination at the end of the course. BatAbility are kindly donating at least 6% to BCT for each participant that signs up. <https://bit.ly/3fvgZHa>.
- **Ongoing – Free Charity and Trustee Webinars.** See gettingonboard.org.

17. Bat Research Papers, Reports & Other Batty Media. Please note we normally include articles, reports and blogs that are available to read online or download without charge.

- **Surveying tropical bat roosts through air sampling of eDNA.** Novel airborne eDNA collection for the first time in a natural setting, confirming presence of expected and suspected species: <https://bit.ly/3qayzJC>.
- **Species trait dataset covering 47 European bat species.** Designed to provide an important data source for comparative and trait-based analyses at the species or community level: <https://bit.ly/42Zrfz3>.
- **Pest suppression by bats and management strategies to favour it.** A global review: <https://bit.ly/3ICMleA>.
- **Conversion efficiency in Nathusius' pipistrelle.** Efficiency of conversion of metabolic power to mechanical power increases with flight speed: <https://bit.ly/3BTXcgm>.
- **Seasonal patterns of bat collision fatalities at wind turbines.** From post-construction monitoring in the USA, finding a peak in fatalities in Autumn: <https://bit.ly/3IJvOWe>.
- **BatNet.** An automated bat species identification tool for camera trap images: <https://bit.ly/43rLaGJ>.
- **Bat habitats are under attack, seeding risk of a new pandemic.** Humanity is ramping up the risk of global health disasters by intruding deep into the world's bat habitats. In this five-part series, Reuters pinpointing the areas at most risk of spillover: <https://bit.ly/43wOsZr>.

A rolling 12 months of previous bulletins are available on the BCT website at <https://bit.ly/2GGoYRK>.

Best wishes,



Abby Packham
Bat Groups Officer

If you wish to alter your contact preferences, including to opt-out of receiving future communications from us, please contact us by either calling 020 7820 7193 or emailing batgroups@bats.org.uk, **however if you are receiving this bulletin forwarded to you by your bat group, please contact the bat group directly.**