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

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Dear bat group member,

Hello and welcome to the July edition of the Bat Group Bulletin! In this issue there are calls for volunteers for the Helpline, submissions to the Batty Laureate, and for voting in the Pete Guest Award and Bat of the Year.

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**1. BCT's New Head of Conservation Services.** We're pleased to announce that we have appointed Dr Allyson Walsh as BCT's new Head of Conservation Services. She will bring her extensive experience in wildlife conservation teams and project management, in both the UK and USA, to the role. Allyson has held senior positions at various organisations including Herefordshire Wildlife Trust, Lubee Bat Conservancy and Bat Conservation International, and she is a member of the IUCN Bat Specialist Group. Allyson will be taking on the role in a phased way, as her current Bats in Churches Training & Legacy Officer role comes to a close.

**2. Nature 2030 Campaign.** In the run up to the next general election (which must happen before January 2025) over 80 conservation charities, including BCT, have come together to create the Nature 2030 campaign. Nature 2030 consists of 5 pledges to put a stop to nature's decline. Nature 2030 asks that all major political parties put these pledges in their manifestos. To support Nature 2030, you can sign an online, open letter to all UK political parties asking them to sign up to these pledges. Read more about the campaign and sign the letter here: <https://bit.ly/3rMCE7z>.

**3. Deadlines for Booking National Bat Conference Tickets.** Booking will close for in person tickets on **31<sup>st</sup> August**. Virtual tickets will be available for 1 week more until **7<sup>th</sup> September**. Don't miss out, book your tickets now! There is a great programme of talks, a panel discussion exploring policy issues and 2 workshops sessions including one by Thomas Jack's showcasing thermal imaging equipment on Sunday and an extra one on infra-red surveying on Saturday in response to demand. More details and booking links here: <https://bit.ly/2SyHhRB>.

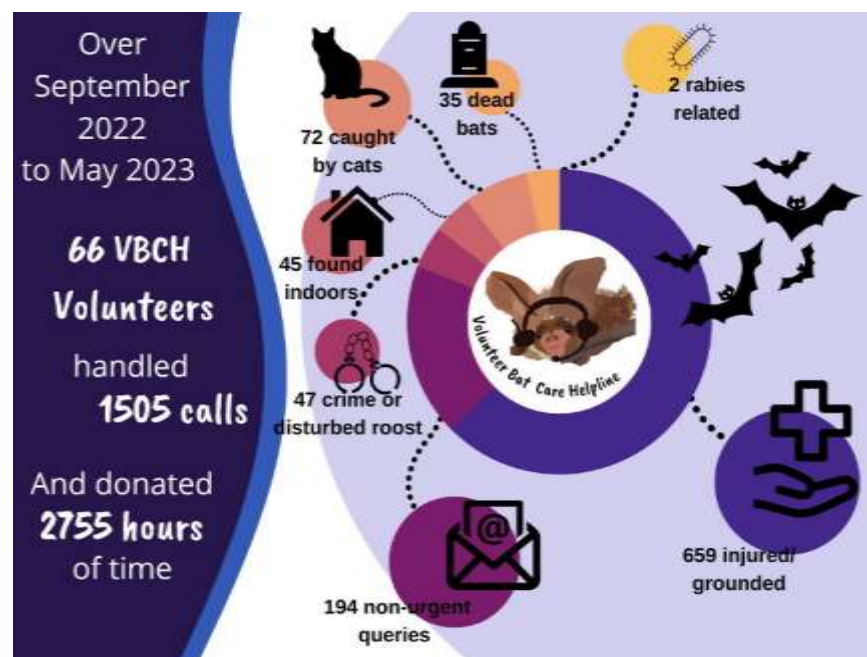
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**4. Calling All Creative Writers.** The Batty Laureate Awards are running again this year with categories for both adults and children. The awards celebrate bats in creative writing. Children aged 6-12 years old can submit up to 500 words and adults/young people over 12 years old can enter up to 1500 words of poetry, prose or an extract of a large piece such as a play script. Deadline for entries is **9am 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023**. You can read the previous winning entries and find the submission forms here: <https://bit.ly/3Kio6TI>.

**5. Volunteer Bat Care Helpline (VBCH) Volunteer Recruitment.** Every year the National Bat Helpline takes thousands of calls from people who have found grounded and injured bats. The VBCH help to ensure that as many bats as possible are helped all year round. **We are recruiting volunteers** to answer bat care-related calls during office hours (9.30pm-4.30pm) from 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Volunteers attend an interactive and informative virtual training day before carrying out 'Bat Watches' from the comfort of their home. Volunteers also receive full support from BCT staff on every bat watch. Volunteering on the VBCH is a very rewarding experience for beginners, experienced bat workers and everyone in between. This opportunity is ideal for those wanting to get involved in conservation from home.

To find out more and sign up, check out the [BCT website](#). Please note that volunteer positions are available on a first come first served basis. We will end recruitment once the training days are filled. If you have any questions, please email [helplinevolunteers@bats.org.uk](mailto:helplinevolunteers@bats.org.uk).



**6. Our New Adopt a Bat Cuddly Keyring.** Our Adopt a Bat welcome pack, containing Dobby, our brand new cuddly Daubenton's bat keyring, is now available! You will not be adopting a real-life bat, but you will be helping to make a real difference to bats in the wild! To Adopt a Bat today for yourself or as a gift for someone, please click here: <https://bit.ly/3O37h04>. If you have any questions about adopting a bat with us, please email [adoptions@bats.org.uk](mailto:adoptions@bats.org.uk).

**7. Dead Bats and Tube Sizes.** A huge thank you to everyone who submits dead bats to APHA for their passive rabies surveillance scheme. You can find the form to request a 'dead bat pack' on the BCT website: <https://bit.ly/43sVj5S>. When ordering packs, please make sure you request the right tube size for the species, for most bats the standard tube size (10cm by 3cm) will be sufficient. Please **only** order and use the large tube (10cm by 5cm) for multiple bats or adults of our largest species.

**8. Dead Bats with Unknown Cause of Death.** If you have found a dead bat (or bats) where the cause of death is unknown and you would like an expert opinion/necropsy, then please contact Alex Barlow. Alex is a veterinary pathologist who has worked with BCT for many years. He runs the Wildlife Network for Disease Surveillance and has generously performed post-mortems on numerous bats (as well as on other wildlife) sent to him by bat carers. There is no charge for this work. Alex can be contacted via email to [alexmbarlow@btinternet.com](mailto:alexmbarlow@btinternet.com) or call 07748 205030.

If you suspect pesticide poisoning please contact the Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme, see <https://bit.ly/43JWSMK> for more details.

**9. Vote for BatLife Europe's Bat of the Year, but do it quick!** Voting in BatLife Europe's 'Bat of the Year 24-25' is underway, and as a partner BCT can submit a vote. We are asking our supporters: which species should BCT nominate? Let us know by voting here: <https://bit.ly/479SGZi>. Voting closes on the **6<sup>th</sup> August**.

**10. BatLife Europe's Noctule Count.** BatLife Europe are hoping to study the common noctule across Europe, by having as many people as possible look out for them on two evenings between 20<sup>th</sup> Aug and 15<sup>th</sup> Sept. Please read their flyer for details on how to take part: <https://bit.ly/3rJzu4y>. An online webinar to introduce the project will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> August at 11am CEST, 10am BST, zoom link: <https://bit.ly/3YaozNj>, a recording will be added to the [website](#) in due course.

**11. Still Time to Take Part in the National Bat Monitoring Programme.** 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, or [watch our NEW video](#).

**12. Reminder – Voting is open for the Pete Guest Award 2023.** Congratulations to this year's nominees: Maggie Brown, Martyn Phillis and Steve Roe. You can read the supporting statements submitted with their nominations on the [website](#), along with further details of the award. You can cast your vote via this online form: <https://forms.office.com/e/UNTJs8cG3m>. Voting closing at 9am on Thursday **31<sup>st</sup> August**.

**13. Reminder – International Bat Night.** It's not too early to start planning your activities to celebrate International Bat Night on **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August**. You could run a bat walk, create some bat themed baking or take on a fundraising challenge. BCT's International Bat Night pack contains ideas on how people can celebrate bats on this night: <https://bit.ly/3NzBrpC>. You can register your events on the [BCT website](#) and/or on the Eurobats website which also has a lot of other free resources: <https://bit.ly/3PJ3gQG>.

**14. 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](mailto: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.

- **15<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> 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>.
- **28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> September – Surveying for Bats.** This [in-person](#) course will give you the knowledge and skills to plan professional bat surveys, as well as developing practical survey skills and field sign identification: <https://bit.ly/3Qfznbk>.
- **28<sup>th</sup> Sept & 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct – Bats for Building Professionals.** [Online](#) course for anyone responsible for buildings and their renovation, development, maintenance or design: <https://bit.ly/3UMgxrr>.

- **3<sup>rd</sup> October – Bat Workers Forum.** Booking is open for this year's online event, open to anyone interested in bats, regardless of whether the interest is professional or voluntary and regardless of experience. More information and booking link here: <https://bit.ly/3MYERoC>.
- **4<sup>th</sup> November – Wales Bat Workers Day.** Save the date for this year's Wales conference event, to be held at the Centre for Alternative Technology, near Machynlleth. Offering a day of talks, workshops and networking. <https://bit.ly/31Xzgdh>.

**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](mailto:batgroups@bats.org.uk) to be included in this section.

#### Other Events and Training.

- **26<sup>th</sup> August – International Bat Night.** What activity will you do?
- **22<sup>nd</sup>–23<sup>rd</sup> November – CIEEM Autumn conference.** Modernising Ecology: Techniques and Approaches: <https://bit.ly/44Hd1Ut>.
- **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](http://gettingonboard.org).

**15. 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.

- **How to prevent the next pandemic: Nature-based solutions and policy opportunities.** Recording of a panel-style webinar with ten global experts, hosted by Dr. Raina Plowright from Cornell University. <https://bit.ly/43EOaPz>
- **An automated approach for counting large colonies.** Using consumer cameras that not only counts but also records behavioural information, in Kasanka: <https://bit.ly/3Oyblqo>. They have also produced a short explanatory video: <https://bit.ly/3DD572d>.
- **Climbats new online database.** Browse detailed information on calls, diets, distribution, roost sites and climate associations: <https://bit.ly/3YcajDU>.
- **Restoration or rewilding?** Study shows that combined approaches are the best way to jointly address the biodiversity and climate crises: <https://bit.ly/44lOY9n>.
- **Supporting bat populations in conifer plantations.** Studying effects of silviculture in Southwest England: <https://bit.ly/3OycRcQ>. Please note this paper is not entirely open access.

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](mailto:batgroups@bats.org.uk), **however if you are receiving this bulletin forwarded to you by your bat group, please contact the bat group directly.**

