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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 August edition of the Bat Group Bulletin! In this issue you can find our new NightWatch Project resources, as well as calls for research equipment for the Ukrainian Bat Rehabilitation Centre and Bats Without Borders.

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**1. Artificial Light Guidance Note Updated.** The Institution of Lighting Professionals (ILP) has launched the latest practical guidance on considering the impact on bats when designing lighting schemes, called GN08/23. This supersedes the 2018 edition. Since 2018 there has been an increase in knowledge, the 2023 guidance note considers bats roosting, foraging and commuting needs in greater planning context than ever before. A panel of experts with representatives from an ecological consultancy, a highways department, lighting designer and manufacturers, a local planning authorities and the ILP has developed the guidance, chaired by BCT. Download it for free from here: <https://bit.ly/3s8pguM>.

**2. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists Good Practice Guidelines.** BCT are delighted to announce our intention to publish Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists Good Practice Guidelines (4<sup>th</sup> edition) at the National Bat Conference (15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Sept). Copies are available to pre-order from NHBS at this link: <https://bit.ly/3QIzlss>, where BCT members can get a 20% discount. Please note that guidelines specific to night-vision aids will be developed separately by a Working Group, who will attend a kickoff meeting in the autumn.

**3. Vincent Weir Award Winner 2023.** This year's winner is Natalie Yoh. Natalie's work has focused on how bats respond to changes in land cover in Borneo, and has published four papers from her PhD work, including an impressive acoustic identification paper. Read more about her work here: <http://bit.ly/47OA9SV>.

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**4. Open Letter to Party Leaders.** A coalition of leading nature conservation and environmental charities has called on Scotland's political leaders to work together with increased ambition in the face of growing crises of climate and nature. The call, directed at the leaders of all five political parties, was made in an open letter signed by the leaders of 26 member organisations of Scottish Environment LINK, including BCT. Read the full letter here: <https://bit.ly/44wXCoZ>.

**5. Petition to Rescue Our Rivers.** We're facing a freshwater emergency, with every single river in England polluted beyond legal limits. BCT are supporting a campaign, along with over 70 other organisations, led by River Action. The 'Rescue Our Rivers' petition calls on Government and all political parties to adopt the Charter for Rivers. The Charter sets out simple, positive steps to restore river health by 2030. These steps include ending sewage pollution, protecting river habitats and wildlife, preventing harmful chemicals at source and inspecting polluters in order to uphold the law. The babble of voices on river pollution is fast becoming a mighty wave. Add yours and together we can #RescueBritainsRivers! Sign here: <https://bit.ly/3swlGcR>.

**6. Do You Have NBMP Data to Submit?** Our National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP) summer surveys are coming to an end. A big thanks to all our volunteers who took part. If you still have data to submit please click the below links to submit your data online:

- Add your Roost Count: <https://bit.ly/3EhMH7w>
- Add your Field Survey results: <https://bit.ly/3qQL5f>
- Add your Waterway Survey results: <https://bit.ly/3Pj7uxZ>

The [Sunset Survey](#) is still open. It runs until the end of October so please take this opportunity to explore your local nighttime wildlife with friends and family.

**7. NightWatch.** NightWatch is a science project helping more people discover the hidden world of night-time wildlife living in their neighbourhood. The project has some exciting news for wildlife lovers – we just launched a guide to helping night-time wildlife near you. Have a look at the new guide here: <https://bit.ly/45O2fMa>.

**8. Roost Partner Launches New Bat Access Product.** We're pleased to announce there is a new Roost Partner product that provides bat roosting access, developed by [Just Lead](#). This product can be used to create smaller openings in a range of tiles surfaces, both pitched roofs and vertical hanging tiles. Read more here: <https://bit.ly/3YJ26aG>.

**9. British Islands Bats Volume Four 2023.** The editors of British Islands Bats (Tina Wiffen and Lisa Worledge) have delayed publication of Volume Four until the end of September 2023. The good news is the delay means three additional papers can now be included that wouldn't have made an earlier publication date! If you would like to be notified when Volume Four is published, please email [britishislandsbats@gmail.com](mailto:britishislandsbats@gmail.com) and you'll be contacted when the volume is available for download.

The publication now has an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN), which uniquely identifies British Islands Bats. Past volumes will be updated with this number at the same time as Volume Four is published. Please note that this publication is independent of BCT, although it is kindly hosted on BCT's website.

**10. Woodland Hope and Horseshoes Take Flight!** Our new Celtic Rainforest project in Wales got off to a flying start with our first community event bearing witness to a joyous spectacle: over 100 lesser horseshoe bats emerging from a stable in Snowdonia. Read more about this event in English and Welsh here: <https://bit.ly/45vgbLr>.

**11. Donate Research Equipment to Help the Ukrainian Bat Rehabilitation Center.** Many people have closely followed the work of our friends at the Ukrainian Bat Rehabilitation Center, who have persevered through the challenges of war, continuing their work in Kharkiv city, close to the frontline. We're pleased to share some uplifting news amidst these trying times: they have established the Bat Biology Lab at H.S. Skovoroda Kharkiv Pedagogical National University. However, their initiative hasn't been without hurdles. In June 2022, the building housing the Natural Science department was hit by a Russian rocket, resulting in the loss of most of the equipment.

In light of this, we're reaching out to the UK bat conservation community for assistance. If you, your bat group, company, or academic institution have equipment tailored for bat research that's no longer in active use, please consider donating it. Your contributions can play a pivotal role in not only supporting the Bat Biology Lab's critical research but also in nurturing the next generation of bat conservationists in Ukraine. By equipping students with the necessary tools, the team can foster a deeper understanding of bats and bolster conservation education efforts in the country.

If you think you may be able to help, please contact Anton Vlaschenko:

[anton.vlaschenko@gmail.com](mailto:anton.vlaschenko@gmail.com).

**12. Old Detectors for Bats Without Borders' New Bat Group Project.** Between April and June this year, Bats Without Borders ran a 'How to set up a bat group' training programme for individuals across South Africa. This was the first time something like this has been run in this region, with 32 people from 7 countries taking part. These individuals are all raring to go to but what they don't have are bat detectors for engagement and monitoring surveys. They are putting out an appeal to anyone looking to have a bat detector declutter and donate any detectors to the cause. This will allow bat groups to develop by encouraging new members and provide essential education to a range of groups, from schools, universities, business owners and of course the general public. They will acknowledge those donating equipment via social media platforms. There will be a collection point at this year's [National Bat Conference](#) (visit Paul at the Wildlife Acoustics stand) or please get in touch with Paul directly (Paul Howden-Leach: [paul@skylineecology.co.uk](mailto:paul@skylineecology.co.uk)). Thank you in advance for your support!

**13. Reminder – 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>.

**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 runs a hybrid program of online and in-person events.

- **15<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> September – National Bat Conference.** This year's hybrid conference will be at the University of Nottingham. Booking for in-person tickets closed 31<sup>st</sup> August but there might still be time to grab a virtual ticket, booking closes **7<sup>th</sup> September**. Check this page to read the latest and book: <https://bit.ly/2SyHhRB>.

- **16<sup>th</sup> September – BCT's Annual General Meeting.** The hybrid AGM will take place at 5:30pm at the University of Nottingham and online. The AGM is free and you do not need to attend the National Bat Conference to attend the AGM. To join remotely, you must register by 1pm on 14<sup>th</sup> Sept via this page: <https://www.bats.org.uk/agm>.
- **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, in line with the **new 4<sup>th</sup> edition guidelines**. Includes classroom sessions, practicals and an evening of fieldwork. Held at the Centre for Alternative Technologies, near Machynlleth: <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. Draft agenda and booking link here: <https://bit.ly/3MYERoC>.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> October – Architects' Best Practice Forum 2023, Bats in Churches.** Booking is open for this online meeting of minds, open to all architects and ecologists with a professional interest in case studies of bat mitigation in church buildings. More information and booking link here: <http://bit.ly/3Qrt1FI>.
- **26<sup>th</sup> October – Ecologists' Best Practice Forum 2023, Bats in Churches.** Booking is open for this online meeting of minds, open to all ecologists and architects with a professional interest in case studies of bat mitigation in church buildings. More information and booking link here: <http://bit.ly/3DOp8D3>.
- **4<sup>th</sup> November – Wales Bat Workers Day.** Booking is open! This year's hybrid Wales conference event will be 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.

- **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](https://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.

- **Impact of war on bats.** A case study from Kharkiv, NE Ukraine. <https://bit.ly/3s785JR>.
- **Nathusius' pipistrelle migration across the southern North Sea.** Acoustic recordings from 2017-2020 show a peak migration period of mid-August to late-October, including environment factors. <https://bit.ly/3Qz6oPC>
- **Solar farms reduce useable habitat.** 6 out of 8 studied species avoided fields of solar panels compared to control fields, with calls for updates to policy. <https://bit.ly/3KAy9nc>.

- **How AI is transforming projects at BCT.** Utilising cloud storage and an AI-powered Sound Classification System allows projects to expand: <https://bit.ly/3R1BK1u>.

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

Best wishes,

A small, square image showing a handwritten signature in dark ink. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style and appears to read 'Abby'.

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.**