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Please forward this information to others in your group.

Dear bat group member,

Merry Christmas and welcome to a quiet December edition of the Bat Group Bulletin! In this issue you can read about the latest research, along with an interview with our own Dr Lia Gilmour and put dates in your diary for next year's conferences and training.

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1. Reminder - VBRV Train the Trainers Course 2024. BCT and Natural England will be running a Train the Trainers course in Spring 2024, funded by NE, for those who wish to become a licensed Volunteer Bat Roost Visitor Trainer (CL16). This will be an in-person weekend course held at FSC Preston Montford (Shrewsbury) on 8-10 March as well as some pre-course sessions online. More details including the trainer role description can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3H4J5pP>.

The nomination form is the first stage in the process. Selection will be based on experience, demand and geographical location. Please note: the nomination form should come **from a committee member on behalf of the bat group** rather than the individual wishing to attend the course. Nominations are open until **15 January 2024**. [Bat Group Committee members can make their nomination using this form](#). Ensure to complete all mandatory fields and **click the second submit button that loads after the form**. You will receive an automatic email when successfully submitted.

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

- **7th February – Mailing List Mingle.** Opportunity for open discussion with other bat group members on [zoom](#) to discuss bat group mailing lists systems and methods. <https://bit.ly/3j5aNct>.
- **2nd March – Spring Into Action.** Save the date, more details to follow on the [in-person](#) training and workshops event at Stirling University. <https://bit.ly/3nbKSBI>.
- **23rd March – Midlands Regional Conference.** Save the date, more details to follow on the [hybrid](#) event. <https://bit.ly/3n73rXA>.
- **13th-15th September – National Bat Conference.** Save the date of the 2024 [hybrid](#) conference.
- **Ongoing – Bats and lighting talks.** Hear the talks given by experts who spoke at the Bats and Artificial Guidance Note Update Launch: <https://bit.ly/3TAj9Lk>.

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- **Ongoing – 4th edition survey guidelines: exploring the changes webinar:** <https://bit.ly/4803R70>.

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.

- **12th March – 3rd International Bat Research Online Symposium.** Free online event on replacement roosts for bats at buildings: <https://bit.ly/46TH9fY>.
- **23rd–24th April – Trees, People and the Built Environment 5 Conference.** Hybrid conference to provide a place for built and natural environment professionals to collaborate, with real-world case studies, research, and practical solutions: <https://bit.ly/49yDxlz>.
- **2nd–6th September – European Bat Research Symposium.** Scientific conference dedicated to the study and conservation of bats in Europe, in Tarragona, Spain: <https://bit.ly/3Rzj6wy>.
- **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.

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

- **Dr Lia Gilmour talks about the AI-powered acoustic survey tool – BCT's Sound Classification System.** Explains how the system removes barriers to surveying, improves bat conservation and increases impact on policy: <https://bit.ly/3v6KoTC>.
- **Cat–wildlife interactions and zoonotic disease risk.** Using bat–cat data to illustrate potential of community science to expand our understanding: <https://bit.ly/48270TO>.
- **Bats declined as Britain felled trees for colonial shipbuilding.** Using DNA analysis to discover barbastelles have declined 99% from historic levels. Here is the BCT news piece which includes a link to the published paper: <https://bit.ly/476B6Eu>.
- **Bidirectional movements of Nathusius' pipistrelle along migration corridors in Autumn.** Using acoustic tracking to show both South and North directional flight in the same time and place: <https://bit.ly/3TtEGW7>.
- **Lower foraging rates in urban areas.** Study looking at noctule feeding rates in urban habitat compared to rural conspecifics, showing that they get less prey in urban areas: <https://bit.ly/3GNyctE>.
- **Altered flight and feeding behaviour at solar farms.** Flying faster and straighter, indicating decreased feeding behaviour, showing ground-mounted solar farms affect foraging habitat: <https://bit.ly/47707PJ>.
- **Diet analysis gives recommendations for the conservation of Leisler's.** Based on faecal analysis: <https://bit.ly/3NC8LyO>.

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

4. Merry Christmas and a happy new year



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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.

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