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Newsletter

DUNDEE BAT GROUP FORMATION

A meeting held in Dundee on 30/1/08 resulted in the formation of the Dundee Bat Group. Those present, voted to ratify the proposed constitution, elected officers and trustees, and agreed to open a group bank account.

It was also agreed to seek charitable status from [Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator](#), and to apply for affiliation to the [Bat Conservation Trust](#).

OFFICE HOLDERS

Chair: [David Lampard](#)

Secretary: [David de Gernier](#)

Treasurer: [Tracey Jolliffe](#)

Trustees: [Kathy Longmuir](#)

BATS: MYTHS & FACTS

Bats do not build nests but hang up or crawl into cracks and crannies in trees, caves and buildings.

A pipistrelle, Europe's smallest bat, would fit on the end of your thumb.

In Europe, bats only eat insects. All British bats eat insects – a pipistrelle can eat 3000 midges in one night.

Bats are more closely related to people than to mice.

Bats are not blind and would hate to get tangled in your hair.

Bats can live up to 30 years.

Bats can see, but they need to hunt insects at night and so use a highly sophisticated echolocation system to find their way around in the dark and locate insects.

Bats wings are supported by bones similar to those in our hands and arms with very elongated fingers.

Female bats usually have only one baby each year

In winter, there are few insects around, bats hibernate in the cool buildings, caves or hollow trees.

Like all mammals, bats have fur and give birth to live young that they suckle on milk until they can fly and feed themselves.

Bat numbers have declined because of loss of places to shelter and feed, the use of toxic timber treatment in lofts and persecution due to myths, misunderstandings and ignorance of the facts.

The noctule bat, Britain's largest bat, shouts four times louder than the legal limit of noise allowed in a nightclub.

Bats rarely live in belfries, preferring somewhere quiet and free from cobwebs.

The pipistrelle bat, Britain's commonest bat, weighs just 5g, less than a £1 coin.

There are 16 species of bats found in the UK of which 11 are considered to be vulnerable or rare.

With its wings folded, a pipistrelle, Britain's smallest bat, fits into a matchbox.

BAT RESCUE & BAT HELPLINE

“Dundee Bat Group is most fortunate in having the help and expert knowledge of Tracey Jolliffe, a very experienced bat rehabilitator.”

Need help with a bat? A bat found on the ground during daylight hours is likely to be in trouble already. Bats are legally protected in UK. *

A grounded bat may just be exhausted and need a bit of time to recover. They are gentle creatures and seldom show any aggression but they are wild animals and may be frightened or in pain. You must take care not to be bitten so wear protective gloves if handling bats.

Dundee Bat Group is most fortunate in having the help and expert knowledge of Tracey Jolliffe, a very experienced bat rehabilitator.

The Bat help-line can be contacted on 07939-503235

You may also e mail batnurse@dundee-bats.com

chairman@dundee-bats.com

* For information on [bat law](#) & bat rescue go to www.dundee-bats.com.

WEB SITE AND MEMBERS FORUM

Visit our web site at dundee-bats.com

This site contains a wealth of information, with many links to important resources related to bat research and conservation.

Please register on Dundee Bat Group Forum. Details on how to logon, and a link to the forum is on the main web site at www.dundee-bats.com

Due to spam, the Forum is now password protected. For a user name and password, please contact [Webmaster](#)

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Let us know if you have seen bats in your house, garden, local buildings, church or park.

[Join the Dundee Bat Group](#) and/or the [Bat Conservation Trust](#). We are taking practical action to prevent further population declines, but we need your help.

Joining us is the most direct way to help bats. Use the membership form on our web site or attached to this newsletter to become a member. Or, give a donation to assist us in our bat conservation work.

Encourage bats in your

garden by growing night scented plants.

Tell people about bats, and Dundee Bat Group.

Let us know if your friends would like information, and invite one of us along to give a talk to your group or organize a “bat walk”.

SCOTTISH BAT SPECIES

Common pipistrelle:	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>
Soprano pipistrelle:	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>
Nathusius' pipistrelle:	<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>
Brown long-eared bat:	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>
Daubenton's bat :	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>
Natterer's bat:	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>
Whiskered bat:	<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>
Brandt's bat:	<i>Myotis brandtii</i>
Noctule:	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>
Leisler's bat:	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>

SCOTTISH BATS IDENTIFICATION KEY.

BAT DETECTORS

Bats sounds are too high-pitched to be heard by the human ear. A bat detector is a device that converts the ultrasonic calls into audible sounds. The sounds range from, clicks, ticks, smacking and soft whispering sounds to trills and harmonies similar to birdsong.

Bats rely on sound to find food, navigate in the dark and communicate with other bats. Using a bat detector means you can find out about their activities and behaviour in the field without disturbing or endangering these amazing nocturnal animals.

You can identify the species of bat using a bat detector. Different species echolocate (make calls) at different sound frequencies.

Some bats echolocate at similar frequencies. The type of sound heard as well as the frequency are important in making an identification.

The sounds you hear have been electronically converted by the detector. Ultrasonic sounds are inaudible to the human ear, but they are picked up by the detector and output as audible sound, either through the detector's speaker or through headphones.

You can record bat sounds directly from most detectors to tape, DAT or mini-disc. CDs of the different types of call made by each species are available to help you identify the bats.

Some detectors can analyse the sounds using PC software.

Look at Sound Analysis Software & Maps links on www.dundee-bats.com

For more information on echo location and a large selection of bat detectors and all other bat survey equipment visit the market leaders, Alana Ecology's first class web site.



COMPETITIONS

CONTRIBUTIONS

DUNDEE BAT GROUP WELCOMES ANY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PUBLICATION IN NEWSLETTER FROM OUR MEMBERS AND OTHER READERS.

PLEASE SEND ANY ARTICLES, CARTOONS, PHOTOGRAPHS OR BAT SOUND RECORDINGS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH OUR READERS TO,

E-MAIL:

news@dundee-bats.com

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB SITE FOR MORE BAT INFORMATION AND MANY RESOURCES:

www.dundee-bats.com

Please contact editor for details in regards content, preferred file types or formatting & copyright information.

editor@dundee-bats.com

We have two competitions this month.

- 1) Design a Logo for Dundee Bat Group to use in publications, web site, and promotion materials.

- 2) Create a name for group newsletter.

GUIDELINES: The logo & newsletter name should relate to both bats and Dundee.

Logo needs to be designed on a computer. (.jpeg or .tiff files please.)

Work must be original and not infringe any copyright.

We will try to arrange modest prizes, but you should be willing to donate your design for free use of group.

For more details, visit www.dundee-bats.com

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT BATS?

Bat group members throughout the UK consider education of the public in regards bats and their habitats to be the most important aspect of

bat conservation. Bat group members give talks, organise "bat walks" and attend various functions to promote awareness of important bat conservation

issues. If your organization, school or group wish to arrange an event or talk, please contact us to discuss this.

ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION

There are over 100 Bat Groups in the UK.

* Bat Groups are the mainstay of bat conservation in the UK. Most are run by volunteers who are united by their love of bats.

* Bat Groups vary greatly in their size, the way they operate and the things they do. Some 'groups' are just a single individual while others have hundreds of members.

* Most Bat Groups have members involved with projects like the BCT's [National Bat Monitoring Programme](#). They also carry out their own field work, including monitoring and [survey](#) of

roosts and important bat habitats, bat box surveys and inspections of underground sites, looking for hibernating bats.

* Bat groups also provide many of the Voluntary Bat Wardens, the mainstay of the roost visitor programme, providing free advice and information to people who find bats in their houses.

* Many groups organize training programmes, especially for people who wish to become licensed bat workers, but also run a wide range of events, walks and talks, showing members of the public bats on their doorstep.

* The first contact many people have with a bat is finding one that has lost its way, or become injured. Bat groups provide the vital network of volunteers, rescuing and caring for sick, injured or downed bats, rehabilitating them for release back into the wild.

* You do not need to be an expert to enjoy bats or to help conserve them. You can do as much or as little as you like. Whether you want to train to get a license, or just learn a little more about these fascinating creatures, **the key thing is to have fun.**