

## The Run up to Bat Map

BatMap began as an off the cuff to Leanne Townsend of the South Lancs Bat Group to come down to see barbastelles and it kind of snowballed. By the time we got to the weekend 47 people had expressed an interest, from S Lance, North Bucks, Cambridgeshire, Oxford as well as Daniel Hargreaves, who belongs to more groups than you can shake a stick at it.

Bob and I started planning in November last year, but as the weekend approached we began to be nervous in case things went wrong.

Along the way we made some interesting, which e outlined in the last issue, but there was more excitement to some.

We went to the private part of Baker's Wood. On **July 23<sup>rd</sup>**. The whole thing was more of an adventure than we planned as the owner wasn't available at the last moment, so a tall gate had to be scaled, with different degrees of ease. It was more than worth the climb (sez she who stayed outside the gate)

The Daniel effect worked its magic. First we caught a Brandt's bat and then not one but **FOUR** whiskered bats; the first we have ever caught in Bedfordshire.

My one regret is I did not get a picture of Danny Fellman's face when the whiskered were produced



We thought we had all the sites for the weekend fixed when we were told that Rusmere Pond had dried out, so n Aug 6<sup>th</sup> we went back to the site. Jude listened on a bat detector and found herself at barbastelle central. Meanwhile Chantal, Rhona Bob and Nicky went up into the woodland and caught another Brandt's on our side of the border. We would have tagged her, but didn't have time to pursue her so, reluctantly, we let her go untagged

So it's over to Leanne and Bob.

Read on gentle reader!



The last few days were spent putting paperwork together and making many cakes, and then the actual weekend arrived

