

Walk for Sight Concern at Stockgrove.

We did our first walk for Luton Sight Concern back in August 2009 when we visited Whipsnade.

We were delighted when we were asked again, and suggested we give Stockgrove Park a try.

Stockgrove very kindly gave us a key to the locks at the site and offered to let us park in the car park and trusted us with a key to the barrier – for which many thanks chaps.

Bob, Jude, Geraldine and Dick Hogg, Viv Heys, Penni Thorne and Chris and Steve Freeman turned out to give a hand and twenty members of the group joined us.

They were rewarded with what Bob reckons is the best night for bats we have ever had. After a brief introduction we headed off down the path and within a minute had heard our first bat. Excited squeaks from the bats were mirrored by the excited squeals of the group. One young walker was absolutely wide eyed and mumbled an awestruck “awesome”.

Many of them had enough sight to be able to see the bats against the sky.

A vibrant crocodile moved its way round the lake edge, the Noctules were so abundant that the sounds of the detectors was like a drumming group doing a performance, with the sound echoing across the lake. The only other sound was laughter. This acted as a soundtrack to the flying Noctules.

The Daubenton’s did not want to be outdone and flew formation over the lake. One lovely moment came when the daughter of one of the walkers started dancing to the music of the Daubenton’s.



could we get bored when we are with people as enthusiastic as you lot?”.



One of the men asked us if we ever got fed up with doing walks like this and I answered truthfully “How

Mark Chapman of Sight Concern made a tape of the evening and put it on his blog <http://www.youmaybemad.co.uk> which really captured the flavour of the event (though thank goodness not a lively discussion on the inverse correlation between the size of bat penis and bat’s brains ; he bigger the penis the smaller the brain). I sent the link to BCT and Dan Merrett, Count Bat Project leader says that he wants to use an edited version in a resource pack. He says it is to show people how it is done, but at the same time said it is not quite the way BCT suggests bat walks are done.

Penni Thorne has just got a Heritage lottery fund to run walks for Visually impaired youngsters and I have been commissioned to make her some more life sized bat models.