

## **PUBLIC BAT WALKS**



Throughout the season we run public bat walks by request or arranged by the group. Generally one or two group members lead the walks with a few other members scattered amongst the public (max of 20 people) to help answer questions and look after them (making sure we don't lose anyone). Feel free to get involved, experience is not necessary (once again there is always support) if you are just helping out and we can always provide training in leading walks if you are interested! It's a great way to learn more and meet people.

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## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **YAHOO NEWSGROUP**

When you join the Bat Group, you will receive an e mail invitation to join our yahoo newsgroup. This group is only open to Bedfordshire Bat Group members. You don't have to join, but it is a great way to share information and pictures and keep up to date with what the Bat Group is doing.

### **WEBSITE**

The Bat Group website is at [www.bedsbatgroup.org.uk](http://www.bedsbatgroup.org.uk) and is updated regularly. We also keep a blog of activities. This is a large site with lots of bat information about bats and Bat Group activities.



### **FACEBOOK**

The Bedfordshire Bat Group Facebook page has over 200 members

**BLOG** <http://bedfordshirebatgroup.blogspot.com/> for more technical updates

### **NEWSLETTER**

The 20 page Bats in Beds newsletter is published in January, April, July and October. We welcome any contributions, be it articles, news, illustrations or photos. This is available in print and as a pdf

### **MORE INFORMATION**

If you want to know more or to chat over ways of getting involved, contact Jude Hirstwood at [batsinbeds@fsmail.net](mailto:batsinbeds@fsmail.net) or The Bedfordshire Bat Group Luton Bat Project facebook pages.

## **What the bat group does**



**Bedfordshire  
Bat Group**

**The Bedfordshire Bat Group is a very active group and we are always looking for more people to come out with us. The more of us there are, the more we can do. No previous experience is needed**

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### **REGULAR SURVEYS**



### **PARKLAND SURVEYS**

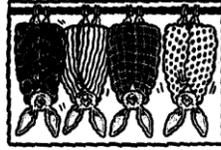
A pleasant stroll around water bodies & woodland with bat detectors, while keeping a record of bat activity. A great way to get fresh air in the dark, learn more and see the bats in action. Comfy walking shoes and a torch are recommended. We provide bat detectors.

\* = suitable for those with limited mobility

- \*Stockgrove Country Park, Heath and Reach – lakeside and woodland with bat boxes and bat roosts.
- \*Lakeside Survey – a bat roost with hundreds of bats in a spectacular setting. Bring a camping chair if you would like to sit while you count them out as they can take their time leaving. Feel free to bring a flask and munchies, sit or stand back and enjoy!
- \*Harrold Odell Country Park- another spectacular lakeside walk teeming with bats
- The Lodge at Sandy Warren – a slightly more strenuous walk on healthland and in woodland.
- Luton – our newest survey. Help us to find hotspots

## **HIBERNATION SURVEYS**

These involve going underground and spotting and identifying different hibernating bats tucked away in crevices. It's a good way of seeing parts of Bedfordshire, including icehouses, you may not have realized existed. See the October newsletter for booking details.



## **WOODLAND SURVEYS**

In addition to these regular surveys we carry out more specialised projects investigating bat distribution in a range of habitats (not just woodland) throughout Bedfordshire. These include bat detector surveys, . Bat box monitoring, mistnetting and radiotagging carried out under licence from Natural England

## **DATABASE**

All the information from these surveys and other records are kept on the bat group database, which has over twenty years of data. The bat group supplies information for use in planning applications. Searching the database generates income which allows us to buy more equipment. Survey information is also published in the Annual Report.

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## **INDOOR MEETINGS**

We hold occasional indoor meetings

### **AGM**

The business part of the meeting takes about fifteen minutes. It is followed by a brief review of the previous years activities and our plans for the next. Then its time to eat cake and buy raffle tickets, before listening to a guest speaker. It's a great way to spend a few hours and to put faces to names of other bat group members.

### **COMMITTEE**

The committee makes decisions about the running of the bat group. It meets three times a year and members are welcome to attend

*Updated February 2014*

## **TRAINING**

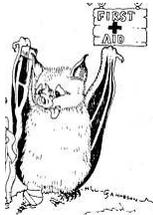
During the bat season we run occasional training sessions e.g. how to use a bat detector, how to help out on bat walks, bat care and sonogram analysis.



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## **ROOST VISITS LICENCE TRAINING**

A number of bat group members hold roost visitor licences from Natural England and carry out roost visits. Training takes in the region of two years and is available to active members of the bat group. Activemembers who do not want to be roost visitors can train for A range of class licences



## **BAT CARE**

Every year a number of bats are found grounded. Trained bat group members can give advice and when necessary take injured bats into care for treatment. Bats are returned to their natural habitat as soon as they are able.

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## **PUBLIC EVENTS**

### **BAT STALL AND TALKS**

We get invited to put up our display stall at a number of different events, such as county shows and local fairs. We always need volunteers to help man the stall, even if it's just for an hour to relieve others for a lunch break. Experience isn't necessary, there's plenty of support as there are always experienced folk on hand. It's a great way to meet people ranging from the curious to others in conservation groups (plus you get into these events for free!)

We also do talks for interested groups. These are mainly in the evening but we can do some during the day