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Please forward this information to others in your group.

Dear bat group member,

Hello and welcome to the February edition of the Bat Group Bulletin! In this issue you can read about exciting new projects and volunteering opportunities.

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1. New Woodland BCT Project in North Wales. BCT is excited to announce a new two-year project: Gobaith Coetir – Woodland Hope. The project aims to help rare bats and precious woodland in North Wales, with a special focus on Celtic rainforests and the lesser horseshoe bat. Welsh woodland Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSI) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) have not been well monitored, but an assessment in 2020 suggested at least 80% of them are in unfavourable condition. The project will use AudioMoth technology, involve and upskill the local community in citizen science, work with local partners and make it possible to monitor woodland bats in innovative and collaborative ways. This project will then advise on bringing woodland health into recovery. Darllenwch yn Gymraeg yma: <http://bit.ly/3ZfJ3nh>.

2. Hello from the New Project Officer for Species on the Edge. Cathryn Baillie recently joined the BCT team as a project officer for the new and exciting Species on the Edge project, which is now underway! She is based on the Isle of Skye and will be one of four project officers (from different organisations) for the Argyll and Inner Hebrides area. She'll be working closely with our project partners to conserve bats, engaging landowners and local communities to better understand bats and other wildlife in their area, raise awareness of bat conservation and improve local land management practices, as well as inspiring communities to connect with their natural heritage. You can read more about our work and the aims of the project here: <http://bit.ly/3Ez8KXY>. The project will focus on 37 priority species across 7 landscape scale areas, with bats being included in 4 of those: Argyll and Inner Hebrides, the Outer Hebrides, Orkney Isles and the Solway Coast. There will be opportunities to participate and if you would like further information, please do get in touch: cbaillie@bats.org.uk.

3. Help the Helpline this Summer. Every year the National Bat Helpline takes thousands of calls from people who have found grounded and injured bats. We are fast approaching the summer, during which our Helpline becomes very busy. To ensure that as many bats as possible are helped during this critical time, a Volunteer Bat Care Helpline (VBCH) is operated from May to September. We

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need volunteers to answer bat care-related calls during office hours (9.30pm-4.30pm), as well as during the evenings, weekends and bank holidays. Volunteers attend an interactive and informative virtual training day before carrying out 'Bat Watches' from the comfort of their home, receiving full support from BCT staff throughout the project. Volunteering on the VBCH is a very rewarding experience for beginners, experienced bat workers and everyone in between.

To find out more (including training dates) and to sign up, please follow this [link](#) (live from 1st March). More information about the project can be found on the [BCT website](#). Please note that volunteer positions are available on a first come first served basis. We will end recruitment once all the places on the four training days have been filled. If you have any questions, please email helplinevolunteers@bats.org.uk.

4. On a Wing and a Prayer. The Bats in Churches project commissioned artist Ilene Sterns to create this atmospheric artwork, 'On a wing and a prayer', celebrating the long-standing relationship between bats and churches. A multimedia installation accompanied by the sounds of the bats within the church will tour churches around England. For current display dates see: <http://bit.ly/3Z0lgla>.

5. BritBats Abstract Submission Open. The 6th British Bats Research Symposium will be back in-person this year in Bristol, and is inviting undergraduate, postgraduate, and postdoctoral researchers working with bats to submit a presentation for this year's conference. You can submit an abstract here: <http://bit.ly/3KwON7V>. Tickets for attending the event will go on sale 6th March.

6. Volunteering Opportunity in Albania. Jonathan Bradley (Surrey Bat Group member) has set up a [project in Leskovik, Albania](#). From about seven different nations, the team includes an eclectic mix of botanists, an architect, a photojournalist, students, a natural history author, ecologists, entomologists, community development experts, historians, even a professional story collector/teller. From 8th – 12th May, they will be joined by Ervis Loce, a licensed Albanian bat worker and will be conducting mist-netting surveys of communist military bunkers and of riparian woodlands, along with detector surveys. With particular focus on catching *Myotis* species, recording phenotypic characteristics and taking faecal matter for DNA analysis. This is an opportunity to be at the start of investigations of a completely unstudied region. You do not need to be an experienced bat worker but if you are, great! For more information please contact Jonathan on info@verdantecology.co.uk.

7. The Big Green Hike. BCT is again taking part in the Big Green Hike on Sunday 2nd April. This is a very accessible event and a great way to raise funds for bats! Participants choose their own route and distance, you only need to register (which is free). More info: <http://bit.ly/3OKJEJm>.

8. Reminder – National Bat Conference 2023. We're pleased to announce that this year's National Bat Conference will be held on **15th-17th September** at the University of Nottingham. Save the date for now or join our mailing list to be the first to hear the latest: <https://bit.ly/3QqJS9H>. We have also opened the call for abstracts, deadline of **17th April**: <http://bit.ly/3JPw6ZN>.

9. 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 (Naomi and Kat) 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 is now running a hybrid program of online and in person events.

- **16th March – Secondary Roost Surveys for Arborists.** In-person course follows on from our Scoping Surveys for Arborists course, teaching use of the endoscope: <http://bit.ly/3pRf31W>.
- **25th March – South West regional conference.** Booking is open for this hybrid event at Petroc College Tiverton Campus. Find the programme and booking links here: <http://bit.ly/3DmsygQ>.
- **30th March & 6th April – How to organise and lead a bat walk.** An online course split into two sessions and a practical in between: <http://bit.ly/3kjqNv>.
- **13th & 17th April – Bats for Heritage Professionals.** Online course over two afternoons, technical advice for anyone working with heritage buildings: <http://bit.ly/3dROAxU>.
- **15th April – North of England regional conference.** Booking to open very soon for this hybrid event! Check this page for the programme and booking links when available: <http://bit.ly/3EBlagL>.
- **3rd May – Caring for baby bats.** Specialised online evening course looking at the challenges and best practice caring for baby bats. Not an introductory course: <https://bit.ly/3TqCQSe>.
- **11th May – Bats for Building Professionals.** One day in-person course to increase awareness of responsibilities with regard to bats: <http://bit.ly/3UMgxrr>.
- **8th–10th August – Advanced bat survey techniques.** In-person course giving theoretical and practical experience of lures, harp traps, mist nets and radio tracking: <http://bit.ly/3gdx1GG>.
- **4th–6th September – Advanced bat survey techniques.** In-person course giving theoretical and practical experience of lures, harp traps, mist nets and radio tracking: <http://bit.ly/3gdx1GG>.
- **15th–17th September – National Bat Conference.** Save the date! This year's National Bat Conference will be held at the University of Nottingham. Sign up to be on the mailing list for news of the conference here: <https://bit.ly/3QqJS9H>. Submit abstracts until 17th April.

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.

- **5th May – BritBats Symposium.** One day in-person conference presenting academic work, open to anyone. Tickets on sale from 6th March and they are currently accepting abstracts: <https://www.britbats.com/>.
- **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.

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

- **IR light barriers for improved accuracy.** Estimating population size at hibernation sites is difficult, this study looked at the accuracy of light barriers in comparison to other methods. <https://bit.ly/3IOzWV8>.
- **Affect of climate change on morphology.** Long term study shows warmer summers lead to larger and longer-lived females only in northern populations of Natterer's bats. <http://bit.ly/3SoQ3vW>.

- **Wind turbine curtailment case study from Croatia.** Mitigation for mortalities at the wind turbine site created an estimated reduction of 78% after two years of curtailment during the high collision risk period. <http://bit.ly/3J0Rde9>.
- **New best practice guidance to satellite technologies for tracking wildlife.** From the Zoological Society of London, created with the support of WILDLABS and the UK Space Agency. <http://bit.ly/3IQEN8g>.

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

Best wishes,



Abby Packham
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.**