

Events programme 2017

Please note that additional events may be added, keep a look on our website for updates –

www.lrbatgroup.org.uk

To book your place (so we know who to wait for and how much kit to bring) please e-mail batevents@outlook.com

NB – As with all evening walks, even in summer the weather can be cool after sunset. Bring warm clothes and a torch. If the weather looks 'iffy' it is worth checking with the named contact that the event will be going ahead. If it is throwing it down with rain the walk is unlikely to go ahead.

National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP) This scheme is run by the Bat Conservation Trust. It involves evening counts at roosts in June of four species – Natterer's, Brown Long-eared, Common and Soprano Pipistrelle – and two types of field transect surveys: the Noctule, Serotine, Pipistrelle field survey (undertaken in July) and the waterways survey for Daubenton's bats (undertaken in August).

Sorry about the dates to be decided. It's difficult to juggle work and volunteer commitments so far in advance. Please contact the relevant person so that they can let you know when a date has been organised or keep checking the website/Facebook.

Bat walks are free to group members, £3.00 from non-members.

Please wear clothing for being out at night, it might still get chilly and suitable footwear. Please bring a torch if you have one (we have some spare).

MAY

12th May – From 19.00 onwards - Knighton Park Bioblitz

We'll be helping Leicester City Council add as many species as possible to their tally during this 24 hour wildlife recording extravaganza. We'll be doing a couple of bat walks which will be advertised on the City Council's website shortly.

18th May – 21.00 - Thornton Reservoir

Bat walk/survey around the reservoir to see what bats are coming to feed on the emerging aquatic insects.

To book your place (so we know who to wait for and how much kit to bring) please e-mail batevents@outlook.com Booking is essential as places are limited.

24th May – 20.30 – Brocks Hill Country Park & Visitor Centre

Talk at 8.30, followed by a walk at 9.30.

This walk and talk has been arranged by Oadby & Wigston Borough Council.

Please book via the Brocks Hill Environment Centre on 0116 2572888. They will charge a fee.

Located at Washbrook Ln, Oadby, Leicester LE2 5JJ, UK

25th May – 21.00 - Burbage Wood, Burbage Common and possibly Sheepy Wood

Come and join us for a bat walk/survey around Burbage and Sheepy Woods. We don't have any records for these woods so come and join us and see what we find!

To book your place (so we know who to wait for and how much kit to bring) please e-mail batevents@outlook.com Booking is essential as places are limited.

30th May – 21.30 – Watermead Country Park

Join us for a bat walk of Watermead Country Park. The park contains lots of lakes and rough grassland which provides lots of insects for the bats which roost and forage here. Be prepared for an orchestra of clicks and feeding buzzes.

To book and to get more details of where to meet, please e-mail batevents@outlook.com

£3.00 for non-members, free to members.

JUNE

June – date to be decided - Egleton Church Roost Counts for the NBMP

This maternity roost holds large numbers of soprano pipistrelles; in 2015 up to 1000 bats emerged. Please meet at the church which is on the edge of Egleton village, at the western end of Rutland Water. Leader Jenny Harris; meeting times 9.00pm for th June and pm for th June. Parking is limited in the village so please book with Jenny on 01572 755274 or 07754 141785. (These are NBMP counts)

June – date to be decided – Hoby Church roost count

Daubenton's count. Please book with Jenny on 01572 755274 or 07754 141785.

June – date to be decided – Natterer's NBMP Count at Stonton Wyville Church.

There are small number of bats in this isolated church but really worth a visit to try the new AnaBat Walkabout and to have a chat about batting as we sit and wait (two visits one early in the month the other 14 days or so later)

Contact Jools Partridge on 07799677411 for more details.

4th June – 10.30 – 16.30 Brocks Hill Garden Party

Fun and excitement for all the family at the Brocks Hill Garden Party which is a day to celebrate Natural History and the Natural Environment.

We will have our bat stand there so come and see us for a chat.

Free entry and free parking.

8th June – 21.30 - Swithland Woods

Come and join us for a bat walk/survey around Swithland Woods. We don't have any records for Swithland Woods so come and join us and see what we find!

To book your place (so we know who to wait for and how much kit to bring) please e-mail batevents@outlook.com Booking is essential as places are limited.

17th and 18th June – 10.00 – 16.00 – Bradgate Park Wildlife Weekend – bat walk – 21.30

Come and see us at our bat group stand at the Wildlife Weekend held at Bradgate Park. Find us on the Deer Meadow by the Deer Barn. We will be doing a bat walk on the Saturday evening at 21.30 which will cost £3.00 per person (whether you are a member or not).

There will be many walks, talks, demonstrations and tracking taking place over the weekend by a wide variety of wildlife groups. There will be fun activities for all the family.
FREE EVENT (there will be a small charge for the bat walk)

20th June – Charnwood Lodge Roost Counts, between Coalville and Shepshed

Roost counts of Natterer's and Pipistrelles, possibly a chance to see Brown Long-eared and hear Noctule too. This is a Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust nature reserve.
Contact Jenny on 01572 755274 or 07754 141785.

JULY

July – date to be decided - Bradgate Park - NBMP Field survey

A few places will be available on the popular survey through Bradgate Park. Here we have the chance of seeing some spectacular bat action using AnaBat Walkabout. You could even look at the data yourself and see what we record during the walk. This is quite a long walk so be prepared – Contact Jools Partridge on 07799677411 for more details.

AUGUST

August – date to be decided - Brown's Hill Quarry Swarming Brown's Hill Quarry

To watch Daubenton's, Natterer's and other bats emerging from the underground hibernation site. After emergence we stay until about 2 hours after sunset, as the 'swarming' behaviour of the bats round the tunnel entrance is an extraordinary experience. Meet at 7.45pm for the emergence and swarming. Park on the verge next to the nature reserve, at SK 741 236, about a quarter mile east of Holwell village. Bring warm clothes and something to sit on; we shall break after the first emergence to allow the bats time to return before we go back to the tunnel for the main swarming events, so you may like to bring refreshments too. This event involves sitting quietly in the dark so may not be suitable for children.

Leader: Jenny Harris, contact 01572 755274 (h), 07754 141785 (m) or 0116 2629968 (w).

August – date to be decided - Jubilee Park, Enderby - NBMP Waterways survey

A few places will be available on this survey to learn how to undertake a Waterway Survey on your own with a friend. Three species of bat are usually encountered so come along and try a bat detector – Contact Jools on 07799677411 for more details.

28th August – 9.00 – 17.00 - Countryside Show at Beacon Hill

Come and meet us or join us for a chat at our bat stand.

31st August – 20.00 - Aylestone meadows

Bat walk around Aylestone Meadows to see what bats feeding on these wet meadows and canal. We have few records for this site so it will be interesting to see what we come across.

To book your place (so we know who to wait for and how much kit to bring) please e-mail batevents@outlook.com Booking is essential as places are limited.

SEPTEMBER

1st – 3rd September - Swarming Conference

Plans are well underway for the first Swarming Conference, this event is being organised by Steve Roe of Derbyshire Bat Group, Anita Glover of the Vincent Wildlife Trust and Naomi Webster at BCT. The conference will take place over the weekend of 1st to 3rd September at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. The weekend will include practical field work on the Saturday night. If you would like to be notified when more information is available and when bookings open please email Naomi at: nwebster@bats.org.uk

14th September – 19.30 - Martinshaw Woods

Bat walk/survey to see what bats are coming to feed or roosting in this woodland. We have few records for this site so it will be interesting to see what we come across.

To book your place (so we know who to wait for and how much kit to bring) please e-mail batevents@outlook.com Booking is essential as places are limited.

28th September – 18.45 - Kelham Bridge Nature Reserve and Sence Valley Park

Bat walk around the nature reserve to see what bats are coming to feed on the emerging aquatic insects. We have previously recorded *Nathusius pipistrelle*, soprano pipistrelle and noctules at this nature reserve. If we have time we'll head over to Sence Valley Park too.

To book your place (so we know who to wait for and how much kit to bring) please e-mail batevents@outlook.com Booking is essential as places are limited.

Footnote

Want to try some bat survey techniques? Then contact the Group through the Coordinator Jools Partridge on 07799677411. Someone in the group is usually out undertaking bat surveys if the weathers good that may not be on the programme, so call and find out!