



HAM NEWS Bulletin ~ Jan-March 2012

LAUNCH OF NEW HAM WEBSITE

Check out our new website!! It is still in the early stages, but we hope to add to it and improve it over time. Any suggestions or ideas would be gratefully received!!

<http://sites.google.com/site/herefordshiremammals/>

FAREWELL TO HILARY SMITH



Hilary with her gift: Harvest Mice, a fine sculptured and hand painted resin figurine from the "Border Fine Arts Mammals" collection.



Sadly, in December, we said goodbye to Hilary Smith, one of our founder members. On behalf of HAM, the Committee were pleased to present her with this small token of our appreciation for all the work she has put into the group over the years. Hilary has been around since the start of HAM. She was always a very active member, spending much of her time dedicated to the role of HAM Coordinator. Hilary has now moved to Lancaster where she will, no doubt, soon get fully involved in whatever action for mammals is going on in her new home

terrain! If you want to keep in touch with Hilary, please contact HAM and with Hilary's permission, we will pass her details onto you.

AGM NEWS

Those of you that attended the AGM will remember that we were organising a donation the Mammal Society. HAM has donated £250, half the cost of having a batch of membership logo lapel badges made, to enable the Society to raise some funds by selling these to its members. We have had a very nice letter from the Chief Executive thanking the group for the donation, and telling us that we will be

on the powerpoint back drop for the up and coming National Conference in March (all booked up I am afraid) so that all attendees will see that we have supported the Society!

On another point brought up at the AGM, we are in the process of organising a data exchange between BCT and the HBRC in relation to the National Bat Monitoring Programme Records (NBMP). The other national surveys will also be looked into, however Emma at HBRC is rather busy due to Jane (who gave the very interesting talk at the AGM) having left to work for the Vincent Wildlife Trust!

BAT NEWS

Bat Droppings Wanted

Can anyone help with this request from Joan Cottrell, Centre for Human and Ecological Sciences at Forest Research:

"I work for Forest Research and we are trying to develop a test that will allow bats to be identified from the DNA on their droppings. With the exception of the two common pipistrelles, we are finding it difficult to source reasonably fresh droppings from other British bat species and I wondered if you might have access to any of these. It is important that they are not contaminated by human DNA (i.e. that they have been picked up with tweezers and only handled if gloves have been worn) and they are reasonably fresh. If you do have access to such material I would be very grateful if you could send it in to us to test at the address below. It would be helpful if you also had a good idea of the identity of the species that produced the droppings. We are currently offering to do the work for nothing and to let you know the results but we eventually hope to launch it as a commercial service. Thank you for any help you are able to provide. Best regards, Joan Cottrell"

Email: Joan.Cottrell@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Post: Dr Joan Cottrell, Centre for Human and Ecological Sciences, Forest Research, Northern Research Station, Roslin, Midlothian, Scotland, EH25 9SY. Phone: 0131 445 6921

Regional BCT Bat Conference on 10th March 2012 - located in the Midlands - venue to be confirmed - cost very reasonable about £25-£30. Open to all interested in bats. If interested contact Lisa Worledge at BCT: lworledge@bats.org.uk or call 020 7820 7176

New White Nose Syndrome Guidelines for Bat Workers and Bat Carers

Revised guidelines for Bat Workers and also for Bat Carers are now available on the BCT website at: www.bats.org.uk/pages/about_bats-white-nose_syndrome-586.html (the latest information on reported suspect cases can be found at: www.bats.org.uk/pages/info_for_batworkers.html). If you have any problems downloading a copy of either set of guidelines, or you have any comments to make on the documents, please email Lisa Worledge at: lworledge@bats.org.uk

N.B. Key date for the diary - 28th April 2012 – Spring into Action with the Wales Bat Workers Day at Llandrindod Wells

National Bat Conference 2012 (University of York 14th to 16th September)

The Localism Act (England & Wales)

The Localism Act received royal assent on 15th November. The Act paves the way for a number of important changes to the planning regime in England and Wales, including the abolition of regional strategies, the creation of new Mayoral Development Corporations in London, the abolition of the Infrastructure Planning Commission, and the creation of a new Major Infrastructure Planning Unit, to sit within the Planning Inspectorate and prescribes a new obligation on developers to carry out pre-application consultation for major development schemes. A new tier of planning has also been created with the introduction of a new right for communities to influence decisions on planning in their neighbourhood. This right includes the ability to influence where communities think development should take place.

As always, the devil will be in the detail of secondary legislation required to implement many of the provisions contained in the new Act. Many of the measures are expected to be in place by April 2012.

The Department for Communities and Local Government published a guide to the Localism Bill which outlines the main areas for change: www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/localismplainenglishupdate.

A more detailed analysis of the new Act and its implications for planning authorities and developers alike will be published in due course and BCT will be working alongside other NGOs and bat groups to make sure that bats and the habitats that they depend on are safeguarded.

NEW DORMOUSE SURVEYS IN HEREFORDSHIRE

As part of a project to assess tube use, three sites in Herefordshire will have dormouse tubes installed this winter where there are already known populations of dormice. There will be opportunities to help put the tubes out (probably in February or March) and to help check the tubes each month from May through to October 2012. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact Dave Smith. This could be a good chance to see dormice and dormice nests and would eventually help towards obtaining a dormouse handlers license for people who are interested in setting up their own surveys in the future.

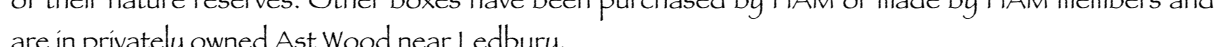
Dave Smith, 07905849842, 01432 266937, davetreesmith@aol.com




EVENTS



Bat Box checks



We are now half way through our bat box checking season which runs from September through to April. Most of the boxes we check are owned by the Hereford Nature Trust and are situated on some of their nature reserves. Other boxes have been purchased by HAM or made by HAM members and are in privately owned Ast Wood near Ledbury.



Bat boxes serve the dual purpose of providing roosting sites for bats and also as a simple way of monitoring bat presence. Checking bat boxes is an ideal way of getting up close to bats and learning how to identify different species. So far this winter we have found small groups of pipistrelles, brown long eared bats and noctules. One of the exciting things about checking boxes is you never know what will turn up. After checking the boxes at Ast Wood for nearly ten years we found our first noctule (Britain's largest bat) in January this year. We also often come across yellow necked mice and dormice who both like to use bat boxes in which to build their homes. Most of our checks take no more than three hours and don't require any previous experience, just some warm clothes and the ability to climb a short ladder. There are three checks left this winter, if anyone who hasn't been before would like to come along please contact Dave Smith or Rebecca Collins for more information. Bats or no bats, it's a pleasant way to spend a morning with fellow wildlife enthusiasts.



Feb 19 Nupend (Woolhope)



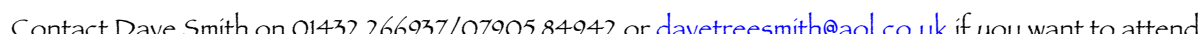
March 18 Woodend (Doward)



April 15 Ast Wood (Ledbury)



Second hibernation count at Canon Frome Court - 10.00 am on Sunday 12th Feb



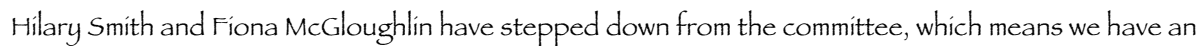
Contact Dave Smith on 01432 266937/07905 84942 or davetreesmith@aol.co.uk if you want to attend and for more details.








OTHER



The Mammal Society runs a wide range of expert-led training courses across the British Isles for consultants, conservationists and enthusiasts alike. For full details of their current training courses ring 02380 237 874, visit www.mammal.org.uk or email adunlop@mammal.org.uk



Hilary Smith and Fiona McGloughlin have stepped down from the committee, which means we have an opening on the committee for another member. If anyone is interested in stepping up then please contact Jessica Lamerton on 01432 341837 or jessicalamerton@yahoo.co.uk.





A BIT OF FUN (SNORING DORMOUSE)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLS3wIGGE8g&feature=player_embedded

Check out the attached link to a snoring dormouse, it is very CUTE!!!!!!

MAMMAL RECORDS - Please send all records to Felicity Burge, contact details below.

HAM CONTACTS

HAM Main Email: herefordmammals@bigfoot.com and hamnewsletter@hotmail.com

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