



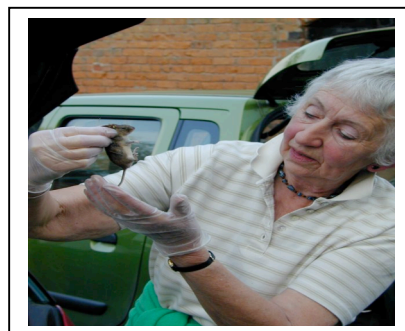
HAM NEWS Bulletin ~June/July 2011

SPRING/SUMMER IS HERE!!!

IN MEMORY OF VAL JERMY

Val Jermy was a well known naturalist in Herefordshire.

She had a special interest in mammals and was always keen to promote mammal awareness and conservation, particularly amongst children and farmers. She was a member of HAM almost from the start and joined the Committee in 2006 as our County Mammal Recorder. Val directed much of her amazing energy and enthusiasm by personally contributing a significant number of mammal records to the HBRC and was persistent in encouraging



skills that were rooted in her past career in teaching. Many of us benefited from this at HAM field events where she often shared the delights of small mammal surveys using Longworth traps. Val was an inspiration to us all and will be sorely missed

BAT GROUP BULLETIN 63: 5TH MAY 2011

1. New Partnerships Officer

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself (Lisa Worledge) as the new Partnerships Officer at BCT. I'm taking over from Laura Dunne (who will be on maternity leave from Friday 6th May). My role will be a little different to Laura's, with more joint-project work with Partner Groups (depending on local interests). I'm really happy to be working at BCT and look forward to meeting lots of bat groups, hearing about what you are working on and identifying potential project opportunities. If you would like to get in touch please email me at: lworledge@bats.org.uk or call on 020 7820 7176.

2. Wales Bat Conference 2011

We are delighted to announce that we are now taking bookings. You can download a form at http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/wales_bat_conference.html or use the attached booking form.

3. Planning Review in England

The Department for Communities and Local Government has begun a consultation to seek views on the Government's proposals to amend the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended) to grant permitted development rights to changes of use from commercial to residential, i.e. to allow such changes of use without the need for planning applications. The changes will apply to England only but the documents do not make reference to any protected species, including bats. The consultation closes on 30th June 2011. To find out more about this consultation exercise and to have your say individually or as a Bat Group please see the following

webpage:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/relaxationchangeconsultation>.

BCT will also be preparing a response so if you would like to pass on comments rather than sending a direct response please email Lisa Hundt at lhundt@bats.org.uk

4. Government's "Red Tape Challenge"

The coalition government has set us all a 'Red Tape Challenge'. They are inviting us to tell them what we think should happen to a huge raft of UK regulations and why. The regulations open for review include environmental regulations and can be found under "general regulations" (comments welcomed throughout the process). In short, it seems the government is considering getting rid of 278 environment laws (among thousands of laws and regulations), 159 of which relate to biodiversity, wildlife management, landscape, countryside and recreation (including WCA 1981, CROW 2000, Habs Regs 2010 etc.) as part of its 'Red Tape Challenge'. The Cabinet Office is seeking proposals for which laws should be scrapped, with Ministers facing a basic presumption that laws and regulations listed in the Red Tape Challenge should be scrapped. Once the nation has had its say, Ministers will have three months to work out which regulations they want to keep and why.

The website lists the 278 environmental regulations under scrutiny and your comments (either as an individual or as a Bat Group) can be left under 7 broad headings. See the following pages to leave your comments: <http://www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/environment/> or <http://www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk>. BCT will be preparing a response so if you would like to pass on comments rather than sending a direct response please email Lisa Hundt at lhundt@bats.org.uk. You can also sign up to a 38 Degrees Petition against treating wildlife legislation as 'red tape' at <http://www.38degrees.org.uk/page/s/dont-scrap-environment-laws>

HBRC OUTDOOR RECORDERS MEETING AT BYTHAN, AVENBURY

This year with kind permission from Hilary and Peter Hillier we will be holding the event at their home in Avenbury on **15th and 16th of June 2011**. The site has a good mixture of habitats including orchards, unimproved grassland, woodland, veteran trees, ponds and also a W.E.T. system created to deal with effluent. There are also some beautiful views across the local landscape.

For those of you who attended last year's meeting at Turnastone Court this event will follow a similar format. It will begin on the evening of the 15th of June which will allow us to record nocturnal species and also provide an opportunity for traps to be set that can then be checked on the 16th - the main day of recording. Recorders will be able to access the many habitats present throughout the day and the event will end with an opportunity for informal discussion about the species recorded and any management issues and advice that may be offered by recorders.

I hope that you will be able to attend one or both of the days. The start times have yet to be confirmed, but are likely to be around 7pm on the 15th and 9.30am on the 16th.

If you are interested in attending please contact Emma at HBRC ASAP. I will contact those recorders who would like to attend with full details a little closer to the time. Please feel free to forward this invitation on to anyone who you feel it may be of interest to.

If you are not able to make the event but would like to record at the site, then please indicate this also as the owner may be able to welcome recorders at another time.

Yours sincerely

Emma

Emma Wall

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Herefordshire Biological Records Centre

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MIDSUMMER WILDLIFE RECORDING AT



ST WEONARD'S CHURCHYARD,
SOUTH HEREFORDSHIRE
MONDAY 20TH TO TUESDAY 21ST JUNE 2011



CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE IS SETTING ITS CHURCHYARD TASK TEAM THE CHALLENGE OF IMPROVING THE BIODIVERSITY AT ST WEONARD'S CHURCHYARD IN 2011. BUT WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT IS THERE NOW.....



We would like to invite yourself or your group to come along, preferably on the 20th or 21st June to conduct a survey of the wildlife in the churchyard. The areas included are the church, walls, monuments, trees, old grassland around the church, the new burial area, and the meadow area – a possible future green burial ground.

We realise that it might not be the best time of year for your particular wildlife speciality, but any records collected from now until the end of August would be very valuable to us.

The programme for the event will be:

Monday 20th June: Start at 1900 with small mammal surveys, moth traps and bat surveys until around midnight.

Tuesday 21st June: Dawn bat survey starting at 0330, small mammal trapping, moth identification.

0900-1000 – Reptile and amphibian surveys (refugia)

1000 – 1530 Open for all possibly including school groups. If you would be happy to talk to small groups of people about how to find and identify your particular wildlife, please let me know your preferred time of day if any.

The church is equipped with kitchen and toilet facilities, and indoor space for stalls or exhibitions. If you would like to have a table or stall provided please let me know. Drinks and cakes will be provided through the day. (Some mileage expenses can be reimbursed if agreed prior to the event).

Please let me know if you are interested in attending, or do contact me for more information either by phoning 01568 611154 on a Monday, or emailing info@cfga.fsnet.co.uk (addressed for the attention of Hilary) by 31st May.

Look forward to seeing you there!

Hilary Smith - Volunteer Co-ordinator

HAM BARBECUE/MAMMALS ON THE MAP

We would like to invite all members to a barbecue we wish to hold on Friday 8th July from 6.00pm to 9.30pm for a summer celebration and also a farewell celebration for Hilary Smith HAM's creator.

Alongside the barbecue we are holding the annual meeting for existing and new members, where we let you know what we have coming up and what HAM does. After an introduction and some food, we will check small mammal traps to see what we have caught, followed by a bat roost visit with detectors to monitor the species of bats present. The event will be held at the Weir Gardens and more information including an agenda will be sent out soon. If you are interested in attending, then please contact Jessica Lamerton on 01432 341837 or jessicalamerton@yahoo.co.uk

BATS

Bat bat walk/survey at Morton Wood near Bodenham on Tuesday 16th August.

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

Bat walk to gain bat records south of Hereford, near Grafton on 12th June.

Contact Rebecca Collins on if you want to attend, her details are at the end of the newsletter.

NBMP Bat survey dates to be advertised and sent out very soon.

Key Dates for Your Diary

Watch this space for dates of conferences and other events you may be interested in:

- 2nd & 3rd July – Wales Bat Conference, University of Wales, Trinity St David, Carmarthen (see item 1. Above)
- 27th to 28th August – 15th European Bat Night (see http://www.eurobats.org/news_events/european_bat_night.htm)
- 16th to 18th September – National Bat Conference, University of Warwick (see http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/national_bat_conference.html)

DORMICE

Dormouse box scheme at Ast Wood SO 674 379

Sat June 18th

Sat July 23rd

Sat Aug 20th

Sat Sept 17th

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

Dormouse box checks at Queenswood Country Park, Dinmore Hill near Leominster. Meet at 9.00am in the carpark. Dates will be sent out soon via Mike Coleman's event reminders.

Please contact Jessica Lamerton on 01432 341837 or jessicalamerton@yahoo.co.uk if you wish to attend.

OTHER

Living with Mammals Survey – www.ptes.org/lwm & Mammals on Roads www.ptes.org/MoR for the newsletter

Fiona McGloughlin has stepped down off the committee; we thank her for all her work towards HAM. 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.

RSPB have a stand up at Queenswood for the summer every Thursday – Sunday. They will be holding children's activities in the holidays and would welcome any volunteers to come and help on the stand for a day here or there. Any keen bird enthusiasts keen to share their knowledge also welcome. If you are interested in taking part in volunteering, then please contact Jessica Lamerton on 01432 341837 or jessicalamerton@yahoo.co.uk

MAMMAL RECORDS

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

SMALL MAMMAL SURVEY REMINDER

Small mammal surveys – For all details of the surveys and grid references available, please contact Hilary Smith on 01432 267312 or hilary.smith609@gmail.com for the information.

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