

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RATES

Individual £7.50 - Family £10.00

Concessions £5.00

Membership subscriptions run from January to December.

Please make cheques payable to "Warwickshire Bat Group"

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Email

Please add me to Warwickshire Bat Group's email discussion list.

Membership fee £

I also wish to make a donation of £

Total amount £

Joining date ____ / ____ / ____

How did you hear of Warwickshire Bat Group?

- Bat Walk at
- BCT Warwickshire Wildlife Trust
- Warksbats website Facebook page
- Through a friend
- Other

Send this form and your membership fee to the Warwickshire Bat Group Membership Secretary:



Martina Irwin
61 Shilton Lane, Walsgrave on
Sowe, Coventry CV2 2AB.

Information given in the form above will not be shared with any third party.

BATS & THE LAW

Under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, bats have become amongst the most protected animals in Britain. The legislation makes it illegal to recklessly disturb, injure or kill a bat, or to damage or obstruct access to any place that a bat uses for shelter. It is not illegal though, to remove bats from the living area of a house or to rescue injured or abandoned bats.

Thanks to this protection and the efforts of the Bat Conservation Trust and volunteer groups like ours, many bat populations are now stable or increasing, after decades of decline.

If bats are unwelcome or work is planned in a building suspected of housing bats at any time, contact the National Bat Helpline. Work will not necessarily be prevented, but advice can be given on the least disturbing way of doing it.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND ADVICE CONTACT:

NATIONAL BAT HELPLINE

Run by the Bat Conservation Trust

Call 0345 1300 228 (local rate)

www.bats.org.uk

enquiries@bats.org.uk

The Bat Conservation Trust operates the National Bat Helpline for people with enquiries about bats. If your enquiry is not urgent, you can email your enquiry to enquiries@bats.org.uk which will be answered as soon as they can during normal working hours.

This helpline also handles calls on behalf of Natural England. They can provide advice or arrange a visit from a licensed batworker if bats are unwelcome or you plan to do some work that may disturb them.



Evening guided bat walk with the Friends of Abbey Fields, Kenilworth.

Warwickshire Bat Group



Inspecting bat boxes in Warwickshire



Taking forearm measurements of a Brown Long Eared Bat!



www.warksbats.co.uk



www.facebook.com/WarksBats

Warwickshire Bat Group

ABOUT US

We are a group of volunteers who seek to participate in and promote the conservation of bats and their habitats in Warwickshire.

The objectives of the group are to:

- advance the protection and conservation of bats, their roosts, feeding areas and hibernacula in the areas of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull;
- educate the public and the Group members in all matters relating to bats;
- actively participate in the research and recording of bats in Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull;
- train members in the identification, care, and handling of bats and as licensed bat workers;
- provide a network of volunteers who are able to care for grounded and injured bats.

The Group was first formed in the mid 1980s by Mick Finnemore of Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and fellow enthusiasts. Today Warwickshire Bat Group is a separate organisation, operating as a partner group to the national bat conservation charity, BCT (Bat Conservation Trust). It is one of over 90 local bat groups in Britain.

Membership of the group is quite mixed, from professional ecologists to enthusiastic amateurs and people who joined the group in order to find out more about bats. We always welcome new members whatever their level of knowledge.

Join us today!



BATS ARE AMAZING

- Bats are the only truly flying mammals. Like us they have fur and give birth to live young, which they suckle on milk.
- Bats are not blind and would hate to get tangled in your hair! They see well in low light but cannot see colours.
- There are 18 different species of bat recorded as resident in Britain and all of them eat insects. More than half of these have been recorded in Warwickshire.
- There are over 1,200 different species of bat in the world. Bats are found on every continent except for Antarctica and a few oceanic islands.
- Bat mothers congregate in gatherings known as 'maternity roosts' in June or July and usually have just one baby each year.
- Bats do not build nests or gnaw wood – they just hang up or crawl into small spaces.
- Bats roost in trees, caves, mines and a variety of buildings, including modern houses.
- Britain's smallest bat, the Pipistrelle, is only 4cm long and weighs about 5g - less than a 2p coin! With its wings folded it can fit inside a matchbox
- Bats' wings are giant hands, with skin stretching between elongated fingers. They use their thumb, which has a small claw, for grooming and climbing.
- British bats detect their prey using echolocation – a sophisticated form of sonar.
- Bats are more closely related to us than to mice and can live for over 30 years.



A Pipistrelle Bat

WHAT DOES MEMBERSHIP ENTAIL?

The group arranges activities for members, to provide opportunities to see and learn more about bats, plus walks and talks that are open to both members and non-members.

Some members of the group provide care for injured bats. This is specialist role but volunteers to collect grounded bats and take them to one of the qualified carers would be welcome and training for this role can be provided.

You can find out more about the group and about bats in Warwickshire and the UK from our own website: www.warksbats.co.uk and the BCT's website: www.bats.org.uk

When you join the group, you can elect to join our email group which is the means we use to keep in touch with members.

WHY JOIN WARWICKSHIRE BAT GROUP?

Bats are fascinating creatures - hopefully if you are reading this, you have already met a member of the group who has shared their enthusiasm for bats with you. But they are also a species in need of protection. Like many wild creatures, as the number of humans grows and our need for resources increases, we have pushed many other species to the margins, making their survival more and more difficult.

By joining a bat group you not only get the opportunity to learn more about why bats are so amazing, and contribute to bat monitoring if you wish, your membership fee helps us to do more for bats. Ways we have used Group funds include:

- buying more bat detectors to use when we conduct bat walks for the public;
- buying new survey equipment including a harp trap;
- contributing to the BCT's bat crime investigations;
- contributing to a research project to identify new roofing materials (to replace those that harm bats).



A Natterer Bat