

Cleveland Bat Group Newsletter Spring 2024

Hello, and a very happy start of the bat season from all at Cleveland Bat Group!

Thank you for supporting the work of CBG – your interest and care for bats in our area is appreciated. We hope you find this season's updates interesting. Have you seen your first bat of spring yet?

This month for bats

Bats have mainly come out of hibernation and are hungry and active, feeding on most nights. They may move between several roost sites and can become torpid (cool and inactive) again when cold.



Text and image from [Bat Conservation Trust](#).

Bat care

CBG cared for around 30 bats last season, the majority being common pipistrelles. Bats came from across Cleveland, including Hartlepool, Normanby and Wilton. Just over half of the bats that came in were successfully rehabilitated and released. A big thank you to our skilled and dedicated carers.

Flight cage

The flight cage was very useful in supporting the rehab of some of our care bats last year. A few bats escaped from the flight cage! Some improvements and maintenance will be carried out before the busy bat season begins. Our thanks go out to the landowner who gives us permission to site the cage on their land. Their ongoing support is hugely valuable to the work of CBG.

Our carers

We have a very small group of carers. If you are interested in becoming a bat carer, please get in touch. Online training is available from the Bat Conservation Trust alongside hands-on training from our CBG care group.

Ambulance drivers

As well as carers, the group is in need of ambulance drivers – people who are able to pick up a sick or injured bat and get them to a carer quickly. If you are able to help with this, please get in touch. Your own transport is required. All training provided.

Events

2023 roundup

CBG hosted a variety of bat walks and events in 2023 with CBG members and members of the public enjoying surveying and seeing bats in the wild and learning more about bats in our area.

As well as walks and talks, our group enjoyed a bat box building session and a bioblitz. The bioblitz took place at Scaling Dam. Over 200 individual passes were recorded with 5 species identified - a single whiskered bat, 2 daubentons, 3 nathusius pipistrelle, 45 common pipistrelle and 100+ noctule.

2024 events – what to look out for!

We're looking forward to seeing lots of you this bat season for a series of walks and events. Please keep an eye on your emails or social media for invitations and info.

CBG's Dave Stocks will be hosting some bat walks and presentations this year covering Saltburn, Guisborough and Great Ayton.

A talk to a local rotary group has been arranged for April/May.

CBG has two new detectors ready to be used this season – join one of our bat walks and have a go at identifying bats in the wild!

Please get in touch if you have any ideas for walks, talks or fundraisers.

Other news and plans for 2024

CBG is hoping to record some social calls in and around our flight cage when it is occupied this year – we're looking forward to finding out what are rehabilitating bats are up to!

We're aiming to install a bat information board in Saltburn Valley Gardens, to go with the other wildlife boards already there. This may require some fundraising this year. The Saltburn Valleys CIO have agreed to work with us on this project. Stay tuned for updates.

Surveys

CBG has Magenta 5, Anabat Express and SM2 bat detectors available for loan to CBG members. If you would like to undertake a bat survey within Cleveland using this equipment, drop us an email.

Analysis

If you're interested in analysing bat survey data, please get in touch. No experience necessary – enthusiasm for learning would be most welcome!

Bat in need?

If you find a bat in need, please call the Bat Conservation Trust on 0345 1300 228 to receive guidance and to be directed to a carer.

Social media

Thank you to our followers. Please join us by searching for Cleveland Bat Group on Facebook. If you have any interesting bat related news, articles, photos or questions, please share them on the page.

Membership

Hello members, your membership renewal is due at the end of April! Membership is £5 a year. If you'd like to continue being a member, please pay by 30 April otherwise we'll assume you no longer wish to carry on. There's no need to fill in a new membership form unless any of your details have changed.

If you're not already a member, we'd love you to join us! Enjoy using CBG equipment, attending events and receiving regular updates. All membership fees go towards support bats in our area.

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