

BatMann

The newsletter of the Manx Bat Group

Spring 2016



Dawn patrol at Silverdale – and a new roost

Our 2015 programme included a (very!) early start for a dawn bat watch, something we have not done as a public event for many years. It proved to be a great success, not only giving participants a wonderful experience of seeing bats in the morning light returning to their roost, but also because we discovered another new bat roost in the process.

After lovely sunshine the day before, there was rain overnight, but at dawn on May 24th it held off, with a little light drizzle, and as soon as we arrived at Silverdale Glen, bats were seen overhead, flying past at roof height, with wonderfully clear views, sometimes two or three at a time.

These were common pipistrelles, and though we were aware of a roost close by, Nick Pinder spotted that some were

flying to and from a small attic space in the extended ridge above the mansard roof on the end of the Silverdale complex. A new roost for the records!

The group of members and visitors spilt up and went up and down the glen, but the action was all at the car park. However, we enjoyed a glorious dawn chorus and finally left as the rain closed in again.

Richard Selman



Silverdale Glen © Joseph Mischysyn and licensed for reuse under the Creative Commons Licence

BatMann © Manx Bat Group, Isle of Man
registered charity no. 443
A Bat Conservation Trust Partner

Photographs are © the authors unless
specified otherwise.

Contributions for the newsletter may be sent
for consideration to the editor at:
info@manxbatgroup.org

Members can also submit stories via our
website. Just log in then choose 'Submit an
article' from the user menu.

www.manxbatgroup.org

Manx Bat Group contacts

Chairman: Nick Pinder
chairman@manxbatgroup.org

Treasurer: Sue Pinder
treasurer@manxbatgroup.org

Secretary: Louise Samson
secretary@manxbatgroup.org

Recorder: Nick Pinder
records@manxbatgroup.org

DEFA representative: Richard Selman

Other committee members: Phil Corlett,
Jill Dunlop, Richard Fryer, Ruth Fryer,
Nick Gough, Kevin Wells

BatMann and website: Margaret Hunter

Get involved!

There are lots of opportunities for you to
get involved in Bat Group activities, and
at the same time learn more about bats
and help promote their conservation:

Bat surveys

We get asked to survey properties subject
to planning proposals/building work for
any potential issues that may affect bats.
We usually visit twice and need lots of
volunteers to cover all angles!

Educational activities

We visit schools, youth and community
groups and workplaces to give talks about
bats, run awareness-raising activities or
lead private bat walks.

Your bat stories

Tell us your bat-related news, bat-spotting
records or stories of encounters with bats
and we may include them in *BatMann* or
the website.

Bat boxes

Help build bat boxes and check on those
already placed around the island.

Roost checks and surveys

Help us monitor bat activity and habitat
during checks of known roost sites,
looking for new roosts, eg bridge surveys,
and by helping with structured surveys,
such as car surveys and Bat Search.

Bat care

Become a licensed bat worker so you can
care for grounded and injured bats, or
bats disturbed during building works. Full
training is available for this role.

Bat Helpline

If you find an injured or grounded bat
or have a bat query, please call:

366177

or the UK helpline on 0345 1300 228

Manx Bat Group: Chairman's Report for 2015

At our AGM in November 2015 we celebrated the Manx Bat Group's 25th anniversary! Here is the chairman's report on activities during the year.

We had an ambitious programme of events for our 25th anniversary year and we achieved quite a lot but also fell short on some.

The new format of the indoor winter meetings seems to be proving successful and we had reasonable turnouts in 2015, with Lisa Worledge visiting again in March from the Bat Conservation Trust to give us a talk on scientific projects under way at the BCT.

Thereafter we swung into summer mode with many meetings dedicated to checking on known historic roosts, starting at Baldrine where two were confirmed but three were not in use at the time of the visit. Major effort was expended at Tromode Woods, with members attending for extra surveys in an attempt to understand what the moving roosts were up to on the estate. Several more houses were identified with variable numbers of pipistrelles, one numbering 75+ although not in use a few days later. Counts continued at St John's, with a new roost, and Lezayre Church, with over 100 emerging bats confirming its continued use.

These meetings were part of our Big Bat Count to which individual members contributed by watching roosts in their areas, principally Ramsey and Andreas, thanks to the efforts of some dedicated members. Several roosts were confirmed and some identified as no longer being in use, particularly in Ramsey.



Some other surveys which we hoped to undertake – the iBats car survey and September Nathusius' survey – did not take place but hopefully will do so this year. My hope with all these surveys is that the Manx Bat Group will be in a position to assist DEFA with its new Biodiversity Strategy by providing an annual overview of the situation with bats in the Isle of Man with some sort of population index. I think we need a meeting fairly soon to decide how best this might be achieved.

Six surveys were undertaken for planning purposes, giving nearly £500 income to the group (less expenses and some going forward into this year's accounts). The Bat Group charges considerably less for such surveys than consultants in the UK, but I personally think that this is the right thing to do so that bats do not come to be perceived as a further burden on householders and developers.

In terms of public engagement we had a very successful year with the various bat walks, talks and bat box events as well as attendance at the shows. The Silverdale dawn walk was particularly

notable for discovering a new bat roost even before everyone had got out of their vehicles, and the Glen Vine walk resulted in a colour spread in the paper. We were joined by a group of Brownies at Ballasalla and large numbers of the public at Andreas in August and the Raggatt in September. As a result we recruited seven new members during the year.

The bat helpline resulted in some rescued bats, most of which were successfully released, with at least one of these utilising the flight cage we had built, although one or two late-season rescues are currently in hibernation. These and our other observations resulted in over 100 records being added to the database, one of our best years ever, although I believe there are still some records to be submitted. These can be added to the database over the winter, and hopefully the previous records all verified, so that they can all be uploaded to the Manx Biological Record Partnership database.

For the coming year, I hope that we can sustain and perhaps expand our survey programme and continue to engage the Manx public to promote bat conservation and welfare. I also think we perhaps need to think a bit about governance and find a way of periodically considering the accounts and formal minutes of meetings, but the immediate task is to plan our winter meetings and, I hope, our survey of potential bat hibernation sites in the old wartime bunkers around the IOM.

So, all in all, our 25th anniversary year was a year of expanded activity on many fronts and I would like to thank your hard-working committee and the numerous individual members who all contributed to its success.

Nick Pinder



Chocolate bats © Margaret Hunter

Bat poo, jumbled bones and a few visitors from across

For our 25th anniversary party we had an exhibition of photographs and history from the Manx Bat Group's past. Founder member Anne Blackwell sent us her recollections of the early days.

I have no tangible items for the exhibition at the AGM, but I have memories.

The earliest is one which even Nick Pinder does not have: Fenella Bazin, collecting fees at the end of a pond-dipping weekend, mentioned that 'Next week there will be a public lecture about Bats'.

In the old Teachers' Centre in Douglas a Mr Nick Pinder gave the best, clearest introduction to the natural history of British bats. Every word memorable!

A follow-up field trip was planned. In the afternoon we stood underneath Sir George's Bridge. On a flat, bluish stone were some small black things. Sue Colvin, standing on the opposite side of it, recognised them for what they were: bat droppings.

Dr Clem Fisher (Curator of Mammals, Liverpool City Museum), who was helping Nick to lead the group, shone a torch upwards and in a crack in the bridge were shiny eyes! This was the first true record of an in-hand Daubenton's bat in the Island!

Following the lecture and field trip, it was agreed that a Manx Bat Group should be formed and Ed Pooley became its first chairman. As Ed was a pilot with Manx Airlines, he was easily able to make contact with other bat groups across. He also managed to raise some funding for the group. While he was chairman we had a weekend course given by Bob

Stebbings (of 'Which Bat' fame). He had brought some live bats with him and I vividly remember a Horseshoe bat with a deformed wing hanging from the skin of my finger tip.

Later on Ed also arranged for a brief visit by Phil Richardson, who had formed Britain's first bat group. Phil had brought a jumble of bones and dead bats for us to identify. One of the skeletons with wings also had a beak!

When DAFF (as it was then) had a training day for its staff, George Bennett was the trainer and Ed chaired the session. Her talk was interestingly constructed around the bat's need to balance energy expenditure and energy conservation.

Clare Faulds, the next group chairman, spent much time in trying to arrange for Herman Limpens, who had just published his book on Dutch bats, to come to lead a workshop here. The dates he wanted were incompatible with our bats. Sadly, Clare had unexpectedly to resign as group chairman because of sudden changes at work: so my turn came too soon! Too soon because, at the first group committee meeting that I chaired, Clare came with letter from Herman Limpens to say that he could come on the dates that we wanted – the workshop was on!

The whole committee went into overdrive with the necessary preparations for the workshop. It duly took place in June 1997, with one very wet night of the three nights that we went out with our bat detectors. We all got wet but learned a lot!

**Anne Blackwell
22 November 2015**

Manx Bat Group history timeline

Compiled for the 25th anniversary AGM in November 2015

- 1885 2 species of bat considered to be on the IoM: Pipistrelle (recorded) and BLE (Kermode), and BLE confirmed later that year when one was shot at Bride Church (Clarke)
- 1944 Natterer's and Whiskered first discovered on IoM (Wagstaffe)
- 1961 Daubenton's caught in mist net on the Calf, a first for Mann and the Calf (Craine)
- Date? Huge Whiskered / Natterer's / BLE roost cleared (poisoned) from Old Braddan Church – first Whiskered record (pre Whiskered/Brandt's split)
- 1990 Wildlife Act brought in
- 1990 Liverpool University summer study day on bats, a Saturday of lectures and an evening looking for bats at Braddan bridge (successfully), at the end of which people were asked if they'd like to join a bat group
- 1990 First meeting of the Manx Bat Group at the Grosvenor in Andreas in autumn (Sep?): first dates hazy but have agendas for meetings of the Steering Committee on 8 October (which refers to 'previous meeting') and 12 November 1990
- 1990 When Bat Group started, 5 species of bat had been recorded: Pipistrelle, BLE, Whiskered, Natterer's and Daubenton's
- 1990 First definite Whiskered found following split with Brandt's
- 1990 First Daubenton's found on IoM itself following bridge surveys with Clem Fisher; 2 found under Sir George's Bridge, Abbeylands
- 1990 First Leisler's record for IoM (later preserved by Clem Fisher for the Manx Museum)
- 1991 Inaugural annual general meeting held 11 February at Knockaloe to formally adopt constitution, and agreement to apply for charitable status. Present: Angela Green, Berndt Beckman, Nick Pinder, Penny Gillman, Duncan Patrick, Yvonne Cresswell, Clare Faulds, Sandra Bolton, Ed Pooley, Sue Colvin, Angela Rogers, Jennifer Gotrel, Dennis and Anne Blackwell
- 1991 Registered as Manx charity on 22 February 1991
- 1991 Grant of £2350 from Isle of Man Bank to purchase field equipment
- 1991 First bat boxes installed (Colby, Bishopscourt, May)
- 1991 Training weekend with Bob Stebbings and Sheila Walsh (July)
- 1991 Training weekend with Mick Finnemore, plus a treasure hunt around Douglas (August)
Nick recalls of these two events: 'We took Bob to Braddan Old Church where he went in the roof space and noted the depth of the staining on the rafters and found BLE in the new church, and he and Sheila laid out various bat signs and clues in an old farmhouse below the Creg ny Baa for members to find and identify. Mick brought some mist nets and we trapped at Laxey Glen Gardens (maybe other places as well) with the members and he and I went up in the roof of Lezayre Church. There we found some BLE carcasses, which George Bemment later confirmed died from poisoning, probably timber treatment chemicals.'
- 1991 Stall at Villa Marina Animal Fair; regular stalls from then on at various fairs and agricultural shows
- 1992 'Laxey Leap Year Lift Off' event with Clem Fisher
- 1992 Grants of £1350 and £750 from Shell Better Britain Campaign and Vincent Wildlife Trust
- 1992 7-day hibernaculum survey of c. 50 sites, with help from Laxey Mines Research Group; pre-survey training led by Geoff Billington from Cumbria and Henry Schofield of Vincent Wildlife Trust, which also provided funding; daytime expeditions to caves, mines etc. and evening sessions at Knockaloe
- 1992 'Bats in Buildings' course aimed at builders, with Mrs George Bemment of Vincent Wildlife Trust [*Nick recently met Henry Schofield and George Bemment at the Mammal Society conference*]
- 1992 Bat worker training culminating in issue of roost visitor licences to 8 members
- 1992 Formal affiliation to Bat Conservation Trust
- 1993 Weekend training event with Phil Richardson
- 1994 Full-page article in *Isle of Man Examiner* on bat boxes, featuring Ed Pooley
- 1994 Grant from Project 2000 to buy bat detectors
- 1996 A flea from a Natterer's bat passed to the Manx Museum!
- 1996 First record of a roost in a bat box – 5 BLE (sharing with tree slugs)

- 1997 Bat detector workshop at Peel and German, with Herman Limpens, Clem Fisher, Tom McOwat, Brian Briggs, Steve Bradley and Geoff Billington, including all-night surveys; Soprano pipistrelle added to the list (Pipistrelle had just been split into two species)
- 1999 3-day training course for Bat Group members covering bat biology and ecology, the law, detectors and sound analysis
- 1999 New bat record report form produced
- 2002 Full-page article in *Isle of Man Examiner* on bat facts, featuring Anne and Dennis Blackwell
- 2003 Noted as a 'remarkable year' because hardly any bats taken into care
- 2004 Bridges surveys
- 2004 Public meeting on wildlife crime: Richard Selman (DAFF), Joan Childs (RSPB & BCT) and John Rimington MHK
- 2004 Big turnout for European Bat Night at Glen Wyllin
- 2004 Bat Walks booklet produced with Oxford Brookes University
- 2004 Jenny Dunne from Leeds University studied pips on IoM; some calls thought to be noctules
- 2005 First fruit bats arrived at the Wildlife Park
- 2005 Clem Fisher talk on 'Bats in art'
- 2006 First Roadside Mammals car surveys
- 2006 Surveys of churches
- 2006 Colony of 50 BLE bats found in Kirk Bride Church
- 2006 Bat sleepover at Baldrine
- 2006 Pipistrelle ('Nelson') spotted by Jill Dunlop and Sue Howe flying with a rip across one wing (slowly but with rapid beats!) at Glen Vine, and filmed by Richard Selman
- 2006 Bob Moon gave a talk about the Group at the BCT conference
- 2007 Anabat detector bought with grant from DAFF
- 2008 Anabat training weekend (Sandie and Jerry Sowler)
- 2009 Wildlife Park bat display and leaflet with illustrations by Julia Ashby Smyth
- 2010 Ayres Biodiversity Day
- 2010 Sound analysis workshop at the Wildlife Park
- 2010 Stall at MSPCA Fun Day
- 2010 Substantial legacy donation received (partly used to fund Bat Search)
- 2010 Large maternity roost of Leisler's found at Union Mills
- 2010 New website and Facebook page launched
- 2011 BioBlitz at The Raggatt
- 2011 Lots of new stock for the bat shop!
- 2011 Key group members Dennis and Anne Blackwell left the island
- 2011 First internal batbox fitted in the IoM (Whiskered)
- 2012 New 'branded' gazebo and banner for shows
- 2012 Bat box making day at Close Sartfield with Manx Wildlife Trust
- 2012 Bat Search launched to mark Year of the Bat
- 2012 Large colony of pips found at Tromode
- 2012 Leisler twins found attached to mother, having trouble getting airborne
- 2012 Information sheets and forms revamped
- 2013 Bat care and rehabilitation training with Gail Armstrong (The Bat Lady)
- 2013 Bat activities with children at Onchan library
- 2013 Bat boxes erected at Ape Man in Barrule plantation
- 2013 Second year of Bat Search
- 2013 Joint bat walk with MWT at Port Soderick
- 2013 Potential hibernation sites surveys – Bob Moon and Adam Denard found a bat in Castle Rushen
- 2013 Bat Group review – what do members want?
- 2014 New structure of monthly members' meetings instead of just committee meetings
- 2014 'Sound analysis' and 'Using your ears' workshops with Lisa Worledge of BCT
- 2014 Bat walks for IoM Walking Festival
- 2015 Smartphone donated by Manx Telecom for bat surveys
- 2015 Summer of roost counts, surveys and the Big Bat Count

Bats and breathable roofing membranes research

You may remember that the Bat Group made a donation to support important research work by Stacey Waring on problems related to breathable roofing membranes, such as bats getting entangled and then dying. The crowdfunding effort was successful, allowing Stacey to continue her project, and she brings us up to date here.

Dear Research Supporters

It has already been a busy year for the bats and BRMs (breathable roofing membranes) research. Since the last update in October there have been several things that have changed. The biggest thing for me personally is that I left my job in consultancy to focus more on the research. Prior to this I was trying to do research part-time and consultancy, which didn't really work. Anyone who works in consultancy knows there is often a need to do things very quickly and this constantly interrupted the long-planned activities for the research. So now I am focusing on the research more and trying to do some teaching to pay the bills and it is working much better. In fact, since October I think there have been a lot of good steps taken.

Paper submitted

From the thesis it was hoped there would be several peer-reviewed papers to bring this research well and truly into the 'public domain'. The first of these papers was submitted to *Acta Chiropterologica* and has now been returned with some comments. I will work on these over the coming months along with the two other

papers I am currently focusing on. The aim of this first paper is to introduce some data on bat claws and to set the scene for the methods paper, which discusses how to test non-woven membranes. The third will then be the biggie... the paper that talks about entanglement. This would be greatly helped by you (more at the end).

Product development

I have been in talks again with one of the two manufacturers of BRMs I am working with. They came to the university for a meeting in December to talk about new ideas. The previous idea of laminating a mesh on the surface was (as I suspected) unsuccessful. This was mainly due to the adhesion between the products and the risk of it delaminating in a very short period of time. It is hoped the next idea will be ready for testing in February. Although, as I have said numerous times, this will not be a quick process.

Oxley Conservation Day

I was invited to talk at an architects' CPD training day in Henley-Upon-Thames in November. This was a great day and there was a complementary talk from an experienced roofer on the different types of felt. It was interesting to hear the different opinions. In many cases the experienced roofers preferred Type 1F and after hearing the BRM talk were more than happy to fit Type 1F.

There was a lot of interest from the architects as well, who were keen to make sure they specified the right product. As a result this is a group I hope to target more with talks this year. If you have any suggestions please pass on my details.



Roof void bats © Richard Selman

Another great outcome of this day was that Chris Wood from Historic England (English Heritage) was present.

Historic England meeting

Following on from the architects' talk, I was contacted by Chris Wood to attend a meeting at the Historic England headquarters. I met with Chris and two other senior people involved with the maintenance of their building stock and their ecological responsibilities. This was a great meeting as Historic England have concerns over BRMs from a building point of view and the risks they pose to bats compounded their concerns. This has led to them wanting to develop guidance.

This would be a great step as then we have both the National Trust and Historic England on the same page with regard to bats and BRMs. This could prove very useful when taking this research to those who look after historic buildings in particular. One of the biggest enquiries I get is about how to ensure ventilation in historic buildings and with these two authorities on side we may be able to develop guidance and advice. This will then hopefully filter down to architects, planners and roofers.

Permavent membrane

Towards the end of last year I received an email from a roofer who was aware of the issues of bats and BRMs. He contacted me following the LABC Exhibition roofing show in Powys at the Royal Welsh Showground where a company had actively sold their product as 'bat friendly'. Two roofers confronted the salesman and specifically asked him to confirm their suitability for use in a bat roost. He stated their technology was 'new' and the membrane was safe for bat roosts. When asked to provide this information in writing the salesman said to the roofers that he would have no problem doing so as they had a certificate to prove it was safe!

This matter has been taken up with BCT and over the past few months I and Jo Ferguson have been working on talking to Permavent. They are currently advertising this product on their website as bat friendly. This has already posed a number of problems with people specifying this membrane and the enquiries about its suitability increasing.

This product is not safe for use in a bat roost! It's made from non-woven spun-bond polypropylene, as are most modern

underlays. I have tested the product and the filaments pull loose and thus pose an entanglement risk. BCT have been very active with this case, but the company is being very resistant. We are now looking at taking this to the Advertising Standards Agency as they cannot prove their claims. Please be aware you may be asked about this product, so pass on this information to any architects/roofers you work with.

Remedial measures

Just before Christmas I was invited to help fit some remedial measures in a property where BRMs were fitted into a bat roost. This went very well and we have permission to monitor these measures for the foreseeable future. With the lessons learned from this I am working with BCT to help develop some early remedial measure guidelines. These may be an evolving set of guidelines and will only be usable where a BRM has been already fitted in a bat roost.

These will not be an alternative to Type 1F felt. The measures are very new and it will be a case of 'this is the best we can do at this time'. The measure will also only help bats roosting in the internal roof void and not bats such as pips which roost in the batten space.

Ask your questions!

So you can see that the bats and BRMs research is still very busy – even if it is in the background sometimes. Don't forget the crowdfunding allowed me to continue this so if you have any queries please do get in touch. I have had 15 enquiries in the past two weeks alone – mostly from people who didn't help the crowdfunding – so make sure you get your fair share (lol)!

Send in your data

Also, it is vital that we note all bat roosts found with BRMs in them. I can only take this project forward with data, so if you see a bat roost with a BRM, please report it on the website so I can get a proper database going. At present we don't even know where issues might be occurring and such data could help us greatly in the future. This data will also feed into papers and will aid getting big companies on board.

At the moment we don't know how many potential roosts may have been affected. We do know in some roosts we have lost around 30% of the colony. How often could this happen? We need to know – please pass this vital data on.

Thank you again for all your support.

Stacey Waring

Further reading

- Stacey's website: www.batsandbrms.co.uk
- Article from *Green Building*, Summer 2010: www.batsandbrms.co.uk/resources/GBM%202010.pdf
- <https://arbtech.co.uk/bats-breathable-roof-membranes-need-know/>
- www.bats.org.uk/data/files/Entanglement_StaceyWaring.pdf
- https://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/tsbe/Waring_TSBE_Conference_Paper2_012.pdf
- www.bats.org.uk/news.php/254/bats_and_breathable_roofing_membranes_update_of_findings_

If you are undertaking any building work, or know someone who is, please bear this problem in mind and seek good advice. If your architect or builder is not aware of the problem it's a good opportunity for some bat education.

2015 bat records – a record year

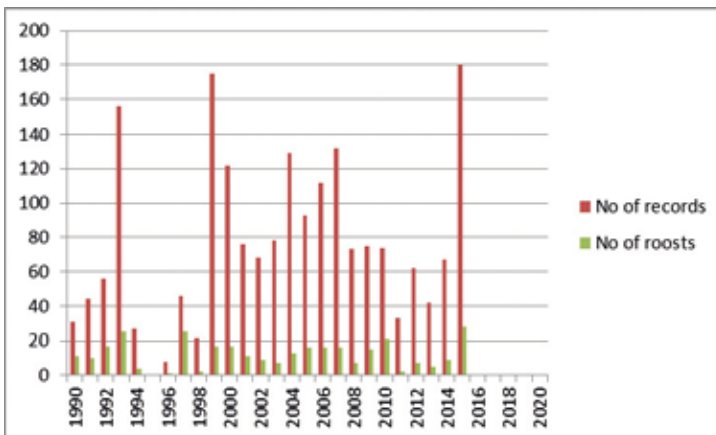
As our 25th Anniversary Year, 2015 was the year of the Big Bat Count, confirming bat occupancy of as many bat roosts as we could manage. As it turned out, we did quite well and we have more records for 2015 than any previous year.

The bar chart below shows better what an effort it was and what an advance over recent years. A more detailed look at the chart also shows that we recorded more roosts than in any previous year, so in many respects we achieved our goals.

The year got off to a very auspicious start with bats circling and returning to a roost as members were assembling for our dawn walk at Silverdale, and 40+ were confirmed there later in the season. Our next encounter was rather less auspicious as our attempt to relocate 9 Brown long-eared bats to permit re-roofing of part of Kewaigue School was not entirely successful. Presumably, the bats preferred somewhere known to them rather than the space we prepared in another roof at the school and it will be interesting to see if they return to the original roof space this year.

In June we targeted Baldrine and confirmed one roost, while one owner said it was too early in the year for their bats. Another roost in Baldrine unhappily seemed to have been blocked years previously, while two in Ramsey were no longer in use. One new roost was uncovered, though, as compensation, at Ramsey Group Practice. Other roosts confirmed in June were in the boilerhouse at Andreas School, at Bride Church, Sulby Waterworks and Lezayre Parish Community Hall, while a new Whiskered roost was confirmed at the Hydro Station farther up Sulby Glen.

In July we moved in on Tromode Woods en masse and were amazed at just how many houses there had bats emerging in varying numbers. The greatest number were from a previously unknown house at the rear of the estate, although the following week there were none. At the same time we were called to lower Cronk Grianagh for a grounded bat, which confirmed that the Leisler's roost there was again occupied.



A new roost was uncovered at a big private house in Quarterbridge Road in Douglas following a call-out to another grounded bat but it remains to confirm which species is present.

Members visited St John's for our August meeting and were rewarded in confirming a roost on Slieau Whallian estate, which had been suspected from a record from the householder the previous year. Brown long-eareds were confirmed in the roof of Andreas Church, although regular observation had not disclosed their emergence, and a bat call-out at a house on the Patrick Road indicated that a roost still persisted there although the owner had not reported any for several years. However, a long-standing roost in the same area was reported as not being

used for a few years and a visit to a farm in Andreas parish indicated no current use either.

Lezayre Church was the main focus of September's visit and two species were confirmed there in large numbers, while Anabat recordings confirmed that a long-standing mixed roost in a barn in the north of the Island was still active with at least four species present.

The table opposite on page 13 shows a re-analysis of recent records, undertaken for Ed Pooley (a founder member, past chairman and now Mammal Recorder for the Island) for submission to the new UK Mammal Atlas.

It shows in which 10km square our various species were recorded, the number of occupied squares and the



Kirk Christ Lezayre © Dr Neil Clifton and licensed for reuse under the Creative Commons Licence

	2008–2015	BLE	Leis.	Dau.	Whi.	Natt.	Sop. pip	Com. pip	Pip spp.	No. species/square	Change 2000–2007
SC16	Calf & Port Erin	Y	Y			Y		Y	Y	4	1
SC17	Bradda Head									0	0
SC26	Port St Mary, Castletown	Y				Y	Y	Y	Y	4	-1
SC36	Cass ny Hawin									0	0
SC27	Ballasalla – Glen Maye	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	5	-1
SC37	Crosby – Douglas	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	6	-1
SC47	Onchan – Groudle								Y	1	-1
SC28	Peel	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	5	0
SC38	Baldwins to Barregarrow	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	5	2
SC48	Baldrine – Laxey – Glen Mona	Y	Y	Y				Y	Y	4	-2
SC39	Michael – Ballaugh – Sulby	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y	5	-2
SC49	Ramsey – Andreas	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7	0
NX30	Lhen	Y	Y							2	1
NX40	Bride	Y	Y				Y	Y	Y	4	1
	No. squares occupied	11	10	5	4	5	6	10	11		-3

number of species per square. It also shows the change from the previous eight-year period (2000–2007), pink being an increase over the previous period and blue a decrease. Apart from SC17 and 36 (both mostly sea) we ought to be able to increase our detection of bats in the empty squares, particularly SC47, and this might be something to concentrate on in future seasons. Are the figures for SC37 and SC49 a true reflection of bat distribution in the Island or are they just

the result of greater effort put in in those areas?

I would like to finish by thanking all who took part in our recording efforts last year, and particularly those northern stalwarts who spent many hours surveying to help answer queries over bat distribution. Hopefully, we can do as well in 2016, particularly visiting some of the roosts we didn't check on last summer.

Nick Pinder



Interesting research reads

(from BCT Bat Group Bulletin January 2016)

Mitigating the impact of bats in historic churches: the response of Natterer's bats *Myotis nattereri* to artificial roosts and deterrence

This paper is one of the outcomes of a Defra-funded project by researchers at the University of Bristol (subject of special edition BCT bulletins previously) and is freely available from:

<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0146782>

To cull, or not to cull, bat is the question

This article, written by Kevin Olival of EcoHealth Alliance, argues that culling of bat populations is not an effective means to mitigate human–animal conflict nor to reduce the likelihood of zoonotic disease. The full paper is available at: <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10393-015-1075-7/fulltext.html>

Declining resilience of ecosystem functions under biodiversity loss

While not bat specific, this article in *Nature Communications* considers the rapidly changing composition of species communities through drivers such as habitat loss and climate change, with potentially serious consequences for the resilience of ecosystem functions. www.nature.com/ncomms/2015/151208/ncomms10122/full/ncomms10122.html

Bat beer!

Breaking news from BCT:

From The Notebook Ltd is a fascinating brand that sells beers themed after wildlife and makes donations to a conservation charity for every bottle sold.

They have recently started selling Bechstein's Bat organic lager, a 'well-balanced and flavoursome blonde beer', which is proving to be rather popular with its 'mellow malts and crisp, refreshing edge'.

A donation is made to the Bat Conservation Trust for every bat beer sold, so you can finally enjoy alcohol for the sake of UK bats!



Did you know...?

One of the questions in the bat quiz (kindly compiled by Nick Gough) at our February meeting was 'Which two Spanish football teams have a bat logo on their badge?' The answer is Levante and Valencia.

Both teams are based in Valencia, which was conquered from the Moors by James I of Aragon. One explanation for the presence of the bat on the coat of arms of the city (and hence both football clubs) is that, before the battle, a bat landed on top of King James's flag, which he interpreted as a good omen.

Interestingly, in May 2013 DC Comics started a legal case against the Valencia football club, claiming that the bat image

contravened its trademark of the bat image related to Batman. The image, however, had been used on Valencia's logo since 1919, whereas Batman was first published 20 years later. (Isn't Wikipedia wonderful!)

And have you ever found the bat on the tapestry in Castle Rushen? Anyone know why that is there?

Tiny flying robots inspired by bat wings

Researchers at Imperial College London and the University of Southampton have taken inspiration from the way that bats' wings work to develop the next generation of MAVs (micro air vehicles).

These tiny unmanned flying machines could be used to survey remote or dangerous areas. What makes the new design special is how the 'wings' can adapt to what's around them, just as real bats do, meaning they can be used for many different tasks.

Dr Rafael Palacios, from the Department of Aeronautics at Imperial, said: 'Nature is a great source of inspiration for us when it comes to making improvements to MAVs. A bat's ability to expand and compress its wing structure in order to deal with the changing nature of the environment is a particularly useful feature to mimic.'

www3.imperial.ac.uk/newsandeventspggrp/imperialcollege/newssummary/news_16-2-2016-15-2-23

UK bat helpline

The BCT-run bat helpline number in the UK has changed to **0345 1300 228**. It had a massive 15,460 enquiries in 2015.

Remember our own IOM bat helpline number is 366177.)

Bat book discount

NHBS is currently offering a 40% discount on *Bats of Britain, Europe and Northwest Africa*. NHBS special offer price: £26.50 instead of £44.99.

www.nhbs.com/title/161308/bats-of-britain-europe-and-northwest-africa



Learn from Jenny!

Jenny Clark of the Sussex Bat Hospital has a number of videos on YouTube that help people understand bats and what to do with a grounded bat. Try these for starters:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=UqjnrQ2uLgI

www.youtube.com/watch?v=cS9Y_C-Yb4

Bat crime conviction

A business that destroyed a BLE bat roost has lost an appeal and been ordered to pay compensation under a Proceeds of Crime Order, the first time this has been used in a wildlife crime case in the UK.

www.bats.org.uk/news.php/317/most_significant_conviction_for_bat_crime_ever_recorded

More bat news...

Just a reminder that members can access more news and resources at BCT. Check your Manx Bat Group member pack for login details, or contact us for a reminder!
www.bats.org.uk/login.php

2016 programme summary

January		March		May	
6	Programme planning session	6	Bat box workshop, Wildlife Park	4	Roost count Glen Vine
		9	Bats and biodiversity	18	Roost count Ballasalla
February		April		28	Public bat walk Lezayre 9.15pm
3	Big bat quiz!	6	Sound analysis workshop		
June		July		August	
	Leisler's surveys		iBats surveys		iBats surveys
1	Roost count Colby	5	Tynwald Fair	10	Roost count Ballasalla
15	Roost count Ballasalla	13	Roost count Colby	12	Royal Manx Show
25	Public bat walk Glen Maye 9.30pm	27	Roost count Glen Vine	13	
		30	Public bat walk Ramsey Woods 9pm	24	Roost count Colby
29	Roost count Glen Vine	30 31	Southern District Agricultural Show	27	International Bat Night walk Port Soderick 8pm (public)
September		October		November	
	Nathusius' surveys	5	Bats and churches, Julia Hanmer of BCT, Braddan Old ch. hall	30	AGM and social
24	Public bat walk Laxey 6.50pm				
	All indoor meetings 7.30pm: at Knockaloe meeting room, Patrick (except AGM).				
	Monthly roost counts – please contact Nick Pinder for times and to take part.				
	Bat walks – see individual listings on our website for details and meeting points.				
	Leisler's, iBats and Nathusius' surveys – please contact Bob Moon to take part.				
	Shows – volunteers needed to help run the shop and information stall please!				
	Public workshop.				

To take part in member events, please join Manx Bat Group – form on our website or email info@manxbatgroup.org. For last-minute programme changes please see:

manxbatgroup.org

facebook.com/manxbatgroup