

BATS & "The Millennium Link"

NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME !

.....to the first issue of a newsletter designed to update all participants, contributors and supporters of the **BATS & "The Millennium Link"** Survey Project (**BaTML**).

We intend to produce two newsletters per annum (Spring & Autumn) keeping you informed about survey results and other activities.

So far we have received lots of support and encouragement, without which the project would have stood little chance of getting airborne.

Since coming up with the idea for **BaTML** in August 2000 (during a Daubenton's survey on the Union Canal), we have taken advantage of the bat free winter months to get ready for the launch. Preparations are now almost complete and soon we will be able to get down to studying these fascinating mammals of the night.



What is **BATS & "The Millennium Link"** ???

It is a research project set up and co-ordinated by **Central Scotland Bat Group** to study bats and their use of habitat, along and adjacent to the Union and Forth & Clyde Canals.

The project, planned to take place over a five year period, is aimed primarily at Daubenton's Bats, however will also map the distribution of both Common and Soprano Pipistrelle species along these valuable wildlife corridors.

During this five year period we anticipate that more than 100 surveys will be carried out, collecting some 150 hours of data and covering 10% of the total canal surface area.

The Project Co-ordinator, Neil Middleton, will along with a number of Field Surveyors carry out most of the practical work.

We also benefit from the support of **British Waterways**, who have a vested interest in finding out about the wildlife that interacts with this area, which after heavy investment is undergoing a major regeneration.

2001 Activities

- **Surveys at 15 Randomly Selected Sites** spanning the whole of the canal area between Edinburgh and Glasgow.
- **Special Interest Surveys** at Avon Aqueduct and Falkirk Tunnel.
- **Bat Talks/Walks in August** Kilsyth (Auchinstarry Swingbridge) - 7.8.01 and Water Is Leith Visitor Centre - 30.8.01
- **Autumn/Winter 2001** Analysis, review & detailed reports made available to project contributors and participants.
- **October 2001 Newsletter** Issue 2 due out.

A BIG Thank You

Very little can be achieved these days without finance. The innovative use of technology meant that we needed to raise a fair amount of capital in order to obtain the right equipment to get the job done.

Most of the required funding is now in place and we are pleased to announce the following **Funding Partners** who have made the project possible :-

British Waterways

FALKIRK ENVIRONMENT TRUST

SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE

In addition to financial help, we are also very grateful for all the practical assistance and encouragement we have received from a number of individuals and organisations.

Amongst the many, there have been a few consistently dedicated individuals whom deserve a special thanks :-

Christina Garrad **Chris Gould**

John Haddow **Olivia Lassiere**

Peter Rigby

- **Interested in helping with survey work or attending a public event ????????**
Contact the editor.



FIELD SURVEY TEAM

So far the project has recruited a number of people, each of whom are prepared to give up a couple of evenings over the Summer to help us conduct Surveys across the breadth of Scotland.

The Team currently consists of the following volunteers who between them will cover the sites selected along the Forth & Clyde Canal and the Western stretches of the Union Canal:-

Toby Clark May Dykes Chris Gould

Helen Lundie Neil Middleton Alistair Stewart

Thanks to all of you for offering your support this coming season and hopefully again in future years.

The good news is that there is still capacity to involve more Surveyors in the project.

In particular we are looking for volunteers to assist with the Edinburgh to Linlithgow stretch of the Union Canal.

No experience is necessary as full training will be given, and you will always be accompanied by at least one other member of the project team.

Surveys are conducted between 1st May and 30th September annually, starting approximately one hour before dusk (in order to set-up equipment) and finishing a couple of hours later.

If you want to help us and at the same time learn more about bats, please get in touch. It's easy, just lift the phone or email the editor.



BaTML PUBLIC EVENTS

We have 2 events scheduled for 2001. As numbers are limited, anyone interested in attending **must book** via the editor. Cost is £1 per person, all money going towards project funds.

KILSYTH 7/8/01 (Tues) EDINBURGH 13/9/01 (Thur)

Auchinstarry
Car Park
20.30pm till late
(Bat Walk)

Water Of Leith Visitor Centre
24 Lanark Road
19.30pm till late
(Presentation and Bat Walk)

The Link Newsletter

If you have a wider interest in the canals that connect Edinburgh and Glasgow we would suggest that you seek out a copy of The Millennium Link's Newsletter called "The Link", available from:-

British Waterways
1 Applecross Street
Glasgow
G4 9SP

Tel – 0141 332 6936

It gives details about all the latest happenings on the canals, and even **BaTML** was featured in the Winter 2000 edition.

Join Your Local Bat Group

If you would like to become more involved with Bat Related Work or just want to learn more, why not get in touch with your local Bat Group?

Each Group runs its own programme of events and would be pleased to hear from you.

Central Scotland Bat Group:-

John Haddow, Tel 01786 823390

Clyde Bat Group:-

Charlie Howe, Tel 01698 266155

Lothians Bat Group:-

Stuart Smith, Tel 0131 258 1138

Loch Lomond Bat Group:-

John McQueen, Tel 0773 0713495

Did you know ?
A single Pipistrelle Bat can eat up to 3000 insects in one evening.
Just think..... how many insects are eaten by a roost of say 200 bats in one season?

DATA PROTECTION ACT

Note, if you are the direct recipient of this newsletter, then your name, address and other contact details are being retained on our database for use solely in connection with **BaTML**.

If you do not wish to be kept informed about our activities, please advise us accordingly and we will arrange for your details to be removed.

Conversely, if you are reading this and would like to be added to our mailing list, let us know, as this can be easily arranged.



FOOT AND MOUTH

All participants involved with **BaTML** are sensitive to the current issues relating to Foot and Mouth.

As such no field work will commence this year until such time that we are advised that it is safe to do so by the appropriate authorities.

