

# DURHAM BAT GROUP

England & Wales · Charity number 1170672

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2016-12-09

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 105 Davison Road  
Darlington  
County Durham  
DL1 3DS

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**Website** [www.durhambats.org.uk](http://www.durhambats.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION AND WELFARE OF BATS, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY:WORKING WITHIN THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA COVERED BY DURHAM BAT GROUP, THAT IS PRIMARILY THE AREA BOUNDED BY THE RIVERS TEES AND TYNE, IN PROVIDING PRACTICAL ADVICE AND HELP TO ANY INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANISATION WITH REGARD TO BATS;EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT BATS BY MEANS OF PUBLIC TALKS, BAT WALKS, TALKS TO SCHOOL GROUPS ETC., AND TO ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN BAT RELATED ACTIVITIES;STUDYING BATS IN ORDER TO FURTHER UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR BIOLOGY AND ECOLOGY; ANDWORKING WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS SHARING SIMILAR AIMS.

**Activities:** Durham Bat Group promotes the conservation and welfare of bats within the vice-county of Durham, including the provision of advice and help to the public with regard to bats, education of the public about bats by means of talks, bat walks, talks to school groups etc., encouragement of community participation in bat related activities, and study of bats to improve understanding of their biology..

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Other Finance, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training, Animals, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Darlington
- Durham
- Gateshead
- Hartlepool
- South Tyneside
- Stockton-on-tees
- Sunderland

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£7,373	£2,779	-	-
2023-12-31	£3,084	£3,960	-	-
2022-12-31	£750	£3,352	-	-
2021-12-31	£1,725	£3,415	-	-
2020-12-31	£3,320	£2,488	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Claire Dewson		2017-02-16
Clare Rawcliffe		2017-02-16
Craig Leonard Basford		2023-10-18
Debra Goldsmith		2023-10-18
Ian Francis Bond		2022-10-18
Jodie Morgan		2020-09-29
Julie Dyson		2023-10-18
Lauren Amanda Gibson		2023-10-18
Melissa Young		2021-10-20
Tine Jayne Wiffen		2025-02-20

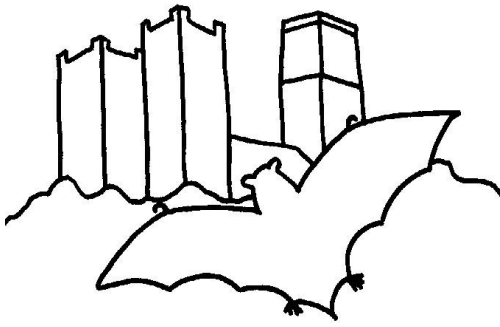
**DURHAM BAT GROUP**

England & Wales - Charity number 1170672

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# Accounts

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**Durham Bat group**

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation  
Registered Charity No 1170672

## **Durham Bat Group**

Registered Charity No. 1170672

### **Trustees' Annual Report 2024**

Draft

## Durham Bat Group Trustees

Trustee Name	Committee Position	Dates serving as a trustee in 2024
Claire Dewson	Chair	01/01/2024 – 31/12/2024
Clare Rawcliffe	Treasurer / Trainer	01/01/2024 – 31/12/2024
Tony Purcell	Asset Manager	01/01/2024 – 31/12/2024
Jodie Morgan	Events Coordinator	01/01/2024 – 31/12/2024
Debbie Goldsmith	Recorder	01/01/2024 – 31/12/2024
Ian Bond	Secretary	01/01/2024 – 31/12/2024
Melissa Young	Website and email manager	01/01/2024 – 31/12/2024
Julie Dyson		01/01/2024 – 31/12/2024
Lauren Gibson	Bat Care Co-ordinator	01/01/2024 – 31/12/2024
Craig Basford		01/01/2024 – 31/12/2024

## Non-Trustee Committee Members

Name	Committee Position	Dates serving as a committee member in 2023
David Sowerbutts	Advisor	01/01/2024 – 31/12/2024
Alistair Lockett	Advisor	01/01/2024 – 31/12/2024

## Trustees

The Trustees have acted with due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit with respect to Durham Bat Group's charitable activity, and in particular to Public Benefit Guides PB1, PB2 and PB3. This report is prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:



Ian Bond (secretary)

## **Governing Document**

The constitution of Durham Bat Group was adopted on 20 October 2016, and is based on the Charity Commission's model 'Association' constitution for Charitable Incorporated Organisations.

The group is further governed by byelaws adopted on 20 February 2018 which define criteria for membership, the structure of the governing committee, and group policies on bat work training, partnerships with other organisations, providing advice to the public, group meetings, data and financial management, and insurance.

## **Objectives and Activities**

The objectives of the Durham Bat Group (DBG) are promotion of the conservation and welfare of bats, primarily within the geographic area between the rivers Tees and Tyne, but also including parts of Durham south of the Tees and excluding parts of Northumberland south of the Tyne. This includes the provision of practical advice and help to any individual or organisation with regard to bats, education of the public about bats by means of public talks, bat walks, talks to school groups etc., and encouragement of community participation in bat related activities. It also includes the study of bats to further understanding of their biology and ecology and working with other organisations sharing similar aims.

Durham Bat Group is the umbrella body for bat workers within its area of activity. It holds indoor meetings during the winter months and field activities at all times of the year but focusing on the main period of bat activity from May to October.

DBG maintains a database of bat records within its area of activity. The group provides records, via an agreement with ERIC NE (the local records centre), to further the understanding of bats and to ecological consultants carrying out records searches.

The group has a network of bat carers who rehabilitate sick and injured bats found by the public for release back into the wild where possible. Bat carers must receive training from group members experienced in bat care before carrying out any bat rehabilitation independently. DBG works closely with Durham Cathedral to care for grounded bats found regularly in the Cloisters, primarily in late summer / early autumn.

DBG maintains and monitors bat box schemes in the county, undertakes surveys and runs bat walks for the public. It also works with other groups and organisations to provide educational talks and bat walks and benefits the public through bat conservation activities.

Occasional financial donations to bat-related scientific or charitable work by outside individuals or bodies are assessed on their merits and voted on by members during group meetings. Grants may be provided to groups or individuals whose activities are considered to provide added value for bat conservation to those of Durham Bat Group.

The membership of Durham Bat Group stands at 205 as of 20 December 2024.

## **2024 Meetings**

### 2024 Meetings of the Board of Trustees

The Trustees met on 28/02/24, 03/07/24 and 22/10/24 to facilitate the running of the Group.

### 2024 EGM

An EGM was held on 17/04/24 to present the Trustees report for 2023 and the financial report for 2023. Fourteen members were present. Both the Trustees report and the financial report were agreed by those present.

The EGM was followed by a short discussion among members of various issues relating to the bat group, with issues raised to be followed up by the Trustees as appropriate.

## **Surveys**

### Hibernation surveys

Alistair Lockett ran a series of hibernation surveys of sites in Weardale and Teesdale.

- A total of six hibernation sites were surveyed
- A total of ten bats were observed during the surveys, the largest count was five bats in one adit.
- The total number of members who participated was 22.

### Roost surveys

An emergence survey of Hollingside in Durham City was undertaken on 17 April, attended by 13 people.

St Mary's Church, Long Newton was surveyed on 8 June as part of the National Bat Monitoring Programme. Five people took part in the survey.

### Activity surveys

A bat survey of land owned by Durham University was undertaken on 12 May in conjunction with the University. It was led by Melissa Young and attended by approximately 30 students and 10 members of Durham Bat Group

A National Bat Monitoring Programme Field Survey was carried out in Darlington on 23 July. It was attended by two members of Durham Bat Group and two members of the public.

A National Bat Monitoring Programme Waterways survey was carried out in Darlington on 20 August, attended by 7 members of Durham Bat Group.

## **Bat talks and walks for the public and groups**

Rachel Hepburn gave a talk on bats for Brandon Cubs on 27th February. There were approximately 30 children plus leaders.

Melissa Young, Jodie Morgan and Ian Bond gave a talk to the Friends of Durham Cathedral on 5 February. Approximately 50 people attended the talk. This was followed up with a separate talk to camera which was sent to the Friends of Durham Cathedral world-wide.

Clare Rawcliffe and Lauren Gibson gave a talk to students on the Animal Management course at Houghall College on 9 July.

Ian Bond did a talk and bat walk for RSPB Saltholme on 20 July. Six people attended plus members of RSPB staff.

Ian Bond led a bat walk for Darlington Borough Council in South Park, Darlington on 10 September. Approximately 60 people attended.

## **Training**

Barry Anderson delivered training on bats in trees and the use of endoscopes in 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024. This was attended by 19 members.

Training on bat care was hosted by Northumberland Bat Group and delivered jointly between Northumberland and Durham bat groups on 13 April.

Training on bat box inspections was undertaken on 1 September at Hamsterley Forest, led by Clare Rawcliffe and attended by 5 members.

## **Projects**

### Durham Cathedral

Jodie Morgan managed the Cathedral's bat patrol rota which is aimed at collecting and providing first aid to grounded bats. The rota operates between July and October. As per the guidance regarding Covid-19, volunteers were advised on appropriate PPE to handle bats and a telephone rota was provided to the Cathedral porters for emergencies. Volunteers contributed to a daily bat patrol on rota and an 'on call' basis, awaiting a bat rescue call from Durham Cathedral to recover and rehabilitate grounded bats. Staff from the Cathedral were also trained in basic bat care. In 2024, a total of 73 bats were attended to, of which 10 were already dead. Of the 63 bats found alive, 43 could be rehabilitated and were released.

### Washington Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

A single bat box check was undertaken in 2024, on 9<sup>th</sup> November. Five members were present. The checks also included some training on the use of torches in bat box checks. A total of five pipistrelle bats were found in the boxes.

## **National Bat Helpline Support**

Durham Bat Group Members assisted with calls received by National Bat Helpline run by the Bat Conservation Trust in 2024. The call types received included:

- Natural England roost-related enquiries which required a roost visit and were referred to licenced Volunteer Bat Roost Visitors (VBRVs).
- Roost-related enquiries which did not require a visit, and
- Bat care related calls to advise and assist with grounded and injured bats.

A total of 13 VBRV visits were undertaken across the DBG area in 2024. On some of these the licensed bat worker was accompanied by trainee or prospective VBRVs.

### **Donations**

Durham Bat Group donated £1025 to the Bat Conservation Trust in 2024 to help fund the National Bat Helpline.

### **Bat Care**

In addition to the work undertaken at Durham Cathedral, fourteen members were actively involved with caring for injured or sick bats. A total of 147 bats from seven different species were attended to in the course of the year.

Draft



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
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## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
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### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Fees for bat data searches	7,303	-	-	7,303	3,009
Donations from the public	70	-	-	70	75
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>7,373</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,373</b>	<b>3,084</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>7,373</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,373</b>	<b>3,084</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Room Hire & Refreshments	-	-	-	-	213
Printing, postage & stationary	748	-	-	748	204
Insurance	100	-	-	100	100
IT Related Expenditure	456	-	-	456	-
Equipment	293	-	-	293	2,613
Bat Care Expenses	157	-	-	157	300
General Expenses	-	-	-	-	30
Donation to Bat Conservation Trust Appeal	1,025	-	-	1,025	500
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>2,779</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,779</b>	<b>3,960</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>2,779</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,779</b>	<b>3,960</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>4,594</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,594</b>	<b>876</b>
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	18,783	-	-	18,783	19,658
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>23,377</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,377</b>	<b>18,782</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>		23,377	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>23,377</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	2 x triple bank harp traps		-	-
	Bat box checks equipment (hard hats, poles etc)		-	-
	2 x acoustic lures + 4 x tablets to run acoustic lures (failing)		-	-
	5 x heat mats		-	-
	1 x Batlogger M Bat detector		-	-
	4 x Anabat Express bat detector + 2 x Peersonic Bat detectors + data cables		-	-
	12 x Magenta 5 bat detectors + 12 xFSC guides to British Bats		-	-
	External Hard Drive to store bat data		-	-
2 x Nightfox Whisker Night Vision Binoculars + Tripods, SD cards		-	-	
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	

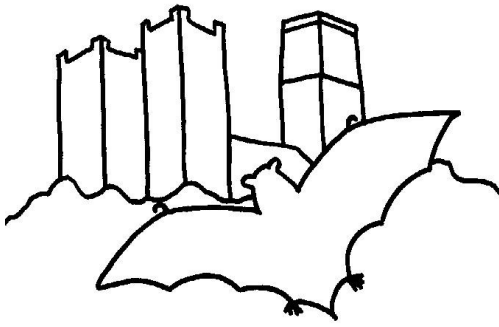
**DURHAM BAT GROUP**

England & Wales - Charity number 1170672

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# Accounts

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**Durham Bat group**

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation  
Registered Charity No 1170672

## **Durham Bat Group**

Registered Charity No. 1170672

### **Trustees' Annual Report 2023**

### Durham Bat Group Trustees

Trustee Name	Committee Position	Dates serving as a trustee in 2023
Claire Dewson	Chair	01/01/2023 – 31/12/2023
Clare Rawcliffe	Treasurer / Trainer	01/01/2023 – 31/12/2023
Tony Purcell	Asset Manager	01/01/2023 – 31/12/2023
Jodie Morgan	Events Coordinator	01/01/2023 – 31/12/2023
Melissa Young	Recorder	20/10/2023 – 31/12/2023
Ian Bond	Secretary	18/10/2023 – 31/12/2023
Debbie Goldsmith		18/10/2023 – 31/12/2023
Julie Dyson		18/10/2023 – 31/12/2023
Lauren Gibson		18/10/2023 – 31/12/2023
Craig Basford		18/10/2023 – 31/12/2023

### Non-Trustee Committee Members

Name	Committee Position	Dates serving as a committee member in 2023
David Sowerbutts	Advisor	01/01/2023 – 31/12/2023
Alistair Lockett	Communications Officer Membership Coordinator	01/01/2023 – 31/12/2023

### Trustees

The Trustees have acted with due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit with respect to Durham Bat Group's charitable activity, and in particular to Public Benefit Guides PB1, PB2 and PB3. This report is prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:



Ian Bond (secretary)

## **Governing Document**

The constitution of Durham Bat Group was adopted on 20 October 2016, and is based on the Charity Commission's model 'Association' constitution for Charitable Incorporated Organisations.

The group is further governed by byelaws adopted on 20 February 2018 which define criteria for membership, the structure of the governing committee, and group policies on bat work training, partnerships with other organisations, providing advice to the public, group meetings, data and financial management, and insurance.

## **Objectives and Activities**

The objectives of the Durham Bat Group (DBG) are promotion of the conservation and welfare of bats, primarily within the geographic area between the rivers Tees and Tyne, but also including parts of Durham south of the Tees and excluding parts of Northumberland south of the Tyne. This includes the provision of practical advice and help to any individual or organisation with regard to bats, education of the public about bats by means of public talks, bat walks, talks to school groups etc., and encouragement of community participation in bat related activities. It also includes the study of bats to further understanding of their biology and ecology and working with other organisations sharing similar aims.

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DBG maintains a database of bat records within its area of activity. The group provides records, via an agreement with ERIC NE (the local records centre), to further the understanding of bats and to ecological consultants carrying out records searches.

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DBG maintains and monitors bat box schemes in the county, undertakes surveys and runs bat walks for the public. It also works with other groups and organisations to provide educational talks and bat walks and benefits the public through bat conservation activities.

Occasional financial donations to bat-related scientific or charitable work by outside individuals or bodies are assessed on their merits and voted on by members during group meetings. Grants may be provided to groups or individuals whose activities are considered to provide added value for bat conservation to those of Durham Bat Group.

The membership of Durham Bat Group stood at 154 (as of 29/01/2024)

## **2023 Meetings**

### 2023 Meetings of the Board of Trustees

The Trustees met on 11/01/23, 03/04/23, 21/09/23 and 06/11/2022 to facilitate the running of the Group.

### 2023 Annual General Meeting

The 2023 AGM was held at the WWT Washington Wetlands Centre on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and attended by 13 members. The minutes of the 2022 AGM were agreed, as were the 2022 financial report and Trustees annual report.

As required by the constitution, Clare Rawcliffe and Claire Dewson stood down as Trustees, with both being re-elected. Debbie Goldsmith, Julie Dyson, Lauren Gibson and Craig Basford were appointed as new trustees.

The AGM was followed by a short discussion among members of various issues relating to the bat group, with issues raised to be followed up by the Trustees as appropriate. There was then a presentation by Tina Wiffen on finding hibernating Pipistrelles.

### General Indoor Meetings of Members

- 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 –Bat I. D. (9 members attended) Delivered by Ian Bond.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2023 – Licensing (13 members attended) Led by Clare Rawcliffe – presentation on bat class and project licenses followed by a group discussion.
- 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 – National Nathusius Pipistrelle Project & Small Myotis Project (13 members attended) – Led by Clare Rawcliffe with input from Craig Bulga. Presentation on projects so far, known distribution of species and then group discussion on field work going forwards.

## **Surveys**

### Hibernation surveys

- A total of seven hibernation sites were surveyed between January and March 2023. These were carried out over four days. Two of those sites were new and had not been checked by the bat group previously (according to known records)
- A total of ten bats were observed during the surveys, the largest count was five bats in one adit.
- With some members completing more than one survey, the total number of members who participated was fourteen.
- Of those members, eight of them had not completed any hibernation surveys previously.

### Roost surveys

30 April 2023 - A bat box check was undertaken at Hamsterley Forest on led by Tricia Snaith

25 July 2023 - A roost visit in Stanhope was led by Rachel Hepburn on. As it was a visit within the roost, numbers were limited to three members other than Rachel.

25 June 2023 – A National Bat Monitoring Programme roost count was undertaken at St Mary's Church, Long Newton and attended by 4 members. and

16 August 2023 – A follow-up survey was undertaken at St Mary's to get a better understanding of how the bats were using the interior of the church. Approximately 10 members attended.

#### Activity surveys

3 May 2023 – A bat survey was undertaken at Washington Old Hall, led by Alistair Lockett. Access was granted within the hall allowing surveys both internally and externally. Eight members attended.

22 June 2023 - A bat survey around Escomb was led by Rachel Hepburn. Seven members attended.

#### Public walks and talks

15 April 2023 - Ian Bond led a bat walk for RSPB Saltholme.

29 April 2023 – Ian Bond led a bat walk for the Friends of Drinkfield Marsh, Darlington.

21 September 2023 - Ian Bond led a bat walk for RSPB Saltholme.

28 September 2023 - Ian Bond led a bat walk for Darlington Borough Council in South Park, Darlington. Approximately 50 people attended.

2 October 2023 - Rachel Hepburn gave a talk to a Darlington Beaver group followed by a bat walk. Approximately 20 children attended.

29 November 2023 - Rachel Hepburn gave a talk to a Durham Beaver group. Approximately 15 children and their leaders listened to a talk on bats and went home with bat masks to make.

#### **Training**

17<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – A hand netting training session was held at Staindrop Pumping station, delivered by Clare Rawcliffe and attended by 8 members.

18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – A National Bat Monitoring Project (NBMP) Level 2 "Using Your Ears" Bat Detector Workshop was held at Houghall College, Durham. This was open to the public as well as DBG members. It was delivered by Clare Rawcliffe on behalf of the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT).

6 August 2023 – A training session on bat care was run by Noel Jackson and Melissa Young at Washington Wildfowl & Wetlands Centre.

#### **Media**

Durham Bat Group received coverage on BBC News 'Look North' on 13<sup>th</sup> September covering our activities at Durham Cathedral. A link to this article was included on the BBC website.

## Projects

### Durham Cathedral

Jodie Morgan managed the Cathedral's bat patrol rota which is aimed at collecting and providing first aid to grounded bats during the summer period. As per the guidance regarding Covid-19, volunteers were advised on appropriate PPE to handle bats and a telephone rota was provided to the Cathedral porters for emergencies. Bat patrols were carried out as normal by volunteers. Cathedral staff were also trained, during organised sessions, in basic bat care by lead volunteer and Trustee Jodie Morgan in a safe environment.

Volunteers contributed to a daily bat patrol on rota and an 'on call' basis, awaiting a bat rescue call from Durham Cathedral to recover and rehabilitate grounded bats found in the cloisters.

Two training sessions for Durham Cathedral Staff were carried out by volunteer and trustee Melissa Young. In total 12 new bat first aiders were trained in how to spot grounded bats, administer appropriate emergency aid, release suitable bats and how to escalate cases where bats couldn't be released. More sessions have been requested for 2024.

Bat patrols were carried out at the cathedral by a rota of volunteers from the bat group. 71 visits were completed over the course of 90 days. During this time 88 bats were found, of these 63 were found alive (23 already deceased). Of the live bats, 55 went on to be successfully released.

Volunteer	No. Cathedral Patrols
Jodie Morgan	2
Melissa Young	21
Antonio Barbaro	9
Mike Wilson	2
Bridget Black	17
Kate Ferguson	12
Debra Goldsmith	8
Total Patrols	71

### Washington Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

No WWT Washington Bat Box Checks were undertaken in 2023.

Some acoustic surveys were undertaken for the National Nathusius Pipistrelle Project, but the licence to trap was not renewed during 2023 so no harp trapping surveys were undertaken.

## **Financial Summary**

The largest expenditure in 2023 was associated with establishing the new Durham Bat Group website and in settling accounts associated with the previous web hosting fees and online meeting facilities set up through the covid pandemic.

The equipment expenditure in 2023 was for two sets of Nightfox Whisker night vision binoculars. In addition the group received a donation of two Peersonic bat detectors from the BCT Bats in Churches Project.

The Trustees took the decision not to do the usual Christmas card mail out to roost owners, so this reduced printing expenditure. A mail out in advance of the maternity period in 2024 will be undertaken instead.



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
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## Receipts and payments accounts


CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
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### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Fees for bat data searches	3,009	-	-	3,009	-
Donations for bat care	-	-	-	-	-
Donations for services - walks & talks	75	-	-	75	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>3,084</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,084</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>3,084</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,084</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Room Hire & Refreshments	213	-	-	213	-
Printing, postage & stationary	204	-	-	204	-
Insurance	100	-	-	100	-
IT Related Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
Equipment	2,613	-	-	2,613	-
Bat Care Expenses	300	-	-	300	-
General Expenses	30	-	-	30	-
Donation to Bat Conservation Trust Appeal	500	-	-	500	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>3,960</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,960</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>3,960</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,960</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 876</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 876</b>	<b>-</b>
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	19,658	-	-	19,658	-
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>18,782</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,782</b>	<b>-</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>		18,782	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>18,782</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	<b>Details</b>	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	<b>Details</b>	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	<b>Details</b>	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	2 x triple bank harp traps		-	-
	Bat box checks equipment		-	-
	2 x acoustic lures		-	-
	4 x tablets to run acoustic lures (failing)		-	-
	1 x Batlogger M Bat detector		-	-
	4 x Anabat Express bat detector + 2 x Peersonic Bat detectors		-	-
	12 x Magenta 5 bat detectors		-	-
	12 x FSC guides to British Bats + 12 FSC Guides to British Bats		-	-
	2 x Nightfox Whisker Night Vision Binoculars		-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	<b>Details</b>	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Clare Rawcliffe	4/17/2024	

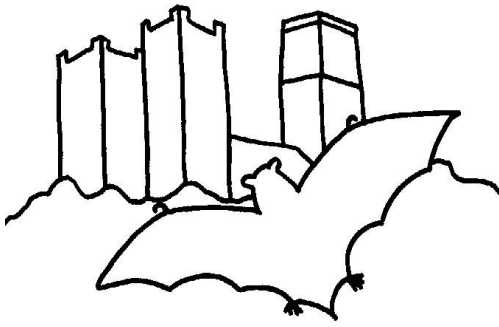
**DURHAM BAT GROUP**

England & Wales - Charity number 1170672

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# Accounts

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**Durham Bat group**

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation  
Registered Charity No 1170672

## **Durham Bat Group**

Registered Charity No. 1170672

### **Trustees' Annual Report 2022**

## Durham Bat Group Trustees

<b>Trustee Name</b>	<b>Committee Position</b>	<b>Dates serving as a trustee in 2022</b>
Claire Dewson	Chair	01/01/2022 – 31/12/2022
Clare Rawcliffe	Treasurer Trainer	01/01/2022 – 31/12/2022
Tony Purcell	Asset Manager	01/01/2022 – 31/12/2022
Gwynevere Kipling	Bat Care Coordinator	01/01/2022 – 18/10/2022
Barry Anderson	Secretary	01/01/2022 – 08/08/2022
Jodie Morgan	Events Coordinator	01/01/2022 – 31/12/2022
Melissa Young	Recorder	20/10/2022 – 31/12/2022
Ian Bond	Secretary	18/10/2022 – 31/12/2022

## Non-Trustee Committee Members

<b>Name</b>	<b>Committee Position</b>	<b>Dates serving as a committee member in 2022</b>
David Sowerbutts	Advisor	01/01/2022 – 31/12/2022
Alistair Lockett	Communications Officer Membership Coordinator	01/01/2022 – 31/12/2022

## **Trustees**

The Trustees have acted with due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit with respect to Durham Bat Group's charitable activity, and in particular to Public Benefit Guides PB1, PB2 and PB3. This report is prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Bond', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ian Bond (secretary)

## **Governing Document**

The constitution of Durham Bat Group was adopted on 20 October 2016, and is based on the Charity Commission's model 'Association' constitution for Charitable Incorporated Organisations.

The group is further governed by byelaws adopted on 20 February 2018 which define criteria for membership, the structure of the governing committee, and group policies on bat work training, partnerships with other organisations, providing advice to the public, group meetings, data and financial management, and insurance.

## **Objectives and Activities**

The objectives of the Durham Bat Group (DBG) are promotion of the conservation and welfare of bats, primarily within the geographic area between the rivers Tees and Tyne, but also including parts of Durham south of the Tees and excluding parts of Northumberland south of the Tyne. This includes the provision of practical advice and help to any individual or organisation with regard to bats, education of the public about bats by means of public talks, bat walks, talks to school groups etc., and encouragement of community participation in bat related activities. It also includes the study of bats to further understanding of their biology and ecology and working with other organisations sharing similar aims.

Durham Bat Group is the umbrella body for bat workers within its area of activity. It holds indoor meetings during the winter months and field activities at all times of the year but focusing on the main period of bat activity from May to October.

DBG maintains a database of bat records within its area of activity. The group provides records, via an agreement with ERIC NE (the local records centre), to further the understanding of bats and to ecological consultants carrying out records searches.

The group has a network of bat carers who rehabilitate sick and injured bats found by the public for release back into the wild where possible. Bat carers must receive training from group members experienced in bat care before carrying out any bat rehabilitation independently. DBG works closely with Durham Cathedral to care for grounded bats found regularly in the Cloisters, primarily in late summer / early autumn.

DBG maintains and monitors bat box schemes in the county, undertakes surveys and runs bat walks for the public. It also works with other groups and organisations to provide educational talks and bat walks and benefits the public through bat conservation activities.

Occasional financial donations to bat-related scientific or charitable work by outside individuals or bodies are assessed on their merits and voted on by members during group meetings. Grants may be provided to groups or individuals whose activities are considered to provide added value for bat conservation to those of Durham Bat Group.

The membership of Durham Bat Group stands at 120 (figure as of 01/10/2023).

## **2022 Meetings**

### **General Indoor Meetings of Members**

27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – Member Mike Wilson called a meeting in conjunction with artist David De La Haye to discuss the potential to undertake a collaborative acoustic art project using bat sounds at Durham Cathedral.

### **2022 Meetings of the Board of Trustees**

The Trustees met on 12/01/22, 10/08/22, 08/09/22, 07/11/2022 and 28/11/2022 to facilitate the running of the Group.

### **2022 Annual General Meeting**

The 2022 AGM was held at the WWT Washington Wetlands Centre on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and attended by 15 members. The minutes of the 2021 AGM were agreed, as were the 2021 financial report and trustees annual report.

As required by the constitution, Gwynevere Kipling and Jodie Morgan stood down as Trustees. Jodie Morgan was re-elected, and Ian Bond was appointed as a new trustee.

There followed bat surveys of the Wetlands Centre grounds including harp trapping as part of the National Nathusius Project. There was also discussion with members about the future activities and direction of the group.

## **Records**

A new arrangement was negotiated with the Environmental Records Information Centre North East (ERIC NE) by which "All commercial, public, or academic data enquiries...received by DBG will be forwarded to ERIC for response". This arrangement was implemented in July 2022. Prior to implementation, nine data searches were undertaken by David Sowerbutts. ERIC NE undertook 266 data searches between 12<sup>th</sup> July and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 which included DBG data in the results.

## **Training**

18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – A National Bat Monitoring Project (NBMP) Level 2 "Using Your Ears" Bat Detector Workshop was held at Houghall College, Durham – open to the public and DBG members, delivered by Clare Rawcliffe on behalf of the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) and assisted by Claire Dewson.

Opportunities to handle and ID bats were offered to all members with appropriate vaccinations and PPE at all of the Washington WWT bat box checks by C Rawcliffe.

Opportunities to handle and ID bats were offered to all members with appropriate vaccinations and PPE at all of the National Nathusius Pipistrelle Project survey nights by C Rawcliffe.

Opportunities to participate in bat surveys using detectors were offered to all members at the Greenabella Marsh and RSPB Saltholme survey events.

## **Media**

20<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – DBG Member Gwyn Kipling was interviewed about bat care by the RSPCA which was put out on social media.

## **Projects**

### **Durham Cathedral**

Jodie Morgan managed the Cathedral's bat patrol rota which is aimed at collecting and providing first aid to grounded bats during the summer period. As per the guidance regarding Covid-19, volunteers were advised on appropriate PPE to handle bats and a telephone rota was provided to the Cathedral porters for emergencies. Bat patrols were carried out as normal by volunteers. Cathedral staff were also trained, during organised sessions, in basic bat care by lead volunteer and Trustee Jodie Morgan in a safe environment.

Volunteers contributed to a daily bat patrol on rota and an 'on call' basis, awaiting a bat rescue call from Durham Cathedral to recover and rehabilitate grounded bats during the annual Common Pipistrelle swarming period in the Cathedral cloister.

### **Hamsterley Forest**

A bat box check was undertaken at Hamsterley Forest on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2022 led by Tricia Snaith. Four bats were recorded in total, 2 x noctule bats and 2 x pipistrelle species.

### **WWT Washington Bat Box Checks**

Most of the bat boxes at the Wetlands Centre have now been moved onto a hook system allowing checking to take place without the need for ladders. This makes the process safer and quicker. This has allowed more frequent checks of the boxes to understand how they are used year-round.

The boxes were checked by Clare Rawcliffe, assisted by other Members plus staff and volunteers from the Wetlands centre on the following dates:

- 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – 2 bats were recorded using the Kent style bat boxes. They were observed from the ground using torches and were therefore not identified to species level.
- 24<sup>th</sup> July 2022 - 4 bats were recorded in total. One was identified as a soprano pipistrelle; the others were not identified to species level.

- 21<sup>st</sup> August 2022 – 8 bats were recorded in total, all soprano pipistrelles. Of these, a male and a female were roosting singly, the remaining 6 were together in a box comprising 1 male and 5 females in breeding condition and believed to be a mating roost.
- 25<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – 11 bats were recorded in total. Of these 8 were identified as soprano pipistrelles, a female roosting singly, a male roosting singly and a box with 1 male and 3 females together, presumed to be a mating roost. Three other bats were recorded using the Kent style bat boxes. They were observed from the ground using torches and were therefore not identified to species level.
- 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022 - 6 bats were recorded using the Kent style bat boxes. They were observed from the ground using torches and were therefore not identified to species level.

### **National Nathusius Pipistrelle Project**

Craig Bulga co-ordinated and led acoustic surveys for the Nathusius Pipistrelle project within the DBG area.

21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 – Survey at WWT Washington Wetlands Centre led by Clare Rawcliffe & Tony Purcell who are on the national project licence. Some technical issues led to only one acoustic lure being operational. 2 bats were caught – a female soprano pipistrelle and a male whiskered bat.

### **National Small Myotis Project**

The National Small Myotis project aims to further the understanding of the distribution, habitat preferences and key identification features for whiskered, brandts and alcahloe bats across England. Clare Rawcliffe is named on the national project licence.

This allows targeted trapping surveys at any sites likely to be used by the target species. Specific data and dropping samples from any of the target bat species will be collected during any surveys.

21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 – Survey at WWT Washington Wetlands Centre for the National Nathusius Project, but as a whiskered bat was caught, data for the small myotis project was taken.

### **Pilot British Bat Survey (BBatS)**

Durham Bat group were approached by the Bat Conservation Trust to suggest suitable sites to take part in a pilot survey technique. BBatS is a passive acoustic monitoring survey that will allow BCT to estimate trends in UK bat species occupancy and activity and will form part of the National Bat Monitoring Programme in the future. DBG Member Andrew Diamond participated in the project at his place of work, Washington Wetlands Centre, setting up the audio moth for passive monitoring and returning the equipment to BCT for analysis.

### **Other Events / Activities**

13<sup>th</sup> July 2022 – Training session, New College Durham.

An introduction to bats, their ecology and how they use buildings was held by New College, Durham, delivered by Durham Bat Group. The session was led by Jonathan Pounder, assisted by Noel Jackson and Clare Rawcliffe.

17<sup>th</sup> July 2022 – Survey, Haswell Plough

Following the report of a maternity roost at a semi-detached house in Haswell Plough, Melissa Young and other members of the bat group carried out a dusk survey to establish location, species and number of bats present. Bats were seen emerging from an area on the gable end and identified using bat detectors to be common pipistrelle bats. A total of 39 bats were seen emerging. As a dead female with a baby attached had been found in the front garden following a cat attack it is presumed this is a maternity roost.

29<sup>th</sup> July 2022 – Bat Walk & Talk, Sunderland

A bat walk and talk was organised by the International Community Organisation of Sunderland at Backhouse Park in Sunderland, led by DBG Member Clare Rawcliffe and attended by ~25 people.

20<sup>th</sup> August 2022 - Bat Walk & Talk, Bowlees, North Pennines

A Bat walk & talk was organised by the North Pennines AONB Partnership and delivered by DBG Member Alistair Lockett.

26<sup>th</sup> August 2022 - Bat Walk & Talk, Chopwell Woods

An evening bat walk was organised by the Friends of Chopwell Woods and delivered by DBG Member Melissa Young. The event involved a stroll through the woods using bat detectors after an introductory talk about UK Bats. 20 people attended and species seen included Noctule, Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle and Daubentons.

14<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – Bat Walk & Talk

A bat walk and talk was organised by Sustrans and delivered by DBG Members Rachel Hepburn and Debbie Goldsmith.

20<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – Cubs Bat Night, Hartlepool

A bat walk was organised by Hartlepool cubs and delivered by DBG Member Melissa Young. The evening started with some fun games learning about bats and concluded with a walk around the local area looking for bats in the park.

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022 – Survey, Greenabella Marsh

Ian Bond organised and led a survey of Greenabella Marsh in North Tees attended by several DBG Members.

29<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – Survey, RSPB Saltholme

Ian Bond organised and led a survey of RSPB Saltholme attended by several DBG members.

## **National Bat Helpline Support**

Durham Bat Group Members assisted with calls received by National Bat Helpline run by the Bat Conservation Trust in 2022. The call types received included:

- Natural England roost-related enquiries which required a roost visit and were referred to licenced Volunteer Bat Roost Visitors (VBRVs).

- Roost-related enquiries which did not require a visit, and
- Bat care related calls to advise and assist with grounded and injured bats.

## Financial Review

### Summary

	2022	2021	2020
<b>Receipts</b>			
Data searches	£125.00	£ 1,525.00	£ 3,320.00
Donation - bat care		£ -	0
Donation - talk	£600.00	£ 200.00	0
<b>Income sub Total for year</b>	<b>£725.00</b>	<b>£ 1,725.00</b>	<b>£ 3,320.00</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Room hire & Refreshments	£ 218.00	£ -	£ 301.68
Printing, Postage & Stationary	£ 636.00	£ 1,054.00	0
Insurance	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	£ 100.00
Bat Care	£ 56.70	£ 281.00	£ 250.02
ICT Expenditure	£ -	£ 117.00	0
Equipment	£ 1,329.41	£ -	0
Bat flight cage (materials and labour)		£ 1,824.00	£ 1,836.79
BCT Donation	£ 1,000.00		0
General expenses	£ 12.00	£ 39.00	
<b>Expenditure total for year</b>	<b>£ 3,352.11</b>	<b>£ 3,415.00</b>	<b>£ 2,488.49</b>
<b>Income minus expenditure</b>	<b>-£ 2,627.11</b>	<b>-£ 1,690.00</b>	<b>£ 831.51</b>
Balance brought forward from previous year	£ 22,285.45	£ 23,873.00	£ 23,042.21
<b>End of year balance</b>	<b>£ 19,658.34</b>	<b>£ 22,184.00</b>	<b>£ 23,873.72</b>
<b>DBG has no restricted funds or endowed funds</b>			

The income shown as received in 2022 does not include income from the 2022 ERIC NE data searches because the money was received into the account in the 2023 financial year.

The main equipment expenditure in 2022 was a set of 12 new Magenta bat detectors and FSC Bat ID guides for use in training and public walks and talks. These were purchased to replace old and failing bat detectors that were proving to be unreliable and not fit for purpose.

**DURHAM BAT GROUP**

England & Wales - Charity number 1170672

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# Accounts

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# **Durham Bat Group**

Registered Charity No. 1170672

## **Trustees' Annual Report 2021**

[enquiries@durhambats.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@durhambats.co.uk)

## Durham Bat Group Trustees

<b>Trustee Name</b>	<b>Committee Position</b>	<b>Dates serving as a trustee in 2021</b>
Claire Dewson	Chair	01/01/2021 - 31/12/2021
Clare Rawcliffe	Treasurer Trainer	01/01/2021 - 31/12/2021
David Sowerbutts	Recorder	01/01/2021 - 20/10/2021
Tony Purcell	Asset Manager	01/01/2021 - 31/12/2021
Alistair Lockett	Communications Officer Membership Coordinator	01/01/2021 - 20/10/2021
Gwynevere Kipling	Bat Care Coordinator	01/01/2021 - 31/12/2021
Barry Anderson	Secretary	01/01/2021 - 31/12/2021
Jodie Morgan	Events Coordinator	01/01/2021 - 31/12/2021
Melissa Young	Recorder	20/10/2021 - 31/12/2021

### Trustees

The Trustees have acted with due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit with respect to Durham Bat Group's charitable activity, and in particular to Public Benefit Guides PB1, PB2 and PB3. This report is prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:



Clare Rawcliffe

## **Governing Document**

The constitution of Durham Bat Group was adopted on 20 October 2016 and is based on the Charity Commission's model 'Association' constitution for Charitable Incorporated Organisations.

The group is further governed by byelaws adopted on 20 February 2018 which define criteria for membership, the structure of the governing committee, and group policies on bat work training, partnerships with other organisations, providing advice to the public, group meetings, data and financial management, and insurance.

## **Objectives and Activities**

The objectives of the Durham Bat Group (DBG) are promotion of the conservation and welfare of bats, primarily within the geographic area between the rivers Tees and Tyne, but also including parts of Durham south of the Tees and excluding parts of Northumberland south of the Tyne. This includes the provision of practical advice and help to any individual or organisation with regard to bats, education of the public about bats by means of public talks, bat walks, talks to school groups etc., and encouragement of community participation in bat related activities. It also includes the study of bats to further understanding of their biology and ecology and working with other organisations sharing similar aims.

Durham Bat Group is the umbrella body for bat workers within its area of activity. It holds indoor meetings during the winter months and field activities at all times of the year but focusing on the main period of bat activity from May to October.

It is the local coordinator for Natural England's Volunteer Bat Roost Visitor (VBRV) Scheme, whereby licensed VBRV's respond to enquiries made through the National Bat Helpline run by the Bat Conservation Trust on behalf of Natural England. It therefore helps Natural England to deliver its statutory duty to provide advice to the public regarding interactions with bats, which are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2018 and the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.

DBG maintains a database of bat records within its area of activity, and provides records, on request, to further the understanding of bats and to ecological consultants carrying out Ecological Impact Assessments.

Durham Bat Group carries out searches of its database and produces reports for which a charge is made to commercial organisations. Typically, this charge will be about £25 for a standard 2-km radius search; charges for more wide-ranging searches are subject to negotiation.

The group has a network of bat carers who rehabilitate sick and injured bats found by the public for release back into the wild where possible. Bat carers must receive training from group members experienced in bat care before carrying out any bat rehabilitation independently. DBG works closely with Durham Cathedral to care for grounded bats found regularly in the Cloisters, primarily in late summer / early autumn.

DBG maintains and monitors bat box schemes in the county, undertakes surveys and runs bat walks for the public. It also works with other groups and organisations to provide educational talks and bat walks and benefits the public through bat conservation activities.

Occasional financial donations to bat-related scientific or charitable work by outside individuals or bodies are assessed on their merits and voted on by members during group meetings. Grants may be provided to groups or individuals whose activities are considered to provide added value for bat conservation to those of Durham Bat Group.

The membership of Durham Bat Group stands at 101.

## **2021 Achievements and Performance**

### **General Indoor Meetings of Members**

23/02/2021 – an online talk on ‘Hibernation, Swarming & more...’ was given by Dave Anderson from North Yorkshire bat group and attended by 26 people.

13/12/2021 – Six DBG Members gathered in the Blue Bell pub in Sunderland to facilitate the annual Christmas card mail out.

### **2021 Meetings of the Board of Trustees**

The Trustees met on 06/01/2021, 28/01/2021, 23/02/2021, 01/04/2021, 13/05/21, 04/08/21, 14/09/21 and 16/11/2021 to facilitate the running of the Group.

### **2021 Annual General Meeting**

The 2021 AGM was held online via zoom on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The minutes of the 2020 AGM were agreed, as were the 2020 financial report and trustees annual report.

David Sowerbutts and Alistair Lockett stood down as trustees as required by the constitution. Tony Purcell stood down and was re-elected. Melissa Young was appointed as a new trustee.

There followed a presentation by Alan Roe of Derbyshire Bat Group on the Moor Bats Project.

### **National Bat Helpline Support**

There were a total of 163 enquiries from the Durham Bat Group area to the National Bat Helpline run by the Bat Conservation Trust in 2021. Of these:

- 18 were Natural England roost-related enquiries which required a roost visit and were referred to licenced Volunteer Bat Roost Visitors (VBRVs).
- 27 were roost-related enquiries which did not require a visit, and
- Approx. 118 were bat care related calls (a small number of these are categorised as ‘other’ enquiries)

## **Training**

International guidance advised against any non-necessary handling of bats due to the Covid-19 pandemic to reduce risks to both bats and people. A series of national and regional lockdowns restricted training in 2021.

Opportunities to handle and ID bats were offered to all members with appropriate vaccinations and PPE at the Washington WWT bat box check by C Rawcliffe.

Opportunities to participate in bat surveys using detectors were offered to all members at the Ushaw College and North Gare, Hartlepool surveys.

## **Records**

About 400 new records were received during 2021. Nowadays many reports of bats come via Facebook, but the majority of these provide insufficient detail, without further investigation, to be of record status and are not included in the count.

Towards the end of March, David Sowerbutts notified the Trustees of his intention to retire from the post of Recorder, and that he would not accept new data searches after the end of June. Melissa Young was appointed as his successor to manage the data, but not to carry out data searches. A new arrangement was negotiated with ERIC North East by which "All commercial, public, or academic data enquiries...received by DBG will be forwarded to ERIC for response". This arrangement was agreed before the end of the year, but not implemented until July 2022.

The number of data searches carried out was 86, the majority during the first half of the year.

## **Projects**

### **Durham Cathedral**

Jodie Morgan managed the Cathedral's bat patrol rota which is aimed at collecting and providing first aid to grounded bats during the summer period. As Covid-19 cases were still high, volunteers were advised on appropriate PPE to handle bats and a telephone rota was provided to the Cathedral porters for emergencies. Bat patrols were carried out as normal

by volunteers. Cathedral staff were also trained, during organised sessions, in basic bat care by lead volunteer and Trustee Jodie Morgan, in a safe environment.

A total of 5 volunteers contributed to a daily bat patrols on a rota and a 'on call' basis, awaiting a bat rescue call from Durham Cathedral to recover and rehabilitate grounded bats during the annual Common Pipistrelle swarming period in the Cathedral cloister.

Volunteers during 2021 were, Jodie Morgan, Melissa Young, Antonio Barbaro, Mike Wilson and Bridget Black .

This resulted in the recovery of 81 grounded bats in total either by trained members of the Cathedral staff or bat patrol volunteers, of which 59.94% were successfully rehabilitated and released. This is a higher release rate than previous years. There was a 32.44% mortality rate of the total number of bats found. 17% of which were found dead on arrival and 15% died in the care of volunteers.

It is likely that more bats were rescued than in 2020 due to less restrictions regarding the Covid-19 pandemic. This demonstrates the effort put into the bat patrols, finding more bats in total with both parties (DBG and Cathedral staff) working together. It is clear from the data that a higher number of bats are becoming grounded annually. However, more bats were successfully rehabilitated and released in 2021 and Jodie has concluded it is down to more people trained to provide first aid. As a future action, it is desirable to recruit more fully trained bat carers to ensure a higher percent of bats rescued.

### **Hamsterley Forest**

International guidance advised against any non-necessary handling of bats due to the Covid-19 pandemic to reduce risks to both bats and people, therefore no bat box checks were undertaken in 2021.

### **WWT Washington Bat Box Checks**

On 26<sup>th</sup> September 2021, the WWT bat boxes were checked by Clare Rawcliffe, assisted by 6 other Members plus staff and volunteers from the

Wetlands centre. 26 bats were present altogether. All bats identified to species level were soprano pipistrelles.

### **Bat Flight Cage**

The bat flight cage was relocated from the allotment of former Trustee Julia Brown to a site in Marske, due to Darlington County Council categorising bats as livestock, and therefore being unable to be kept on the allotment. The dismantling and re-erection of the flight cage was undertaken by a professional contractor under supervision by members of both Durham and Cleveland Bat Groups. The relocation took place in August 2021. The cost of the flight cage relocation work was £1824.

### **Other Events / Activities**

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021 - Alistair Lockett organised a bat survey of Ushaw College, Durham in preparation for some events. This was attended by 4 members

4<sup>th</sup> September 2021 - A joint event between Ushaw Historic Chapel and Gardens and Durham Bat Group. A walk and talk, led by DBG member Ian Bond.

12<sup>th</sup> September 2021 - Ian Bond organised a survey of the strandline from North Gare to the Hartlepool Headland, attended by several DBG Members. This was jointly run with the Cleveland Bat Group who undertook a survey on the southern bank of the Tees, by way of comparison, on the same night.

29<sup>th</sup> September 2021 - Clare Rawcliffe gave a bat talk and walk for the WWT Washington Wetlands Centre as part of their events programme.

16 October 2021 - A joint event between Ushaw Historic Chapel and Gardens and Durham Bat Group. A walk and talk, led by DBG member Alistair Lockett and attended by approximately 20-25 people. A great family event which received very good feedback.

### **Financial Review**

	2021	2020	2019
<b>Receipts</b>			£
Data searches	£ 1,525.00	£ 3,320.00	2310.00
Donation - bat care	£ -	0	0.00
Donation - talk	£ 200.00	0	0.00
<b>Income sub Total for year</b>	<b>£ 1,725.00</b>	<b>£ 3,320.00</b>	<b>2310.00</b>
<b>Payments</b>			£
Room hire & Refreshments	£ -	£ 301.68	231.50
Postage	£ 1,054.00	0	390.40
Insurance	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	1059.69
Bat Care	£ 281.00	£ 250.02	130.36
Website subscription	£ 117.00	0	0.00
Repair of detectors	£ -	0	0.00
Recorder buttons		0	0.00
DNA analysis		0	0.00
Bat flight cage (materials and labour)	£ 1,824.00	£ 1,836.79	
Donation (Nathusius' Project)		0	0.00
General expenses	£ 39.00		
<b>Expenditure total for year</b>	<b>£ 3,415.00</b>	<b>£ 2,488.49</b>	<b>1811.95</b>
<b>Income minus expenditure</b>	<b>-£ 1,690.00</b>	<b>£ 831.51</b>	<b>498.05</b>
Balance brought forward from previous year	£ 23,873.00	£ 23,042.21	22544.16
<b>End of year balance</b>	<b>£ 22,184.00</b>	<b>£ 23,873.72</b>	<b>23042.21</b>
<b>DBG has no restricted funds or endowed funds</b>			



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name <b>Durham Bat Group</b>	No (if any) <b>1170672</b>
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## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 1/1/2021	To	Period end date 12/31/2021
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### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>				
Fees for bat data searches	1,525	-	-	1,525
Donations for bat care	-	-	-	-
Donations for services - talks & walks	200	-	-	200
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>1,725</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,725</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>1,725</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,725</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>				
Room hire & refreshments	-	-	-	-
Printing, postage and stationary	1,054	-	-	1,054
Insurance	100	-	-	100
IT related expenditure	117	-	-	117
Equipment	1,824	-	-	1,824
Bat Care expenses	281	-	-	281
General expenses	39	-	-	39
Donation to Bat Conservation Trust appeal	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>3,415</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,415</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>3,415</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,415</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 1,690</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 1,690</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>23,874</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,874</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>22,184</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22,184</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>		22,184	-
		-	-
		-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>22,184</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	2 x triple bank harp traps		-
	4 x tablets to run acoustic lures		-
	2 x acoustic lures		-
	4 x tablets to run acoustic lures		-
	1 x Batlogger Bat detector		-
	4 x Anabat Express bat detector		-
	1 x batbox duet detector (failing)		-
	3 x batbox II detectors (failing)		-
	Bat box checks equipment		-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name

**CC16a**

**Last year  
to the nearest £**

<b>3,320</b>
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
<b>3,320</b>

-
-
-

<b>3,320</b>
--------------

<b>302</b>
-
<b>100</b>
-
<b>1,837</b>
<b>250</b>
-
-
-
-
<b>2,489</b>

-
-
-

<b>2,489</b>
--------------

<b>831</b>
-
-
<b>831</b>



**Endowment funds to nearest £**

-
-
-
-

OK

**Endowment funds to nearest £**

-
-
-
-
-
-

**Current value (optional)**

-
-
-
-
-

**Current value (optional)**

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

**When due (optional)**


**Date of approval**


**DURHAM BAT GROUP**

England & Wales - Charity number 1170672

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# Accounts

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# **Durham Bat Group**

Registered Charity No. 1170672

## **Trustees' Annual Report 2020**

[enquiries@durhambats.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@durhambats.co.uk)

## Durham Bat Group Trustees

Trustee Name	Committee Position	Dates serving as a trustee in 2020
Claire Dewson	Chair	01/01/2020 – 31/12/2020
Julia Brown	Treasurer	01/01/2020 – 29/09/2020
Clare Rawcliffe	Treasurer	29/09/2020 – 31/12/2020
	Trainer	01/01/2020 – 31/12/2020
David Sowerbutts	Recorder	01/01/2020 – 31/12/2020
Tony Purcell	Asset Manager	01/01/2020 – 31/12/2020
Alistair Lockett	Communications Officer	01/01/2020 – 31/12/2020
	Membership Coordinator	01/01/2020 – 31/12/2020
Gwynevere Kipling	Secretary	01/01/2020 – 29/09/2020
	Bat Care Coordinator	29/09/2020 – 31/12/2020
Barry Anderson	Secretary	29/09/2020 – 31/12/2020
Jodie Morgan	Events Coordinator	29/09/2020 – 31/12/2020

### Trustees

The Trustees have acted with due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit with respect to Durham Bat Group's charitable activity, and in particular to Public Benefit Guides PB1, PB2 and PB3. This report is prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Signed on behalf of the Trustees.....

## **Governing Document**

The constitution of Durham Bat Group was adopted on 20 October 2016, and is based on the Charity Commission's model 'Association' constitution for Charitable Incorporated Organisations.

The group is further governed by byelaws adopted on 20 February 2018 which define criteria for membership, the structure of the governing committee, and group policies on bat work training, partnerships with other organisations, providing advice to the public, group meetings, data and financial management, and insurance.

## **Objectives and Activities**

The objectives of the Durham Bat Group (DBG) are promotion of the conservation and welfare of bats, primarily within the geographic area between the rivers Tees and Tyne, but also including parts of Durham south of the Tees and excluding parts of Northumberland south of the Tyne. This includes the provision of practical advice and help to any individual or organisation with regard to bats, education of the public about bats by means of public talks, bat walks, talks to school groups etc., and encouragement of community participation in bat related activities. It also includes the study of bats to further understanding of their biology and ecology, and working with other organisations sharing similar aims.

Durham Bat Group is the umbrella body for bat workers within its area of activity. It holds indoor meetings during the winter months and field activities at all times of the year, but focusing on the main period of bat activity from May to October.

It is the local coordinator for Natural England's Volunteer Bat Roost Visitor (VBRV) Scheme, whereby licensed VBRV's respond to enquiries made through the National Bat Helpline run by the Bat Conservation Trust on behalf of Natural England. It therefore helps Natural England to deliver its statutory duty to provide advice to the

public regarding interactions with bats, which are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2018 and the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.

DBG maintains a database of bat records within its area of activity, and provides records, on request, to further the understanding of bats and to ecological consultants carrying out Ecological Impact Assessments. Durham Bat Group carries out searches of its database and produces reports for which a charge is made to commercial organisations. Typically this charge will be about £25 for a standard 2-km radius search; charges for more wide-ranging searches are subject to negotiation.

The group has a network of bat carers who rehabilitate sick and injured bats found by the public for release back into the wild where possible. Bat carers must receive training from group members experienced in bat care before carrying out any bat rehabilitation independently. DBG works closely with Durham Cathedral to care for grounded bats found regularly in the Cloisters, primarily in late summer / early autumn.

DBG maintains and monitors bat box schemes in the county, undertakes surveys and runs bat walks for the public. It also works with other groups and organisations to provide educational talks and bat walks, and benefits the public through bat conservation activities.

Occasional financial donations to bat-related scientific or charitable work by outside individuals or bodies are assessed on their merits and voted on by members during group meetings. Grants may be provided to groups or individuals whose activities are considered to provide added value for bat conservation to those of Durham Bat Group.

The membership of Durham Bat Group stands at 98.

## **2020 Achievements and Performance**

### **General Indoor Meetings of Members**

DBG member meetings were held at Belmont Community Association with the exception of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) which was held online via Zoom.

February 2020 - Discussion on bat group activities, Trustee Roles and bat records - attended by 17 members.

March 2020 - Presentation by Kim Stabler, the Associate Director of Tricolor (a Heritage company) regarding the potential works on the Cloisters at Durham Cathedral. followed by a group input and discussion.

### **2020 Meetings of the Board of Trustees**

The Trustees met on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 5<sup>th</sup> May, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 27<sup>th</sup> May, 18<sup>th</sup> June, 15<sup>th</sup> July, 21<sup>th</sup> July, 17<sup>th</sup> September, 19<sup>th</sup> November and the 11<sup>th</sup> December to facilitate the running of the Group.

### **2020 Annual General Meeting**

The 2020 AGM was held online via zoom on the 29<sup>th</sup> September. The minutes of the 2019 AGM were agreed as were the 2019 financial report and trustees annual report.

Julia Brown stood down as a trustee. Barry Anderson and Jodie Morgan were appointed as trustees.

There was then a presentation by Lisa Worledge from BCT – Bats and Disease.

## **National Bat Helpline Support**

There were 204 enquiries via the BCT helpline.

Of these, 7 were Natural England roost-related enquiries which required a roost visit. Due to COVID-19 restrictions roosts visits were suspended last year and so very few visits took place across England during 2020

Approximately 40 were NE roost-related enquiries which did not require a visit, and approximately 150 were bat care related calls. The rest were 'other' enquiries.

## **Training**

International guidance advised against any non-necessary handling of bats due to the Covid-19 pandemic to reduce risks to both bats and people. A series of national and regional lockdowns restricted training in 2020.

## **Projects**

### **Durham Cathedral**

'Jodie Morgan managed the Cathedrals voluntary rota for 2020 to collect any grounded bats on a telephone based system due to COVID-19 restrictions preventing volunteers carrying out the usual bat patrol of the cloisters. When the restrictions had eased in late August, they were then allowed in to conduct patrol surveys, out of hours from the public following health and safety measures.

A total of 6 volunteers contributed to a daily 'on call' basis, awaiting a bat rescue call from Durham Cathedral to recover and rehabilitate grounded bats during the annual Common Pipistrelle swarming period in the cathedral cloister.

Volunteers who volunteered during the pandemic:

Jodie Morgan

Melissa Young

Antonio Barbaro

Mike Wilson

Gwyn Kipling

Bridget Black

This resulted in the recovery of 54 grounded bats, of which only 20.37% were rehabilitated and released. Of the others, 40.74% died in captivity, and a high total of 30.88% were found dead.

As a conclusion due to the restrictions volunteers were not able to carry out patrol duties and with a lack of watchful staff and public to inform porters of groundings this resulted in a high mortality rate of undiscovered bats, therefore demonstrating the importance of the role of the volunteers undertaking bat patrols within the cloisters.

### **Hamsterley Forest**

International guidance advised against any non-necessary handling of bats due to the Covid-19 pandemic to reduce risks to both bats and people, therefore no bat box checks were undertaken in 2020.

### **WWT Washington Bat Box Checks**

International guidance advised against any non-necessary handling of bats due to the Covid-19 pandemic to reduce risks to both bats and people, therefore no bat box checks were undertaken in 2020.

### **Bat Flight Cage**

A bat flight cage is an outdoor mesh room where bats that have been in care can build up their flight stamina and feed on the wing in a safe environment until they are ready for release. It is a particularly crucial tool to ensure that bats brought into care as pups

or juveniles can learn and practise flying and foraging before release. Prior to 2020, any juveniles requiring a flight cage have kindly been taken on by other bat group carers with access to a flight cage, but this was not a reliable solution due to the capacity of other groups. Durham Bat Group's carers made a case for having a flight cage within our area and Julia Brown identified a suitable location within her allotment site in Darlington. DBG agreed to pay for the materials and some labour with additional labour provided by group volunteers. The flight cage was installed in Autumn / Winter 2020.

### **Other Events / Activities**

International guidance advised against any non-necessary handling of bats due to the Covid-19 pandemic to reduce risks to both bats and people. Also the group followed government guidance on social distancing and numbers gathering at events, therefore no other events were undertaken in 2020.

### **Records**

The number of new records received during 2020 was again low - fewer than 100 – though this was not entirely related to Covid restrictions, since observers could have recorded bats on local walks or in their gardens. One notable emergence count carried out on 15th June was of over 700 Soprano Pipistrelles, the largest bat roost so far recorded in the county.

For much of the season special arrangements were in place for ecological consultants to carry out surveys using Covid-safe methods. This meant that the demand for data searches was not suppressed and 124 were carried out during the year.

More records have been received from ecological consultants in respect of 2020 work than has been the case in most recent years, but the majority of these (233) did not arrive until after the end of the year under review.

## Financial Review

	2020	2019	2018
<b>Receipts</b>			
		£	£
Data searches	£ 3,320.00	2310.00	2695.00
Donation - bat care	0	0.00	40.00
Donation - talk	0	0.00	50.00
<b>Income sub Total for year</b>	<b>£ 3,320.00</b>	<b>2310.00</b>	<b>2785.00</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
		£	£
Room hire & Refreshments	£ 301.68	231.50	39.87
Postage	0	390.40	360.98
Insurance	£ 100.00	1059.69	1117.46
Bat Care	£ 250.02	130.36	0.00
Website subscription	0	0.00	64.66
Repair of detectors	0	0.00	55.20
Recorder buttons	0	0.00	717.76
DNA analysis	0	0.00	42.00
Bat flight cage (materials and labour)	£ 1,836.79		
Donation (Nathusius' Project)	0	0.00	1000.00
<b>Expenditure total for year</b>	<b>£ 2,488.49</b>	<b>1811.95</b>	<b>3397.93</b>
<b>Income minus expenditure</b>	<b>£ 831.51</b>	<b>498.05</b>	<b>-612.93</b>
Balance brought forward from previous year	£ 23,042.21	22544.16	23157.09
<b>End of year balance</b>	<b>£ 23,873.72</b>	<b>23042.21</b>	<b>22544.16</b>

DBG has no restricted funds or endowed funds.