

BATTY ABOUT BATS

There are 18 species of bat in Britain. Pipistrelles are the most common British bats, and are about the same weight as a 20p piece. British bats eat flying insects, although some also take insects from foliage, and a single



Pipistrelle a night. I recently found a brown long-eared bat on a track close to Shenington which I have preserved. Bats use echolocation to find their prey; they make sounds as they fly and the returning echoes tell them what is ahead, including the size and shape of an insect and its direction of flight. Bat calls are usually too high pitched for us to hear, but can be heard using bat detectors. We had planned an open evening with the Warwickshire Bat Group earlier in the year so that they could help us identify bats in the vicinity of St Mary's Churchyard. Sadly, that was postponed due to Covid-19.

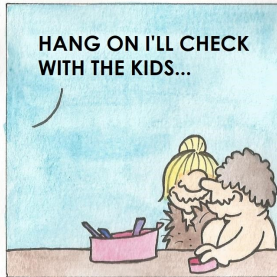
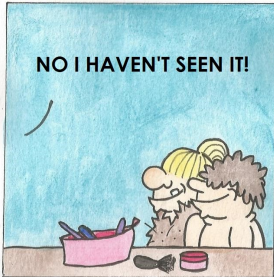


Brown long-eared bat

At this time of year, bats are seeking suitable hibernation sites, becoming increasingly inactive, and by December they will be hibernating. They may roost on their own or in small groups, often in cool, quiet places like disused buildings, old trees or caves. Bats begin to emerge from hibernation in March, are fully active by May, and females start forming colonies and looking for suitable nursery sites, such as buildings or trees. Female bats usually give birth to a single youngster in June/July, which they feed on milk until the youngster is able to catch insects for itself. During late summer, bats need to build up fat stores to get them through the winter and they also mate. All British bats and their roosts are protected by law; but they are still under threat from building and development work that affects their roosts, and by loss of the wild habitats in which they can hunt successfully. We can help by providing bat holes in new builds and conversions.

Rosemary Collier

KEVIN THE CAVEMAN



JB

BATS

by Pat Marland

Night sounds of the earth are deafening
As darkness descends on us all.
Grey shadows step out with frightening stealth
As the night owls - begin their loud call.

Night hunters appear out of nowhere
With their minds set on securing a meal.
Baring their teeth at each twig snap
Attacking and killing with zeal.

Bats with precision, wing to and fro,
Swooping and soaring with grace.
Eating in flight all they need to survive
With their sonar mapping each place.

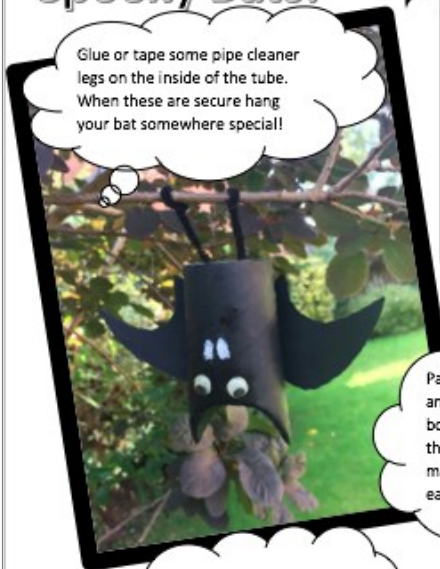
This round precious place we call Earth
With its beauty displayed for us all.
To see and to love and enjoy every day
Spring, Summer Winter and Fall.

Take very small strides as you travel life's path.
Don't trample or crush with new schemes.
Save all treasure you find for those who are left
To enjoy and to savour life's dreams.



Spooky Bats!

Glue or tape some pipe cleaner legs on the inside of the tube. When these are secure hang your bat somewhere special!



Do you want a spooky bat to scare your friends or hang somewhere hidden?

You will need:

- A toilet roll tube (or kitchen roll),
- Glue,
- Scissors,
- Black acrylic paint,
- Googlie eyes,
- Pipe cleaner,
- Black card/paper,

Paint the tube black and when it is dry, use both thumbs to push the top inwards to make two little bat ears.



Give your bat some eyes if you don't have googlie eyes you can paint them. Maybe add some fangs!



Cut the wings out of black card or paper and stick to the back of the bat. You can use a template or just wing it...



Why not make this bat to hang alongside a pumpkin (either real or painted) as part of a *Tysoe Halloween Village Trail*? Please send us photos of your creations by email or Facebook. Thank you to Caitlin Small for showing us how to make a 'Spooky Bat' and designing this page for the Record.

WILDFLOWER AREAS AND 'EXTINCTION'

The wildflowers in the Churchyard had finished flowering by August, but some of the flowers in School Lane were still going strong in September. A group of volunteers will cut the dead flowers down and remove the hay. We will then prepare both areas ready to sow more seeds. Yellow rattle, in particular, must be sown in the autumn.



There is huge concern about the great loss of animal and plant species throughout the world over the last 50-60 years and you may have seen the Sir David Attenborough programme on Sunday, 13th September called **Extinction** – which will be available on iPlayer for some time. The more wildflowers and other plants we can support, the greater our chances of helping species higher up the food chain, such as butterflies, moths, amphibians, birds and bats. The Parish Council, St Mary's Church, the Natural Burial Ground, Upton Estate and several individuals are all working hard to support biodiversity in the parish of Tysoe and there is plenty of scope to do more.

Rosemary Collier

NEW LOOKS HAIR & BEAUTY SALON

Main Street Middle Tysoe Warwickshire CV35 0SE

01295 680671

BEAUTY TREATMENTS AVAILABLE:

Eyelash Extensions, Epil Pro Hair Removal and PHD Waxing, Shellac Manicures and Pedicures , Eye Lash Tinting and Facials

Email for more information: vikilunn@hotmail.com

PROTECTING WILDLIFE AT UPTON ESTATES

The Upton Estate covers circa 1,850 acres of arable, grass and woodland between the villages of Tysoe, Radway and Alkerton.

The ethos of the Estate is to manage the land in a sustainable way, enhancing biodiversity and soil health. Upton grows a wide rotation of crops, applying organic manures

to improve soil health and practising low till and no till farming to reduce its carbon footprint. Regular soil sampling and earth worm counts monitor the soil's health. It actively manages the woodland.



Upton subscribes to the Government's Environmental Stewardship Scheme which aims to improve the habitats for birds and insects as well as reducing soil erosion and widening the variety of habitats. In the last 15 years Upton has planted 2km of new hedges and restored a further 6.5 km. Every year it plants 17 acres of wild bird feed mixes to give small birds feed over winter, 10 acres of nectar flower mixes to support pollinators and 43 acres of flower rich margins and plots. It also puts 30 skylark plots in the arable fields.

Upton is proud to be part of these schemes and to share the benefit of these features with those of you who live and work in the area. Furthermore, we're delighted to have extended the network of Public Rights of Way on Upton with over 6km of permissive footpaths and bridleways.

At Upton, we encourage you all to enjoy the Estate via the signposted rights of way and permissive routes, but respectfully ask for your support in maintaining the dedicated wildlife habitats, and, in particular, we ask you not to use the conservation margins as dog walking routes. They are there to grow wildflowers and support insects, birds and small mammals which prefer not to be disturbed.

The Upton Estate Office