Week Eleven

Bat Surveying 2020 is now underway!

If you are out in the evenings please keep an eye out for bats and record your sightings.

Bats can usually be seen from twenty minutes after sunset. There is a period of about half an hour when you can see them before it gets too dark.

Most of the bats in the West End are one of the two pipistrelle species but there may be other species, particularly in Leazes Park.

The best time to see them is on warm evenings with little wind. They often follow hedge or tree lines or fly over grassy areas. You will see them darting about catching flying insects, which is what they feed on.

The sooner you see them after sunset, the closer their roosting (sleeping) place will be. Also, if you see them coming from a certain direction close to sunset, that may indicate their roost is in that direction, which is why we ask about the direction and time when you see the bats.

Finding bat roosts is an important part of the project so we can protect them.

Summer bat roosts are likely to be in buildings; bats will use buildings of all ages. Pipistrelle species bats are crevice roosting bats and so will be tucked up behind fascia boards, along wall tops, under lead flashing and under roof tiles/slates. Pipistrelles rarely use loft spaces.