



Trustees Report - Year Ending September 30th 2017

Overview

Below is a summarised account of London Bat Group activities for the financial year ending 30th September 2017.

| Item | Description |
|----------------------|--|
| Trustees / Committee | <p>LBG has operated with five trustees this year after Richard Bullock stepped down after many years of loyal service to the group. Richard is eligible to stand again in 2017 – 2018.</p> <p>The constitution requires no trustee to serve more than three consecutive years without a year break. We may have to review this clause as lack of volunteers for trustee positions is an constraint on group activities. We propose to review this constitutional clause in the new year.</p> <p>Richard Gowing with stand down as chair this year after three years' service in the position. Richard will be eligible to stand again in 2018 – 2019.</p> <p>Richard Gowing would like to express sincere thanks to all trustees and officers who help to run LBG (in no particular order): Huma Pearce (Treasurer); Caroline Ford (Secretary), Becky Wilson (membership, website), Derek Coleman (records officer), Jonathan Wright (newsletter editor); Hannah VH (enquiries officer); Hanna RL (social media officer); John Tovey (trainer and trustee); Alison Fure (trainer); Philip Briggs (survey officer).</p> |
| Accounts, finance | <p>No major expenditure items occurred in 2016 – 2017. The account balance has increased by just over £3,700.00 Record searches and donations make up the major source of income (in that order). A request to purchase another acoustic lure for LBG's bat Nathusiusus pipistrelle bat trapping project has been received (£1,500.00) and is being reviewed by the committee (porposed Huma Pearce).</p> |

| Item | Description |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| | <p>The committee thanks Huma Pearce for preparation of the accounts.</p> <p>RG organised for the closure of an old Lloyds accounts operated by former treasurer Jackie Wedd (unbeknown to the current committee) and transfer of all funds to our current Cooperative accounts (£442.00).</p> <p>Cooperative Bank rejected LBGs application for a new account because the application deadline elapsed before all information could be submitted – a difficulty with sending forms to six different trustee addresses for signing! LBG will reattempt to organise a new account again in 2017 – 2018. A new account is needed to allow easy on-line checking of funds-in from record searches.</p> |
| Constitution | The trustees are considering revision of the clause which restricts trustees from standing for more than 3 consecutive years due to the lack of volunteers. |
| Socials | Caroline Ford has kindly organised two successful socials this year and the social venue in Wandsworth seems to be working well for member attendance. Alison Fairbrass from UCL gave a successful talk about bats and big data in spring 2017. A talk from Project Erebus on using drones, planes and boats to survey for bats is planned for November 2017. |
| Training | Aliso and John signed off Caroline Ford for her Natural England Volunteer Roost Visitor licence in 2017. LBG has now issued to licensed VRV's in the past three years after over 10 years of producing no trainees. A real step forward. |
| Nathusius pipistrelle bat project | Huma |
| Bat box schemes | The group continues to operate two bat box schemes in the London area: Addington Hills and South Norwood Lake. In addition, LBG members are invited to go to a range of other bat box projects including Highgate Cemetery and Sydenham Hills Woods. Bats are confirmed at all sites now (droppings only at SNL). |
| Hibernation checks | LBG continues to send members to participate in the annual visit to Westerham Mines in Kent which is run by Kent Bat Group. LBG members are also invited to participate in the Highgate Tunnels hibernation checks in north London. |
| Shows and events | Hannah VH |

| Item | Description |
|-----------------|--|
| Record searches | Thanks to the tireless efforts of Derek Coleman, LBG is able to continue to undertake record in return for financial donations to the group. This is the largest source of group income. Derek has undertaken over 70 searches in 2016 – 2017. Derek reports an increasing problem with consultant firms failing to pay for the record searches. This should be a priority for the committee to address in 2017. |
| Bereavements | LBG wishes to acknowledge the sad passing of Jackie Wedd. Although not involved with the group for many years, Jackie was a leading figure in LBG for most of the 00's involved in training roost visitors, acting as records officer and managing LBG accounts. LBG sent a condolence card to her family. |
| Miscellaneous | <p>The London Wetland Centre Bat Survey continues apace and is due to reach it's 20 year in 2017....a paper in the London Naturalist is planned summarising results. Possibly the longest term bat activity survey in the UK (and beyond)?!</p> <p>Huma Pearce reports the first Barbastelle record in autumn 2017 from outer NE London. The first information on this species for many years!</p> <p>RG coordinated a team of LBG members for a survey of the Tower London. Common pipistrelle was the only species recorded but more work is planned in 2017 at this fascinating site...</p> |

Richard Gowing, London Bat Group Chairperson

15th October 2017

LBG Accounts 2017

Period 1st October 2016 to 30th September 2017

| Income | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Membership | £ 569.00 | £ 597.00 | £ 405.50 | £ 622.50 | £ 927.00 |
| Donations | £ 1,219.45 | £ 571.02 | £ 895.15 | £ 1,137.65 | £ 687.67 |
| Records | £ 2,940.00 | £ 3,680.00 | £ 5,250.00 | £ 4,255.00 | £ 5,545.00 |
| Survey inc | £ - | £ - | £ - | £ - | £ 250.00 |
| Boat ticket sales | £ - | £ - | £ - | £ 100.00 | |
| Bank interest | £ - | £ 6.26 | £ 25.71 | £ 40.72 | £ 23.86 |
| Total income | £ 4,728.45 | £ 4,854.28 | £ 6,576.36 | £ 6,155.87 | £ 7,433.53 |
| Outgoings | | | | | |
| Equipment | £ - | £ 12,213.06 | £ 190.78 | £ 1,907.38 | |
| Equipment repairs | £ - | £ - | | | £ 43.20 |
| Meetings, Events & Social | £ 130.00 | £ 83.00 | £ 50.00 | £ 162.33 | £ 120.82 |
| Website | £ - | £ - | £ 36.00 | £ 108.00 | £ 108.00 |
| Boat surveys | £ - | £ - | | | £ 130.00 |
| Insurance | £ - | £ 500.00 | | | £ 45.00 |
| Bat Atlas Project** | £ - | £ - | £ 200.00 | | |
| Projects | £ 594.15 | £ - | £ 1,550.00 | £ 5,785.26 | £ 6,862.99 |
| Other (Badger Trust) | £ 250.00 | | | | |
| Total Outgoings | £ 974.15 | £ 12,796.06 | £ 2,026.78 | £ 7,962.97 | £ 7,310.01 |
| Income less expenses | £ 3,754.30 | -£ 7,941.78 | £ 4,549.58 | -£ 1,807.10 | £ 123.52 |
| Opening bank balance | £ 16,085.18 | £ 24,026.96 | £ 19,477.38 | £ 21,284.48 | £ 21,160.96 |
| add "profit" | £ 3,754.30 | -£ 7,941.78 | £ 4,549.58 | -£ 1,807.10 | £ 123.52 |
| Closing Balance (as at 30/9/2017) | £ 19,839.48 | £ 16,085.18 | £ 24,026.96 | £ 19,477.38 | £ 21,284.48 |

Prepared: Huma Pearce (Trustee and Treasurer), 8th October 2017

Audited: Richard Gowing (Trustee and Chair), 15th October 2017