

Listening in on Uley's bats by Joseph B, aged 10 October 2026

When I went on the batwalk with 18 villagers, we all met at the village playing field and Meg talked to us about the bat detectors and the sound the bats made. At first we did not see many bats but then when we came into a field across a river we started to hear lots of flickering and fluttering on our bat detectors. Then they started really coming; they were fluttering around. Dodging through the bushes and amongst the willow trees. These were pipistrelle bats. Then we walked along a bat highway (a hedgerow along a field!). The bats were fluttering all around catching insects with their echolocation. We walked along the bat highway to a farm. The farmer opened the door of a barn and we could hear lesser horseshoe bats inside. According to Meg, they are elusive and it was very special to hear them. We are very proud that we have them in our Village. If we can put up bat boxes and other things which will encourage bats to come back into other places around the schools in our back gardens and in our fields it would really support the species.

Uley Trees and Meadows

Huge thanks to Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust for a magical evening!

Simple ways we can all help bats:

- Plant species-rich native hedgerows
- Grow a wider variety of pollinator plants to boost insect numbers
- Keep outdoor lighting to a minimum at night, angled downwards and fitted
- Protect known roosts and install bat boxes

Uley already enjoys fairly dark skies, and capping our street and flood lights could make the village even better for bats. Want to find out more? To learn about all of our UK bat species, visit www.bats.org.uk

- For nature recovery opportunities locally, search "Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy Map"
- Email uleytreesmeadows@gmail.com to get involved in action for nature.