

ISLE OF WIGHT BAT HOSPITAL REPORT FOR 2006

Where does the time go? The Isle of Wight Bat Hospital has now been in operation for ten years and has rescued just under 800 bats.

The first week of 2006 saw a major refit of the Isle of Wight Bat Hospital. New aviaries, worktops, lighting, storage, filing and recording systems were all invested in. This was all made possible by monies raised at an auction of two garden benches carved by Paul Sivill and auctioned by actor Geoffrey Hughes at the Wolverton Manor Garden Fair in 2005.

2006 was a very busy year for the Bat Hospital with 123 bats rescued matching our record year of 2004. Out of the 123 bats rescued, 70% were successfully released back to the wild. A total of 14% remained in captivity and unfortunately, 16% were either dead on arrival or died a short time after being rescued.

We rescued 12 different species in 2006, comprising 80 males and 43 females. Fifteen baby Pipistrelles were rescued and cared for. The Bat Hospital also rescued its second rare Parti-coloured bat. She was rescued from the old thatched hall in Freshwater and it would appear due to her being found early in the year that she may have wintered over here.

Breakdown of Bats rescued:

Species	Quantity
Pipistrelles	87 (Soprano, Common and Nathusius)
Brown Long-Eared	9
Grey Long-Eared	7
Whiskered	7
Serotines	4
Natterers	3
Daubentons	2
Bechsteins	2
Barbastelle	1
Parti-coloured	1

The Bat Hospital continued to promote bats and educate people about these tiny misunderstood creatures by carrying out bat talks, walks and by attending shows and fairs. In all 48 talks and walks were carried out and 14 shows/fairs attended.

Thanks to new helper Louise Forder and boyfriend Alex Smith, our website was set up and funded by them. They will also update and manage the website throughout 2007 with information on where you can see the Bat Hospital with some of its long-term captive bats. Another big thank you goes out to Ali Smith; this young lady ran the 2006 London Flora Marathon raising money for the Isle Of Wight Bat Hospital. This money was invested in a new laptop computer and power point projector to use at the bat talks.

The Isle of Wight Bat Hospital would also like to thank long term voluntary helpers Laura, Kerrie, Corrine, Carrie and Melissa, new helpers Louise, Alex, Guy & Catherine. Without their help the Bat Hospital would not be able to attend as many talks & shows as we do and also not be able to cater for the number of bats we now rescue each year.

The Isle Of Wight Bat Hospital is very lucky to have the help and support of Vet Dr Ian Green, of Green, Forster & Hallum. Dr Green is always there to lend support and carry out the most delicate of operations to try and help these fascinating creatures. His staff and nurses likewise, are always understanding and sympathetic to the Bat Hospital's needs, especially when most of our emergencies are at very short notice.

We look forward to 2007 and hope we can be as successful as previous years.

Graham and Donna Street

