

Press Release



To celebrate Halloween, the Northern Devon Coast and Countryside Service and Meddon Green Local Nature Reserve are holding a Bat Box Workshop at Meddon, near Hartland on Saturday 31st October.

Those attending the workshop will be able to learn about bats and will get the opportunity to make a bat box which they can take away to put up themselves.

The workshop will be lead by Tom Hynes from the Coast and Countryside Service and chair of the Meddon Green Local Nature Reserve Committee.

“There are 17 species of bat found in England but Devon is the only county where all 17 occur. Some species of bat very readily use bat boxes and therefore this workshop should be of great benefit to the local bat population” said Tom Hynes

Meddon Green is owned by Hartland Parish Council and was designated a Local Nature Reserve last year because of its great wildlife value. Over the summer two popular and successful “bat walks” were held and excellent views of pipistrelle bats catching moths over the pond on the reserve were seen by all attending. It is hoped that some of the bat boxes made at the workshop will be put up around the reserve to offer good roosting and breeding sites for various bat species.

The workshop is free and it runs from 10.30 to 3.30. Making a bat box will take around one hour. All are welcome to attend. For further details and to book a place please phone Tom Hynes on 01237 423655.

~ Ends ~

Notes for Editors

1. **Northern Devon Coast and Countryside Service** is a partnership organisation based in Bideford and hosted by Devon County Council. It is core funded by Devon County Council, Natural England, North Devon Council and Torridge District Council. The Service co-ordinates and delivers activities set out in the North Devon's Biosphere Reserve Strategy and the North Devon AONB Management Plan, and works with a wide range of local, regional, national and international partners. It also helps maintain and develop the South West Coast path and Tarka Trail. More information about the work of the Service can be found at <http://www.devon.gov.uk/ndccs>
2. **North Devon's Biosphere Reserve** is the first and so far only new-style Biosphere Reserve in the UK with core functions of conservation, learning and research and sustainable development. The Biosphere Reserve is centred on Braunton Burrows and includes the North Devon Coast Areas of Outstanding National Beauty (AONB), the Taw and Torridge Estuary, Lundy Island and communities in towns and villages from the coast to the edge of Exmoor and the foot of Dartmoor.