Bat Walk at Thoor-Ballylee

The summer bat-watching season is upon us again and if you would like to check out this alternative night-time activity, a bat walk is the perfect introduction!

'People and Nature' - The Galway County Biodiversity Project in association with the Galway Bat Group has organised a number of bat walks to introduce the public to the wonderful world of bats this summer!

The next bat walk of the summer will take place on Thursday July 5th around Thoor-Ballylee, Gort.

Meet at sundown (10:30pm) in the car park of Thoor - Ballylee Castle.

Anybody who has an interest in bats or local wildlife is welcome to take part in what promises to be a fun and interesting activity for those long summer nights! Just remember to dress warmly!

Would you like to learn more about the bats in your local area? Well here is your chance! Following the walk, bat detectors will be available to borrow to people who would like to do a little further bat detecting in their own area.

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Bats are some of Ireland's most fascinating animals and we are lucky enough to have ten species of bats here. In the past, bats have often been thought of as creepy and scary, when in fact they are completely harmless and rarely bother people at all. These days, bat watching is becoming increasingly popular with more and more people attending bat walks and talks and making their homes and environment more bat friendly.

As bats hibernate during the winter, now is the time of year to see bats flying around trees, hedges and rivers after sundown as they hunt for food. All Irish bat species are insect eaters which is good news for us as they eat thousands of midges and other pesky insects every night. At this time of year the female bats have just had their babies and they live together in roosts called maternity roosts which may be located in trees, churches, attics, bridges or other structures. Like humans, bats are mammals and feed their babies with milk until they can fly and catch their own food so the female bats are very busy indeed right now.

Bats are specially protected species under Irish and European law. However, their numbers are threatened mainly through habitat loss due to hedgerow removal and restoration of old bridges and buildings.

'People and Nature': the Galway County Biodiversity Project. The People and Nature project is an action of the Galway County Heritage Plan 2004 - 2008 supported by Galway County Council, NUI, Galway, Galway Rural Development, Galway County Heritage Forum and the Heritage Council.

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