



Mammal of the Month

Common Pipistrelle Bat

The ***Common Pipistrelle (Pipistrellus pipistrellus)*** is so small, it can fit into a matchbox! Despite its size, it can easily eat 3,000 insects a night. Look out for common pipistrelles darting about on the golf course as they hunt for insects just after sunset.

We have installed bat boxes on trees at Childwall Golf Club. The bats should use the boxes to roost and breed in during the Spring/Summer, and to hibernate in during the Winter.

The common pipistrelle is our ***smallest and most common bat***. All UK bats are ***nocturnal*** – preferring to come out only at night. They feed on midges, moths and other flying insects that they find in the dark by using ***echolocation*** (the location of objects by reflected sound).

They roost in tree holes, bat boxes and even the roof spaces of houses, often in small colonies. During the summer, females form maternity colonies and have just a single pup each.

They hibernate over winter, usually between November and April, but may come out to feed on warm days.



The common Pipistrelle is our smallest bat



A Pipistrelle in flight. They navigate and catch insect prey by echolocation



Pipistrelle bats roost in tree holes, bat boxes and roof spaces