

## First Bat Night in Gibraltar

Saturday 26 August saw the Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society (GONHS) took part in the European Bat Night for the first time.

A total of 19 people attended the event held at the Open Air Theatre within the Alameda Botanic Gardens.

The event was co-hosted by Albert Yome and Jean Paul Latin (GONHS).

Visual contacts were made on numerous occasions as Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) bats darted in over the trees and on occasion gleaning insects over the pond.

As the night got darker, the bats were first picked up on the bat detector, which had been set to 53 KHz, a frequency used in the echolocation calls of the above species and the larger Schreiber's bat (*Miniopterus schreibersii*). One of the latter made a brief appearance, dashing in over the pond at speed.

During the course of the event, Albert gave an overview of the species of bats found in Gibraltar, their behaviour, as well as discussing the threats they face and the conservation measures being taken and planned to ensure they maintain their diversity.