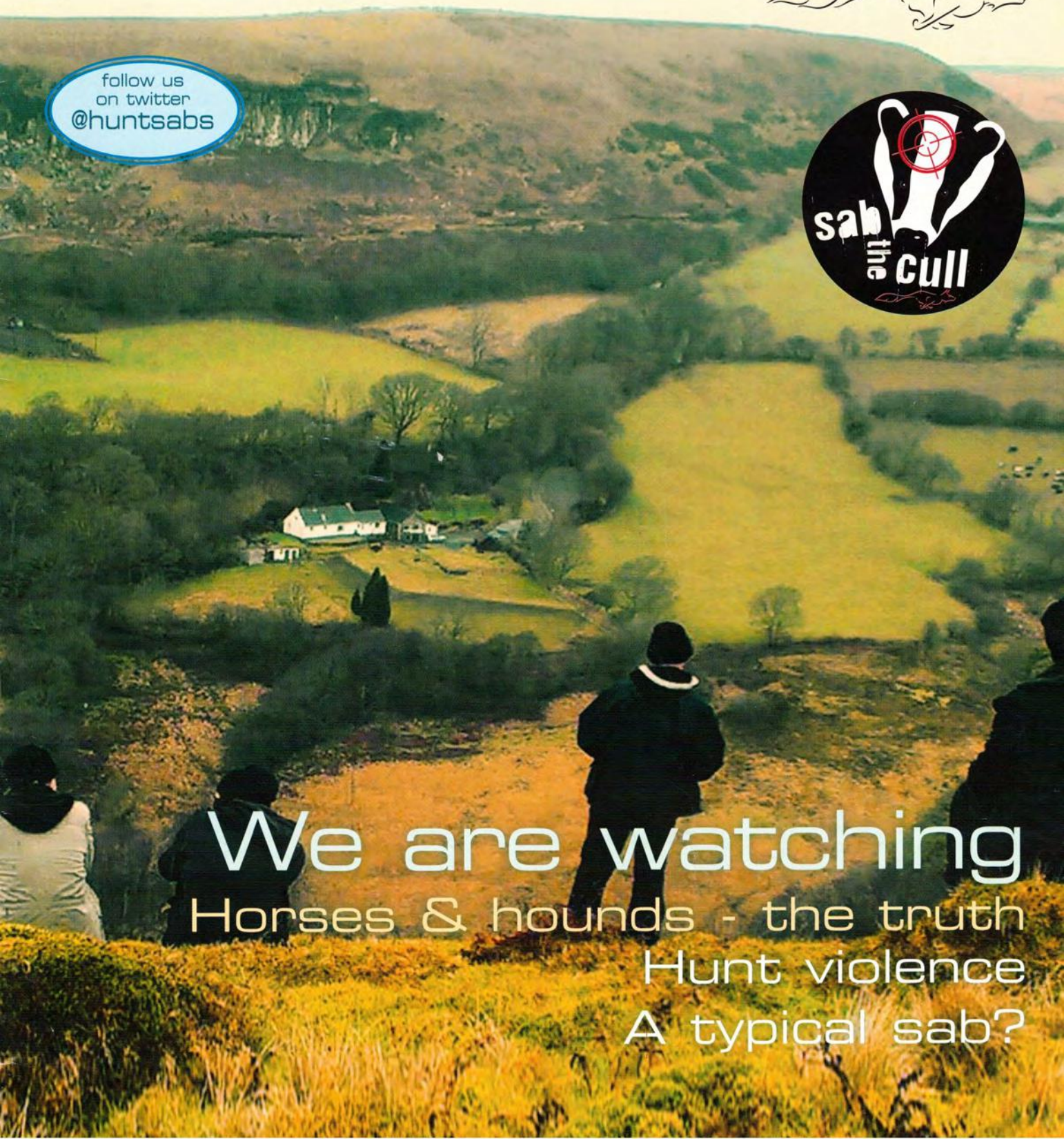
spring 2013
£2 (free to members)

Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

HOWL 102

The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association



follow us on twitter @huntsabs

sab the cull

We are watching

Horses & hounds - the truth

Hunt violence

A typical sab?

Want it faster? order online

NEW



SAB THE CULL TEE

New 'sab the cull' tee-shirt, short sleeve with a full logo on the left sleeve. Available in classic fit and ladies fit in all sizes, please visit our website to order.
Stickers are also available online.



NEW HSA Stuff

items not shown to scale or actual size

See our new merchandise flyer for our full range, inside this copy of Howl.
Or order online for speedier deliveries!

place an order, join, renew or make a donation online now www.huntsabs.org.uk



HOWL 102

Cover image - huntsabs and Sea Shepherd

Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association
BM HSA, London WC1N 3 XX Tel. 0845 450 0727
Howl e-mail: howleditor@huntsabs.org.uk
HSA e-mail: info@huntsabs.org.uk
website: www.huntsabs.org.uk

The Hunt Saboteurs Association has been in existence for over 40 years, and is dedicated to saving the lives of hunted animals directly. Prior to the Hunting Act of 2004, hunt saboteurs used non-violent direct action to prevent the horrific deaths of thousands of hunted animals every year. Post hunt ban the primary tool of hunt sabotage has switched from the hunting horn to the video camera, as saboteurs monitor hunts with the aim of capturing their illegal activities on film. This in turn can immediately save lives on the day, and can lead to police action against the hunt concerned. Our range of pre-ban nvda tactics remain in active service, and saboteurs will continue to use them should they be deemed the best way forward on the day for the hunted animal at risk.

The HSA committee is made up of a maximum of 12 voting members, supported by as many non-voting members as is deemed necessary.
As a member of the HSA your contribution is vital – thank you.

Editors:	Mel
Contributors:	All groups who sent group news in, Black fish, Lush and Sea Shepherd.
Design/Artwork	Chiccicocoa
Photos:	HSA archive, Imageriot, The Fox Project, Bristol, Berkshire, Guildford, Manchester, East Kent and Cumbria sab, and Black fish
Vermin Patrol:	Paul T
Distribution:	HSA
Big taverymuch:	All HSA members & anyone who we've pilfered stuff off and forgotten to credit.

MYSpace:
http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewprofile&friendid=223173774

Facebook:
http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=32757379750

Follow us on Twitter - @HuntSabs

INSIDE

REGULARS

News round up 4
Prosecution roundup 8
Vermin patrol 9
Group news 12
AR prisoners 24

FEATURES

Life of a hound 6
Hunt violence 10
Life of a horse 20
Typical sab 22

Copyright: All material in Howl is anti-copyright (unless otherwise stated) and indeed we would encourage its repetition elsewhere. Please do remember to credit us (or the appropriate stated source) should you reproduce what you see here. Ta.

The views express in Howl do not necessarily reflect those of the editor(s) or the Hunt Saboteurs Association Committee. Nothing printed should be construed as HSA policy unless so stated. Nothing in Howl should be taken as encouragement to commit illegal acts. Printed on recycled material, using vegetable inks.

EDITORIAL

As we approach the 50th anniversary of the HSA it's encouraging to see so many sab groups around the country doing so well. As always, group news on page 12 gives some brief examples of what some of these groups have been up to. Hunt sabotage has been consistent and effective since the HSA was set up in 1963, every Saturday and often midweek, hunts are being stopped from killing wildlife. The organisation exists to support local sab groups in any way we can and to keep the profile of hunt sabbing in the public eye. We hope you think we are doing a good job, if not come and tell us about it at the AGM at the end of July (see back cover for details) It will be a great chance for our members to meet each other, give their input on how the HSA is doing and hopefully it will be good fun as well.

One thing which sadly hasn't changed much over the last 50 years is the desire for governments to kill badgers. Many people will remember the awful gassing of badger setts in the 1960's and the thousands of badgers who died during the Labour government's randomised badger cull trials. The coalition government have pledged to play their part in killing badgers in the latest badger cull due to take place this summer where badgers will be shot by markspeople as they feed at night.

Check out the website for how you can help stop the badger cull.

Check out our improved website, it looks great and you can now buy merchandise online. www.huntsabs.org.uk

Facebook:
http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=32757379750



NEWS ROUND UP

KENT HUNTSMAN SENT TO PRISON FOR EIGHT MONTHS

Ex-master of the Ashford Valley Hunt Brian Fraser, 63, was sentenced following a guilty plea for possessing a firearm without a licence. He had earlier been cleared of the attempted murder of his former lover Louise Leggatt. Fraser, of Criol Lane, Shadoxhurst, was also cleared of grievous bodily harm at Maidstone Crown Court in February.

Mrs Leggatt suffered leg injuries when she was shot on 15 March 2012. She was attacked when she went to tend her horses at Apple Pie Farm in Benenden. The court heard police had found an old, single-barrelled shotgun hidden between two hay bales on Fraser's land, along with some cartridges.

Fraser initially said he had not owned a shotgun for 20 years, but when officers disclosed that one had been found on his land he suggested he was being framed. Later he admitted he did own the gun, telling officers it had been handed down to him by his father.

After the trial, Judge Charles Byers said: "I have never come across such a lackadaisical and irresponsible attitude to firearms, particularly from someone described as a countryman."

THE BLACK FISH TO USE TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION TO EXPOSE ILLEGAL DRIFTNETS



Marine conservation group, The Black Fish, has partnered with technological innovators at the organisation ShadowView to launch a new ambitious conservation campaign, exposing illegal driftnet fishing in the Mediterranean. Illegal driftnets in the region form a major hazard to dolphins, whales, turtles, sharks and fish. Their use has been banned by the United Nations for over 20 years, yet an estimated 500 vessels from Morocco, France, Italy, Turkey, Algeria and Tunisia continue to use them, killing an estimated 10.000 whales and dolphins every year, as well as thousands of endangered sharks, sea turtles and fish.

Without in any way denouncing the importance of ending the continued slaughter of dolphins and whales by hunters from Norway, Iceland, Faroe Islands and Japan, it is quite unsettling to realise that more cetaceans are killed by driftnets in the Mediterranean Sea every year, than all these hunts combined.

"ShadowView shares many common goals with The Black Fish and some close personal friendships, it will be an honour for us to provide UAV monitoring and evaluation support to their missions in the Mediterranean" said ShadowView co-founder Laurens de Groot.

Laurens served on anti-whaling campaigns in the Antarctic together with The Black Fish co-founder Wietse van der Werf, who is equally excited about the partnership. "ShadowView is an organisation that in its short existence has already shown great ability to get results. Their use of UAV's and other technological innovation is turning the tables for conservation and we are very pleased to announce this partnership as we know it will greatly benefit the fight to stop illegal and destructive fishing practices from harming wildlife."

The campaign is set to start in June and will be centred around the central Mediterranean region, where increased monitoring will ensure evidence of illegal driftnet use can be collected and help to expose cruelty caused by driftnets, as well as pushing the relevant local and national authorities to take a more proactive role in enforcing fisheries regulations.

ShadowView's recent missions in the UK have provided the opportunity to rigorously test the new OpenRanger electric UAV and have provided aerial footage to non-profits exposing wildlife crime. Although UK air regulations from the CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) limit the range of UK operations for UAV's, overseas testing of OpenRanger has demonstrated a 25km+ range and 90 mins+ airtime capability, which will be an enormous advantage in the upcoming campaign to locate illegal driftnets.

For more info about The Black Fish check out www.blackfish.org

Drones To Be used Against illegal hunting By LAcs

The League Against Cruel Sports will use cameras mounted on remote-controlled aircraft to monitor land previously off-limits. The charity said it was targeting people hunting illegally, hare coursing, badger baiting and other wildlife crimes.
Chief executive Joe Duckworth said: "There is a war in the countryside and whilst there are still individuals determined to flout the law and seek new ways to avoid detection, the League will continue to explore safe, tested and innovative technology to further our charitable aim of ending cruelty to animals in the name of sport." The charity said the use of drones would support its teams on the ground already gathering intelligence and evidence of illegal activity. It maintained that all its operations were "proportionate, necessary and justified" and were only carried out when there was a "strong possibility of cruel criminality taking place".
Duckworth added: "We are excited to be the first animal welfare charity in Great Britain to be exploring drone technology. "We are confident that it will make a fantastic contribution to bringing wildlife criminals to justice." The charity is working with non-profit aerial surveillance and monitoring organisation ShadowView to use the drones. The same company are set to help The Black Fish launch the campaign against illegal drift nets.

cattistock hunt field master dies from head injury

Former joint master Fiona Vigar was acting field master for the day when she fell from her horse resulting in a serious head injury. Mrs Vigar was airlifted to hospital following the accident but died in hospital three weeks later. She had hunted from a young age and was described as being passionate about country sports.

carmarthenshire fox killed by hounds

Passengers on a Carmarthenshire bus watched in horror as a pack of hounds chased a fox onto the road near to their bus, ripping the fox to pieces. One of the hounds also died after being hit by a car as they ran onto the road after the fox. One of the passengers used his phone to take a picture of the killing which happened on the A40 in the village of Abergwilli near Carmarthen, West Wales. The passenger put the photo on Facebook along with the message 'If anybody knows who these dogs belong to and whether or not there was a hunt organised for this morning please contact the police. These people need to be sent down.' A local Carmarthenshire hunt has denied being involved in the incident claiming their hounds were 20 miles away at the time.
Police investigating the incident are studying CCTV from a security camera mounted on the front of the bus. A Dyfed-Powys Police spokeswoman said: 'We are investigating an incident which happened on the A40 shortly after 10.30am Saturday, February 16. 'As part of the investigation officers have been speaking with witnesses and members of the hunt to establish what happened. 'These inquiries are on-going and it would be inappropriate to comment further at this point.'



World Day For Animals in Labs 2013

On Saturday April 27th, approximately 500 compassionate folk embarked on the city of Oxford for the annual World Day for Animals in Laboratories march and rally. Animal testing has been in the news more recently with the EU ban of animal testing for cosmetics in Europe finally coming into place. Sadly, cosmetic animal testing still takes outside Europe, and other testing occurs on a daily basis throughout the world, with millions of animals (from mice and rats to cats, monkeys and dogs) being tortured and killed. In the UK, animals are abused in specialist laboratories as well as in universities. Oxford University built a new animal testing laboratory a couple of years ago, so Oxford was chosen for this year's WDAIL event. Oxford has a reputation as a centre of great learning, but there is a dark and sinister side to Oxford University which the tourists and even most of the academics and students never see. Each year over 150,000 animals suffer and die in experiments carried out at the University's animal testing centre on South Parks Road, far more than any other university.
Inflicting pain and suffering on innocent, healthy animals is not just immoral, it also makes no sense scientifically. Those who carry out the experiments claim that anti-vivisection groups are 'anti-science', and insist that animal testing is the only way to cure 'loved ones' and continue medical progress. This is simply untrue.
The fundamental flaw of animal research is that each species is biologically and physiologically different and responds differently to substances, making animal testing not only unreliable, but a dangerous way to predict effects in humans. In general animals do not get human diseases, so these are artificially induced, resulting in crude and unpredictable animal models.
Speeches kicked off at 12.45pm. These included Albert from SPEAK campaigns, Dr. Matthew Simpson, Jeanette McClunan of Stop Wickham Animal Testing, Adrian Stallwood of Animal Aid and Erica and Lisa from Save The Harlan Beagles, with Wendy singing an animal rights song before the march began.
The march route led everyone to Oxford University's animal testing laboratory, where long-time activist John Curtin and Dr. Victoria Martindale gave further speeches.

SHORT MISE

THE SAD REALITY OF LI



We are all too aware of the brutal cruelty of the hunts towards foxes, deer, hares and other hunted animals, and anyone who has been sabbing or who keeps an eye on media reports about hunting will be under no illusions about the callous indifference that hunters show towards the welfare of their hunting dogs.

I have lost count of the number of injured hounds I have seen in the many years that I have been sabbing, but what we see in the field each week pales into insignificance once you start digging deeper into the life of a hunting hound.

Dogs, of course, have to be bred. There are specialist breeders of hunting hounds. I was shocked to read on the website of one of these that they were using a bitch who had lost a leg in a hunting accident as breeding stock. They even had the audacity to brag about her hunting prowess. It must be hard enough for any quadruped that has lost a leg to cope under normal circumstances, so imagine the strain that she must have suffered whilst pregnant.

Most hunts keep around six breeding bitches, each of whom would have a litter of about six pups each year. There are just over three hundred hunting packs in the UK, which would mean that about eleven thousand pups are bred per annum. The average number of hounds in a pack is between sixty and sixty five, of whom one fifth are 'replaced' each year, for reasons I will come back to later. This means that the demand for new pups lies between three thousand six hundred and three thousand nine hundred, leaving over seven thousand pups that are 'surplus to requirements'.

I don't suppose that it will come as any surprise to you that these 'surplus' hounds are not given a loving home and allowed to live out their lives as much loved companion animals, but the level of brutality is truly shocking. From soon after birth 'unsuitable' hounds are being 'weeded out'. This could be for as little as having undesirable markings. Former huntsman Clifford Pellow is quoted as saying that the pups' brains are dashed out on the concrete floor of the kennels because 'a bullet costs 10p'.

The pups that survive this initial round of horrific abuse are placed with 'puppy walkers'. Pro hunt websites are peppered with comments about these individuals, who take the young foxhounds into their homes and care for and exercise them. Most of the comments seem to be about how they are too soft and caring 'even taking them into their own homes'. Don't be fooled. These people are reporting back to the hunt about the progress of the hounds, in particular how compliant and easily trained they are. Any hound with an inclination to chase cats or squirrels or show any other form of 'undesirable' behaviour is not going to survive long enough to make it back to the pack. Those that don't make it through this stage may, however, be the lucky ones.

At around eighteen months old the hounds are returned to the kennels. Gone are the comforts of the puppy walkers' homes. From now on it is the cold, hard concrete floors of the kennels. It is normal practice for the young hound to be 'coupled', which means they are paired up with an older hound who will

RABLE LIVES

FE AS A HUNTING HOUND

effectively train them. The horrors of 'cub hunting' (or autumn hunting as the scum now prefer to call it) are an article in their own right. Suffice to say for now that the training involves killing fox cubs as young as four months old.

Needless to say, any young hound that doesn't show sufficient endurance, aggression or obedience will rapidly find themself 'terminated', usually by a bullet in the back of the head.

Once in the pack, the hound is exposed to a harsh life. Most hunts are out two or three times a week from November until April. I have seen hounds with deep gashes inflicted by encounters with barbed wire, and on one occasion helped to rescue a hound that was hanging by their back leg after becoming entangled in the top two strands of a barbed wire fence. In one of the most harrowing experiences of my years of sabbing I found a beagle that had collapsed from exposure. They were, quite literally, freezing to death, but the only vehicle nearby belonged to one of the hunters. We had little choice but to hand them over, but I said to the hunter that I wanted them back later. To my surprise he agreed, adding 'It's useless, that one. You're welcome to it. I'm only going to shoot it when I get home.' At the end of the day I tried to approach the hunt vehicles, only to find myself forcefully stopped by the Kent police. I was unable to retrieve the beagle and I still shudder at the thought of their fate.

Former huntsman Clifford Pellow is quoted as saying that the pups' brains are dashed out on the concrete floor of the kennels because 'a bullet costs 10p'.

Regular readers of Howl or the HSA website will be familiar with the horrific death toll of hunting hounds on the roads and railways. There do not seem to be any accurate figures on the total number of fatalities, indeed I suspect that the vast majority go unreported, but at the start of this season hounds from the Surrey Union were struck on the road near Newdigate and the previous year a hound from the Cotswold Vale was killed by a lorry on the A38 near Tewksbury and a hound from the Cottesmore was killed by a passenger train at Melton Mowbray. Before that one hound was killed and an unknown number injured in Wiltshire by a train in January 2011, almost exactly a year after six hounds from the Duke of Beaufort were killed near the same spot. Two months after this three hounds were killed on the nearby A303 road.

As if the number of hounds lost due to 'accidents' and neglect wasn't bad enough, there is also chilling evidence of the fate of any hound deemed 'undesirable' by the huntsman, even as an adult. In the late 90's a former hunt employee told sabs that the huntsman of the Chid has shot 22 hounds and dumped their bodies in a skip, apparently after they had rioted after deer. The local press ran the story and the hunt did nothing to challenge it, from which I am sure you can draw your own conclusions. I think we can be fairly sure that this incident was not unique, but it must affect the operational capacity of the hunt as new hounds are only introduced during cubbing, hounds that die during the main season are not replaced.

And so to the sad end of my piece on the short, miserable life of a hunting hound, with the emphasis this time on the short. Hounds are, as we know, medium sized dogs with a life span of around twelve years. Not so the hunting dog. After just five seasons the hounds are deemed too old and slow and they are 'retired' by the expedient of a bullet to the back of the head. Remember that the three to four thousand new hounds introduced each year only replace those that have been 'lost' or 'retired', so the true death toll is almost eleven thousand hounds each year, mostly at less than half of their potential lifespan, and even in death one last horror may remain. In 1997 the Independent newspaper quoted Vale of the White Horse huntsman Bailey as saying that dead hounds are fed back to the rest of the pack 'for one last run in the stomachs of their chums'.

The inhumanity of the hunting community knows no bounds. Whilst we welcome the Hunting Act as a vital step in the right direction, only legislation that ends all of the barbaric activities of these twisted individuals will really suffice. Please contact your MPs and ask them what they intend to do to stop this senseless slaughter of eleven thousand, mostly young and healthy, dogs each year.



HUNTING ACT CONVICTIONS

On the first day of the Heythrop trial guilty pleas were entered for a total of 12 charges under the Hunting Act. This deal resulted in the remainder of the charges being dropped.

Julian Barnfield, the retiring huntsman and Richard Sumner, a joint master of the hunt up until this season both pled guilty to four charges, each of hunting a fox. The Heythrop hunt, as a corporate body, also pled guilty to the same four charges of hunting a fox. This is the first time this charge has been used against a hunt. The guilty pleas relate to evidence filmed by POWA monitors in November 2011 and February and March 2012.

Barnfield was fined £1000 in total, with £2000 costs to pay; Sumner was fined £1800 with £2500 costs; and the Heythrop Hunt was fined a total of £4000 and ordered to pay £15,000 in costs.

The CA has used two lines of defence here. The tried and tested method of claiming that those involved are no longer with the hunt – hence both Barnfield and Sumner have retired (see this tactic copied below); and to attack the basis for prosecution. The CA wound up the right wing press to attack the RSPCA for bringing the prosecution and for the money they spent on it. This muddying of the waters kept the real story from being reported – that senior members of the hunt had acted in a virtual conspiracy to illegally hunt foxes throughout the course of the season. The guilty pleas should be seen as a damage limitation exercise by the hunt to prevent the full story of how often they were filmed chasing foxes and how many people were involved. The RSPCA has also widened the scope of the Hunting Act by successfully taking the s.10 offence (offence by body corporate).

In return for the guilty pleas all charges against current joint master Vanessa Lambert and whipper-in Duncan Hume were dropped. Those accused also avoided a lengthy trial which would have seriously impeded the hunt during the main body of their season. Charges against Barnfield from the previous season were dropped before the trial was due to start.

Five members of the Avon Vale Foxhounds will face trial later this year for offences under the Hunting Act and the Protection of Badgers Act. Joint master Stuart Radbourne, together with hunt terriermen Ben Pethers and two helpers, Josh Charlesworth and Paul Tylee-Hinder, have been charged with both offences after an incident in March last year. Ex huntsman and joint master Jonathon Seed is charged under the Hunting Act only over the same incident.

Stuart Radbourne has now replaced Jonathon Seed as huntsman. Radbourne has already admitted the Protection of Badgers Act charge - interfering with a badger sett; getting him off to a flying start as the new huntsman.

This case is also being prosecuted by the RSPCA. Their recent interest in prosecuting hunts is a welcome turn of events. This case was initially investigated by Wiltshire police but the CPS decided not to bring any charges. Another successful prosecution by the RSPCA will help to show the CPS that the Hunting Act can be used against hunts.

George Milton, huntsman and joint master of the Weston and Banwell Harriers will stand trial on the 8th April at Taunton magistrates' court for one count of illegally hunting a fox. The case relates to an incident filmed by League investigators during the 2011-12 season. The CPS is prosecuting this case after an investigation by Avon and Somerset Police.

Although a harrier pack the Weston and Banwell only hunted foxes for many years before the Hunting Act came in. Milton is understood to be standing down from the hunt at the end of this season.



VERMIN PATROL

CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

To keep up to date on all Vermin Patrol cases visit www.nwhsa.org.uk

bloodsports
VERMIN

Two men from Ashington men have been convicted of animal cruelty offences. 33-year-old Christopher Hindmarsh, of Links View and 30-year-old Gavin Young, of Pont Street, were arrested in connection with tampering with a badger set in Longhorsley in April of last year. The two men were charged after a joint investigation with the RSPCA, and they appeared at Bedlington Magistrates Court where they were found guilty of animal cruelty offences. Hindmarsh was ordered to pay £320 court costs and Young was ordered to pay £338 court costs. Hindmarsh – banned from keeping animals for three years – had both of his dogs seized by police due to the condition they were being kept in. A mobile phone belonging to Young was also seized after images of animal cruelty were found on it.

Three men have been arrested and eight dogs seized after a series of raids in North and West Yorkshire. The joint operation by police and the RSPCA follows an investigation into badger baiting. Raids were carried out simultaneously at three houses in Eggborough, North Yorkshire and Knottingley, West Yorkshire. One man from Eggborough and two from Knottingley were questioned by the RSPCA. As well as the dogs, other items were seized including mobile phones. Under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 it is an offence to dig for a badger or damage a badger sett. RSPCA chief inspector Justin Le Masurier said: "Badger baiting inflicts terrible suffering on both the badgers and frequently the dogs." North Yorkshire Police wildlife officer PC Sarah Ward said: "Two or three years ago we were having numerous complaints every night about poaching and badgers being found dead. North Yorkshire Police have taken a very serious stance on this and we have lowered the number of incidents."

Three Grimsby men have been jailed after admitting a total of 30 counts of animal cruelty including setting dogs on wild foxes and a badger – and then watching them being slowly savaged to death. Liam Ardito, 33, of Newbury Avenue, Great Coates, Gary Cannon, 27, of Alfred Bannister Mews, Laceby, and Mark Smith, 53 of Broadway, Grimsby, carried out the sickening attacks, some of which they recorded on video, between April 19 2010 and August last year. All three were jailed for four months on each count to run concurrently. Ardito and Smith were banned from keeping dogs and birds for at least 10 years and Cannon from keeping dogs for at least 10 years. Nigel Burn, prosecuting for the RSPCA, described their behaviour as "intentionally cruel", telling district judge Daniel Curtis, sitting at Grimsby Magistrates' Court, it amounted to "torture". Smith had "thousands" of images of dogs attacking animals on his computer, and memory sticks found in his home, the court heard. Clive Rees, mitigating for all three men said there was "no justification" for their actions. He added the best he could say for his clients was they had been winding down their activities, saying they believed it was "getting too hot and too heavy."
The three admitted numerous charges, including causing unnecessary suffering to a dog by causing it to fight with another animal, causing fights between a dog and a fox and between a dog and a badger, taking wild birds (sparrowhawks), and possessing wild birds (a curlew and a rook).



Two men have been fined after being caught illegal hare coursing with dogs in the Isle of Axholme. The incident involving two Doncaster men took place in January at a farm in Sandtoft. Felix Buller Boyling, 47, and Ambrose Watson, 43, both pleaded guilty to separate charges of hunting a wild mammal with a dog, at North Lincolnshire Magistrates' Court in Scunthorpe. Boyling, of Belle Vue Avenue, was ordered to pay a £200 fine with a victim surcharge of £15 plus £85 prosecution costs. He was disqualified from driving for 28 days, and the court seized his car. Ambrose Watson of Chequer Avenue, Hyde Park, was also handed a £200 fine, with £20 victim surcharge and £85 court costs.
The cruel sports of hare coursing and deer hunting with dogs are a priority for wildlife officers in the Isle and throughout North Lincolnshire. But poaching with dogs is a growing issue nationally, say campaigners. An RSPCA spokesman said: "With regards to incidents of poaching with dogs – we would urge anyone with information to contact the police in the first instance, who have the powers to deal with these kinds of incidents. "There has historically, been a number of cases in the Isle of Axholme and North Lincolnshire area. A special unit has now been set up to try to control the problem." Gangs behind illegal hare-coursing and deer hunting activity also damage farmers' land, and have been known to steal equipment. The Hunting Act 2004 means that anyone found guilty of hare coursing is liable on conviction to a fine of up to £5,000.



Another day, another location, another criminal gamekeeper, another wildlife crime conviction, another shit sentence.

This time it's gamekeeper Shaun Leslie Allanson (37), convicted of crow cage trap misuse on the Blansby Park Estate, nr Pickering, North Yorkshire. At Scarborough Magistrates Court, this 'professional' pleaded guilty to intentionally taking a buzzard using a live pigeon in a cage trap on 28 Aug 2012, and using a cage trap with a live pigeon decoy between 31 Aug and 19 Sept. His punishment? 120 hours community service and £85 costs.



On the receiving end

Hunt violence and how to cope

Anyone who has had any involvement with hunt sabotage will know that hunters and their supporters are a bunch of violent thugs. They are, after all, a group of individuals who take pleasure in watching wild animals being torn to shreds by packs of hounds, and, as all too many of us know to our cost, they sometimes turn their barbaric tendencies against us.

Anyone who has had any involvement with hunt sabotage will know that hunters and their supporters are a bunch of violent thugs. They are, after all, a group of individuals who take pleasure in watching wild animals being torn to shreds by packs of hounds, and, as all too many of us know to our cost, they sometimes turn their barbaric tendencies against us.

Although it may not seem like there is a positive side to the intimidation we face, it is because of this intimidation that our groups develop a strong sense of solidarity and look out for each other. Most weeks pass without any violence so it is important to note that it isn't a frequent occurrence but with lots of new sabs out at the moment I thought this might be a good time to pen a few lines about what it's like when hunts turn violent and how to cope if you do find yourself on the receiving end.

Avoiding these situations in the first place is clearly the best tactic; using confident (not cocky) body language and not letting the hunt see that you are intimidated are often all it takes to keep sabs safe even at potentially aggressive hunts. Avoiding getting into unhelpful banter with hunt supporters is always a good idea. Not only is it distracting when we are supposed to be concentrating on what the hounds are doing but it can easily cause unnecessary confrontation. Most groups are pretty good at avoiding this and ignoring the moronic comments we get from the hunt.

Keeping aware and focused on the situation is also essential. Sometimes there are warning signs that hunts are looking to initiate violence. Large numbers of 'boys' with whom you are not familiar suddenly showing up is usually a good indication that





something is about to go off, and there is no shame in making a tactical withdrawal rather than sticking around and taking a pasting. It is often at the end of the day when most of the riders have drifted off leaving just the hard-core of support that things can get feisty. Again be mindful of what is going on around you and if it's getting late and you think the hunt may be planning something, leave. Once you have been sabbing for longer you will learn to trust your instincts and get a feel for when the atmosphere at a hunt is changing.

Sometimes, however, violence erupts with very little warning. I'd only been sabbing for a couple of weeks when I was ridden down for the first time. This was not just lack of experience on my part; the very experienced sab with me was injured in the same incident. We had seen the Huntsman of the Old Surrey and Burstow coming at us, but just couldn't make the tree line in time. Later the same season the same huntsman hit me on the head with the handle of his riding crop on a public road in full view of the police, who refused to do anything!

Policing at hunts is an important point to consider. Although some hunts are quieter if there are police about, the police should not be relied on to keep us safe. They have frequently failed to act when they have been present during attacks on sabs and are often keen to arrest sabs who defend themselves. Prosecutions of hunt scum who injure sabs is rare, the police are not there to protect us!

At a meet of the Portman hunt in Dorset in 1997 my skull was fractured. The impact damaged the balance centre of my brain and I needed six months of balance retraining exercises as an outpatient at my local hospital. So how do you cope with such injuries and the aftermath? Luckily for me the rest of the sab group was incredibly supportive. Everyone waited for me and another sab who had been injured to come out of A and E, even though this was nearly midnight, and in the difficult times that followed I always knew I could count on any support that I needed. I was back out sabbing within a couple of weeks, although due to the balance problems I don't think I was much use for the rest of that season.

Despite the fact that my assailants were clearly identified on video, the police took no action against them. The real battle that was to follow was with the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority. This body is supposed to help victims of crime, but I ended up in a seven year deadlock with them before finally winning some compensation at a tribunal hearing. The fight with the CICA brought on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and I ended up having some counselling arranged by my GP.

A further incident at the Old Surrey and Burstow left our vehicle with a smashed windscreen, broken rear windows, and an arm injury which was treated unsuccessfully for four years with physio and steroid injections before finally getting sorted with surgery. Now you might be forgiven for thinking that this should have been enough to make anyone give up. Yet again the support I received from the other sabs who were with me that day made all the difference and the incident seemed to galvanise our group: we had more than double the number of sabs out when we went back to the Burstow a fortnight later and the hunt spent the whole day avoiding us rather than hunting. There is nothing like aggression towards sabs to bring us together in force. People will travel across the country to show solidarity to groups who have experienced violence and intimidation.

Following yet another incident at the opening meet of the Southdown and Eridge in 2010, I received a head injury, was punched in the face and threatened with a knife. Again, despite me being able to name my assailant, the coppers failed to prosecute him.

Again, the incredible support I received from so many sabs and other well wishers in the face of hunt aggression and violence is the thing that for me has made all the difference. As always other sabs waited for me to come out of hospital on the day, and they had even gone off to find me some vegan food! There was a vegan fair on the following day, and I made a point of going, even though I was feeling pretty battered. Everyone seemed to know about the incident, and the surge of anti hunt sentiment from such a wide variety of people really lifted my spirits.

So, how do you cope with being on the receiving end? There are, of course, sabs who have been so severely injured that they could not return to the field, and Tom Worby and Mike Hill lost their lives defending wildlife from the hunters, but the memory of their sacrifice and the injuries I have suffered at the hands of the hunt only serves to drive me on. Being on the receiving end of hunt violence has, if anything, made me even more determined to sab, and getting straight back out sabbing after being injured and the support I have received from fellow sabs and other well wishers are the things that have really helped me through.

GROUP NEWS

Lancaster sabs have been out a number of times this first half of the season and have several new recruits and remarkably a completely new sister group from the city. We've been joining up with other groups in the North-West from the top of Cumbria down to the Rochdale area thwarting the attempts of the Blencathra fell pack, the Ullswater fell pack (bad tempered bunch) and the Colne Valley beagles, all of whom swear blind they are not hunting and can't work out why we are bothering them. Still, we will continue just in case they are hunting (note sarcastic tone). If anybody would like to join us then please contact us at **lancasterhuntsabs@hotmail.com**

West Yorks have been busy! We sold our Landrover to a charity in Zimbabwe, so it will now be collecting kids from rural areas and taking them to school, possibly encountering some more exotic wildlife than we get in West Yorks and also avoiding the cold winter starts we have had to put up with! We have a funky new van with heating and all things groovy and this has been cubbing most weeks. The hunts in our area still continue to flaunt the law and each week we are reminded why we need to get up at stupid o'clock and get the boots muddy. Our numbers have improved, but we are still a few short of a full crew, especially drivers (aged 25+) so please email us at wysabs@yahoo.co.uk if you can help. We've had some gigs, stalls and street collections which have helped keep us on the road. We are starting to feel like a proper group now and gaining experience all the time - thanks to all the groups we have worked with for their help with this. Onwards and upwards!

More of the same from West Yorkshire after cubbing ended, all be it with Long Johns on. The first half of the season went well with no kills witnessed. We have sabbed a variety of hunts - some old faves plus a few new ones thrown in for good measure. Our new sabs are much more confident and we are gaining experience week after week - many thanks again to those 'older' sabs who are taking the time to pass on their knowledge. We haven't had any major incidents, apart from scaring an unsuspecting jogger half to death - poor fellow saw a van load of sabs leap out of the van screaming 'leave it' and other unintelligible 'get off the fox' kind of noises and thought we must be some kind of anti-fitness flash mob. Like most of the public he believed hunting was a thing of the past, was horrified it wasn't and jogged on his way more enlightened after a reassuring chat with our driver. December brought with it mud - and lots of it. Sabs found the sight of horses floundering about in it and losing their footing quite upsetting but were unsurprised at the hunt's determination to ride out no matter what. Some fields were so water logged we considered adding 'arm bands' to our equipment wish list. Roll on summer!

The **Grimsby** group is relatively new; however, we have been teaming up with other groups, providing front line support out in the killing fields. Numerous lives have been saved due to our intervention. As the end of the hunting season draws closer, during the summer months, we hope to be focusing on recruitment and fundraising, educating and raising awareness regarding bloodsports. What to look out for whilst on a walk, traps and snares etc and how to deal with them. We feel that this last season has been productive despite the lack of enthusiasm from the Constabulary. What has inspired and impressed us? The accompanying sab groups and their dedication, commitment and sentiment towards the hunted animal.

Manchester Sabs started the season taking part in a highly successful sab on a grouse shoot on Saddleworth Moor on the first Saturday after the 'glorious' 12th. With spotters having located the shoot before they even got on the moors the main group of sabs were able to catch up with the shooters before they really got started and with some 'helpful' policing we were able to prevent them killing all day.

Cub hunting time was a mixed bag this season. A good sab on the Colne Valley Beagles saw us arrive early enough to put off the huntsman from even turning up. An early morning visit to the Rockwood Harriers though saw some good sabbing curtailed by a vicious assault on sabs that saw two people end up in casualty and several others picking up cuts, bruises and more. The lack of interest from the Police was in marked contrast to a swoop on the Badsworth and Bramham Moor where 8 sabs were arrested – nearly all of whom who had yet to even leave their vehicle. Nowt changes when it comes to policing in Yorkshire, just the number of formal complaints we make.

A couple of visits up to Cumbria have seen sabs at hunts not often visited – causing some confusion amongst the mass ranks of knuckle draggers. Hard days, both of them, but worth the effort. Otherwise we have maintained contact with the Holcombe, additional visits to the Colne valley Beagles, and a couple of the Yorkshire Fox Hunt packs.

Our first visit to a hunt actually convicted of illegal hunting just before xmas – the Meynell and South Staffs – was an interesting day with the hunt very keen to show they were following trails and while not quite opening gates for us at least not carrying on with some of the crap antagonism they had previously been known for. That said the hounds got on a fox at the end of the day and it needed sabs intervention with some help from hunt staff (yes you read that right)



to keep the hounds from getting on the line. Had we not been there... well your guess is as good as ours... though probably the same.

The **Liverpool** group seems to be growing again and there are a lot of people getting in touch to come out sabbing. We have teamed up with various other northern groups this season and will continue to do so for the rest of the season. If anyone is in the Merseyside region, or close by, then get in touch with us and come out.

Sheffield & Doncaster sabs have had a good start to the hunting season. The rain in the summer meant that wheat harvesting was very delayed all around us, so the hunts couldn't hunt many of their meets and delayed the start of the seasons. We started our season by successfully sabbing a large grouse shoot on Saddleworth Moor with other Northern groups. Then we turned our attention to fox hunts, with some eventful sabbing of the Badsworth & Bramham Moor Foxhounds, plus visits to the Lunesdale, York & Ainsty South and Rockwood. We also sabbed the Colne Valley Beagles and a small pheasant shoot.

Since the main hunting season started, Sheffield & Doncaster Sabs have sabbed the Badsworth & Bramham Moor Foxhounds, Rockwood Harriers, Colne Valley Beagles, Holcombe Harriers, York & Ainsty South Foxhounds, Barlow Foxhounds, Ecclesfield/ Holme Valley Beagles, Airedale Beagles and a pheasant shoot - sabbing both on our own and with other groups.

We saw a fox being pursued by hounds at the Y&AS in November, stopped them following its scent, and caused enough chaos for the fox to escape. We saved another fox from, and prevented, a potential dig-out at the Barlow in December. We've caused the Ecclesfield/ HVB, CVB, and Airedale Beagles to cancel just by turning up, and on other occasions had huge success in taking control of the hounds and stopping them from hunting animals. And we rescued, and later released, a crow one week that had a leg trapped between two tree branches!

On one of our more difficult days, we called in late at the Y&AS (after having packed up another hunt) only to find a deer with an old injury to her leg, and fresh swelling to the head. We suspect she had been chased by the hounds, and fell jumping a fence before we got there. We got the deer to a wildlife rescue, but she died the next day.

We've of course had our share of violence and corrupt policing (plus some Barlow supporters smashing our windscreen!) but dealt with it very well. Frankly we're so used to it that it feels strange when we don't experience any bother! Email sheffieldsaboteurs@live.co.uk to get involved.



Meets were hard to come by for the **Nottingham** Group during cubbing but we kept plugging away and had some successful days. We started at the end of August, leaving civilisation at three a.m. to trek into the badlands of Lincolnshire and Yorkshire with mixed success. The disgustingly early mornings got gradually more civilised throughout September and October, helped by us staying local with the Quorn and Meynell and South Staffs. The Quorn only stayed out for 45 minutes once we arrived (up to no good perhaps!) and then didn't cub on Saturdays after that. The Meynell were kennel watched on several occasions and also didn't appear to be out on Saturdays, probably due to their disastrous experience at the hands of Derby sabs during cubbing the previous year which ended with a conviction, and substantial fine, for illegal hunting.

The first half of the main season has been really positive. We've focused our energies on the Quorn and the Meynell, working closely with the Derby Group and also receiving support from Manchester and West Yorks. The Quorn have two main areas they hunt on Saturdays so we're pretty successful in finding them and once with them our presence usually keeps them legal. The Meynell are a lot more cautious since their conviction for illegal hunting in the summer. Staff have forgone their red coats in a bid to be less obvious on film and the terrier boys are keen to tell us exactly where they've been laying their trails, even helping sabs on one occasion to rate the hounds off a fox. We hate to think what they're up to when we're not with them however and some of the support haven't fully got with the new programme, still holloaing when charlie is spotted!

We've also paid rare visits to the hard to find Per Ardua beagles and the Westerby Bassetts. The latter especially have not seen sabs for years and when two of us walked into their meet they thought we were there to follow, although they quickly realised the truth and packed up 15 minutes later. The Per Ardua also seemed like they had something to hide and didn't even let their beagles out of the trailer when they realised sabs were present. They tried to block us in and give us the slip but superior driving skills kept us on their tail. They eventually exercised their beagles round the freezing cold lanes for an hour while we followed along behind in our cosy van. It does make us wonder why, if these lesser spotted foot packs have nothing to hide, they pack up so quickly when sabs arrive. Over to you sherlock!

Our thanks as always to the many brave individuals who are happy to pass on information about illegal hunting. Please contact huntsabs@hotmail.com to get involved



It was a late start for the **West Midlands** group this year as the local hunts were not out due to the very wet weather. During cubbing we have visited the following hunts; North Cotswold, Cotswold Vale, Ledbury and Pytchley.

On our first attempted outing of the season we visited the North Cotswold hunt. They did not go out but as we were leaving, some of us were followed by West Mercia Police, who eventually stopped and searched them under the very contrived reason of the high burglary rates in that area, which we are currently complaining about.

Our first proper outing was to the Cotswold Vale, together with the Three Counties and Bristol groups. It was a successful day with an early finish. A couple of weeks later we visited the Ledbury where one of the sabs discovered a large blocked badger set at which the hounds were marking to ground. This set is in the potential cull zone and the story made it into the local media.

A few days later we were at the Cotswold Vale. They were on to two foxes as we arrived, so we went immediately into action and both got away. This day was very stop-start as the hunt had to repeatedly re-gather their hounds. The day ended with us being escorted by two aggressive whips, which cannot have helped them with the

problem of controlling their hounds very much. A few days later we returned to the same hunt and had another good day.

In early October we visited The North Cotswold. The sabs intervened to help two foxes get away and after three hunt supporters followed the sabs down a footpath, one of them broke a sab's camera. The incident was filmed and is with the police. Later in October we went to the Pytchley for the first time this season, teaming up with Northampton Sabs. This was a brilliant day as several foxes were saved. The hunt did not seem to know what to do and actually stopped briefly to have a meeting about things. During the morning the huntsman approached one of our number and told him he would be personally responsible if any foxes were seen that day and it would be his fault if any were chased or hurt – the power we have! Anyway the hunt packed up early, with much annoyance on their part and much amusement on ours. Also in late October we helped our local Lush store with anti-hunt campaigning in the run up to the police commissioner elections.

The start of November saw us visting the Ferney with Northants. We had a very good day with the sabs easily gaining control of the hounds from the hunt several times. The hunt packed up early. We returned to the same hunt two weeks later, again with Northants, and had an even better result with the hunt packing up sometime around 2 o'clock. We then managed to find the Pytchley hunt and stayed with them for the last hour of their day. The end of the month saw several visits to the Ledbury. On 23rd November one of our sabs filmed a kill at that hunt. The footage can be viewed via the HSA website. This incident also led to a discussion on local BBC radio. Due to legal reasons no further comments about this incident can be made at this time.

During December we again visited the Ledbury as well as having our first visit to the Cottesmore this season. We also went back to the North Cotswold for the first time since a part time terrier man for that hunt broke one of our cameras. The police investigated this incident and the culprit has been ordered to pay us £200 costs to replace the camera.

We have also produced some great new t-shirts to raise money for the group. If you are interested in either the t-shirts or playing at the gig then please get in touch via **westmidlandhuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk or phone 07975 970061**.

So far this season **Three Counties** Sabs have sabbed the Cotswold Vale Farmers Hunt, the Ledbury, the North Cotswold and the Beaufort as well as campaigning



against the badger cull in the Gloucestershire cull zone and visiting hunts further afield. We are pleased to report that the wet weather meant a very late start to cub hunting in this area.

The round of Opening meets started for us on Friday 2nd November with the Ledbury at the Corse Lawn Hotel with our friends the Bristol sab group. This is within the Gloucestershire badger cull zone and some in the hunt were still cross about it being postponed just over a week before. Not an easy day with an anti-sab police presence, blatant hunting and support being physically and verbally aggressive at the end as a small fox broke covert and we stopped the pack only for them to be lifted by the huntsman and recast on the line.

Saturday 3rd November we went to see the Duke of Beaufort's at Worcester Lodge in a covert way. It was very difficult to keep up with the hunt due to the hundreds of people in vehicles but as it approached dusk they hunted a fox into the village of Sopworth and hounds were standing and on cry around an old tin shed and some brambles. A fox broke and ran past us with us both capturing fox being hunted by hounds on film and stopping the pack by breaking our cover forcing them to call the hounds back. Local press posted the film online and the Beaufort had to make something up about a trail that had gone wrong. Very embarrassing for them and indeed the Daily Mail who had posted some nonsense up about how the hunt looked pretty and only followed "trails".

Next Opening meet was Tuesday 5th November, the Cotswold Vale Farmers hunt at Apperley. As per usual the hounds rioted; as per usual they were all over the roads. Friday 23rd we were back at the Ledbury at Glynch farm Staunton, with Coventry. Very hard day through thick mud which we cannot elaborate on at this time.

Friday 30th November we visited Plume of Feathers Castlemorton with Coventry, our sister group. The meet was held late because it had been changed due to flooding, so the hunt went into the southern part of the Malvern Hills. Roger Warner, one of the masters, told some tale about trail hunting to his followers at the pub. We kept up with them all day and think otherwise!!

Tuesday 4th December – CVFH, The Grove. Hounds were stopped on one fox within the first half hour. Usual nonsense about how they were following "a trail", getting all defensive and pushy when the foot sabs (only 2 out) got near the pack.

We were at the Ledbury on the 7th and 14th of December, then at the North Cotswold with Coventry on the 15th. We kept up with them most of the day, lifting the hounds heads. Later they marked to ground and we are fairly certain that our presence, reminding them that we did know what they were up to and an attempt to get to the hounds marking stopped them digging out. Near the end of the day we found that the Heythrop had decided to come into North Cotswold country, with only 2 fields separating both hunts and Heythrop stewards following us. Any fox who got away from the North Cotswold earlier in the day had a good possibility of then being hunted by the Heythrop. Likewise any fox running west from Sezincote would have run into the North Cotswold near Hinchwick manor and Guitinghall Plantation.

On Tuesday 18th December we were at the CVFH at Longhope. A day in the woods for one sab and hounds were successfully prevented from hunting one fox which led to a big hissy fit from one of the masters, Jason Warner. The sab was a bit surprised at this as he had only just given a speech about how they would only be hunting a trail, you would have thought that he would have been grateful that the sab had stopped the pack but really there is no pleasing some people.....

We were also out on 19th December at the Beaufort in Chipping Campden and on 22nd December at the Ross Harriers with Bristol and Bath sabs. This was the infamous tinsel trail... the Bring Back Foxhunting facebook page even posted a piccie of a hunt supporter in a balaclava nurturing some tinsel he had saved from a mauling. Well, dear readers, there was indeed a tinsel trail for the children. However it came as no surprise to us to find a hare running from hounds after 2 hours of huntsman Lee Peters standing in fields looking helpless as one landowner told him that he was only allowed to hunt trails. In fact supporters who had seen the hare did not think that we were spraying citronella effectively enough so one got all cross, grabbed the bottle and emptied the entire contents over the line of the hare. Lee hunted his pack on that very line. By the end as 2 of us were on our way back home for tea he was near frothing at the mouth about the day. We had never seen so many unshod horses and ponies at a hunt meet before. As most of the day was on the road this was shockingly negligent.

On 24th and 28th December we visited the Ledbury with Coventry sabs.

Saying goodbye to lie-ins, **Bristol** Sabs' first cubbing outing was with our pals from Bath Hunt Sabs with The Berkeley Hunt. After finding the hunt just after



6.30am with hounds in cry, we got in position on the outskirts of the cover they were in and using horns and voice calls were able to get most of the pack off the scent and at our feet. From there on the hunt tried giving us the slip but failed miserably as we were with them every step of the way and they packed up at 10am.

Over the following weeks we gave a visit to The Ledbury Hunt who weren't best pleased to see us, hardly surprising seeing as a few days previous to our visit they were monitored illegally interfering with a badger sett. We managed to piss them off enough to pack up within a few hours. We also managed to pay three visits to our old friends at The Cotswold Vale during cubbing with help from Bath, Pewsey, Coventry and Three Counties sabs much to the bumpkins' dismay. Countless foxes were aided away to safety and despite the CV being jumped-up and feisty as usual we came out victorious on each visit.

Our final bit of sabbing during cubbing was with the Tedworth Hunt. We were without a vehicle for the day so met up with sabs from Pewsey and despite us only having low numbers in the field we managed to keep with the hunt and call the hounds out of a cover, which led to us being surrounded by hunt supporters and riders but our job had been done. The scum took off and later tried to return to the same cover, but we stuck with them and they soon gave up.

Our first trip of the main season was at the Tedworth's opening meet. We had a large presence comprising of sabs from Bristol, Pewsey, Southampton and Bath. Despite a long day on foot we had a good sab and had the hunt in our sights for the majority of the day. We walked with them every step back to the meet and watched them box up at 3pm. Sorted. The following week saw us manage to tackle two hunts. The first was the Ledbury who were having their opening meet. Despite only having a handful of sabs in the field and there being hundreds of scum out, we managed to throw their hounds off of multiple foxes. Putting up with feisty lads who were throwing punches we carried on with doing what we do and stuck close with the hunt all day. The following day we teamed up with 4 other sab groups and headed to Wales to greet the Monmouthshire hunt. Having good numbers meant there was rarely a time the hunt weren't in our sights. We only saw them attempt to hunt once but that was quickly stopped. The following week saw the Ledbury having a rare Saturday meet so we treated them to a larger sab presence which meant the old bill turning up and stopping us at every opportunity they had. Small groups of sabs managed to sneak away and keep with the hunt who were out till dark. Watching them pack up was a good feeling after a long day in the field.

In the lead up to Christmas we managed to pack up the Wickham and District beagle pack within half an hour. The sight of us pulling up was enough for them to turn around and leg it back to the hound van. If only it was always that easy! Later in the day we managed to catch up with the Tedworth Hunt who upon our arrival had their hounds in cry. We leapt into action and within 30 seconds of being in the field a sab was ridden down by a redcoat. An air ambulance was called and our sab was taken away to safety. A smaller number of us made the difficult decision to catch up with the hunt again who were carrying on with their dirty business but we stuck close to them making sure they didn't get away with much. We walked them back to the meet where riders were only too happy to mock what had happened. The following week we decided to hit the Tedworth again with Pewsey and Southampton sabs and despite a tense response from the hunt we had an incredible day sabbing the bastards pulling the hounds off multiple scents and ending the day aiding a fox get away to safety after being literally a few feet away from the hounds.

A long overdue visit to The Ross Harriers had been on the cards for a while so we gave red-faced racist Lee Peters and co a visit just before Christmas. The idiots tried hiding behind the fact they were having a tinsel trail for the kids, but within an hour all the kids had gone home from and Peters was up to his old tricks. We watched on and made sure he didn't get up to much. 2 groups of sabs made sure the Harriers had a shit day.

We always welcome new sabs, so if you're interested in coming out with us just drop us a message. Our blog is kept updated with sabbing reports:
www.network23.org/bristolhuntsabs.
www.facebook.com/bristolhuntsaboteurs
bristolhuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk

Bath Hunt Saboteurs spent the summer fund raising and preparing to Stop the Badger Cull, surveying in the cull zones and holding supermarket demos. Working closely with Bristol sabs we visited the Berkeley fox hounds and the Tedworth during cubbing and the Cotswold Vale foxhounds during the first half of the main season.

South Wales Hunt Sabs have yet again been out and about in defence of persecuted wildlife. The beginning of the cubbing season saw us team up with West Wales Antis and take a number of visits to our more local hunts including the Carmarthenshire and the Banwen (always a plus as we can have a bit of lie in!). On a few occasions we arrived to find that the hunts weren't out (another bonus!). However, when they were, we have had some good days out sabbing including one on the South Pembrokeshire, after which we were on our way home, happy in the knowledge that no foxes had been killed that day, when we were pulled over by four police cars and searched and questioned over an alleged 'assault' on one of the hunt supporters. After an hour or so plod began to get a tad bored and finally realised the false nature of the allegations. One would think that surely the police have better things to be getting



on with than made-up incidents from people hunting illegally? On the plus side, this kind of frustrated tactic used by the hunt does show that we are being effective in putting an end to their bloodlust.

Alas, sometimes it feels as a sab's work is never done as not only are foxes being routinely killed but soon the mass slaughter of badgers will be taking place. This has diverted much of our attention and efforts but with the news of the postponement of the cull those redcoated killers will be blessed with our presence more and more.

South Wales Hunt Sabs have had a really good start to the 'official' hunting season. We have continued our efforts to sab more Welsh hunts, hunts that often haven't seen the presence of sabs since the pre-ban days.

Again out with our pals from West Wales, we took a trip to the Llandeilo Farmers Hunt. We were with them pretty much from the start despite some sneaky driving from the huntsman in the hound van trying to lose us from the meet. Hounds go in and out of cry as we make our way up to the brow of the hill where the hunt is. However, when we finally get there it looks as though the hunt have sped off. With them still within earshot, we venture onwards, only to stumble across not one but two shoots! It seems all kinds of scum are lurking in the Welsh countryside.

The Llangeinor meet near Margam Park proved a less than successful affair for them as not only were we keeping a close eye on them, but the RSPCA, the badger group and two policemen on scrambler bikes were also in attendance. In what could only be described as a tempest, the hunt moved off to the top of a nearby hill (one of the few downsides to sabbing Welsh hunts – the massive hills!) presumably to get to some firmer ground. Although we did lose them for a while (its not always easy going in the pouring rain trying to catch up with people on horseback!), we checked back at the meet to find the hunt packing up at 12.30! Result!

On our next visit to the Llangeinor we were sorry to discover that Alex (huntsman) was recovering from a hernia operation. No need to worry about your job, love – they're just 'potching' whilst you're away. The next two or three trips to the Llangeinor showed us that, roughly translated, potching means – bit of a shambles.

Early in the season we also paid a long overdue visit to the Banwen to find their numbers almost pitifully low. Evidently losing land on which to hunt, they spent almost all day on the same piece of common land, making it quite easy for us to sab them, although not much sabbing



was needed as a result. The hounds did go into cry towards the end of the day around a nearby farm but fortunately whatever it was that set them off seemed to get away. All in all then the start of the 2012/13 season has been a success with no kills when we have been in attendance and our group going from strength to strength.

We are always looking for new members to join our merry band of sabs so if you'd like to get involved contact us on southwaleshuntsabs@gmail or visit our page on that there Facebook thing.

Southampton had a good start to cubbing and our first day out was an away day down to Sussex with the Hastings and Brighton group to pay a visit to the C&H. The next couple of weeks we trekked down to them again to sit on the Eridge kennels but both times we ended up at the C&H again. The next week we paid a visit to the Tedworth with our normal partners in crime Pewsey Vale Sabs. Then it was back down to Sussex with their usual mob and after a failed attempt to find the C&H we found a shoot. After a large mob flooded it with sabs they decided to pack up. The next week we went back to see our old chums at the Tedworth needless to say they weren't as pleased to see us (if you want more details read the other groups news) ....

Following a late start to the cubbing season **East Kent** sabs visited the East Kent foxhounds and tried unsuccessfully to find the elusive West St & Tickham foxhounds who are amalgamating with the Ashford Valley hunt after this season.

We started the new season with some new members and a visit to the East Kent foxhounds. They ran a fox to ground, sabs entered the wood, and after a brief stand-off, the terrier men left the scene. First life saved. Later in the day, they did it again, and sabs were involved in another tense stand-off with the hunt. Amazingly the hunt called the police and more time was wasted (for the hunt that is!), after much arguing the hunt backed down, and packed up shortly after. So a good day. We have spent a lot of time monitoring this hunt undercover during cubbing, and at no point have they even tried to do anything other than hunt illegally.

The next Saturday, a local supporter had given us a meet for The West St & Tickham foxhounds. On the way to pick people up we stumbled over The East Kent not too far away, with a stack of coppers already at the meet. Funny, we report illegal hunting, and they can't be bothered, then the hunt gets sabbed properly, and suddenly Kent old bill give a shit! Anyhow, we picked up more sabs, and suddenly found a police escort had joined us, but with some cheeky moves we shook them off. So, on to the WST&T, yes, they were at the leaked meet, and yes, it seems we ruined the day just by arriving. Three bumpkins all claimed to be the landowner at our arrival, and really had the arse at our presence, hilariously threatening to "cut our driver's legs off" at one point.

The next Saturday the East Kent didn't go out, we suspect due to the frost and ice. So, off to The Wye Beagles who were just down the road (thanks again for local supporter info!) We arrived just as they were drawing the first field, but one look at us sent them scuttling back up to the meet. We guess they hunted for approx 10 minutes before jacking it in.

The following week the East Kent spent yet another day in forestry commission woodlands. Around lunchtime, hounds went into cry, and when the sabs got close, guess what? The hounds had run



the "trail" to ground, the terrier boys were there and drooling, but after a short stand-off, the hunt moved on, meaning the "trail" escaped being dug out. The hunt packed up shortly after. So, one "trail" saved, and no hassle.

The next week saw a couple of us out on a hunch which proved to be correct...the Wye Beagles were out, flooded though the fields are. We watched them leave the meet and start the usual (non visible) trail hunt. Yet again, this hunt just leave their dogs to stream on ahead, and well..do whatever. We couldn't keep up, so searched about, whilst leaving someone with the huntsman and whip. A couple of hours later, in a massive gale and driving rain, we had to give 'em good.

Boxing Day, with a variety of meets to choose, we decided to visit the Blean Beagles. Knowing that they were hunting on the marsh, we walked along the creeks edge in the opposite direction that we thought they would be coming from, and our hunch was right. Within half an hour, there they were.

Dressed in civvies, we joined the other Boxing Day walkers who were glancing at them across the marsh, until we had a good vantage point, where we set up temporary base with cameras and tripod. Now, on Facebook, someone has done the maths. To have the number of support out that the CA were predicting, each hunt would have around 750 supporters out today. This hunt had about 10. And were hunting illegally from the off, beagles were cast out, huntsman was encouraging them on with horn and voice...and not the slightest evidence of a trail. So, we observed and filmed for a while, until it became quite clear we had been sussed, and supporters were keeping tabs on us. At one point, a hare broke cover, and we prepared to get closer and intervene, but the hounds didn't stay in cry. There then followed 2-3 hours of the hunt messing about before packing up. We walked them back to the meet through the pissing rain, and all agreed-this was the most pathetic spectacle Boxing Day hunting had ever thrown up. Too late to do the planned check of any other packs, we left, to get dry and get warm! Merry Christmas ya tossers, see you soon.

So, the next Saturday was an interesting day with The East Kent Foxhounds. A long kennel watch resulted in the hunt leaving the kennels at high speed and driving to an old New Year's meet. Plenty of bumpkins at the pub, but no riders, so, we settled in to wait and watch. A long bit of hound parading ensued, and then suddenly, they walked the hounds back into the farm yard and boxed up...hmm.

Now, we knew the area was flooded, and that they may try going out on foot, but this seemed too weird. The hunt staff hung about and chatted for a while, then suddenly, the hound van and staff left the farm, and we ended up in a convoy of vehicles until the hound van peeled off. So, they were going to hunt.

Another wait, then out came the huntsman and hounds on a quad, followed by lots more quads and foot support, and off up to the hills they went. From the road, we had a long uninterrupted view of the huntsman casting his hounds through the long grass, with not a trail in sight, so we kept him in video sights until we were treated to the sight of their new Master trying to drive a quad sideways up a soaking wet hill. And yes, she ended up on two wheels, and yes, she tumbled the quad over herself. Amazingly, she got straight up, and staggered away. But was not seen again. We hope it's not serious. So, we kept them in sight until they packed up at 2 o'clock. Thanks to the new members, but we could still do with some more (our email is **eastkenthuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk).**

Suffolk and Essex sabs started cubbing in late august with the usual suspicious behaviour from the local hunts. We were joined by our colleagues North and East London Sabs. Police have been mixed in their response and behaviour with Suffolk police showing their all too apparent bias towards the hunt and their masters, but with Essex police showing some interest in hunts breaking the law and violence towards sabs.

An early season kill in Essex had the police investigating, with the fox being sent for an autopsy by an AR group and police looking at video footage, with sabs waiting to see the outcome next year. This was followed by a violent attack on sabs at the Essex Farmers and Union hunt with multiple injuries and police investigating. Hounds have been taken away from all hunts with great horn blowing and use of the retro gizmo (still uses a tape, old school!). A harrier pack on the Norfolk border hated their hounds being so easily taken off the line of hares that they called their buddies in the local police and after the more than friendly handshakes between hunt and police we continued to take their hounds despite threats of arrest.

A fundraising meal by a local vegan café and team was a great success and the funds have been put to great use with some new bits of kit. All local hunts seem to move fast and try to lose SES and NELS sabs but with no great joy and some homework has been put into finding the more elusive hunts, which should pay dividends soon. Having a great regular core group works really well but we're always looking for others to come and get involved so get in contact via the HSA if your local to SES or NELS .

Brighton Sabs (also known as **South Downs** Sabs) had a pretty uneventful cubbing season, with only one outrageously unjustified arrest in Surrey, where the cops think we're the worst kind of dirty, anarcho trouble-making scum (no idea where they get that idea from!). We had fun cuddling beagles and the gorgeous Wealden Minkhounds as well as doing the normal foxhunts.

At the opening meet of the Southdown and Eridge hunt 3 sabs were attacked by a gang of 10 supporters just when the hounds were in cry. The thugs stole the video camera and 2 sabs had to be taken to hospital with serious head injuries. The police were useless and the same gang later attacked the remaining sabs. We learned the joint master who normally acts as huntsman these days was a cop for 30 years. His wife runs Countryside Catering who list Sussex Police as one of their main clients. Feel free to look up Countryside Catering and their other business Just Cool It Ltd. Smell a bit funny?

The next week at the Southdown there were just loads of hunt scum with pickaxe handles waiting for us, and two cops who didn't see anything wrong with them having 'sticks' so we had to go to the recently convicted C'n'H instead. Despite our staking out the Southdown regularly since then, they don't seem to have gone out on Saturdays for a while. The arrest of some their thugs won't have encouraged them. With Croydon and Hastings we stopped the Burstow hounds only a few metres from a fox then had the inevitable, though mild, bit of a scuffle in a muddy field. New sabs keep coming and last year's newbies have blossomed brilliantly and also introduced the oldies to modern wonders like phones with maps in and the internet (**southdownhuntsabs.wordpress.com**).

South Coast Cubbing started for us in September, our local the South Down & Eridge did not seem to be going out so we assisted West Sussex on the Criminal & Horsham. At the end of September the South Down went out to their first known cubbing meet at South Ease on the edge



of the South Downs. We had Brighton and Croydon Sabs with us and after a brief period of losing them kept with them all day. They wandered around for about an hour and half, told us they were dog exercising NOT puppy walking (odd time of day to do that with a pile of horses and two quad bikes), a supporter ran over and killed a pheasant and then they packed up. Bit of banter and abuse at the meet, normal 'you can't film me as I'm a minor', quoted the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and was told 'how can I know that' DOH! We also saw a rider whipping her frightened and out-of-control horse in a counterproductive attempt to make it behave and we all went home, apart from some of the terrier men who were seen stranded on the side of the road with a puncture, we of course drove past waving...

Next week it was pissing it down while we watched the South Down & Eridge kennels, but we made the most of it by eating a large vegan cake and supping Red Bull at 6am. While we watched the Croydon group were following the Old Surrey & Burstow, only to have their supporters nearly drive them off the road, allowing the hunt to get away. SDE still puppy walking so off once more to the Criminal & Horsham at Dragons Green.

Supporters tried to block the road with Quads and themselves but we refused to stop, been blocked in and attacked too many times to fall for that, and kept with the hunt. Their pretend drag had gone north from the meet and the hunt went south (doh!), so we were fairly sure they were trying to hunt, and we were proved right in the first wood as hounds went into cry on a fox. Sabs sprang into action, split the pack with voice and horns and there was much milling about. Hunt moved on but we kept with them all the time. Near the end they got onto another scent with the huntsman again encouraging the hounds and a fox was filmed crossing the road, again sabs stopped the hounds. Quite a few cops this time (two landies and a car) but no hassle and they treated all fairly (Surrey cops take note). One bumpkin made obscene comments to a female sab and was forced to apologize by the police. Hunt packed up about 11 am with many long faces and no kills. A very good turnout with sabs from Brighton, Croydon and Southampton joining us.

Attempted to find the C&H but ended up sabbing a shoot, when that was packed up we had a tip off about the Wealden Mink Hounds, which we duly shut down after they walked in circles for a few hours and then just sat around. A few bemused coppers turned up to watch us all sit there and we were entertained by a member of the female gentry who ranted at us for a good 30 minutes. First she owned the land, then her sister, who she later said was dead. Finally is was some guy she knew and she just could not understand why the plebs did not give damn about the ownership of the land and just stood there. A few boys from a local shoot turned up in silly clothes and then went away when they saw we outnumbered them. Only downside to an excellent day was that a dead rabbit was thrown from a passing bumpkin car as we started to leave.

The 2012 hunting season for the Norfolk & Suffolk Sabs has started off with a very steep learning curve. We have had a new huntsman to acquaint ourselves with and it is fair to say after the hunt killed a hare at the opening meet, our tactics have had to totally change. The huntsman concerned has come from a fox hunt and so after killing the hare on open ground, he has gone back to what he knows and has been hunting foxes in coverts. We too have had to adjust our ways accordingly. Since the fateful opening meet we have managed to sab the Waveney Harriers twice a week, every week, apart from one week when the hunt were not out due to bad weather. Some weeks have been more eventful than others but it is fair to say we are not very popular with the hunt. We had a particularly eventful Saturday when the Essex sabs joined us for the day. The look on the hunters' faces when the sabs piled out of their landy was a picture. We never usually have the Police out with us (some may say this is a blessing) but for some reason, this particular week, we were inundated. Funny how despite all those coppers, they didn't see the two foxes being chased across the fields.

Boxing Day was a very successful day sabbing-wise and a couple of us even decided on an impromptu attendance in Bungay Town Centre with all the hunt supporters. We were slightly outnumbered (by several hundred) but made our presence felt. I don't think the new huntsman liked us being there and instead of leading the hunt out of the town centre, the first whipper-in was delegated the job.

Let's just hope we can stay as successful for the rest of this season. Stay safe everyone.

From the opening meet to mid-January has been a period of mixed fortunes for **North East London** sabs. A benefit that was under attended due to a last minute enforced move and a stolen vehicle made it tough on funds. We have still been out nearly every Saturday and boxing day.

The day of most opening meets, 27th October, we did the the Essex farmers who were still cubbing. They seemed to have put the the brakes on their usual violence but they didn't give up completely, the terrier man drove around in a Halloween mask not realising he looks more hideous to us without it. Thanks again to SES, and



it was nice to welcome back a sab who hasn't been out for a while.

After the week of the opening meets we were on another visit to Suffolk at Offton north east of Hadleigh making an effective team with our SES colleagues.

We had 6 out the following Saturday finding the east Essex. SES guys let 4 in their landy and two sick list car bound sabs drove around trying to do some spotting. Weather conditions and the idiot huntsman Gary Thorpe made it difficult.

Another week saw us with the East Essex around the Maplesteads. They went north to Gestingthorpe though the meet was at School Farm. Gary deliberately tried to ride sabs down. From the sense picked up by foot sabs this will be his last season here too. At least he is consistent - in getting sac

Into December, we were still out the next Saturday despite the theft of our vehicle. Thanks to Croydon for bringing up a landy to pick up 5 NELS sabs to meet 2 more kennel watching in a car. We ended up doing a Bassett pack with Berkshire sabs. It was I think NELS' first Bassett pack sab since the ban. They packed up quickly but wasted everybody's time hanging around. On the day Essex and Suffolk sabs saved the lives of rabbits stopping ferreters from netting and killing. How they spotted that from the road is testimony to their skill and experience.

Croydon sabs main season started on the Southdown and Eridge at Firle. The full story of this will be printed later. For now we can't say too much as there is an on-going police investigation. Undaunted, Croydon, Brighton and South Coast returned to the Southdown the following week, following the hound van from the kennels to Eridge. Sabs in the field were initially doing well, but after two hours they were confronted by 21 balaclavaed, tooled up thugs. With plod refusing to do anything the sabs withdrew and went to join West Sussex and Guildford on the C and H at Knebb Castle.

Soon after arriving there the sabs were attacked by the mounted field. Several sabs were ridden down and one vehicle was damaged. The police response was to nick a sab for having a spray bottle! As always the sabs waited for the detainee and, with the addition of some beer, food and music had a decent little party in the foyer of Crawley nick!

November 10th saw Croydon divide their numbers, with some joining Brighton and South Coast on the Brighton and Storrington Beagles at Balcombe, which turned into a long stand-off before the hunt finally packed up and headed home, whilst others joined Guildford and North Downs sabs on the Surrey Union.

The 17th produced one of the strangest days of sabbing. Croydon's initial attempts to locate the OSBWKFH started well, with two horseboxes being followed, but the usual blocking tactics by the hunt left the sabs unable to follow their target. A shout from South Coast sabs at the Southdown and Eridge kennels sent Croydon heading south, but it turned out that the S and E hound van had been a decoy, simply doing a ten mile loop and returning to kennels. Luckily at this point West Sussex sabs found the Chid, and Croydon, joined by elements of Brighton and South Coast, went right across Sussex to join them. The Chid are a rather different hunt to those we are used to. One of the hunters asked a sab to hold his horse whilst he drank his 'stirrup cup' and they even thanked the sabs for attending at the end of the day!

November 24th started with another frustrating failure to locate the Burstow, so Croydon, South Coast and Brighton headed off to join West Sussex on the C and H at Knebb Castle. Croydon and South Coast got slightly delayed, but a shout from Brighton, who had caught up with the hunt, put the groups into the field and straight on to the hounds. This was obviously altogether too much for huntsman Nick 'shallow end' Bycroft, as he immediately boxed up and went home.

December started with a linkup between Croydon and NELS, initially looking for the Puckeridge, who appeared not to be out. The combined group then joined up with SES to head north to a beagle pack that had been picked up by Berkshire and North Downs sabs. The hunt must have felt there were sabs descending on them from every direction as they ran into a well-executed pincer movement, and all they could do was trail miserably back to the meet and then home.

The 8th brought great joy to Croydon as the patient scouting of the OSBWKFH finally paid dividends with horseboxes being spotted heading over the border into Kent. They stopped at Fordecombe, which was the scene of savage attack on sabs in 2007 which left the driver hospitalised. Just to show that hunt violence really doesn't work, the same sab was driving this year! The Croydon sabs continued to scout until they had located the hound van, then called in support from Brighton and South Coast. Huntsman Mark Bycroft (Shallow end's brother) started the day in friendly mode, even telling the sabs where the next trail was going to be laid, but his mood turned sour when quick thinking sabs turned the hounds from one fox then filmed him openly hunting a second before intervening to save it. Bycroft then fell whilst trying to negotiate a jump and was covered in mud as he lost the plot, ranting, on camera, 'You stopped me hunting!' Hunt vehicles made a brief attempt to block in sab vehicles and riders attacked sabs in the field. Kent plod arrived and detained the sab vehicles, despite radio messages that sabs were being driven at a short distance away. Undeterred, sabs kept on the hunt for another hour until darkness forced them to pack up.

On December the 15th sabs were staking out the C and H and the Southdown, but with extensive flooding in the region there was no movement at either kennels and sabs adjourned to environmental protest activities.

The 22nd of December saw Croydon, Brighton and South Coast linking up with Guildford and North Downs on the Surrey Union on Military land near Guildford. This is difficult terrain with steep hills which the huntsman delighted in riding up and down in an attempt to tire the sabs. The bottoms of the valleys were swamps, as several sabs found to their cost. Well-coordinated action by the 5 groups kept sabs coming in from every angle, and the hunt packed up by half past two.

And so to Boxing Day, and a return to the Southdown for Croydon, Brighton and South Coast. Again, we can't say much as police are investigating the events of the day.

Saturday the 29th was another lively day on the C and H, with Croydon, Brighton and South Coast again joining forces with West Sussex. The C and H seem to be hunting over the same tiny piece of ground near their kennels every week and they are clearly getting frustrated at the attention they are getting. When huntsman Nick Bycroft set off clearly not following a drag, sabs went after him and an attempt was made by a group of hunt thugs to prevent them crossing a jump. However, the sabs proved more than a match for the 'heavies' and continued after the hunt. At least two foxes were saved by the actions of the sabs during the day, and everyone felt that the year had ended on a very positive note.





THE LIFE OF A HORSE

If you live in a town and you're not part of the green welly brigade, then you'll often be accused of not knowing what you're talking about when it comes to "country life" and knowledge and care of animals, especially horses. Not being from a horsey family, I've often felt like that, even though we live in the country and have a horse, so I keep my head down and watch and listen.

I know people who hunt. They all claim to care for their horses but I wonder. I've got no gruesome stories of individual cruelty, just an attitude of not caring, of using the animal and not seeing beyond their own pleasure.

Many years ago when my children rode little ponies I considered them joining the local Pony Club branch which is linked to the hunt. A lady who ran a riding-stables and had hunted in her youth actually advised against this as she said that a great deal of pressure was put on kids to join the hunt as they got older. I have seen the affect that becoming a Pony Club kid has on those, mainly young girls, who join up. They start with a small or sturdy family pony, this may not be the most expensive or handsome pony but it's their pony and they love the animal. At rallies they see the kids with the faster, "better" ponies winning the prizes and the pressure is on to pester the parents for a better pony too. "Sadly outgrown" is the description too often used of these unwanted ponies who are sold on again and again until their value drops and they are put on permanent loan or given away. The child cries over the loss of the first pony but in time they get hard and become the typical horsey person. I see the ponies changing too as they realise that they'll soon be moving on again. By continually changing ponies the child sees the animal not as a companion to bond with but as an object to provide them with pleasure and success (I often hear horsey people referring to a horse as "it").

I've seen children riding with the hunt cantering their ponies on roads, following the adults doing this, even as part of the traditional spectacle of the big meets over the Christmas period. The shock from the repeated impact of cantering on a tarmac surface will cause damage to the lower legs and hooves of a horse, in the past even just working at walk and trot on the roads meant that the horses that pulled drays and carts lived shorter lives, usually being shot by the time they were 20 due to arthritis in the legs while agricultural horses working on the land could live and work longer. It's common sense really and why humans wear trainers when they go running on the roads. I've known a teenager voluntarily ride her pony so hard during a hunt that he suffered a tendon injury that put him on 6 month's box rest, shut in his stable. Horses learn what's expected of them and I've often heard about the horse who can't be in a group to hack out because he gets so wound up expecting to go charging off on a hunt; "hunting blows their brains out" the owners say, before going hunting again.

The fate of the former race horse or eventing horse can be to end up being used for hunting. Listening to owners and vets, injuries to tendons and ligaments happen regularly and eventually the horse is retired, if they're lucky to a home where a bit of light hacking is all that's asked of them, if not they may be dumped in a field or euthanized. Thoroughbreds used for racing can be raced at 2 years old, when their muscles and skeletons are still developing and a caring owner would just be training the young animal to be led on a halter. The result is that many ex-racehorses have injuries and there are so many of them that although the thoroughbred is seen as a desirable horse for a horsey person, failed racehorses are cheap, sometimes so cheap that they are given away. The alternative is that they are sent for slaughter. I've seen ex-racehorses with recurring lameness from old leg injuries which range from a condition which leaves the animal shut in their stable for weeks on end, to chronic damage which just one more slight injury compounds to a terminal broken leg. I heard a vet say that damage to the hock in racehorses "often" causes the weakness that results in a broken leg.

Polo is a sport that has a more glamorous image than racing, but the polo ponies are treated just as badly. I've seen the scars on the face and body of a rescued polo pony where they were beaten regularly and I've



"hunting blows their brains out" the owners say, before going hunting again.

been told about the pair rescued from slaughter, one of whom had such a damaged back that he was unlikely to be ridden again.
There's a lot of casual, cosmetic cruelty around horses as well that doesn't have to be directly linked to hunting. Manes and tails are "pulled", that is the hair is pulled out by being wrapped round a comb and then tugged sharply, to make them more visually acceptable, especially when plaited for shows and hunts. Feather, the hair above the feet, is shaved off to give the correct look, especially on cobs, but this leaves the skin of the animal's heels exposed to wind and wet and, in my experience, more likely to suffer from the infected cracks that are known as mud fever. Then there's the clipping of the winter coat, necessary if the horse is to take part in strenuous exercise, but often done just to make them look smart. You can make up for the loss of the natural coat by giving the horse a warm turnout rug, but when face and legs are clipped too these remain exposed to the weather. Some horses have to be chemically sedated before they're clipped as the mere sound of the clippers upsets them so much and when you pull a mane or tail you tie them up short so they can't "mess about".
I guess none of you reading this would go driving or off-road motorcycling after downing a bottle of sherry or port, but I've seen people do just that before going to a meet at a pub, where they've drunk even more. "They need some Dutch courage" I was told. Then they go off to ride on the road and across country. They've even boasted to me when they've come back about how funny it was because they were "pissed as a fart". Anyone who rides with a Hunt can ride well, no matter how fat or obnoxious they are, but in the mêlée of excited horses and riders they "need good brakes". Have a look at some of the bits used on horses out hunting. The ideal is to have a horse with a snaffle mouth, a snaffle bridle being the gentlest type, but if you want to stop a large horse quickly you probably opt for something more severe, which equals pain to the horse.
If you listen to people who used to be part of the Hunting scene but have broken away, they all tell you how the Hunt becomes the focus of their whole social life. Likewise, even the families who just have a pony for the children or take them for riding lessons feel that the order of things is that the horsey people know best. So you don't question their way of doing things, even when the horse sent away to be broken in comes back head shy (from being hit in the face) and nervous. I've listened to people saying they still recommend that trainer, though it's a shame they have trouble getting a bridle on the horse now. The Master of the Hunt must be a nice man, even though you know he dumped his old horse in a field and left it with untreated rain scald and mud fever. At horse shows I've watched the horsey crowd in awe of a demonstration of "Natural Horsemanship" as a rider walks beside and seems to dance a duet with their horse who follows them and obeys signals and commands from them in a real partnership. It isn't some New Age magic, there are traditional ways of training a horse that have the same effect, respect on both sides and kindness.
Part of the horsey scene is to train people to accept the hierarchy, the status quo, not to empathise with their animals. Your horse indicates your status in the horsey world, like owning a flash car - you should always aspire to a more expensive horse and never wonder what the horse is really thinking. If you're reading this then you don't accept that traditional hierarchy; I think you're right and I'd rather trust you with my horse than the horsey folk who hunt.



'All sabs are unemployed, tattooed young males from council estates who sponge off the hard working tax payer'. If you listen to the hunt you hear this kind of nonsense so often it could almost be true, give or take some regional diversity, because of course those sab groups who live near big universities are all 'bloody students' with dreadlocks. Students or dole scum, the thing we all have in common is of course our undeniable status of 'townie'. Even if you live in the countryside. Even if your parents grew up in the countryside. Even if your mother was taken so much by surprise that she gave birth to you in a pig shed, if you sab - you are a townie and 'know nothing of the old country ways'. We all know this is nonsense but just who is a typical hunt sab?

Several years ago I wanted to sab but wasn't sure it was for me. Having grown up in a village in Lincolnshire, with, I shit you not, a field of cows at the bottom of my garden, and having long since put my student days behind me, not being on the dole and not being a young man – where did that leave me? Could I join the hunt sabs? My hair, all be it long and often a little tangly does not hang in dreads. I am, in terms of clothes and looks, kind of ordinary. And not so much of a spring chicken either. I took my chances but my first day filled me with trepidation...Would all the young unemployed males from council estates laugh and point when I climbed into the sab van? Well, no they did not. Apart from the polite 'hellos' my arrival in sab land was really not the whistles and bells event I thought it might be. A surreptitious glance round the van confirmed my suspicions – there were more like me. Whilst we don't make the unemployed wear a badge, there were certainly lots of females of all ages, and at 30-something I wasn't the oldest sab in the village by a long shot. There were people who, I suspect, were more than double my age. It turns out that some of the sabs lived in rural areas, some had - shock horror- got jobs, some had kids, most had cats, some were self-employed, some were gay, some were tall, some were punks but everyone ate flapjack like their lives depended on it. And the couple of young, unemployed males were really welcoming too! I blended in. Over time I saw that people noticed each other's 'skills' like map reading, driving, good cake making or fast running but looks, gender, age, race or sexuality all felt unimportant - nobody really cared who was from where or from when or did what or did not.

Having sat back and enjoyed the accepting nature and warm vibes of friendship in the sab van I was a little put out to find the hunt less obliging. I quickly came to realise that things that were unremarkable on the drive over became suddenly of huge significance. Like breasts. Some of us have em... some don't but the hunters seem unable to ignore them. At times it's like being stuck in a room with pre-pubescent boys sniggering and giggling. The drivel they shout would frankly be out of place in a Barnsley working man's club these days. And it's often the same drivel at different hunts too - Do they creep around next to building sites to pick up lines or pass round a Bernard Manning DVD box set? I heard one attractive young female referred to as 'Miss Whiplash' – obviously a name conjured up out of thin air and not at all an indication of the kind of late night movies the hunt support subscribe to. Then of course there are the 'Lesbomanics' – a term given by the Surrey Union to some sabs upon discovering that they were in a same sex relationship, along with the pointed observation that 'you won't have time for sabbing now you are rugmunchers'. We all know of course that being a lesbian is a full time job. An endless 24 hours of sex and snogging, always in fancy undies, eating nothing but suggestive fruits with squirty cream on, often with men watching... I think another hunt have been watching too much 'specialist' TV again! Lucky for foxes the 'Lesbomaniacs' still manage to find time to come out and spoil the hunt's day.

Of course with frustrated lust comes shame, so at times the thwarted sex drive of the average hunter takes a dark turn with such nastiness as 'What you need is a good shag'. Irresistible as most of the hunt are, it does seem most sabs have a great deal of self-

NOT YOUR TYPICAL



control and have been able to turn down that offer. What a self-disciplined bunch we are!

Even today the police are often taken aback by the presence of the fairer sex – one older officer in Lincolnshire was so shocked he actually radioed in 'there are girls here -they let girls do it'. We never did find out who 'they' are. On another occasion North Yorkshire dibble took aside a new female sab and told her how dangerous the male sabs were and reminded her she would be 'better off sticking to the nice demos. Go home and make some placards', preferably whilst chained to the kitchen sink?

One of our sabs, who labels herself a 'Granarchist' came out sabbing for the first time last season with West Yorkshire and said "I am proud to say I am nearly 61 years old and since I became a sab, activist and vegan my whole life has changed for the better - I am stronger, healthier and I just love being a voice for the animals. Sabbing made me more confident and led me into other activism - I travel the country to demos on my own now and know that I will meet up with other like-minded people". One of West Yorkshire sabs told us "She is an amazing person and it was great to see her inspire some of the younger sabs - she used to tell them off for eating rubbish like crisps and ended up bringing wholemeal mini pizzas and dried fruit with recipes to steer them towards healthier stuff. She became more confident and everyone was really excited when she got her first animal rights tattoo. Age wasn't an issue".

So what about the other stereotypes – for example, sab fitness. From the outside of sab-land the notion seems to be that sabs are all super keen runners, fruitarian types who happily jog a 10K whilst munching down a bag of blueberries. Within the movement there is a lingering image of sabs who are chain smokers, stumbling around the fields swearing, covering their hung over eyes from the bright light, waiting for someone to dish out the Linda McCartney sausage rolls. My experience is that neither and both are true. There are some for whom the body is a temple, to be treated with respect and reverence. For others it's more like an old scout hut - despite all the kickings and broken panels it's hanging in there. Most sabs I've met fall somewhere in between, full of conflicting good intentions and pies.

Some sabs, like the world at large, have on-going health problems or issues. I've seen sabs still turn out with dodgy knees or a bad back and opt to drive or navigate - sometimes just for a week or so but with others is a permanent choice. Far from being seen as a cop out, most groups love having a designated driver or navigator as it frees up other sabs to go in the field, as well as building up a skilful team. A sab with the Sheffield group said "Sabs are probably the most accepting group of mates I have regarding having ME. I know that if I am out in the field I'm there because I want to be and know today I am capable of performing just as well as anyone else; no one feels it is necessary to dissuade me and that simple respect means a lot. In the past when I have got it wrong and need to call it a day the support has been there - sometimes the unexpected happens; if it all kicks off or the day just runs on and on, no one blames me for stopping. When I have explained about how ME affects me people understand, and I explain whenever I need to".

I doubt any of us were surprised to hear that a hunt was charged with racist abuse. Sabs, on the other hand, seem for the most part to be a very accepting bunch. Some groups have agreements and 'codes' to ensure everyone is ok, other groups have a more 'goes without saying' approach. A desire to stop hunting seems the only thing lots of us have in common but perhaps it's enough. Most groups I encountered felt that people learnt a great deal from interacting with each other - both about sabbing and life in general. We fill our mini-vans and landrovers with a random collection of foxy fans from all walks of life and we have plenty to talk about on the way home.

If you have never sabbed before because you are 'not like us' maybe get in touch... you could turn out to be a typical hunt sab.

HUNT SABOTEUR



SUPPORT ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS

UK prisoners

George House (A5822CW) - New prisoner - 07/03/13
HMYOI Werrington, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire, ST9 0DX, UK
George was sentenced to 12 months on 7th March 2013 for alleged burglary and criminal damage at Warwick Uni when he went inside to look at the conditions of the animals there. Please write to him, more news soon.
Birthday: 8th June

International prisoners

Abdul Haqq (formerly Walter Edmund Bond) 37096-013
USP Marion CMU, PO Box 1000, Marion IL 62959, USA
Abdul Haqq, was arrested by federal agents on 22nd July 2010 after his brother informed on him and he was sentenced on 11th Feb 2011 for burning down the Sheepskin Factory in Glendale, Colorado. On 14th Oct 2011, Abdul was sentenced to a further 87 months in prison for the ALF arsons in Utah. This new sentencing will run consecutive with his time in Colorado. This gives Abdul a total of 12 years for his actions as the ALF Lone Wolf.
Birthday: 16th April

Marie Jeanette Mason, 04672-061
FMC Carswell, Federal Medical Center, P.O. Box 27137, Fort Worth, TX 76127, USA.
According to the BOP inmate locator, Marie Mason is at the Federal Medical Center in Fort Worth. Although rumours continue to swirl, there is no confirmation at this time as to where Marie will end up. Marie is vegan.
Please drop Marie a line. If you are writing a longer letter, we recommend you photocopy it, in case she is moved again by the time it arrives. This way you can resend it again later.
Marie was sentenced on 5th February 2009 to an outrageous 21 years and 10 months imprisonment for ELF/ALF actions.
Birthday: 26th January

Eric McDavid, 16209-097
FCI Terminal Island, Federal Correctional Institution, PO BOX 3007, San Pedro, CA 90731, USA.
Eric was sentenced to just under 20 years imprisonment for conspiring to think about actions! (Part of an FBI sting operation)
Birthday: 7th October

Steve Murphy, 39013-177
McMullen B, FCI Three Rivers, Federal Correctional Institution, P.O. Box 4200, Three Rivers, TX 78071, USA
Steve Murphy was charged with a 2006 E.L.F. action in Pasadena, CA. and was sentenced to 5 years on April 5th, 2010 after previously pleading guilty. Steve is also an animal rights activist and vegan.
Birthday: 3rd September

Viktor Padellaro
Anstalten Kirseberg, Box 3097, 200 22 Malmö, Sweden
Viktor was sentenced to three years and six months in prison for arson at a McDonald's in Gothenburg, for smashing windows at a restaurant he believed to be serving shark-fin soup, and for sending allegedly threatening letters to fur store owners, AstraZeneca employees and others involved in animal abuse. Viktor has been detained on remand since his arrest in August 2011.
You can also send emails of support to: S.GBG.VEGAN@gmail.com and they will be printed out and sent to him.
Birthday: 27th December

Note: ALFSG are aware of Viktor's past links to fascist groups. Viktor has released a statement in which he expresses shame at his former association with fascists before his AR actions. We are convinced that Viktor is being truthful about his change of heart. We believe that people can change for the better. But individuals can make their own decision on whether to support him or not.

Justin Solondz, 98291-011
FCI Loretto, Post Office Box 1000, Loretto, Pennsylvania 15940, USA.
Justin Solondz has been sentenced to 7 Years in prison for part in arson from 2001, after being on the run and then later in custody in China for a non-activism offence. He was accused of actions under the Earth Liberation Front/Animal Liberation Front. Briana Waters, his former comrade and friend turned informant.
Birthday: 3rd October

Save us some dosh! if you re moving?

If you move house, please don't forget to tell us.

The HSA has a disproportionate number of returned envelopes due to unknown addressees, this inevitably means wasted funds.

Make sure we know where you are!!





HELP SAVE A LIFE AFTER YOUR DEATH

REMEMBER THE HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION IN YOUR WILL

You may think that it is not worth your while making a Will but you may be surprised at how much you are worth, especially if you own your own home. Most people in this country die without making a Will and that means that the government gets more than their fair share. Making a Will need not be complicated or time consuming and it could save your loved ones a lot of unnecessary heartache. If you do not have a Will when you die there is no guarantee that those closest to you will benefit from your wealth and property. In addition, many people like to know that the organisations they support whilst alive will continue to benefit after their death.

The Hunt Saboteurs Association relies entirely on the generosity of its membership to function. As the organisation has minimal running costs more of the money coming in can be put to good use where it counts most – in the hunting field. Leaving a gift to the H.S.A. in your Will helps to ensure that the good work carried out by active hunt saboteurs can continue. With a ban now in place, and so many hunts blatantly flouting it, the role of sabs has never been more important, so your gift will still be put to good use – the HSA will continue until no sentient creatures are abused in the name of sport.

A Will is a legally binding document and needs to be prepared properly. The services of a solicitor should be employed. A solicitor is the only person who can give professionally qualified advice. Have a look in Yellow Pages (under 'Solicitors') or call the Law Society on *020 7242 1222*. If you already have a Will you can include a gift to the H.S.A. by adding an amendment (known as a 'codicil') – you will need to consult your solicitor about this.

If you are able to remember the H.S.A. in your Will it would help if you could let us know.

I plan to / have already prepared a Will and have remembered the Hunt Saboteurs Association as follows (please tick as appropriate):

☐ **Residual Legacy** - a percentage of my estate once my family and friends have been provided for.

☐ **Pecuniary Legacy** - a cash gift of £.....

☐ **Specific Gift** - an individual item of value e.g. jewellery.

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Signature.....

Date.....

HOW YOU CAN HELP END BLOODSPORTS

Organisations such as the Countryside Alliance are backed by some of the richest people in Britain, and can spend millions on advertising and paid campaigners. Their wealth and power gives them a stranglehold over most of the media and some of the most influential people in government.

The Hunt Saboteurs Association, in comparison, runs solely on funds from you, the public, who keep the organisation afloat with donations and membership. It depends on the small band of volunteers who give over their spare time to keep the HSA running smoothly, who produce leaflets and adverts and salesgoods, who staff stalls, who give advice to other sabs and deal with the press. And most importantly of all it depends on the dedication of the men and women who, week in, week out, defy the hunts on their own turf, and in the face of increasing violence and police powers, *still* manage to save the lives of thousands of hunted animals every year.

There are several ways you can help the HSA.

- Get in touch with your local sab group (details from the office) and either go sabbing yourself or help in other ways such as fundraising or mechanics.
- If you are not already a member of the HSA, please join now by using the form below - it only takes a few minutes to fill in and return to us.
- If you are already a HSA member then please photocopy the form and pass it on to someone else you think may like to join us.
- Ask the office for back copies of HOWL to leave in places where they can be read by members of the public (ie. doctors' waiting rooms). If you are still at school or college why not leave a copy in the library reference section?
- Support us by buying HSA T-shirts and other merchandise. Contact us if you don't already have a salesgoods order form, page 2.
- Let the hunters know what you think! Write to your local newspaper's letters page and write to your MP to let them know your views on Government plans either regarding hunting or hunt saboteurs. Your MP's address will be House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA



HSA MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION FORM

PHOTOCOPIES WELCOME

I would like to become an active / supporting* member of the Hunt Saboteurs Association
(**delete one*)

I enclose my membership subscription of: (*tick one*)

❒ £15 waged ❒ £100 life membership

❒ I enclose a donation of £..... to help fund the H.S.A.'s work

Name (Ms / Mrs / Miss / Mr) .....

Address .....

.....

..... Postcode .....

Telephone Number.....

Cheques / PO's should be made payable to "HSA".

Please return to HSA, BM HSA, London WC1N 3XX

For a standing order form, to pay via Paypal or for more information phone 0845 450 0727 or email us - info@huntsabs.org.uk

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group (ALF SG)
PO Box 1107, Northampton, NN7 9BT
E-mail: info@alfsg.org.uk
www.alfsg.org.uk

ARPS (Animal Rights Prisoner Support)
PO Box 2174, LEIGH-ON-SEA, SS9 0AZ
Website: www.arprisoners.org
General email enquiries: info@arprisoners.org
Newsletter email enquiries: newsletter@arprisoners.org

The Black Fish
www.theblackfish.org
info@theblackfish.org

The Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade (CAFT)
PO Box 38, Manchester, M60 1NX
0845 330 7955 caft@caft.org.uk
www.caft.org.uk

Digging Out (Campaign for the Abolition of Terrier Work)
BCM Digging Out, London WC1N 3XX
info@diggingout.org
www.diggingout.org

Earth First!
www.earthfirst.org.uk www.eco-action.org

The Fox Project
The Lodge, Kings Toll Road, Pembury, Kent, TN2 4BE
01892 842111 mon-fri 9am-12 noon
fox@foxproject.org.uk
www.foxproject.org.uk

Hunt Watch
PO Box 487, Norwich, NR5 8WE
07952 550054 contact@huntwatch.info www.huntwatch.info

League Against Cruel Sports (LACS)
New Sparling House , Holloway Hill
Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1QZ
01483524250 info@league.org.uk www.league.org.uk

The National Anti-Snaring Campaign (NASC)
PO Box 3058, Littlehampton West Sussex BN16 3LG
info@antisnaring.org.uk
www.antisnaring.org.uk
07580455223

National Fox Welfare Society
135 Higham Road, Rushden, Northants, NN10 6DS
01933 411996 natfox@ntlworld.com www.nfws.org.uk

POWA (Protect Our Wild Animals)
enquiries@powa.org.uk
www.powa.org.uk

SchNEWS
SchNEWS, c/o Community Base, 113 Queens Rd, Brighton, BN1 3XG, England
01273 685913 schnews@brighton.co.uk
www.schnews.org.uk

Sea Shepherd
Sea Shepherd UK, Argyle House, 1 Dee Road, Richmond-Upon-Thames, Surrey, TW9 2JN
uk@seashepherd.org
www.seashepherd.org

SPEAK Campaigns
PO Box 6712, Northampton, NN2 6XR
0845 330 7985 07906 497317 info@speakcampaigns.org
www.speakcampaigns.org

Stop the Cull
www.badger-killers.co.uk

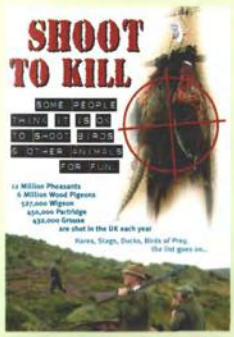
Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC)
BM SHAC, London, WC1N 3XX
info@shac.net www.shac.net

Vegan Prisoner Support Group (VPSG)
BM 2107, London, WC1N 3XX
info@vpsg.org
www.vpsg.org

The Vegan Society
Donald Watson House, 21 Hylton Street, Hockley, Birmingham, B18 6HJ 0121 523 1730 0845 458 8244
info@vegansociety.com
www.vegansociety.com

Veggies Animal Rights Calendar
http://www.veggies.org.uk/events/arc/

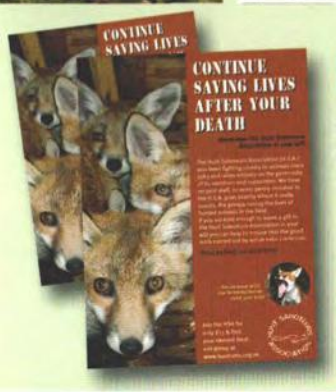
HSA PROMOTIONALS





Full colour A5 'Shoot to Kill' leaflet. Explains what you can do to stop our wildlife being killed and persecuted by shooters.

'Shoot to Kill'
FREE (+p&p +DONATION)



Legacy leaflets

New legacy leaflets, help the HSA raise much needed funds.
'Legacy 12' **FREE (+p&p +DONATION)**

BACK ISSUES OF HOWL
FREE (+p&p +DONATION)



You can also affiliate to the HSA for £30 for 4 issues of Howl. Affiliated groups will receive 10 copies of each Howl in the co their subscription. (The cost of affiliation includes postage)

NB: **All sab groups receive a discount of 20% when ordering (cost price)** Please quote the name of your group contact when ordering.

POSTAGE & PACKING

To keep promotional material free we would ask you to make a donation to cover postage.1 Howl costs 72p to send as do 5 posters. 250 leaflets cost approx. £3.75, 500 leaflets £4.25 and 1000 leaflets £6.25.



BADGER CULL CAMPAIGN

Order your materials now!!
Double postcards and stickers plus tee shirts for the badger cull campaign.
Look our for avatar and facebook header, online now! Please use and share
Starting fundraising and sup port your local sabs.
email - info@hutnsabs.org.uk or contact the contacts officer.



SABFEST RETURNS

due to popular demand



www.huntsabs.org.uk