The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association Winter 2013 £2 (free to members)

HOWL

Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

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50 years - 50 hare hunts

Beagling - A dying sport?

Early days of the HSA

Killing the cull

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

Editor(s) Mel
Contributors All groups who sent group news in,
Photos HSA Archive, Bristol sabs, Berkshire Norfolk & Suffolk, Manchester, Sheffield, South Wales, Southampton Simon Wild, Stop the Cull - Ta folks!
Vermin Patrol Paul T
Distribution H.S.A.
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EDITORIAL

Welcome to our 50th anniversary winter issue of Howl. It's a bit of a step back in time to an era when sabs wore jumpers instead of the obligatory black hoody (there are still some jumpers out there) and went out in Ford Cortina's instead of landies or minibuses. As a movement we should be proud of how long we have kept up momentum, through hard times and through frustrating times such as a hunting ban which never really banned hunting. Overall though things seem as positive now as they did then, check out the group news inside for a sample of some of the groups who are still out and about and determined as ever.

Clearly the thing which has dominated sabs attention the most over the last few months has been the badger cull; there is a great article inside about it. The badger cull throws up a whole load of issues, apart from the obvious murdering of badgers the issue of land use has been hard to ignore, a huge proportion of our woodland is now used in one way or another by the shooting industry, much of it has pheasant feeders in and many of the woods have pheasant pens where the young birds are held until the shooting season begins. The dairy industry and its barbaric practises became a focal part of the badger cull campaign; hopefully many people will have decided to rethink their consumption of dairy products as a result. Even the issue of whether it is okay to trap wild animals, scare the crap out of them then inject them with vaccines that we can't say for sure are safe has come up.

There is a good focus on hare hunting in this issue, once a much sabbed event; they have had it a bit easy since the ban, not anymore!! Their sneaky secretive ways are no match for the sabs who have turned their attention to these sick mutants in their silly socks.

Lastly in this issue is an obituary for sab and friend Jo Robertson (Jo Badger) who sadly died from cancer at the beginning of November. All who knew her will know that she was ace and will be missed. Jo was a trooper with incredible determination, let's all be inspired by that and keep kicking ass.

Enjoy the mag





2005: the Hunting Act became law and we all heaved a collective sigh of relief.

All hunts became 'shy' and advertising dried up. Naturally enough, sabs focused on foxhounds who, with the large number of conspicuous vehicles required, were always easier to locate. Beaglers sensibly realised they were particularly vulnerable to sab/monitor attention and so disappeared off the radar.

Over a period of years we quite simply lost track of the hare hunts. They must have loved it.

However, late in 2011, the HSA was passed some disturbing footage, taken by a member of the public, of a beagle pack (believed to be a visiting southern pack) hunting in the Cumbria fells. The video shows the hounds chasing and killing a hare. The huntsman then blows the 'kill' on his horn and the supporters gather round to celebrate. Although presented to the police, the events depicted were not even investigated.

The cruel death of this hare, and the indifference of the police, was the catalyst for action. The HSA decided to establish a task force of approximately ten individuals, representing the different HSA regional networks, with the aim of refocusing on hare hunts. Each member of the task force then became the regional 'clearing house' for all information received.

From the outset it was clear that in the 'post-ban' world a variety of new and imaginative approaches would be needed. What would work in some parts of the country might not work in others - however, all involved were absolutely determined that these packs would be exposed and, where necessary, stopped.

We felt we needed to make up for lost time so the challenge we set ourselves was deliberately ambitious: in our 50th year, we wanted to attend 50 hare hunts.

Basic information on beagle and basset packs was quickly collated and shared by the task force. This included establishing the location of kennels, key personnel, vehicle descriptions, past meets etc. The starting point of this cold-case review was to visit the HSA archive: five filing cabinets of information on individual hunts. These had been built up over many years but had been gathering dust since the 'ban'. However, much of the material in them was still surprisingly relevant - luckily for us, things change very slowly in the beagling world!



The ever-helpful hunting press was also scoured for information. Special mention must go to Michael Sagar and the entire team at 'Hounds' magazine - please keep up the good work.

The opening action in our campaign set the tone for the rest of 2012/13 season. Acting on information received from a pupil at Marlborough College (thank you - we know what a risk you took) a group attended a pre-season meet of the Palmer Marlborough Beagles, initially observing from a distance. With no trail laid and hares being pursued left and right, a lone sab made himself known by shouting "You are hunting illegally. I am going to intercede!"

Panic and confusion immediately broke out amongst the supporters. Who was this person? Was he an anti? If so, how did he know words like 'intercede'? Too many questions - so they simply ran back to the meet and abandoned all idea of hunting.

OPERATION "50 AT 50" HAD BEGUN

Over the season proper the campaign really took off. Beagles and bassets were being hit all over the country - from the Colne Valley in the north to the Britannia in the far south. Hopefully you can read



about at least some of this elsewhere but, suffice to say, we hit our target of 50 packs and the hare hunts have had their worst season for many years.

Thanks must also be given to some fox hunts (no, really) who agreed with us that it was about time that their hare-hunting cousins took a bit of the 'anti' heat. They wondered, quite rightly, why they had to put on a tedious trail-hunting display for sabs, while the beagle pack down the road was enjoying 'traditional' sab-free hunting. This source of information should not be underestimated: fox hunters and beaglers are generally different 'types' and there is no special bond between them. Several times last season foxhound supporters simply gave us beagle meets to get rid of us - one Shire pack supporter even going so far as to make a phone call to confirm the whereabouts of the Per Ardua Beagles!



Another major element that has borne fruit has been establishing links with the traditional animal welfare community. Social networks have made this so much easier than it used to be and these people are often better placed than us to pick up interesting information. For example, we had a tip-off from an RSPCA member about a 'newcomers day' organised by the Albany Bassets just outside her village.

We also had a Christmas Eve call from a couple staying at a country hotel where the Airedale Beagles were going to meet on Boxing Day. They were appalled to learn that the meet constituted part of the Christmas 'entertainment package' that they had purchased. In both cases sabs were scrambled at short notice to defend wildlife.

Other information has come from networking with some unusual bedfellows: the Forestry Commission, land agencies and trusts, public schools and even a naval college! Courageous individuals in these bodies have been very willing to help - especially with the dawning realisation (helped by the Heythrop and Middleton prosecutions) that illegal hunting is widespread.

One pack who deals with land trusts is the Wilts and Infantry Beagles. They are obliged to clear all meets in advance with MOD land ranger staff. After showing a ranger our footage of the Chairman of this pack, stating that they still have "live days", he (the ranger) was more than willing to pass on details of meets over the Christmas period. (As an aside, a conversation with a young whip from this pack revealed the paranoia sweeping this hunt. He explained that their 'country' - Salisbury Plain - is very popular with 'off-road' enthusiasts.

The problem is that these people drive the same type of vehicles (i.e. knackered land rovers) as sabs and so the hunt is thrown into panic every time a dodgy-looking convoy is spotted on the horizon!)

Over the current 2013/14 season we intend to strengthen still further this network of eyes and ears in the countryside. We will use social media to establish ourselves as the 'go-to' organisation whenever a sympathetic member of the public wishes to report hunt activity.

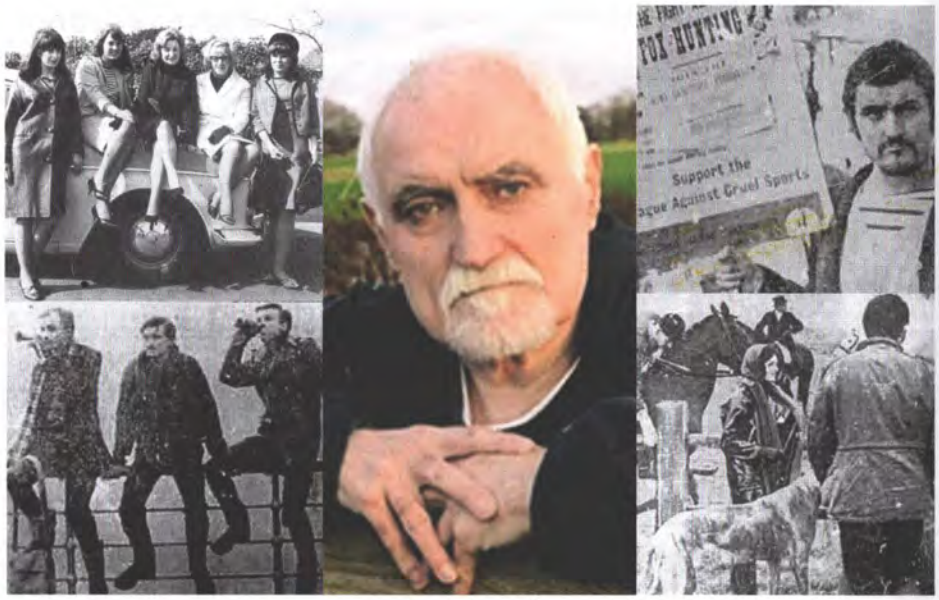
There are several lessons to be drawn from our campaign. We have shown that with hard work we can find even the most elusive pack. We've shown we are adaptable: we use traditional methods like kennel watching but we also have the confidence now to engage with individuals and bodies who know where hunts will be. We must continue to be pro-active in reaching out to them and not just expect people to come to us. After all, things have changed: hunting really is illegal and people from all walks of life want to help us.



The final lesson is that, just like in that Cumbria video, hares are still being ripped to pieces by hunts. They need to be stopped.



Early days of the HSA



A personal view by former HSA Secretary Dave Wetton

I was born in December 1943 and grew up in a terraced house in Tooting, South London with my mother, grandmother and our sausage dog Becky. We had no bathroom and an outside loo and larder. Impressed by the vegetarian lifestyle of fellow schoolmate and pop group co-member Tony McPhee (who went on to form The Groundhogs blues group) I went veggie at the age of 17.

I joined the RSPCA & the League Against Cruel Sports in 1962 and the fledgling Hunt Saboteurs Association in April 1964, just four months after its formation. With the exception of two 6 month breaks, when I went travelling,

I was the HSA's National Secretary from the mid 60's to 1980 and stayed on as Membership Secretary for a few years after that.



Pre-HSA anti-hunting and other pro-animal activity

As far as hunting was concerned the League Against Cruel Sports, founded in 1924, used to run a coach up to the outskirts of north London for a banner demo against the Enfield Chace foxhunt every Boxing Day in the early 60s (they probably similarly targeted other hunts around the country too). We'd get off the coach, stand around the green with our banners while the hunt assembled and, when they moved off, climb back onto the coach and go back to central London. It left a certain degree of frustration - "was that it?" (although its Chairman Raymond Rowley often did his best to actively thwart the activities of the West Country deer hunting packs).

The National Society for the Abolition of Cruel Sports was a smaller breakaway group who thought the League was too brash. They concentrated their efforts mainly on producing more up-market booklets and leaflets than the League and targeting the House of Lords rather than the House of Commons. They produced posters but generally didn't seem to favour direct confrontation such as the League's.

Thanks to Rachel Carson's recently published book *Silent Spring*, which highlighted the dark side of the intensive agricultural industry, there was a growing awareness of animal abuse and there were several passive demos against battery egg outlets as a result. Circuses with animal acts were being targeted increasingly too with banner demos.

The Hunt Saboteurs Association

The HSA was officially founded in December 1963 in Brixham, Devon by local journalist John Prestidge who was 22 at the time.

Its actions were newsworthy and consequently awareness of its existence grew. A national committee was formed. Amongst others it included John's father and racing car designer Robin Jackson, who lived on the prestigious St George's Hill estate in Weybridge, Surrey.

These were the days of black and white TV of course and the internet was years away.

When I joined in April 1964 at the age of 20 I was put in touch with the Weybridge group which was run by Robin's 18 year old daughter Janet. The group consisted mainly of local students. They'd already been active in the field against the Surrey foxhunts and were just beginning to travel further afield to hit the new season's otter hunts. Other groups at the time were based in Littlehampton, Northampton, Bristol, Street (Somerset) and Birmingham.

A car load of Brixham sabs had been attacked during a meet of the Culmstock Otterhounds in April or May. The hunters had broken the windows and dented the car with their otter poles, tried to put lit matches in the petrol tank (no locking caps in those days) and had dragged Leo Lewis the driver out and broken his jaw. A joint retaliation was called in May and that was my first introduction to sabbing. I still relish the sight of Brixham trawlerman Shipman Evans wading along the Devon stream with a smoke flare in each hand ahead of the pack. It was no surprise when the hunt packed up early.

Separate groups used to act independently but with the occasional joint hit. Whilst concentrating on the Home Counties foxhunts our London group would regularly travel to Dorset, Oxford or Norfolk to hit the otterhunts. Transport problems led us to purchase a group Dormobile called Dorris who somehow came through unscathed at the end of her active life. Ian Pedler took on the mantle of national contact for a while.

As we ended the 60s new groups were beginning to form, such as the South London LACS group, which became WAPS (Wild Animals Protection Society), DAABS (Direct Action Against Bloodsports) and the Dorset based CROW (Campaign for the Relief of Wildlife) – they were a great bunch of hippies who often got thrown in the rivers by the otterhunters.

Things really started to take off properly in the 70s.

Recruitment

As a result of adverts placed in *The Vegetarian*, the *New Musical Express* & *Private Eye* a regular trickle of new recruits came in. And in 1972 *the Guardian's* columnist Jill Tweedie came out on an otter hunt with us and her subsequent half page article really did bring in some of the hardcore animal rightists.

In 1975 we secured a 20 minute slot on the BBC's DIY *Open Door* programme (see p22) which, together with the repeat a week later, netted a postbag of over 3,000. We were now well-represented throughout the north-east, north-west and the midlands as well as the south and properly geared up with a dedicated committee and a sound constitution.



We used to roll the AGMs around the country to suit where the largest recruitment had taken place over the year, Glasgow being the furthest. They often tied in with a joint hit and always ended up with a party. We were all singing "We're sabbing" to Bob Marley's *Jamming* at the Newcastle AGM in 1978.

Contemporary events

The HSA had been established four months after Martin Luther King Jnr's famous "I have a dream" speech and just a month after Jack Kennedy's assassination. The 60s were also the years of the Beatles, the Vietnam War and the inspirational Civil Rights movement in America. Peter Singer's book *Animal Rights* appeared in 1970 but most of us were already animal rightists by then, having given up the old arguments about the best way of killing "pests" in favour of "safeguard your stock and the foxes will stick to rats and mice".

Tactics

We hit fox, beagle and otter hunts and hare coursing too. When the otter was put on the protected list in 1978 the ever determined packs turned to hunting mink and coypu instead, usually along the same rivers and with the same hounds, so there was no let up on the sabbing either. The deer hunts were primarily left to the West Country sabs who would go out early morning and chase the deer from the woods in which they'd been harboured overnight ready for the day's sport. Places like Exmoo are terribly difficult sabbing terrain though.

Why hunting rather than, say, vivisection? Although anti-vivisection groups did exist their targets were all behind closed doors and barbed wire fences. Hunts were out in the open countryside and easy to reach. The fact that they all advertised their meets in *Horse & Hound* at the time helped a great deal too!

Our priority with the scent hound packs was breaking the bond between the huntsman and his hounds and confusing the hounds in the process.

Holloa-ing was initially very effective because it fooled the huntsman into believing that you'd seen the fox he was after and coming over on a fruitless search for it. They could be particularly effective when countering genuine holloas from supporters who had seen a fox – the huntsman would often come to us rather than them. And there was the added benefit that once the huntsman had sussed that some holloas were suspect, he'd often ignore the genuine ones from the supporters and lose the fox in the process.

We used various sorts of drags - aniseed, dried blood, cayenne pepper, creosote etc., poured onto towels or rags and dragged around on strings to upset the scenting effectiveness of the hounds. We also used Antimate sprays, regardless of the effect on the ozone layer, until citronella sprays came in.

Horn blowing was particularly successful when the hounds were out of sight of the huntsman – a pack could be completely split in a wood for example by a well blown horn, meaning that the huntsman had to waste valuable hunting time gathering them. We had an early recording of an MFH blowing the various calls but usually it was simply a case of copying what the huntsman was blowing. I can still recall practising at home by blowing into a pillow in order not to upset the neighbours too much.

We also used rookies – i.e. rook or crow scarers. These were strings of bangers from agricultural suppliers tied onto tree branches in woods. The bottom of the rope would be lit and would slowly burn upwards until each banger was set off, hopefully scaring any wild animal in the woods away from danger. This was particularly used to flush harboured deer away from the wood chosen for the start of that day's hunt.

Smoke bombs could be useful too. They were either marine distress signal smokes or cheaper but less colourful drain testers. They weren't used much but were valuable on otter hunts, because they floated on water, and during hare coursing demos when the orange smoke came in useful for obtaining TV news coverage once colour TV had come in.



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Any extraneous noise, such as air horns, whistles and bangers, tended to distract the hounds and Northampton-based Rorke Garfield's group's specialty was army type thunderflashes – he was an ex-Marine who was involved in Civil War re-enactments so he could get them easily. We also used dog whistles and experimented with high frequency sound devices, similar to those used in warehouses to deter rats. They were (theoretically at least) audible to the hounds but hopefully not to the huntsman. We had varying degrees of success with them.

Mobile phones weren't invented yet so inter car communication was usually c/o someone's mum sitting at home waiting for the call to come in from a telephone box from the car that had found the hunt and then passing that info on to whoever else phoned in from any other boxes in the area.

"Wellies & Co", an all female sab unit, would go out occasionally. The name derived from "Legs & Co", the dancers on Top of the Pops.

Hare coursing was usually the "walk-up" variety where we stayed with the coursers as they walked from field to field. It often got violent. Their big annual event, in February each year, was the Waterloo Cup at Altcar, near Liverpool. This was static coursing where the hares were driven onto the coursing field by beaters for the slipper to release the two greyhounds when the hare had got about 60 yards ahead of him. We'd form a line on the coursing ground to beat the hares back through the line of beaters. This was a very hairy thing to do with 3,000+ drunken thugs lining the banks with just a handful of Liverpudlian police to prevent a massacre (and arrest a few of us each time too). One year we hired a helicopter to disrupt the event. Unfortunately it wasn't too effective in scaring the hares away because the pilot was restricted in how low he could fly but *The Guardian* printed a good photo which, once again, got the message through to the public that this particularly noxious sport was still legal despite numerous parliamentary attempts to ban it.

On another occasion we had a plan to fly a microlight low over the field. It was going to be launched from nearby Formby sands but sadly the police got wind of it and intervened.

We'd stick up fake "Swine Vesicular Disease" and "Foot & Mouth Disease" notices ("No unnecessary movement of animals, no hunting") in hunt countries during the various outbreaks. They weren't very professionally produced though and probably wouldn't have fooled anyone with half a brain (they probably were effective then!).

To keep the public reminded about the controversial nature of hunting we'd do run-ons at county shows during the hound parades. One person would pay to go in, or go over the fence, get a pass-out stamp on their hand and a fake stamp would be cut from a potato and coloured appropriately to get the rest of the sabs in for free. The banners would be rolled up and stuffed up your jumper until you were in the ring. It was always enjoyable riling the people in the expensive seats with their cries of "get orff" and "run them down" as the huntsman swept towards us. But sometimes the heavies would come in and get to you before the police did. I don't recall anyone getting arrested though. We once went into the ring at the Royal Windsor Horse Show with the Bucks/Courtenay Tracy Otterhounds huntsman, Geoffrey Hall. He was really cheesed off because this was his big day and here we were running up and down the arena with him in front of the Queen - but no one came in for us for fear of upsetting her.

We staged the occasional sit-in at the BFSS (British Field Sports Society) and NCC (National Coursing Club) offices with back-up incoming phone calls of congratulations to the occupiers and we used to send Valentines cards to the girls in the BFSS office. The BFSS was the forerunner to the Countryside Alliance.

We staged three hunting vicar demos in the 70s. The Dorset vicar was master of an otter hunt pack, the Essex vicar went foxhunting and the Lancashire vicar followed the beagles. The demos took place inside their churches during the Sunday services. We weren't popular with their congregations but we despised the utter hypocrisy of it all. It achieved good publicity. And many years later Cee and I recovered the ripped open remains of a young fox killed locally on the day that *Loaded* magazine was out with the sabs – we laid it on the steps of the local church to greet the pro hunt vicar and her flock as they emerged from morning worship. Good publicity and outrage on the day and more outrage in the following week's paper but these pseudo-Christians have simply lost their way.

Over the years the HSA has produced numerous badges, posters and tee shirts with such early slogans as "Only Rotters Hunt Otters", "Hunt is a Four Letter Word" and "Hounds off our Wildlife" etc. *HOWL* No 1 went out in late 1973 (the title was based on the "Hounds off our Wildlife" slogan) and, despite the subject, we always aimed at injecting an element of humour into the mag.

Rock against Bloodsports was set up in the late 70s. There were several bands involved, mostly punk. Total Attack, one of the London bands, featured ALF front man Ronnie Lee as singer and longstanding HSA Director Aubrey Thomas on lead guitar. Their repertoire included such classics as "Most People are Morons".





How effective were we?

We had bad days when, despite our efforts, the hunt caught their "pilot" but we had just as many good days when we did manage to save the hunted animals from a violent death. But, in addition to that, we were not only taking the fight right into their own territory and getting up their noses in the process, as witnessed by their all too often violent reactions, but, by being as newsworthy as we were, particularly in those early years, we were keeping the whole sordid business in the public's eye.

In the early 70s Peter Hain, currently a Labour MP but a Young Liberal leader at the time, had organized the effective "Stop the 70s tour" by the South African cricket team.

He was taken to court by Francis Bennion's "Freedom Under Law" group but was found not guilty. Bennion had made it plain that, if he'd won the case, he would be coming for either the striking miners or the HSA next – clearly an indication that we were having an effect.

The RSPCA

We naturally got on well with the LACS despite the different approaches, but the RSPCA was a battleground waiting to happen. At its 1968 AGM the Annual Report was outvoted by 400+ to 100 by the hunting faction. Because of the Society's influential status we knew it was important to wrestle it from their grasp and so the various Reform Groups were established over subsequent years, with a great deal of input by the HSA.

Developing animal lib philosophy

By 1972 there was no more arguing about the "best" ways of killing "pests". We'd never insisted that people had to be veggie or vegan before they could join, primarily because it wouldn't have mattered to a fox if the person trying to save its life ate meat or not. In any case the hardcore were already at least veggie and acted as a positive influence on those who weren't when they joined. It was easier to avoid arguments with hunters too if you were wearing wellies rather than leather boots (the Vegetarian Shoe Shop in Brighton didn't exist in those days).

Many of us used to have group holidays in Looe (the big house on the cliffs belonged to a member) and it was here that we would indulge in a variety of philosophical discussions on whether it was right to own pets, whether it was "more humane to eat 1 cow or 6 sheep" (i.e. only the one death), whether tapeworms and pubic lice had rights and the merits or otherwise of the use of arson as a campaigning tool (people were worried about the number of spiders who'd be burnt) etc. The local lobster pots would be emptied and crabs in buckets on the quayside liberated back into the river and the local shark fishing centre was always seen as a potential target.

Progression into ALF type action

Hunt vehicles had been rendered immobile overnight in the past, a point-to-point marquee had been damaged and while those attending a midlands Hunt Ball were in the middle of gustily singing "Ob la di, ob la da" inside the tent the power cable was cut. The BFSS offices were raided overnight at least twice and the membership lists taken. The Wye College beagle pack was liberated, attempts were made to disinter legendary hunt hero John Peel and the more recently deceased Duke of Beaufort and several members of the HSA were involved in the liberation of two of ICI's smoking beagles in June 1975. Both dogs lived on to a ripe old age. Sadly a third was retrieved by ICI and killed.

While most of these activities were targeted specifically at the hunting fraternity none of them was officially claimed by the HSA. There was however a strong link between the HSA and the ALF. The three founder members of the Band of Mercy, from which the ALF sprang, were Ronnie Lee, Cliff Goodman and Robin Howard. Ronnie and Robin were both on the HSA committee and Cliff was the contact for the Northampton group of the HSA. All three were found guilty of various actions against vivisection facilities and the burning of a seal culling boat on The Wash in 1974. Ronnie and Cliff were jailed and when Ronnie came out in 1976 he founded the Animal Liberation Front which went on to cause millions of pounds' worth of damage to the animal abuse industry.



The media were always attempting to get us to condemn ALF actions but we never did. We simply got round it by saying we didn't condone them and we certainly didn't expel any convicted ALF activist. After all, the hunting fraternity never ousted any of their friends who'd fallen foul of the law, however heinous the crime. In fact I think the only person we did expel, at the Newcastle AGM and after an intensive debate, was Dave McCalden, the editor of the first *HOWL*, for being a prominent member of the right wing National Party, even though there was nothing in the Constitution covering political allegiances at the time.

Other activities and the relationship with other activist groups

Meanwhile Animal Activists had been formed in 1974 by HSA committee member John Hicks, ostensibly to undertake more legitimate activities against the vivisection and livestock industries etc. – information stalls and leaflets plus a few demos such as that at a Daventry convent where the nuns were raising battery hens to raise funds by selling the eggs.

There was an overlap of membership. There'd always been strong opposition to other forms of abuse such as vivisection, intensive farming, circuses etc. and many HSA members did get involved with those campaigns too. Even back in 1965 three of us had gone down on a scooter intent on liberating some of the animals at the government's germ warfare establishment at Porton Down (totally unprepared and totally unsuccessful of course).

In the 1980s many HSA members got involved with the various scattered Animal Liberation Leagues who were openly breaking into vivisection labs, principally to grab incriminating evidence rather than cause damage as such.

Our involvement with Greenpeace during the 1979 Orkneys seal cull had been a real wake up call for us as far as more fully appreciating the difference between the philosophies of Conservationism, where individuals matter far less than their species per se, and Animal Rights where the individual animals' lives are the ones that count. Greenpeace had been concerned about the proposed killing of 5,000 seals but not the reduced figure of 2,000 because the population could tolerate that. Their argument against the whaling industry is based on the same premise. Sea Shepherd, on the other hand, are an out and out animal rights protector of marine life and HSA activists have been part of the crew.

The HSA's later years

Despite its shortcomings the 2005 Hunting Act was nevertheless a major achievement after 80 years of campaigning by the LACS, in combination with the RSPCA and IFAW, considering the opposition lined up against it on both sides of the House. It needs strengthening of course but it's a good first step. It's not catching all the villains but it is catching some and for the first time in their lives they know that they no longer control the countryside they ride through.

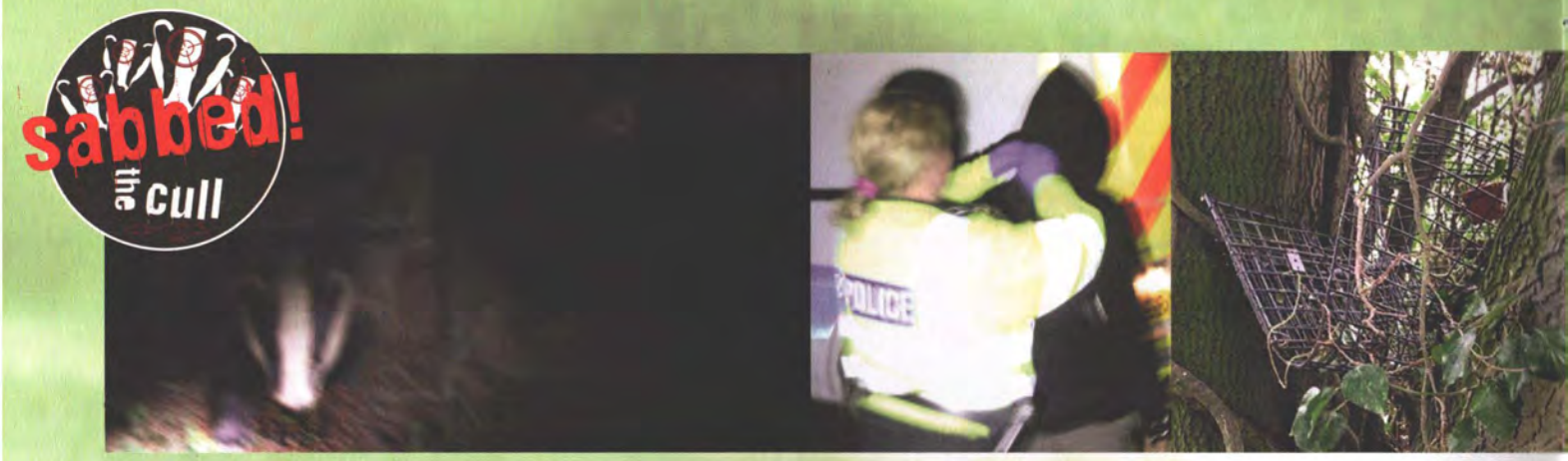
The HSA has, ever since the initial muddled years were sorted out, and one major hiccup in the 80s, been a democratic organisation. Life long friendships have been formed and continuity has been the key. Membership may have dropped off in the wake of the Hunting Act but, just as we were in those early years, today's activists are equally aware of the violently psychotic nature of the enemy and share the same desire as our generation to do something to even the balance, regardless of the odds.

Just as with the French resistance fighters in World War II and Nelson Mandela in South Africa it will take a long time for the actions of hunt sabs over the years to be properly and fully acknowledged by the politicos in the rear ranks but it will happen, I'm absolutely sure of that.

Thanks to all of you who keep the flame burning because one day the bastards in red coats **WILL** accept defeat.

killing the cull

On the 29th of November it was announced that the badger cull was being pulled three and half weeks early, telling the world that finally the British government had been beaten into submission and called an early end to its wildlife massacre it called a "badger cull".



The cull was always sold to the British public as a pilot to see if over a period of 6 weeks, badgers could be killed "effectively, safely & humanely".

Toward the end of those 6 weeks we the public were told that the original population studies had changed and the new population figures were actually much lower, they refused to credit sabs with destroying their Hair DNA population studies and instead decided to blame badgers for "moving the goalposts". With massively reduced populations (strangely David Heath had been complaining along with many farmers of population "explosions") the target to kill was made much easier for them to reach.

What they hadn't planned on was the perseverance, tenacity, endurance and craftiness of those opposed to the cull.

Many experienced hunt saboteurs walked the fields and woodlands of the cull zones night after night, as did many other people, these people just like sabs came from a wide variety of backgrounds, teachers, graphic designers, care workers, the very rich, the retired and yes even the unemployed and students.

A dedicated number of these people had been sett surveying the entire area well before the culls started. One of them, Jo Badger, recently passed away, her passing has been a great loss to many of us, but her work along with others was the foundation for the defence of all the badgers during the cull and it is that knowledge which made finding the Hair DNA traps an easy task. With a total of over 500 sq Km's surveyed, protecting the badgers from free shooters was a question of team work.

Some people worked tirelessly within the law, traversed hundreds of miles of footpaths and reported in any sightings. Sab groups and people prepared to break minor trespass laws got closer to shooters and often moved them on with noise.

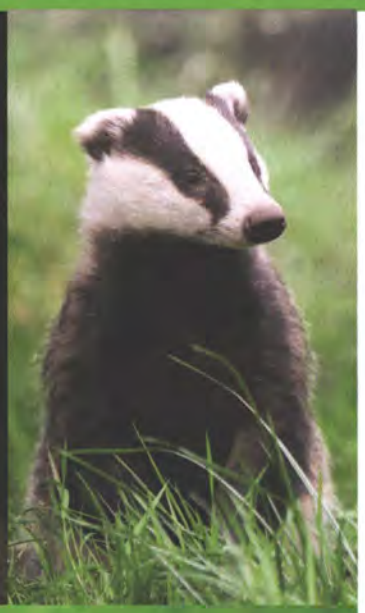
Several weeks into the cull, a small fortune was spent on night vision equipment and the amount of shooters being stopped increased rapidly. That equipment like the fuel in the tanks was generously donated by supporters from across the country. Without their support the campaign would have struggled greatly and we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped with fundraising to get people to the zones.

When the 6 week culls ended and it was announced in Somerset that they hadn't achieved their targets we sighed with relief and prepared to focus just on Gloucestershire for the final week. To our dismay they announced an extension in Somerset, with the drastically reduced populations they announced that they had to kill another 165 badgers over a three week period.

Having managed to kill over 100 a week during the 6 week cull people on the ground knew they had a lot of work to do to stop them reaching their targets. With little or no holiday time left, many people took unpaid leave from work, relationships were strained and many people were suffering with extreme fatigue. Still they did not give up, with the weight of knowing that the culls would be rolled out if these succeeded, people buckled down to the work knowing that tens of thousands of badgers lives were in the balance.



Balaclava clad shooters were repeatedly deterred by just shining torches on them and making noise



"Parts of the Glos cull zone were not accessible during the initial 6-week period of the cull because of the presence of protestors."

NE Document Leaked to *The Guardian*



At the end of the 3 week extension 90 badgers had been killed, making the Somerset cull and extension a failure.

Having failed at free shooting early on the tactics switched heavily to cage trapping as a tried and tested method of killing large numbers of badgers. When we knew this for sure, our efforts varied accordingly and we focussed a lot of resources into finding cage traps and "neutralising" them. In Somerset we never found more than 3 cages on one sett.

Meanwhile in Gloucestershire the figures on the total killed came out, it was shockingly low at only 30% of the revised population figure. Natural England issued an extension for 8 weeks with a target of just 58% to achieve "disease control" the NFU didn't mess about and promptly put down hundreds of traps.

Protest culture has for some years attributed minor criminal damage done at night to "pixies". Some people find this word annoying, just as other people don't identify with the word "sab". Semantics to one side, the cage traps were destroyed as fast as they went down, for the most part by very normal people doing extraordinary work. Through the day traps were found then by night they were destroyed, each one costing approximately £150. In just over 4 weeks nearly 400 of these traps had been made useless. With "free shooting" being proven to be a methodology that didn't work, cage trapping was undertaken to kill as many badgers as possible. We, the British public, just weren't having it.

To find out that 213 badgers were killed during five and half weeks of the Glos extension that was pulled early is a huge relief that they didn't reach their targets but leaves us angry that so many badgers lives were killed for no reason. The extensions should have been pulled much sooner.

So whilst we celebrate the failure of these badger culls and the part we played in their downfall, we mourn the loss of all the badgers that have been needlessly killed during these culls.

We will continue with our campaign, filming farm conditions, sabbing pheasant shoots, organising boycotts, all the time building our numbers and reach on social media. The culls may continue, but so will we.

As has been proven by the ending of these culls, if you ignore the will of the people, the people will fight back.

We are organised, we have built teams of people who rely on each other. Our supporters know the methods we use and are comfortable knowing that we behave honourably. We know how to disrupt culls, we are strong and we are many, and we will never leave our badgers undefended to be attacked by brutes and thugs.

NEVER

BEAGLING: A DYING SPORT



Elsewhere in this HOWL you can read about the HSA's highly successful campaign against hare hunting over the last couple of seasons. This article examines the corrosive long term effect we have had on foot packs over the years.

On the eve of the Hunting Act in February 2005 *Horse and Hound* published an article in which hunts were invited to outline their post-ban plans. Richard Middleton, whip for the Blean Beagles, said that his pack "were going to keep a low profile". He might as well have been announcing a national strategy. The hare hunters, already publicity-shy as a result of 40 years of sab activity, went completely underground.

To understand the significance of this it is worth remembering how things used to be in the not-so-distant past. In 1975 there were 83 registered beagle packs and 10 basset packs. These would openly advertise in local papers and meet cards were pinned up in country pubs and on village notice boards. Packs would routinely attract dozens of supporters, and some could see hundreds in attendance on red letter days.

As anti-hunt activity increased nationally in the mid-80s beaglers began to close ranks. Most stopped advertising and casual support quickly fell away. Newcomers, whether genuine or not, were treated with suspicion or open hostility. Not a healthy environment for any 'sport' to flourish in.

In 1987 the HSA audaciously targeted the biggest event in the hare hunter's calendar: the Northumberland Beagling Festival. This hunting orgy, organised by the Newcastle and District Beagles, saw packs travel to the open moorland of Northumberland to indulge in pre-season hunting. At its height the festival ran for five weeks and the discerning beagler could choose from up to five meets a day. Over the next few years the festival was relentlessly sabotaged. By 1994, despite violence, mass arrests and the first use of professional 'stewards', sabs had forced the abandonment of the festival - an amazing achievement.

Older readers may also remember National Beagling Day, where packs advertised a one-off November meet in an effort to engage with the public. The day was a great success with many members of the public - dressed in black and arriving in grilled up landrovers - attending meets up and down the country. Strangely, this initiative was quietly dropped after a couple of seasons.

A more recent example again illustrates their recruitment problem: last season the Albany and West Lodge Bassets unwisely organised their own 'newcomers' day'. The rapid abandonment of this event was recounted in detail in *Horse and Hound*. (Their excitable hunting correspondent described the five brave sabs in attendance as "a large and troublesome group of antis".)

In 2013 there are 67 beagle packs and 8 basset packs. This seemingly modest decline masks a serious problem - there are virtually no new people coming into beagling. Reports from sab groups across the country over the last two seasons say the same thing: beagle packs are a shadow of their former selves. A typical beagle meet of 2013 consists of ten to fifteen elderly fanatics huddled in a dilapidated barn as far as possible from prying eyes. In fact the only time they can relax is on the hunting trips many of them now make to the isolated bad lands of mid-Wales.

There is one reason for this state of affairs: the Hunt Saboteurs Association. Remember, even when we cannot locate them, our very existence means the beaglers cannot organise openly and recruit the newer blood they need to survive long term.

In this 50th year of the HSA we should do two things. The first is to recognise - and celebrate - that it is because of us that beagling is in such a pitiful state. Sometimes we don't give ourselves enough credit. The second thing to do is redouble our efforts to seek them out, stop them killing hares and drive them even further underground.

Happy Hunting!

sabgroupnews



Sheffield & Doncaster
sheffieldsaboteurs@live.co.uk
www.sheffieldsaboteurs.wordpress.com/

We started off our season with disruption of the start of the grouse shooting season on August 17th, where we packed up a shoot near Halifax after finding shoots hadn't gone out in the Peak District.



We've been busy with the badger cull for 8 weeks, which at the time of writing is ongoing. We've had sabs on patrol every night, mainly in Somerset but also in Gloucestershire. We've found and stopped numerous badger shoots, located lots of traps and acted as a deterrent against shooters setting up in loads of locations in the zones. A couple of our sabs also managed to successfully disrupt a cubbing meet of the York & Ainsty South foxhounds. We'd be pleased to hear from anyone who wants to get involved in the group.

Manchester
nwhuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk
www.nwhsa.org.uk
Facebook: Manchester Hunt sabs

We spent spring and summer sett surveying in the Gloucestershire cull zone and were out protecting setts as soon as the cull started. It was hard work at times but 100% worthwhile. Big shout out to R and G for being such genial hosts and tolerating Little Lord Fontleroy for so long!

Sabs have also visited a couple of foxhounds packs and will be giving them our full attention now the badger cull lunacy has ended.

Massive thanks to everyone who has donated to our fuel fund and made it possible for us to maintain our presence in the killing fields.

Nottingham
huntsabs@hotmail.com
Facebook: Notts sabs

Notts sabs have been busy throughout the summer and Autumn fighting the badger cull in Gloucester. We had at least one vehicle down there every night during the 11 and a half weeks of killing and its been a really positive experience playing our part in such a powerful campaign. We're sure the locals in the cull zone will miss the throaty roar of our trusty old van that could be heard throughout the zone. Thanks to everyone who got involved and all those who donated to get us down there. We're now looking forward to spreading some love to the East Midlands hunts for the rest of the season.

South Scotland
079 631 097 59
southscotsabs@yahoo.com
www.facebook.com/southscotland.huntsabs

There have been four visits to date this season; twice the hunt was not found, but on the two other occasions the hunt was found and intercepted. Sabbing has been done undercover, so hunt names and exact locations have been left out.

A hunt was intercepted in the Central Borders. A total of 7 foxes ran, 2 of which had help from a sab. The first passed by the sab's car and he was able to smoke the scent away by revving the car using car exhaust fumes so that the fox got away as hounds could not pick up the scent. It was a good call as the fox was very tired and clearly struggling, and the hunt was acting illegally. The second fox ran out in front of the sab's car, who accidently ;) got the car stuck across the road and blocked the hounds and horses for a few minutes, enough for the fox to make an escape. The day ended with no kills.

Most recently, the hunt intercepted was again in the Central Borders. Upon arriving the hunt was illegally chasing a fox which luckily escaped across the fields and woodland; the hunt tried but had no further luck finding any foxes and again no kills on this day.

Millions of people live in Scotland and yet the number of sabs actively out there making a difference is tiny. This is not acceptable! Get in touch if you'd like to help.

Pewsey Vale
pewseyvalehuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk
Or get in touch with us through our friends; Swindon's facebook page www.facebook.com/swindonhuntsaboteurs

Due to the badger cull Pewsey Vale sabs have been otherwise engaged this cubbing season. One of our sabs gets a gold star for maximum effort there. We are back in the field now and REALLY looking forward to the main season. Two local hunts have new huntsmen and we can't wait to make friends with them.



Cumbria

Cumbria sabs were out and about during pre-season attending meets of both the Blencathra and Coniston. The best of these days, despite having a radio stolen by support, was when two sabs caught the Blencathra out on Caldbeck Common after the Hesket show. Despite our small number we managed to sufficiently disrupt the hunt to scupper their day, a fine result made better as it happened in front of travelling support from the Ullswater amongst others.

The group were also pleased to have a couple of sabs join up with friends old and new for the demonstration against the badger cull in Manchester. The march was a great experience and we were proud to join so many others in voicing disgust for a loathsome inhumane government.

Finally, after the sad demise of our Landy last season we're pleased to report we've bought a new vehicle ideally suited to the group's needs. A big shout to all who donated to the group - it's appreciated, as without your generosity we'd be struggling to get out. Thankyou!

West Midlands
07806591229
westmidlandhuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk
Facebook: West Midlands Hunt Saboteurs

The West Midlands group have been busy with combating the badger cull for much of this year. We started out by surveying the Gloucestershire cull zone from about May time. Once this was completed we moved to checking setts in both the Gloucestershire, and briefly the Somerset, cull zones. Since the shooting started we have had a regular presence in the Gloucestershire zone, with some of us also having another brief visit to Somerset. We have successfully combined with other sab groups and the Wounded Badger Patrol to help save badgers' lives.

Apart from the cull, we have managed to visit a couple of hunts. We will strive to continue to do this, even though we are continuing to focus on the badger cull. On Saturday 26th October a few of us visited the Albrighton Hunt for a dusk cub meet. Just before the hunt moved off a very dazed and confused fox came from the direction of the meet and we used our sprays to mask its scent across the path it had taken. Shortly afterwards the hunt moved off in the same direction the fox had gone. We filmed and made our presence felt throughout the late afternoon and the hunt clearly did not like us being there. They eventually sent their terrier men on a quad bike to challenge us, and they then attacked us when we asked why there was mud on their shovels if they were following a false trail, as they were pretending to do. The sabs did not back down and the hunt packed up soon afterwards.

On Saturday 2nd November a couple of us visited the North Warwickshire Beagles. Posing as walkers, we managed to get into a conversation and get some very useful information about their hunting practices from a joint master of the hunt. We filmed throughout the afternoon and finally the huntsman and beagles worked towards where we had positioned ourselves. I'm sure he guessed we were antis and tried unsuccessfully to delay us, probably to bring in some boys. The hunt packed up soon after.

To date, two of our members have been arrested during the badger cull, with the police also threatening to give the personal details of a third member of our group, who had not even been arrested, to the NFU. One of the two arrested was not charged but the other has been charged with offences relating to the injunction and has been bailed away from the Gloucestershire zone for the foreseeable future. This totally over-the-top condition is being challenged in the courts as we write this and it is very important for this to happen as it restricts an individual's rights to protest and a positive outcome for us will also affect other protest campaigns as well.

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who has donated money to us via our facebook page, this really helps us. Also we have met some amazing people during this horrific cull who have helped support us enormously and this has meant that we have made lots of new friends from various walks of life. We have also had a lot of enquiries from potential new sabs.

South Wales sabs
southwaleshuntsabs@gmail.com

South Wales Hunt Sabs have had a busy year. The usual summer break before things get started with cubbing is but a memory. When the season finished in March we headed straight to the badger cull zones to get surveying, and we're still there.

Surveying from March to the start of the killing was tough going. Star shaped valleys, places called "the Incline", rivers that were on the map but not in reality (and vice versa), unreasonably high, wobbly fences, and the usual bumpkins buzzing around in their doom buggies.

As we got closer to August we were meeting more local people and other sab groups to start working together. This has been the most encouraging part of this work – seeing local people and sabs getting together, working in different ways but complementing each other. And to see some people's first impression of hunt sabs change, as they said the word 'bally' for the first time and started to wander off the footpaths, was marvellous.

People did whatever they could to help: changing their daily dog walk route, going on mass walks through vulnerable areas, taking up a position at a good viewing spot for the best part of the night, providing places to stay and even – to our delight – making hearty meals and puddings for those who needed to spend as much time as possible in the field. A few of us are of the opinion that we've put on a few pounds.

Early on in the killing one very valuable friend was made. We were working the night and got a call to say that someone with fancy night vision bins had seen a vehicle going around one of our woods, and they were now stationary with infrared lights on. We went to meet them and then proceeded to work together – them on the road keeping watch, us walking in with our bright lumens. Sure enough, we sent the shooters on their furious way with the badgers we were looking after unharmed. This relationship and way of working continued all the way through the Somerset cull. The incident confirmed how invaluable all our sett surveying had been, we knew the wood, we knew the sett, there was no messing about. It also made us aware of how useful night vision could be.

We were looking forward to seeing the end of the madness mid-October, but it was not to be. To add insult to injury, the week that the Somerset extension was announced our Landy got nicked! Luckily though, it was found abandoned with a flat tyre a few days later. Clearly these were inexperienced thieves because not only had they lost an opportunity to sell some pricey parts, they didn't even appreciate our posh Kettle Chips and hand cream. That's not to say it's not cost us anything though –goodbye no claims bonus, hello silly insurance prices.

Now at a time when we would have been getting back to the hunts we'll be continuing with our work for the badgers instead. That being said, who knows what old friends we'll run into while we're out working familiar land on Saturdays!

To sum up, the best parts about working the cull are definitely the discovery of rainbow belts, fizzy fangs, and confirming that we are in fact a crack squad.



East Kent Hunt Saboteurs
07521 907941
eastkenthuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk
www.facebook.com/east.sabs

We had an interesting start to the hunting season - this time last year there were three packs of fox hounds on our patch, but one, the West St & Tickham, has now folded, and amalgamated with the two others, the East Kent & the Ashford Valley. All positive news!

After a couple of weeks of misses, sabs were out, without our Landy which is undergoing engine change/repairs, looking for the East Kent and West Street hunt. Bizarrely, we missed them leaving the kennels, so split into two, and searched a few meets. All was very quiet...until....a truly eagle eyed sab spotted their "information sign" - a tatty piece of paper saying "EKH" we guess to (somewhat discretely) show their bunch of supporters where the meet was. I think, personally, this tiny "nudge nudge wink wink" way of communicating smacks a little of....secrecy?! Hmm. So anyhow, we found them just up the road. By then, due to other commitments, we were down to two sabs, so could merely observe/film their "trail hunting".

A couple of weeks later a tip-off meant that a couple of us found the EK & WS out "trail hunting" - we quickly came across around ten terrier boys messing about in a ditch, with a couple of red coats off their horses. This did not look good - it looked as though they had run a fox to ground, and were either preparing to dig it out, or to bolt it....so, given that there were only two of us present, we alerted the police that were already in the area.

The officer we dealt with was actually very helpful - he went straight over to the hunt, and checked it out. The terrier boys claimed that they were just "clearing a ditch for the landowner" – yep, you couldn't make it up! The copper, sensing bullshit, actually searched their vehicles, and reported back to us that they were moving on (obviously, they had cleared the ditch of weeds....nice one guys). The hunt had, of course, pissed off, and were observed by the others for a while, but nothing more to report. So we stayed in the area just in case the boys came back but they didn't, and in fact they were not seen again all day. What we did see though, a little while later, was a fox come sniffing out of the earth, and, after a quick look about, legged it off to safety.

Anyhow....as it was the opening meet of the EK & WS, very little we could do without a proper vehicle to ferry folks about...but a couple of us went to check it out anyhow. The main thing to say was how small the field was - considering this is now an amalgamated hunt, we expected to see a lot more....good news of course. A lot of forelock tuggers about kissing ass, but as usual, by half-time they had mostly drifted away. We got back to a call from the mechanic - the Landy was fixed ! Back on the road again for the main season...

North & East London Sabs (NELS)

The season started overshadowed by the horror story of the cull. With a NELS presence in the cull zone, numbers and resources seemed stretched. So we started and continued with low numbers.

On the opening meet three NELS sabs joined SES who found the Essex and Suffolk hunt at Tendring Hall, with about 25 in the field, plus one quad terrier man and the owl man. The hounds were hunted on and in cry on a quarry that may have been a bagged fox but we couldn't be sure. So they began with blatant illegal hunting. They packed up mid-morning though, with no grief and no kills though they gave us the slip for a bit. The next week four NELS sabs with four SES sabs sabbed the Essex and Suffolk again. A mouthy field of 25ish plus half a dozen support vehicles hunted until 10.45. They hunted between Polstead Heath kennels and Lower Layham, and unfortunately killed a cub. The drunken driver and two more terrier boys were threatening and aggy and with low numbers we felt it was an achievement to prevent them killing more.

On 12th Oct., four NELS sabs joined Herts. to kennel watch the elusive, slippery and nasty-sided Puckeridge. In the darkness the heavy rain didn't bode well whatever happened. They lost us not far out of the kennels through a private road at White Barns Farm, but SES sabs then found them again at Farnham Green near the hall. With few support vehicles, two less vigorous terrier boys and quads and a small field they still tried intimidation but they were surrounded by cameras and confident sabs so we stuck on them. They had a youngish, enthusiastic but unruly pack and were taken off two fox cubs. No other cubs got in their path. No kills and no grief from them really and they had to do without the help of the plod.

The next few weeks to the end of cubbing saw midweek forays but no success in finding the Puckeridge. Joining Berkshire for the Old Berkeley beagle pack in midweek near Aylesbury was a success as they started off trying to intimidate but packed up after a brief walk out to find sabs anticipating and filming their every move.

Big shout to our dedicated and tenacious colleagues!

West Sussex Hunt Sabs

07871569494
westsussexhuntsabs@riseup.net
www.facebook.com/westsussex.huntsabs?ref=hl

West Sussex Hunt Sabs had a busy summer fundraising. We were in London for the 'Stop the Badger Cull' march where we sold handmade badger teddies to pin on bags etc. These were made by one of our sabs with the help of her daughter. We did the usual boot sales and fairs, and three intrepid sabs walked up Snowdon raising funds for the group. During August we spent time in the Somerset and Gloucester cull zones and started hunt watch, keeping an eye out for our local fox and mink hunts.

During cub hunting we have been focusing on the Crawley and Horsham hunt, which has been changing its days and times to avoid attention. Nevertheless, the camera has proved a potent weapon and there's been great agitation and frantic radio messages often combined with ferocious whipping off occurring when any monitor is spotted. This has increased following the conviction of the huntsman (see below). The hunt has adopted a new way of trying to protect the huntsman, with former joint masters of the hunt blowing the horn often continuously, presumably to give the impression of trying to get hounds together and undermine any evidence gathered.

Following the guilty plea for a Hunting Act offence on 27th Sept. made by Nicholas Bycroft, professional huntsman of the Crawley and Horsham hunt, a complaint has been made to the local magistrates' committee regarding the chair of the magistrates' bench, Mrs. Zsa Roggendorf, who only gave him a conditional discharge. During the case she admitted being a "neighbour" of Bycroft but decided not to excuse herself. Having got her name from the court, it clicked that we had evidence of hounds chasing a fox over her farm near Shipley, W. Sussex after the Hunting Act came in, with Mrs. Roggendorf watching and saying "Oh look, oh dear, oh wonderful" as hounds chased a fox within yards of her, before only showing interest in removing those filming the incident. See Youtube http://youtu.be/GOE7yStX4WU



In other news, a number of complaints have gone to police after children appear to have been encouraged to obstruct filming by jumping up and down in front of cameras, with any attempt to brush them aside being met with cries of "assault". We have got Sussex Police to adopt ACPOs guidelines for the Harassment Act, which allows for PIN (Police Information Notices) to be issued as an early warning, and hope we can persuade Sussex police to issue these to prevent recurrence.

Nicholas Bycroft has also been being a tad hypocritical. A disused railway line, now a bridleway, passes close to the hunt kennels at West Grinstead. From there it is not possible to look through any private windows, but it is possible to see if the hunt is preparing to go hunting. Nicholas Bycroft and kennel staff have taken to jumping out of bushes at those he considers anti-hunt, and then demanding his staff follow people back to their cars. At the same time he phones police to complain of harassment!

Lastly, after finding terrier-men with a terrier in a badger sett during a Crawley and Horsham hunt meet at Balcombe earlier this year, police charged two men and a four to six day trial has been set for January 2014.

South Coast Hunt Saboteurs
Email: Southcoasthuntsabs@gmail.com
GoFundme: http://www.gofundme.com/3dqamg
Facebook: http://goo.gl/DWSda6
Twitter: @SCoastHuntSabs



Cubbing was a slow start for us as local hunts kept a low profile. Into September and we started to find our old nemesis the Southdown & Eridge coming back mid-morning. After some extremely early starts we realised they were kennelling away from their kennels. Well, this freed us up to sab the Crawley & Horsham instead. On one meet we ended up in Balcombe of fracking fame. After a long faff around they moved off, did a small circuit and then hacked off, and we got buzzed by a mad woman in a quad who we have experienced before who claims to own most of the South East. We of course ignored her and kept on sabbing, until two cops turned up. Apparently our presence could cause a breach of the peace (we hadn't heard that for a while), so we told them we knew the law and carried on. They disappeared, never to be seen again. The Crawley & Horsham huntsman, the much convicted Nick Bycroft, lost the hounds all on his tod and then spent the last hour of daylight trying to tgcdxind them. Hunt supporters not pleased. Quote of the day was when asked why the Surrey Union refused to amalgamate with them, the answer came back "because of you f**king c**ts". Oh dear, our feelings are hurt. That sab with kennel watching was 13 hours!

The following week saw us back on the Crawley & Horsham with another marathon sab after kennel watching, but all seemed to be doing late meets, around 2p.m. The hunt disappeared into woods before we could clap eyes on them but we kept close by hearing their voice calls and horn. All very odd as the horn was being played very badly and the hounds did not go into cry. All became clear later as when we caught up it was not their normal huntsman (Nick Bycroft, proud owner of convictions for criminal damage and illegal hunting) so we stayed with them until they packed up. At the moment it seems this financially-troubled hunt may have other issues and hopefully they will hang up those stirrups and give our beleaguered wildlife a break. That was a 15 hour day for us, our numbers were low due to people being off in the cull zone and our Landy still being off the road, so by the end we were all knackered.

On Saturday 20th Oct. our Landy was finally back on the road (thanks HSA for the dosh to get it fixed) and we joined up with colleagues from Brighton and London to visit the old Surrey & Burstow who were hunting at Highbrook, West Sussex. An odd 2p.m. start and although they were clearly annoyed to see us, after some speeches they set off north. Sabs kept in contact with them via the field and the road and although the hounds went into cry on a couple of occasions they had to be called off due to our presence. In the field things were quite calm but on the road the supporters started standing in front of vehicles refusing to move. This tactic has been used on many occasions as a prelude to assaults on vehicles and occupants so we have a policy of slowing down but keep moving and eventually they get the message once we bounce a few bumpkins off the metal bumper, although on one occasion supporters tried to open the doors on the vehicle to get at the driver. The hunt packed up at 4.30p.m., so sabs left the area for a well-deserved vegan rock cake baked weekly by one of our sabs.

So far a good start to the season and we intend to plague our local hunts as usual until March.

South London Wildlife Group (incorporating Croydon, Brixton and Kingston sabs)
Contact us via Facebook
Or text on 07900603742

SLWG members had a busy summer, starting with a very successful fundraising sponsored walk and extensive work on the Landrover, before committing all our efforts into the cull zones. At the time of writing we still have members in both areas. We have suffered intimidation by the police, including a vehicle being boxed in by two police cars and pulled on the M4, unlawful detentions in the field and a wrongful arrest followed by a raid on the home of two of our sabs.

Despite the presence of so many of our number in the west country, we have still managed to field sabs alongside South Coast, South Downs and West Sussex against cub hunts in the South East, with an exceptionally successful outing against serial lawbreakers the Crawley and Horsham on the 5th of October.

New members are always welcome - get in touch!

East Kent Hunt Saboteurs
07521 907941
eastkenthuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk
www.facebook.com/east.sabs

We had an interesting start to the hunting season - this time last year there were three packs of fox hounds on our patch, but one, the West St & Tickham, has now folded, and amalgamated with the two others, the East Kent & the Ashford Valley. All positive news!

After a couple of weeks of misses, sabs were out, without our Landy which is undergoing engine change/repairs, looking for the East Kent and West Street hunt. Bizarrely, we missed them leaving the kennels, so split into two, and searched a few meets. All was very quiet...until....a truly eagle eyed sab spotted their "information sign" - a tatty piece of paper saying "EKH" we guess to (somewhat discretely) show their bunch of supporters where the meet was. I think, personally, this tiny "nudge nudge wink wink" way of communicating smacks a little of....secrecy?! Hmm. So anyhow, we found them just up the road. By then, due to other commitments, we were down to two sabs, so could merely observe/film their "trail hunting".

A couple of weeks later a tip-off meant that a couple of us found the EK & WS out "trail hunting" - we quickly came across around ten terrier boys messing about in a ditch, with a couple of red coats off their horses. This did not look good - it looked as though they had run a fox to ground, and were either preparing to dig it out, or to bolt it....so, given that there were only two of us present, we alerted the police that were already in the area.

The officer we dealt with was actually very helpful - he went straight over to the hunt, and checked it out. The terrier boys claimed that they were just "clearing a ditch for the landowner" – yep, you couldn't make it up! The copper, sensing bullshit, actually searched their vehicles, and reported back to us that they were moving on (obviously, they had cleared the ditch of weeds....nice one guys). The hunt had, of course, pissed off, and were observed by the others for a while, but nothing more to report. So we stayed in the area just in case the boys came back but they didn't, and in fact they were not seen again all day. What we did see though, a little while later, was a fox come sniffing out of the earth, and, after a quick look about, legged it off to safety.

Anyhow....as it was the opening meet of the EK & WS, very little we could do without a proper vehicle to ferry folks about...but a couple of us went to check it out anyhow. The main thing to say was how small the field was - considering this is now an amalgamated hunt, we expected to see a lot more....good news of course. A lot of forelock tuggers about kissing ass, but as usual, by half-time they had mostly drifted away. We got back to a call from the mechanic - the Landy was fixed ! Back on the road again for the main season...

Norfolk & Suffolk Hunt Sabs
ns.sabs@yahoo.co.uk
www.facebook.com/norfolksuffolk.huntsaboteurs

The opening meet for our local hunt, the Waveney Harriers, was at the same place this year as it was last year. Last year the hunt killed a hare in front of us (below) which they nearly ended up in court for (but the Police did not quite have the bottle to take the matter all the way to trial). So for us, Norfolk & Suffolk Sabs, there was a



lot at stake this year. This year's opening meet was a polar opposite however and we saved at least two foxes (to see Mr and Mrs Fox make a bolt to freedom was wonderful), we also saved masses of hares and deer. Our hunt are not picky in what animal they hunt now, that is for sure. Thanks to a bit of effort over the summer and a bit of a recruitment drive, we have some eager youngsters with us for the first time this year, which is grand. At the rate we are going, there will be more sabs than there are hunters!

Our second Saturday out this season saw our friends the Essex sabs come and join us and despite having a mass number of sabs compared to usual, we could not save one poor hare, who was killed in front of us. Several hares were however saved earlier in the day. The huntsman acted rather guiltily after the kill by dismounting from his horse and hiding the carcass before we could get to it. He then packed up almost immediately.

Our third week out was another successful week for us and for the animals. As soon as they left the meet the hunt were after a fox. We saw the fox make a bolt for it very early on but the hunt did not know that and thanks to us, by the time they came back for a last throw of the dice, it was too late as the fox was well away. One of our new recruits also helped save a hare that day too. All in all we are saving masses of lives every week and long may it continue.

North Downs sabs

It's been a very busy start to the season for the North Downs group (since the 9th of Sept we have been out 28 times), we have had around 20 different people out with us and are growing steadily as a group.

We have mostly been out against the Surrey Union Foxhunt with a lot of kennel watching and hound van following. One of the highlights so far was the opening meet when we were joined by Guildford, Brighton, Croydon and South Coast sabs who together succeeded in packing them up early.

One Saturday we joined the Berkshire sabs for an eventful day when we did three hunts starting with closing down the Palmer Marlborough Beagles who refused even to leave the meet, after which we visited the Vine and Craven and Berkeley Foxhunts.

North Downs has also been active in the anti-badger cull campaign with seven trips (with more planned) to the cull zone. We have been involved in sett surveying, night sett protecting, looking for traps and shooters, and the infamous Forthampton police stop which made it into the Guardian about the police exceeding their powers and acting as private security for the NFU.

We are always looking for looking for new members so if you're based in Surrey and wish to come out please get in touch.

Berkshire sabs
www.facebook.com/huntsabs@BerkshireSabs
Paypal: Berkshirehuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk
Email: Berkshirehuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk



This season Berkshire sabs have been keeping busy by keeping an eye on our normal hunts, as well as helping out with the badger cull. We started off the season by seeing the Kimblewick Fox hunt a couple of times who were most unhappy and came out in balaclavas. This is not the normal response we get from these guys, and if this continues for the season then we'll have to reassess how reasonable we are and up the ante a bit. We have also seen the Old Berks Hunt who try to get away from you in order to hunt. They have some weird followers but we have seen no bother from them really; when you're with them you don't often hear the hounds in cry and they seem to be behaving. We have also sabbed the Bicester, and Vine & Craven fox hunts. Both seem shocked to see antis and have been calling hounds off foxes running past them.

We've spent a few weeks seeing beagle packs such as Palmer Marlborough Beagles and the Old Berkeley Beagles. With the exception of just a few, most beagle packs near us this year have been going out at normal times, not 'cubbing' times. It's becoming the norm that these beagle packs don't even attempt to hunt and just run off home. This is good for us as it means we totally eliminate the possibility of them killing so we can go on and do another hunt and ruin their day too! We hope that eventually their supporters will get fed up turning up for a hunt and just standing around for a bit before doing the walk of shame back to the car and instead go do something worthwhile with their Saturdays, but we can dream eh!! Although I must say the spread the hosts put on for them last week did look rather impressive, we even got offered a bag of doughnuts (naturally we refused).

Luckily we have been having an unusual influx of tip-offs this season already and following information given to us we staged a demo outside Eton College kennels who were planning on hosting a Young Hare Hunters Day. They had a line-up of beaglers who would be teaching the kids the art of killing hares. Unfortunately for them we spoiled the romance of the day for them, as Eton was riddled with police riot vans, police on horses and their own security guards.

We have also been involved with the badger cull and although we are only a relatively small group we have had a presence in both Somerset and Gloucestershire most weeks, sett-surveying during the day and sabbing during the night. We saw some wonderful countryside, though unfortunately the picturesque views were ruined by the blood of the badgers on some of the locals' hands. Not all the locals were bad though, as we all know most of the country is against this bloody cull. We met quite a few locals who worked with the sabs to help locate what we were trying to find, and also some extra friendly locals who put us up for the night. What totally amazed us though was seeing the hard work of the sabs who have spent many months there in the run-up to the cull, and are practically living there, and still are! Trawling the countryside for every sett, and checking them all daily, and when the cull started nightly also. The dedication of these sabs, who have fought tirelessly to save lives, really does deserve a medal.

We are feeling positive about the year ahead but we need more people to join us. So please if you're reading this and wondering what you can do help, get in touch!! We need more people like you!

Beaglers on the run - the diary of a hunt Sab

This season is the 50th anniversary of the Hunt Saboteurs Association, so to celebrate 50 years of our existence hunt sabs decided to seek out and sab 50 of the most underground hare hunts. I am pleased to confirm that we did it but needless to say the beagling fraternity were not best pleased about this. But that pledge was too easy, now we need to aim higher.

One hunt that was particularly unhappy with hunt sabs this year was the Sandhurst and Aldershot Beagles. Sabbed several times this year they now fear the sight of landrovers, camo and the subtle smell of citronella in the distance. Like most hunts they are a vile bunch and demonstrated this when they almost got their hounds run over on a busy A-road, evidently too consumed with bloodlust to care about the safety of the beagles. Another display of their 'superiority' was evidenced when one of their Masters punched a sab in the face and the video camera the sab was holding. When the video evidence, clearly showing the incident, was supplied to the wildlife crime officer, a self-admitted deer hunter, the case was dropped. Funny that. Might it be that the police are closely linked with this hunt?

The Old Berkeley Beagles are also not friends of ours. On one occasion when they were sabbed they left the meet, followed sabs across the road, stood on sabs' toes and asked them for a fight. As it's not what we are there for sabs declined their offer. The hunt sulked back to the meet and informed their followers in the pre-hunt speech that they would be drag hunting today. We're interested to know why they felt the need to inform their followers that they had to drag hunt on that day. As most beaglers do when faced with sabs, they left the hounds at the meet and went for a nice long walk, and enjoyed the countryside in what you might consider a less perverse manner than they had intended.

One hunt that is far too familiar with the court room is the Royal Agricultural College Beagles. One young hunt master Libby Gilbert is particularly familiar with going to court – it seems she is the most recent hunt criminal to successfully get away with flouting the law. Libby must have decided that she didn't want to look at the video evidence of her killing a hare so she skipped bail and flew back to America.

The Palmer Marlborough Beagles, another college pack, seem to be the most pathetic of them all. This hunt thought they would be clever and have a joint meet with the New Forest Beagles, then carry on hunting after their partners in crime had been sent home with their heads hanging low. When they were aware they were getting sabbed too they ran away. Do you notice a pattern emerging here? Most recently, on their first couple of meets in the new season in 2013, the arrival of sabs meant they either didn't even get the hounds out of the van and just went for a walk or just paraded the hounds then cleared off home shamefaced. Another college who really need to reassess the suitability of having a government-funded hunting pack. These kids should be learning a proper vocation in life, not the art of being an animal-abusing criminal.

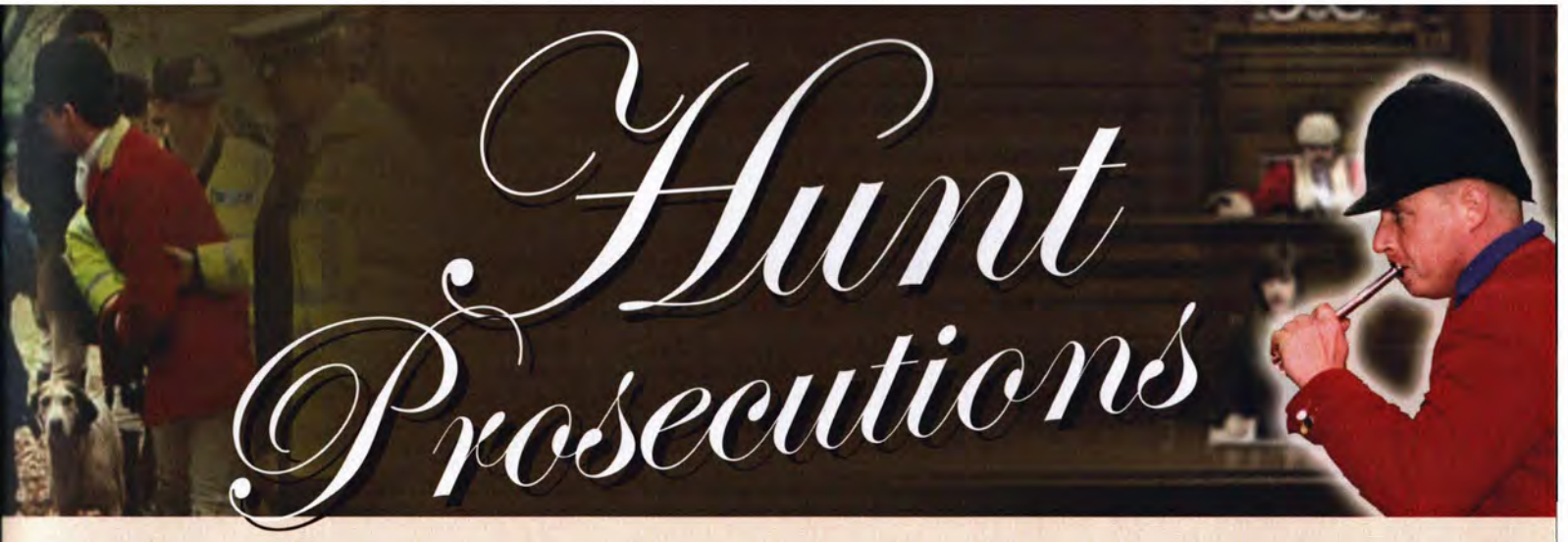
It would be rude not to mention Eton College Beagles. This elite college is perhaps best known for having David Cameron as a student. This hunt is particularly arrogant and clearly believe that they are above the law. Eton College thought it would be good to organise a Young Hare Hunters Day for the new hunters of the season. They brought along with them notorious turncoat Jim Barrington and Steven Duckmanton from Dummer Beagles, a hunter who likes to brag about killing 74 hares in 2012.

Other hare hunts we have visited have been the Trinity Foot & South Herts Beagles, the De Burgh & North Essex Bassets, and the Wiltshire & Infantry Beagles.

We have to ask ourselves why sometimes quite large hunts, with even larger support, feel the need to run from small groups of sabs. The reason is this: they have to run from us to avoid prosecution. Their secret circles are closing. The general public find the fact that these people are flouting the law and killing our wildlife totally repugnant. The hunts have no option but to go further underground.

Let's update our pledge this year. 50 hunts is too easy a target. Let's recruit like mad and aim to not only sab a number of hunts each year, let aim for every hunt in the country! Let's make sure hunting is resigned to history, where it belongs, and as the law dictates.





Hunt Prosecutions

Plenty of Hunting Act cases have been through the courts since the last issue with evidence coming from a wide variety of sources.

Sadly several Hunting Act cases have been dropped by nervous prosecutors. Brian Palmer, joint master of the **Quantock Staghounds**, had his case dropped when the CPS panicked at the last minute, despite this hunt being found guilty of similar charges several times in the past. Libby Gilbert, ex huntswoman of the **RAC Beagles**, had her case dropped after she fled back home to the USA to escape court. Will Goffe, huntsman of the **Ledbury FH** also had his charge withdrawn by the RSPCA at a late stage. Sadly the RSPCA didn't have the bottle to take the case to trial when Goffe pled not guilty. All three cases had arisen out of evidence gathered by LACS investigators.

Three members of the **Holderness FH** had their case dismissed at trial over identification issues. The hunt was prosecuted by the police after a householder discovered footage on security cameras at his house which showed the hunt allegedly chasing a fox.

However the last few months have seen a rash of guilty pleas by hunts up and down the country. First the huntsman and joint master of the **Avon Vale**, Stuart Radbourne, and the hunt's terrierman, Ben Pethers, pled guilty to interfering with a badger sett. The incident occurred during a hunt in March last year. Despite their claims of only trying to rescue Pether's lost terrier they were handed fines and costs of £565 each. In return for their guilty pleas charges under the Hunting Act against them and three others were dropped. The pair were caught when a local resident saw them digging at a hedgerow and called the police. Police officers who attended the scene found the pair near the badger sett which had been dug into, along with spades.

In August four members of the **Middleton FH**, based in Yorkshire, pled guilty to illegally hunting a fox. Huntsman and joint master Tom Holt, whipper-in Shaun Marles, and terriermen Lee Martin and Brian Cuthbertson were given small fines of a few hundred pounds each.



League investigators had filmed them using terriers to try and extract a fox from a hay stack. The fox eventually bolted but was killed by the hounds after a short chase. Holt then encouraged the hounds to rag the fox whilst the mounted field looked on. An additional charge under the Animal Welfare Act was dropped when the men pled guilty to the Hunting Act charge.



That same month on the other side of the Pennines four members of the **Duddon Valley fox control society**, Philip Harvey, Peter Coward, Andrew Mitchel and Edward Benson were given cautions after admitting a Hunting Act charge. The hunt is a gun pack which had been licensed to use Forestry Commission land to flush foxes to guns using two dogs. The hunt was observed by LACS investigators using a full pack, breaching their license conditions, and hence the HA. It is hoped that the hunt will now be banned from FC land.

Nick Bycroft, huntsman of the **Crawley and Horsham FH** pled guilty to a charge of illegal hunting in September following a police investigation after the hunt was filmed by independent monitors. Footage showed a fox desperately trying to escape a small spinney whilst being chased by the hounds, with Bycroft looking on. Sadly Bycroft only received a conditional discharge. One of the presiding magistrates was his neighbour! (see group news, p16)

Also in September David Parker, huntsman of the **Seavington FH** in Somerset pled guilty to illegally hunting a fox. He was prosecuted by the RSPCA after IFAW monitors filmed him responding to supporters signals and laying the hounds on after a fox. Parker was ordered to pay just over £1000 in fines and costs.

George Milton, huntsman and joint master of the **Weston and Banwell Harriers** stood trial in April for a Hunting Act offence after a LACS investigator filmed the hunt bolting a fox and laying the hounds on after it. However the case was lost halfway through the trial when Milton's identity at the scene could not be proved. The magistrates stated that the evidence they had seen clearly showed illegal hunting but Milton was not proven to be there. A linked charge under the Protection of Badgers Act scheduled for another trial was subsequently dropped by the CPS. However Milton is due in court again next year alongside Toby Lee, an amateur whip for the hunt. They are charged under the Hunting Act after another incident filmed by LACS investigators in Somerset.

Finally William Staines, terrierman for the **Ashford Valley FH**, is facing trial later this year for interfering with a badger sett. He was filmed by League investigators during a meet of the hunt in January.

The 'Open Door' breakthrough

By 1975 the HSA were a lot more active against hunts than we'd been before. We were newsworthy and that helped when we applied for one of the 20 minute "Open Door" spots on BBC TV in November that year. We got it, but sooner than expected, due to a vacancy that had arisen.

"Open Door" – Week 1

Our first meeting with the Open Door team was on Friday 7th Nov 1975. We were told that we'd be going out to the nation in just 15 days time! We discussed our proposed format and how they could help us with their technical expertise.

On the 10th we spent a whole committee meeting discussing the format. On the evening of the 11th two of us went to the Lime Grove studios in West London to look at whatever clips they'd come up with but most of those we'd referred them to were missing (the British Field Sports Society at work?). So we had to go over to Bob Smith's in SE London – he was the WAPS (Wild Animals Protection Society) cameraman. We went through his 8mm films of hare coursing and WAPS in action. This 8mm stuff was less suitable for TV but we had to have something and there was some good basic stuff on fox and otter hunt sabbing in it.

Friday the 14th was hectic. It meant another day off work. It took us 2¼ hours to get to the BBC TV Centre after leaving home at 7.45am. Home at midnight, we were worried because things weren't going as planned. We needed more material. And then the Tickham Hunt stepped in and saved the day for us.

"Open Door" – Week 2

On Sat 15th Nov the Tickham met at "The Harrow", Stockbury in Kent. They were a fairly regular target. This day there were about 100 of them altogether and 40 of us, including sabs from WAPS, Weald, Brighton & Essex. BBC TV were out too. We were splitting odd hounds away from them with holloas and horns but as soon as they got onto Detling aerodrome we got the whole pack away from them. After a bit of verbal suddenly all hell broke loose.





They whipped all of us and rode down many. Many sabs ended up being treated for cuts and bruises at the West Kent Hospital in Maidstone. Several of us then went up to SE London for the WAPS film night. The Sunday Mirror were there taking photos and statements. Every Sunday paper covered the attack the next day. It was absolutely brilliant publicity. I got numerous calls from sabs nationwide and from the national press. Thank you so much Tickham Hunt! We now had our missing material.

Monday 17th – up to Shepherd's Bush again to test voice overs with the film we were going to use. A bit of script rehearsal in the afternoon and then back to Richmond for an evening's recording of the voice overs. Home by 10.30pm.

Tues 18th – collected stacks of mail from the Tonbridge P.O. Box and started dealing with some of it before going back up to town to dub on sound to the film and then over to Acton to dub on various background noises.

Weds 19th – busy answering phone calls and letters first thing, then a visit to Maidstone nick to see if the police were getting any action sorted against the hunt. Then up to Detling to re-acquaint with the battleground and see how they'd cut us off. Then up to Victoria Station to pick up Fred Piddock and Jenny Simpson, who'd both been whipped and hit on the hunt, and take them to the recording studio. They were both nice and natural at the recording. Sue and Iain were there too. We had a very welcome drink. Home at 2am.

Thurs 20th – a day off, mainly answering part of the backlog of mail. Also contacted a solicitor about the possibility of court action. Cee made a large "HOWL" banner to go behind us in the studio.

Sat 22nd November 1975 – the Big Day. Cee and I picked up Fred and we met the others at the studio. We got the backdrops up before lunch. A couple of rehearsals and then it was the final take.

"Apart from the interviews the rest was scripted down to the last second. We were vying for tape time with the Match of the Day team so we had to get it right."

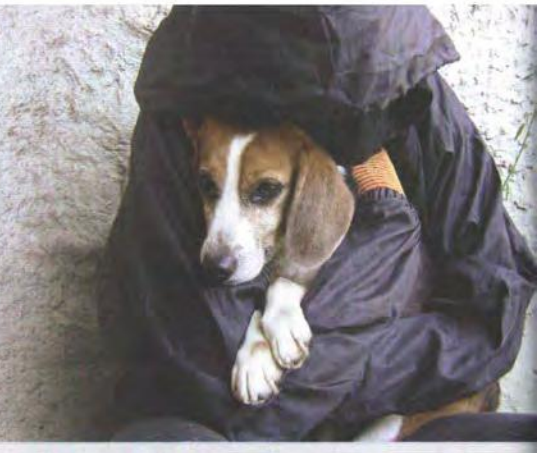
The 20 minutes was a mixture of me, Iain and Sue talking to camera (Sue knew she'd never remember her lines so she read them), old BBC archive footage and Bob's 8mm stuff with our voices dubbed over it and then Iain's interviews with Fred and Jenny. Apart from the interviews the rest was scripted down to the last second. We were vying for tape time with the Match of the Day team so we had to get it right first time. It was very scary but it went OK.
We overdubbed a synthesiser number called "The Hunt" by Tony McPhee of The Groundhogs. I'd been in a rock band with him at school and he'd turned me onto vegetarianism while we were there. After watching a recording we had a drink with the Open Door team – they'd been brilliant – and then we all went off on our merry ways. Home in time to watch it all on our own TV. Nice one but what a relief that it was all over.

Despite the BFSS's every effort, at BBC and parliamentary level, the programme was repeated a week later, on Sat 29th Nov, but this time earlier in the evening (the first showing had been seen by a lot of bleary eyed folks, fresh back from the pub and punching the TV buttons until something interesting appeared on the screen – ours was the most eye catching thing on at the time). Altogether we had about 3,000 responses, including just 7 not very intellectual ones from hunters. Only one other Open Door programme got a bigger response than ours – the one on Cystitis! We printed a special response sheet and sent it out with the next copy of HOWL. The majority of the responders joined. We were definitely in business now.

The Open Door programme was to be a major turning point in the HSA's history. We had responses from all over the UK and, as a result, were able to get groups going where they'd never existed before. Many of those who joined at this time were to go on to undertake direct action against other animal abuses too. I'm very proud to have played a part in that.

Postscript: The BFSS finally got their Open Door programme on 31st October 1977. It wasn't very good.

SUPPORT ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS



Please write cards or letters to the following prisoners. Even if you just send a card with a brief message, receiving a message of support from the outside world can make a huge difference to the prisoner. Remember all correspondence is read by prison staff. Also don't expect a reply as there is a limit to the number of letters each prisoner can write.



Walter Edmund Bond, 37096-013
USP Marion CMU, PO Box 1000, Marion IL 62959, USA
Walter Bond, 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, Walter 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 Walter a total of 12 years for his actions as the ALF Lone Wolf. www.SupportWalter.org 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 rumors 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. www.freemarie.org/ and www.supportmariemason.org 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 imprisonement for conspiring to think about actions! (Part of an FBI sting operation) www.supporteric.org Birthday:7th October



Steve Murphy, 39013-177 - New Address - 20-12-12
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 recently sentenced to 5 years on April 5th, 2010 after previously pleading guilty. Steve is also an animal rights activist and vegan. www.supportsteve.org Birthday:3rd September



Justin Solondz, 98291-011 - Moved - 10-09-12
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. www.supportjustin.org Birthday:3rd October



Kevn Johnson #4565
Woodford County Jail, 111 E Court St.,Eureka, IL 61530, USA
Kevin is one of two Los Angeles animal rights activists who were arrested in rural Illinois for "possession of burglary tools." After a traffic stop police allege they found bolt cutters, wire cutters, muriatic acid, ski masks, and cammo clothing intended to be used for felony charges which carry up to 3 years in prison. Kevin has been in jail since their arrest on August 14th, his co-accused has been released on bail.

save us some dosh if you're moving!

If you move house please tell us. The HSA has a disproportionate number of returned envelopes due to unknown addresses, this inevitably means wasted funds.

Please make sure we have your current address!





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 strives to function on 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.
- 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 / 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 1 Year Subscription ❒ £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.....

Email:.....

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 please email us - info@huntsabs.org.uk or visit www.huntsabs.org

USEFUL ADDRESSES

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

ARPS (Animal Rights Prisoner Support)
PO Box 2174, LEIGH-ON-SEA, SS9 0AZ
www.arprisoners.org
info@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/arc

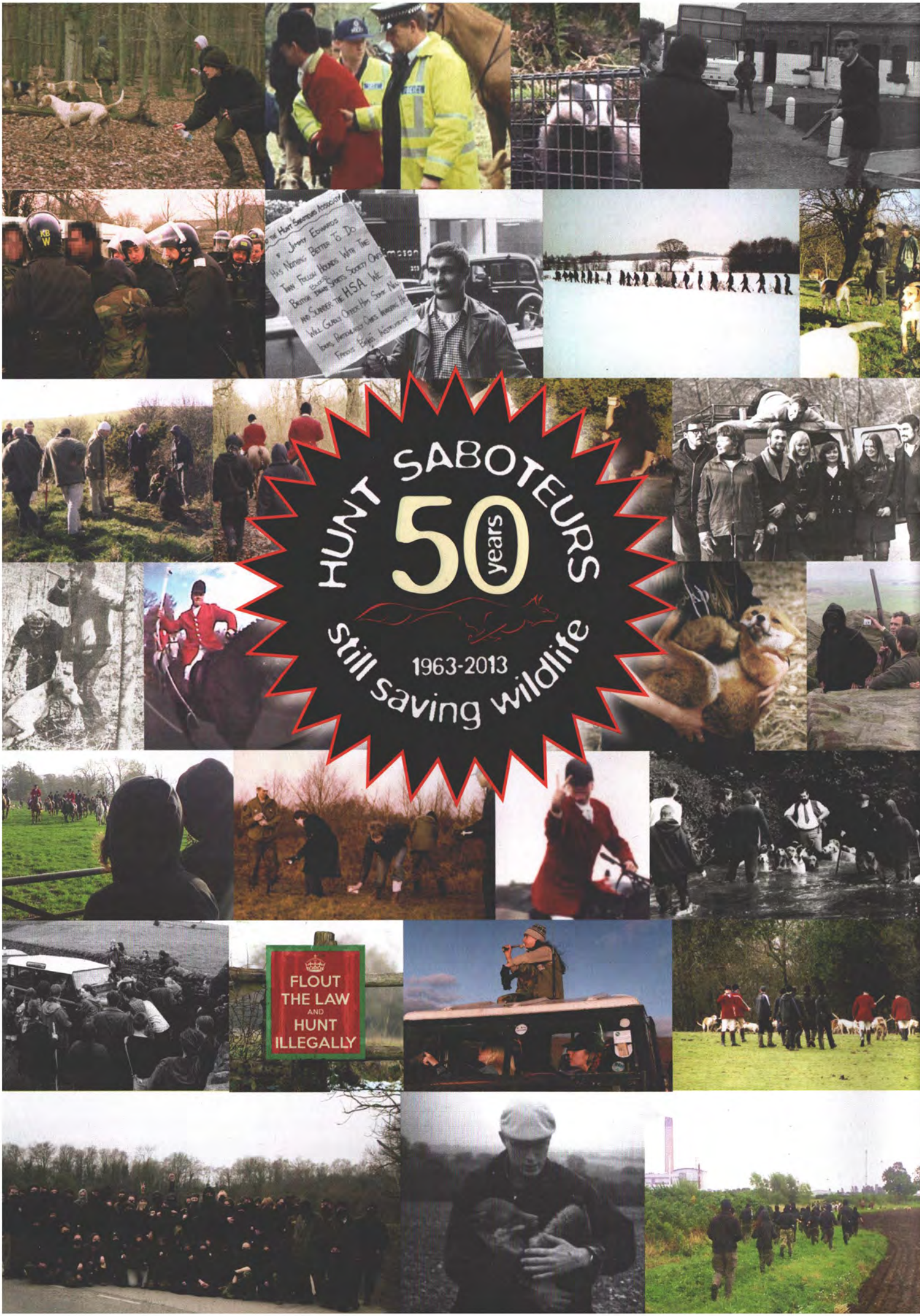




Jo Robertson (Jo Badger)

Jo sadly died on 3rd November at the age of 36 following a brave battle against cancer. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2011 and more recently was told it had spread to her brain, lungs and liver. Jo never gave up hope and remained focused and positive right up until the time she died.

Jo was well known for hunt sabbing, relentless campaigning against the randomised badger culling trials, and many other animal rights demos and actions. Jo also helped out at her local vegan social centre in Bristol, was a Samaritan for several years and a loyal caring friend to many. Although Jo has passed away, her positive energy will live on and the amazing contribution that she made to this world will never be forgotten.


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