The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association Summer 2014 (Issue 105) £2 (free to members)

HOWL

Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

www.huntsabs.org.uk

HUNT SABOTEURS 50 years 1963-2013 Still saving wildlife

Summer sabotage: mink hounds

Sabbing the Scottish seal cull

Sabbing a hare shoot

No justice - just us







HUNT SABOTEURS 50 years
1963-2013
Still saving wildlife

My first mink hunt sab

by a badger cull activist







Culmstock Mink Hounds, Devon
4th May 2014

I've been reflecting on 4th May 2014.
A day I will always remember for so many reasons:

...how wonderful it was to meet sabs from so many other areas and to feel immediately integrated into a very special team. No awkwardness at all, everyone happy to chat straight away. I can't think of any situation in my other life where that kind of closeness happens straight away.

...I think that the Hunt Master got a small feeling of how his prey must feel, when we turned up as a pack to hunt him. He did what so many animals do and ran home. Instead of taking the dogs straight back to the kennels, he went as fast as his converted Post Office van would take him to where he felt safe and wouldn't come out again until the nasty sabs had retreated, and then with a police escort of all things. His weekend was in ruins. Not only did we upset his sordid plans for the day, but, hopefully, he'll be worrying about us turning up again.

...pissing off the support, who hung around for hours after he'd left. Did they think he was coming back?

...the drive back to Honiton through beautiful lanes with so many wild flowers in bloom, so much wild garlic on display and amazing banks of bluebells.

...the pure comedy of the hound wagon in convoy with a police escort, sabs and hunters...then the whole convoy pulling into a petrol station because the police were running out of petrol.

...them being holed up in the local police station because the kennels were across the county border and another police force had to come out to continue the escort...then blocking the whole of the town centre to get the hound van and police escort out of town without any sabs following. They shouldn't have worried. We were all happily ensconced in the pub next to the police station, eating our chips and drinking our cider!

...the stunning and changing scenery on the drive home, with the promise of an amazing sunset beside and behind us as we drove.

The best bit for me though, was the pit-stop on the way home, soaking up the atmosphere of Stonehenge (albeit from a distance) in the company of three of the best, and hand feeding a beautiful rook.

Only two regrets: I'm sorry that a little girl was so absolutely distraught about what happened at the meet, but I hope she'll never want to go out with her disgusting excuse of a mother to a mink hunt again. And, I'm really, really sorry that it took me so long to realise that the hunt-scum are still so active and that I didn't meet you lot years ago.

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The Hunt Saboteurs Association has been in existence for over 50 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.

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Photos	HSA Archive, Sab groups all over the country - Ta folks!
Distribution	HSA
Big taverymuch to:	all HSA members & anyone who we've pilfered stuff off and forgotten to credit.



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Howl is printed on recycled paper using vegetable inks.

Editorial

Just when you thought the season was over and you could hang up your boots...!

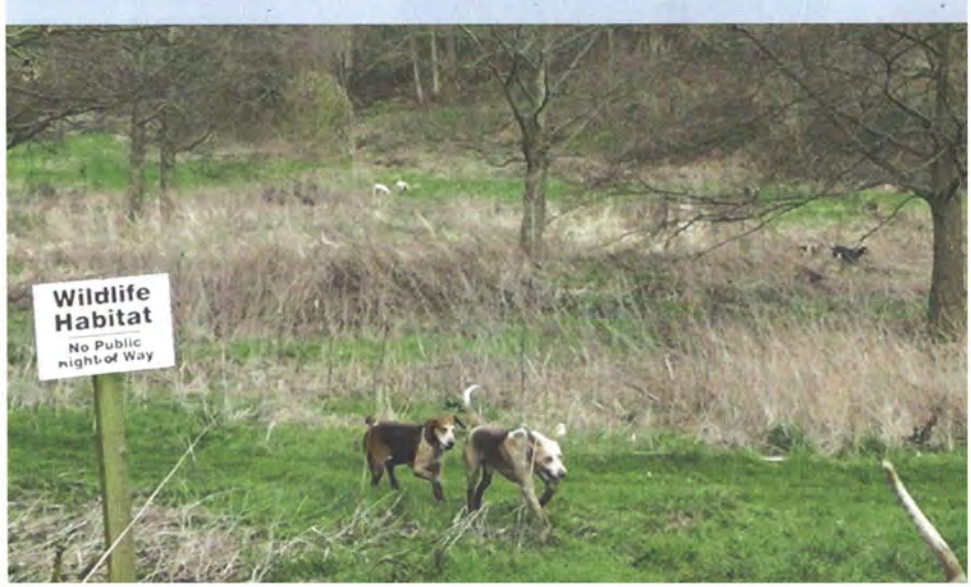
Traditionally, things were not quite so intense for sabs over the summer months as they were throughout autumn and winter but, just when we were in danger of getting bored, along came the badger cull, not to mention the seal cull and the focus on mink hunts! We feature two articles on mink hunting, one of which (see left) has been written by a badger cull activist who attended their first mink hunt this year and has sent their impressions, incorporating all that is amazing/ heartbreaking/ hilarious about sabbing... definitely worth a read!

Also in this issue, the incredible actions of those who went up to Scotland to sab the seal cull; a joint action between hunt sabs and Sea Shepherd UK – and a very successful one at that. This was an action that had never been attempted before by hunt sabs but, as growing numbers of people become angry enough to get involved, these are exactly the kinds of cruelties we can prevent. See page 6 for the full story.

Despite the spectacular failure of the badger cull to meet any of the targets it had set itself (so much so, that it had to extend its deadlines) the powers that be have decided the whole charade will be played out again this year, so many groups are already 'in the zone' and ready for action. Any help, practical or financial, will be greatly appreciated. Make no mistake – the presence of saboteurs had a direct result on the numbers of creatures killed and will continue to ensure that these beautiful, shy animals can go about their natural lives without being terrified and tortured.

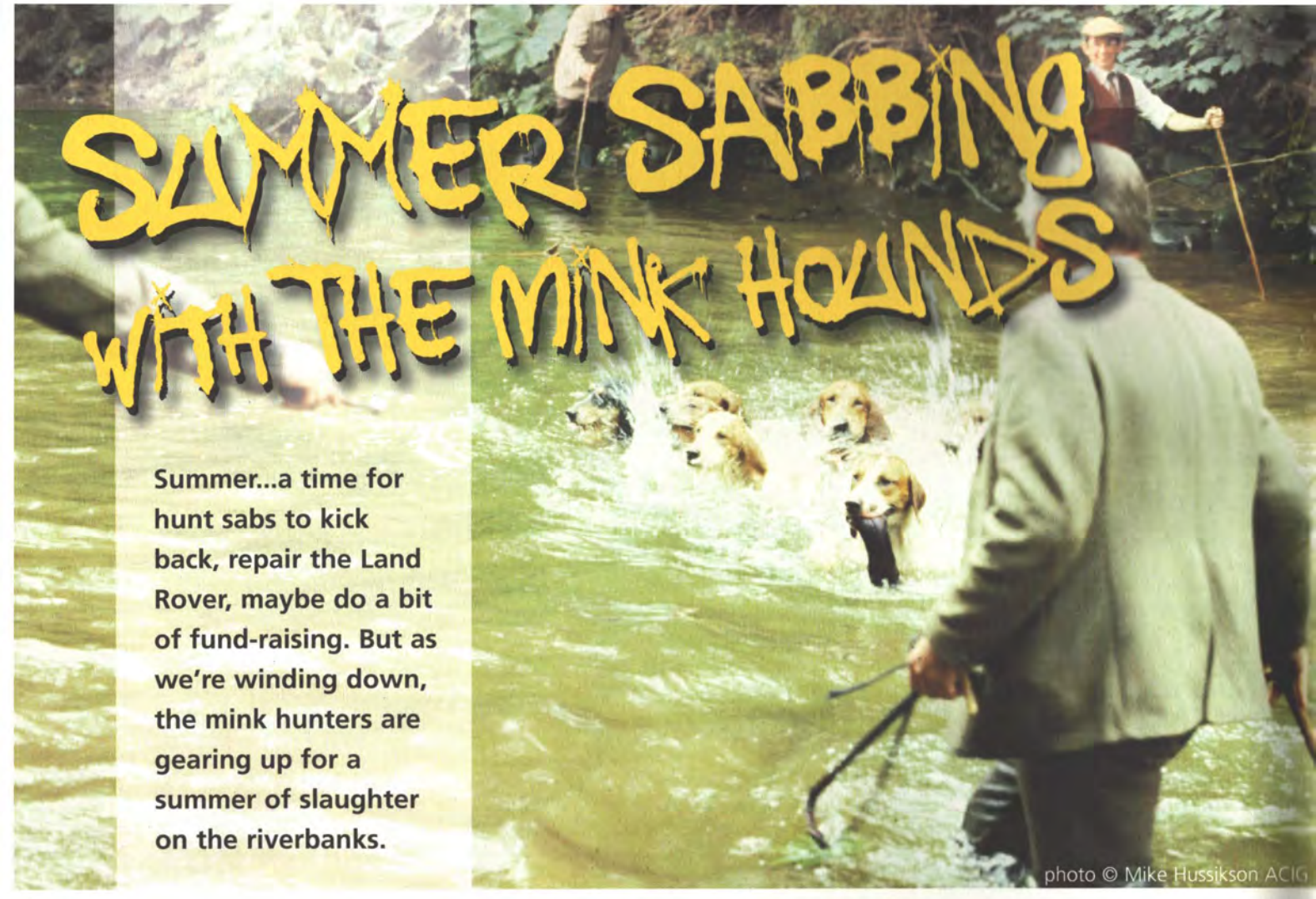
We are delighted to announce the start of two new sab groups (more of us, less of them!) and welcome them warmly into the mixed bag that is the lot of being a hunt sab! Contact details for these groups are on Group News pages, as is an excellent article from West Sussex sabs that gives a great account of how anyone, whatever their age, level of fitness or technical ability can make a difference to the plight of a hunted animal. Thanks, you lot!

We also, once again, have some sad news. As we were preparing this issue we heard of the death of activist Nancy Phipps. For those of you who don't know of Nancy, she has been instrumental in promoting just about every campaign, movement and pressure group that had the best interests of animals at its heart. She was particularly involved in campaigning to stop live exports in the 1990s; her daughter Jill being one of the casualties of the brutal trade in animals when she was crushed under the wheels of a lorry. Our thoughts go to Nancy's family as we remember her with a great deal of respect and affection.



SUMMER SABBING WITH THE MINK HOUNDS

Summer...a time for hunt sabs to kick back, repair the Land Rover, maybe do a bit of fund-raising. But as we're winding down, the mink hunters are gearing up for a summer of slaughter on the riverbanks.



It's time to reinstate an old summer tradition: tracking down your local mink pack. Of course, they've always been hard to find and the 'ban' won't have made it any easier but as we've shown with the beagles: where there's a will, there's a way. This article gives a very brief account of otter and mink hunting and the HSA's fifty year campaign against them.



Origins in Otter hunting

Mink hunting has its roots in the ancient summer blood sport of otter hunting. This activity was almost unimaginably cruel: otters are large, powerful creatures and the hunt could last for up to nine gruelling hours. Even when finally cornered by the hounds, the otter's size and strength would mean a long, agonising fight to the death.

The HSA prioritised disruption of this cruelty from its very earliest days, often in the face of extreme violence. In 1964, for example, sabs were attacked on the Devon-based Culmstock Otterhounds (still in existence today as a mink pack). They had their car turned over and one sab's jaw was smashed. On another occasion, years later, a group of peaceful sabs were ambushed and badly beaten by thugs especially drafted in by the Border Counties Otterhounds (again, still around today). This brutal incident, recalled by Mike Huskisson in '*Outfoxed*,' persuaded many sabs that there was no future in pacifism.

As the 1970s drew to a close the hunters faced a more definitive threat to their 'sport' - they were running out of otters to hunt. A combination of hunting, habitat destruction and the use of DDT pesticides had driven the otter to the brink of extinction.

Mink hunting begins

In 1978 the otter finally gained full protected status, despite the best efforts of the hunting lobby. Three of the nine packs still in existence folded, the other six claimed they would now hunt the American mink. This species had become well established on Britain's waterways since escaping from fur farms in the 1930s and 40s. Initially this move was simply to preserve the hunt infrastructure "pending a possible resumption of otter hunting" but the idea caught on, and several entirely new mink packs were established from scratch. By the 1980s there were about 18 packs operating in Britain.

Pre-ban mink hunting

Mink hunting was always the least formal of the organised blood sports. The pack is usually a rag-tag collection of draft foxhounds, the occasional otter hound and loose-running terriers. There is a huntsman and at least two whips - one for each side of the river.



The supporters are typically 'working terrier' enthusiasts desperate for a hunting fix during the quiet summer months. They often carry a long stick - or 'otter pole' - which is used to negotiate the riverside environment and is ideal for cracking over the skull of any hunt saboteurs present.

On a typical day the hounds are taken, on foot, to a river or stream and draw up or down looking for a scent.



photo © Mike Hossilkson ACIG

Relatively little ground is covered as the emphasis is usually on thoroughly drawing the (often dense) riverside undergrowth. When the hounds go into cry the hunted mink will rarely give the hunters the long swimming chase so beloved of the otter hunters. Instead, the mink's instinct is either to go to ground or climb a tree as soon as possible. If it does the former, it will be dug out or bolted to run on; if the latter, the poor animal will be dislodged by a barrage of rocks from the supporters. This stop-start pattern continues until the exhausted mink is overwhelmed by hounds. It's a sordid business.

Mink hunting and the HSA

The HSA has a proud history of having made life difficult for mink hunts from the outset. A concerted effort was made to sabotage these vulnerable new packs as much as possible in the early 1980s. This attention ensured that mink hunting has only ever been a fringe blood sport enjoyed by a tiny minority of hunters. Newly formed packs such as the Tandridge, the Pynes and the South Wales Minkhounds quickly disbanded in the face of determined sabotage; the older former otter hound packs were more resilient and, sadly, all but one survive to this day.

Throughout the 1980s most mink hunts could expect to be hit three or four times a season - certainly enough to prevent them even considering advertising meets.

The early 1990s saw some of the most intense action against mink hunting, particularly the Yetne Mink Hunt. Brave sabs from the south west, often supported by colleagues coming in from hundreds of miles away, took on this notoriously violent hunt on a regular basis. Even the Yetne's large crew of 'boys', drawn from the most psychotic southern foxhunts, were unable to prevent a relentless campaign of sabbing and kennel blockades. Bizarrely, the Yetne have recently reverted to their old otter hunting name: the Courtenay Tracy.

Post-ban mink hunting

.... is almost certainly exactly the same as pre-ban mink hunting! Publicly, most of the 16 or so mink packs claim to have switched to hunting rats or rabbits, though the Three Counties Mink Hunt, and possibly others, use a bird of prey. In addition, we know that the West Wales have merged with the Mid-Wales and Glamorganshire, the Valley have folded and one new Scottish pack, the Three Dales, has been established. However, as they've had very little hassle from us since the 'ban' it's hard to be sure what they're up to. We can surmise, though, that the additional pressure of the Hunting Act has had the same effect on the mink hunters as it has on the beaglers: a whittling down of supporters to a small, stubborn core.

Sabotaging Mink hunts

The HSA Tactics booklet obviously covers this topic in detail. These days, though, the hope must be that most mink packs would box up at the first sight of sabs with video cameras.



This is certainly what the Wealden Minkhounds did when they were followed from their Petworth Park kennels a couple of seasons back. However, as we all know, violence is often the first reaction of hunts that haven't seen sabs in a long time (remember those otter poles!) and it is worth considering that mink hunts are the most 'portable' hunts of all - it's so easy for them to box up, van off and hunt elsewhere.

In conclusion, the only point in writing about the past is to inspire action for the future. We've stopped the cruelty of mink hunting before and we can do it again. What's more, we get to do it all in shorts and sunglasses!



Into the unknown:

THE SCOTTISH SEAL CULL

Last year, shortly after getting back from my trip to sabotage the sea lion cull at the Bonneville dam, I found out that seals were being culled in Gardenstown, Scotland. The reason for both culls is the same: the salmon industry claims that sea lions and seals damage fish stocks, despite massive evidence to the contrary.

Seals are protected, but the Scottish government permits the cull anyway, and up to 4000 seals are shot every year. Sabs from South London Wildlife Group and Southern Anti Blood Sports quickly came up with a plan to disrupt the seal cull, but the badger cull was then announced and all our efforts were directed against that.

In March of this year we were told that Sea Shepherd wanted a meeting with the H.S.A. This was immediately arranged; they told us that they had also planned to disrupt the seal cull last year to no avail, and now wanted to do a joint action with us. A week of frantic planning took place and an outline plan was devised. We built a network of contacts opposed to the cull around and found out as much as we could about the seal killers.

Seals are killed by fish farmers, sports angling companies and 'netsmen'. Netting salmon is the practice of catching the salmon in huge nets in the sea as they make their way to the rivers where they spawn. This has a devastating effect on the wild salmon population and had all but stopped until the last few years. In our research the Scottish Wild Salmon Company, also known as USAN, kept coming up as one of the worst offenders.

Finally, on an evening in April we got the news we had been waiting for: salmon nets were in the water at Crovie, a SWSC site! Plans were finalised and it was agreed that the sab team would go in first, with Sea Shepherd following based on what we found when we got there. By lunchtime on Monday we were in Gardenstown, a tiny village in the same bay as Crovie. As the seal cull had never been sabbed before, it was difficult to have a detailed strategy. We knew that last year SWSC had shot seals from the harbour walls, so we were equipped with wetsuits and fully prepared



to get in the water between the shooters and the seals, but once we got to Gardenstown we quickly found out from the sympathetic locals that SWSC had deployed their nets elsewhere this year and the first task became locating them.

The SWSC boat had been seen heading west earlier in the day, so we set off to survey the coast in that direction. The rough path from the nearest car park quickly ran out and we were fighting our way through shoulder high gorse as we climbed the cliffs to 600 feet above sea level as a huge stag broke cover right in front of us! Our efforts were eventually rewarded as we located five salmon nets, a seal 'haul out' (a beach where much of the killing would take place) and a quick route in from the nearest road to the far end of the killing zone. Everything was photographed with a geotag camera, even when that meant hanging off the edge of the cliff to get the shot! We then got our first contact with the SWSC seal killers as we spotted them checking their nets, which seemed to be empty.

When we got back to Gardenstown we were straight into a meeting with Sea Shepherd and concerned locals, including the 'Laird', a well known musician called Marc Ellington. We received information about other SWSC sites and found out that the fishing boat could sail as early as 5am and as late as midnight. Sure enough, early on Tuesday morning SWSC put to sea, heading east this time.





Pausing only to pick up Sea Shepherd en route, we drove round to Crovie and kept a watchful eye on SWSC from the cliff tops. Again their nets were empty, but at least we found two more. With Sea Shepherd on guard at Gardenstown, we set off to survey more of the coast, checking every location on which we had information from the south to Fraserburgh in the north.

More salmon nets were located and geotagged and much more useful information gained before we headed back to Gardenstown.

"One thing we know for sure is that in the same period last year SWSC killed eighteen seals; this year they killed none."



Day three saw the Sea Shepherd Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB) arrive at the harbour. We helped to launch it without being spotted by SWSC staff before setting off for another gruelling day in the cliffs checking out the information we had gained the night before. This was a great success, with several cunningly concealed nets and three seal haul outs identified: information that was to prove invaluable to Sea Shepherd later on.

We also knew by this point that the netters were waiting for the weather to change to bring the salmon inshore, and with conditions deteriorating on Wednesday evening it was with heavy heart that we watched the first salmon being landed at Gardenstown from one of our high vantage points. We knew that the real action was about to start.

The 5am watch on Thursday morning was greeted by a ferocious gale. Waves were literally crashing right over the harbour wall, but somehow the netters managed to put to sea.

With the RIB unable to follow, we scrambled to the cliffs to the west whilst a Sea Shepherd foot team went east. Conditions on the cliffs were hazardous in the extreme, and we were very relieved when the netter's boat gave up and returned to port.

By now, our time in Gardenstown was running out. The undercover mission had been a great success and our cover was still intact. Sea Shepherd had vast amounts of information to work with and had been able to work it into a viable plan for opposing the cull.

There only remained a much discussed photo shoot to show the co-operation between the H.S.A and Sea Shepherd, but of course it didn't end there...in brief, SWSC workers made threats to 'bring a crew' to deal with Sea Shepherd. The following week SWSC staff (one of them armed with a rifle) surrounded and threatened a lone Sea Shepherd cameraman at the harbour after the seal shooting operation had been completely halted by the RIB.

Soon sabs from Sheffield, West Yorkshire and SLWG were in Gardenstown in support; by mid-afternoon the SWSC had announced that they were going to stop culling seals in the Gardenstown area with sabs on site to make sure that they kept their word. One thing we know for sure is that in the same period last year SWSC killed eighteen seals; this year they killed none.

It's a fantastic start, but there is still much to do. We look forward to more joint actions with Sea Shepherd. We won't rest until every hunted animal is safe!

No Justice - just us



On Boxing Day 2012 at the meet of the Southdown & Eridge Fox Hunt, the driver of the South Coast Hunt Sabs was subjected to a vicious and sustained attacked by supporters and (allegedly) employees of the hunt.

The group's Land Rover windscreen was smashed, the driver's door ripped back on its hinges and the vehicle keys and an ipad stolen. The driver sustained seven deeps cuts to his hands when he was hit with a rock while protecting his head where all the blows were aimed, and had massive swelling of the fingers. The wounds were so bad that the first police officer on the scene thought they were dog bites. At hospital, rings had to be cut off the driver's hands to prevent further damage.

This start of the assault was videoed by a static camera and two men were identified by name to the police at the scene. Eventually, when questioned by the police, one of the men gave a twenty page statement identifying two other individuals involved in the attack. There was also clear video evidence from earlier in the day identifying the same men by their clothes as being part of the attack. Earlier in the day police had been called as some of the same group were firing stones from a catapult at hunt saboteurs and the police questioned and videoed these men, although no arrests were made.

The police at the scene refused to take any action until a statement was made, stating that they were too scared to enter the meet where the hunt was packing up due to the threat of attack by hunt supporters. A statement was made by the driver, even though he was suffering from severe injury to his hands and possible concussion (and before he received any medical treatment; the ambulance service had refused to attend the scene due to the nature of the incident and the danger to their staff). Eventually three arrests were made and two men charged. They were given bail conditions not to attend the hunt. One of the men broke these conditions, but no action was taken against him.

Charges of criminal damage, theft and ABH were dropped and the two men were charged with common assault by battery.

"The police at the scene refused to take any action until a statement was made, stating that they were too scared to enter the meet where the hunt was packing up due to the threat of attack by hunt supporters."



The maximum sentence for which is 6 months in jail. No explanation was given to explain as to why the charges were reduced.

After two visits to court where the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) had failed to hand over evidence, the case finally went ahead on the 12th March 2014. All the above evidence was heard including the damning 20 page statement made by one of the two defendants naming his co-defendant as being part of the attack and also being a paid terrier man for the hunt.

One of the three magistrates admitted to living in the same small village and knowing one of the men named in the paperwork (who was not in court but who stabled his show jumpers at the same location); however, she did not feel it necessary to excuse herself. The defendants did not take the stand. Even with all this evidence the magistrates found both men not guilty.

In court, the driver's statement (which had a few minor inconsistencies due to the fact he was suffering concussion at time) was used against him, despite the fact that it was backed up by video evidence and other witness statements, including the one made by the defendant! The reality is that the evidence was overwhelming but, due to one of the magistrates knowing one of the men there that day, they decided to not convict.

This sort of injustice is common and most active hunt sabs will not be surprised; without video evidence this case would not have come to court at all. This is why breaches of the Hunting Act rarely see court, and when they do, they fail. Until we have a stronger act which makes the act of hunting clearly illegal for anyone watching then saboteurs will have to take to the fields, risking life and limb. Fifty years of violence has not deterred us...and there is no reason why it should deter us now.

To see the video of this incident go to:

www.huntsabs.org.uk/index.php/news/press-releases/518-travesty-of-justice



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

As you read this our AGM will be approaching, there will be no election this year as less than 12 people have stood for committee and those who are standing will be elected unopposed. If you have skills which you feel you are able to offer the HSA please contact us or consider standing for committee next year. At present all work is done by either elected committee members or co-opted members (non-voting) and so we are only as strong as our volunteer force allows.

Saying that we have achieved some amazing things in the past 12 months and I would like to highlight them here:

Our network of local sab groups sabotage between 30-40 fox and hare hunts each Saturday during the hunting season, and a lesser amount during the working week. This is the core activity of our network of local Hunt Saboteur groups and is something to be rightly proud of. We do our best to support the local groups with finances, press and other assistance but any local support is invaluable to them. Please support your local group in any way you can. If your area has no local group, would you consider setting one up? If so we can help, email our contacts officer on contact@huntsabs.org.uk

The same groups were also involved in the sabotage of the unscientific Badger Cull, massively reducing the kill rate and increasing the cost of running it. *The Guardian* newspaper stated on the 3rd April 2014:

> The cull also cost far more than projected... – largely because of the highly disruptive actions of **hunt saboteurs**. Although small in number, they represented the concerns of the majority in society...
>
> *The Guardian, Thursday 3 April 2014*

We will continue to sab this year's culls, and any future badger culls, until the practice is stopped.

In a joint operation with Sea Shepherd we sabotaged the Scottish Seal Cull in Gardenstown, causing the company who owned the license to kill seals, *Scottish Wild Salmon Company (Usan),* to withdraw from the cull for this year. This was just the first shot in a campaign to end the seal cull in, so be on the lookout for the wider campaign and how you can assist. This success brought massive positive publicity for the HSA in and we look forward to working with Sea Shepherd in the future.



We launched the 'Bitter Taste of Hunting' campaign to highlight the parts some pubs play in hosting and supporting hunts which are still hunting illegally. This involved creating a map listing those pubs which support hunting at: http://aq.be/fabba4 . A number of pubs have already withdrawn support from their local hunts when we publicise their involvement on social media and supporters contacted them expressing their dismay at their actions. The map will be updated as new pubs which support hunting come to light, but also as pubs withdraw their support. We have produced beer mats which can be left in pubs which support hunting to expose their participation to drinkers. Please contact us if you would like some mats. A donation towards costs would be appreciated.

As the summer started we also initiated a campaign to locate and sabotage Mink hunts. Already, the Culmstock Mink Hounds have been sabbed; see inside front cover for more details.

We have created the Hunt Saboteur Global Network to encourage and assist the creation of sab groups and organisations across the world. As part of that, a small team of hunt sabs was dispatched to to investigate and intervene in the slaughter of birds there in anticipation of a future full scale campaign.

All this has happened alongside our day-to-day work of running numerous information and merchandise stalls across the country and abroad, and answering questions and dealing with requests for information from the press, students and media companies on a weekly basis. Behind the scenes we liaise with other pro-animal organisations, MPs, local authorities and the Police in reducing wildlife crime to seek a tightening of the hunting act and enforcement of all wildlife laws. None of which prevents us intervening in the killing of animals where needed.

Finally, as the HSA moves into its 51st year of existence, I would like to highlight the fact that we are the only organisation which intervenes directly in the field to protect our wildlife from the hunters. The existence of League, IFAW and POWA monitors is a welcome development, but they only gather evidence; hunt saboteurs save lives, today and every day. All this and more on a budget which is less than most national organisations pay their Chief Executive. So when you are thinking of donating to an organisation or leaving a legacy, please think of us as giving our wildlife more direct assistance per pound than any other organisation.

We are the longest existing direct action organisation in the world and will remain so until the slaughter of our wildlife ceases.

Sabbing a hare

a personal view

As all sabs will know, the weeks when you sab a hunt and you don't manage to save an animal's life, be it a hare, fox or deer, are hard enough to bear, but sabbing a hare shoot where over a hundred beautiful sentient hares are gunned down in front of you is on a whole different level and is something, I am sure most sabs would agree, that is very difficult to deal with indeed.

Certainly those of us present at this year's annual Raveningham Hare Shoot have had a very difficult few weeks in coming to terms with what we witnessed at this year's shoot. It is fair to say that the Norfolk and Suffolk sabs have come to dread the month of February.

As regular readers of HOWL will be aware, the Raveningham Estate in Norfolk annually hosts a hare shoot. This shoot first came to our attention in 2010 when we caught sight of a trailer full of dead hares and followed it back to the Raveningham Barns only to see over a hundred hare bodies laid out in neat rows. The sight was horrific and it was very hard to accept that we were too late to do anything other than film the dead bodies in front of us.

In 2011we managed to locate the shoot in time and despite the fact that there were only five of us present, we managed to save some precious lives and got some footage of what took place.

The League Against Cruel Sports kindly published the footage on their weekly blog. It was reported that Sir Nicholas Bacon, the owner of the estate (who we have never actually seen taking part in one of the hare shoots) reviewed that film and declared that the treatment of wounded hares was unacceptable. He said he would speak to all concerned in no uncertain terms. Those words were, with hindsight, just hollow and meaningless. At that time, he was President of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust. When our footage came to light, the Trust management was initially supportive of his position but many ordinary members were not. It was not long before he stood down from his position of President.

In 2012, we located the shoot but it was too late in the day and we were not able to make a difference.

In 2013, we wrongly assumed that the shoot would take place, as it normally did, just after the finish of the game shooting season. However, the shoot apparently took place before the end of the season. We believe that this may have been done to avoid detection by us. The fact that we were once again too late was very hard to bear.

You may well understand, therefore, that this year we were determined to succeed in tracking down the elusive hare shooters as we could not fail the hares again. It is a day that you never want to come, as you don't want such a barbaric event to take place and you don't want to have to go out there and face it, but it is a job that has to be done.

This year's hare shoot took place on Friday 7th February 2014. There were at least 50 guns and most of the shooters appeared to be Greek. At such short notice it was difficult to amass many sabs but 10 of us attended the shoot to try and make a difference in any way we could. Nothing could have prepared us for what we saw on that day. We all had our roles to play and all did our very best for those poor innocent creatures. The barbarity and callousness of what took place is worse than anyone could ever imagine. Some of us had attended previous shoots but some of us had not. The courage of all those present was sublime. I, personally, feel very proud to know such special people; people who are prepared to put their own

> "The shoot took place over 5 hours and moving from one field to another, facing, over and over again, the wicked event, was very tough indeed. We saved some, but the number of hares shot was in the low hundreds. Even one of the female Police Officers appeared to be on the point of tears."



suffering to one side, to face what they did and to try and save the lives of hares.

The first field that was shot was a shock to the system for us and the shooters. They did not know what to make of us, that's for sure. One poor hare was shot, but not killed, right in front of us, and when a sab retrieved the injured hare, which was still screaming (a sound that will never be forgotten by us all) the hare died in the sab's arms. One shooter made repeated attempts to finish off another hare that had been shot, but not killed, by trying to karate chop and shake it to death. After some five minutes when the shooter walked across the field, the hare was still wriggling and still appeared to be alive.

After the first field had been shot, the shoot organisers called the Police and the shooters went back to the meet to wait for the Police to arrive. One Police car arrived, and then another, and another.

It was 45 minutes or so before the shoot resumed. We like to think that during the time the shooters were at the meet, some hares at least were saved. We know that other hares were saved by us shouting at the shooters and them losing their nerve to shoot. Other hares were saved by us making enough noise to scare the hares off the field before the shoot began. We know that we made a difference by being there and the footage we obtained has been viewed by many.

The shoot took place over 5 hours and moving from one field to another, facing, over and over again, the wicked event, was very tough indeed. As I say, we saved some, but the number of hares shot was in the low hundreds. Even one of the female Police Officers appeared to be on the point of tears and clearly did not want to be standing guard over us and having to seethe at sights she saw. It has to be said that the shooters on this shoot were very bad shots indeed and I would say that the number of hares wounded and not killed outright, was very high. There can be no justification for this hare shoot and despite what Sir Nicholas Bacon says; it clearly was not a cull. At least one shooter could be heard saying "I don't want that one, as it has too much lead in it" (or words to that effect). On another occasion, the hare ran through the cordon and a shooter was heard to say "I didn't shoot that one because I thought it was diseased." We saw for ourselves the refrigerated lorry that had been brought over to preserve the bodies and transport them back. Such a lorry would not be needed for a cull.

Of course, we don't want such a shoot to ever be repeated but the simple truth of the matter is that while there is no closed season for hares, then it will be. Contrary to what most people believe, hares currently have no protection, other than they cannot be sold between 1st March and 31st July. Some official reports state that hares face the risk of extinction by 2050, which is not that far away, and so we desperately need for there to be a closed season for hares. However, one thing is for sure, and that is that while such shoots are taking place in the UK, then hunt sabs will always be ready to take action.

Once again, I pay tribute to those who were there with me on this shoot. You all know who you are. You sabs are wonderful people, totally committed and are brave beyond belief, and the hares at least stand some chance with people like you in this world.

Video footage of the shoot is available as follows:

The League's coverage : www.youtube.com/watch?v=VQmIw1IZzbU

The Mirror's coverage: www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/ralph-fiennes-brother-jacob-police-3251022

Extracts of footage via: www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRwsM7gX55s

Extracts of footage via: www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbU2FUYCDVM



sabgroupnews



Three Counties Hunt sabs

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Three Counties Hunt Sabs remained busy from the beginning of 2014 up until the end of the hunting season (which was the end of March in our area). The flooding over the winter meant that some hunt meets were cancelled, but we were still out 3 or 4 times each week sabbing the local foxhound and harrier packs. Having had a couple of cameras broken this season, we managed to retrieve money needed for a new one from the hunt support involved and some of our lovely, more animal-friendly, supporters (thanks!) and got ourselves another much-needed camcorder. This, as always, proved to be an important addition to 3C as the North Cotswold, Croome and West Warwickshire, Ledbury, Ross Harriers and the Cotswold Vale Farmers' Hunts have all been caught on film attempting to hunt foxes and hares (as well as the odd bit of criminal damage to sab vehicles... and, of course, cameras!)

Our little group has grown immensely in terms of skills, experience and support this season with fantastic new drivers, runners and people behind the cameras which has all added up to some, if we may say so ourselves, great sabbing. Of course we didn't manage to help everyone being hunted or shot at, but ruined a few shooting drives (within the cull zone, of all places) purely by being on footpaths nearby and helped a number of foxes and hares and a couple of hounds who had fallen in slurry pits... We also had the pleasure of meeting up with a newly-formed group in order to attend a joint meet of the Beaufort and VWH hunts near Cirencester and had a couple of experienced groups meet us to visit the Ross Harriers.

As end-of-season came around, so did the news that the badger cull would be returning to our area once again. And so the work began immediately in order to survey the large amount of the Gloucestershire cull zone which our group covers. Luckily, as many of our hunt meets take place within the zone, we had a cheeky head-start with noting down sett locations while on the move over the last few months.

See you in the zone! Until then, check us out on Vimeo...

Association of Hunt Saboteurs (Ireland)

The AOHS has been concentrating efforts on the Ward Union Stag Hunt (banned since 2010), including protesting at the St Stephen's Day Hunt Ball where threats were made by a Hunt supporter. The supporter later got a GARDA caution. The WU have been seen chasing stag numerous times and the Gardai have refused to act. The NPWS have been given video evidence and many farmers in hunt areas have tried to stop this hunt by gathering petitions, putting up no hunting signs (which get ripped down) and the legal route is being explored.

In other news, a substantial number of Waterford Hunt Foxhounds went missing earlier in February, presumably curtailing the rest of their hunting activities! AOHS hope they were taken by someone who will treat them well and feel hopeful that they are less likely to meet the fate of two of their kennel mates killed when a train ploughed through the pack earlier in the year.

American Hunt Saboteurs Association

As well as our usual pre- and during hunting season interventions (plus our under the radar actions), across the Eastern and Southern United States, A.H.S.A is working closely with Earth First! and several Animal Rights groups in the US to put on a more grass roots action camp. We hope in the fall to bring tactics and activists together from across the spectrum. We are working to form a tighter bond with Hunt Saboteurs NW to truly cover the North American continent defending wildlife.

Hayduke
Agitator
A.H.S.A.

Brighton Hunt Sabs

southdownsabs@yahoo.co.uk

In the second half of the season, Brighton Sabs have been to the Chiddingly, Crawley and Horsham, Southdown, Burstow and the notorious Hursley and Hambledon Hunts.

On the Burstow hunt we had a good laugh when one of the whippers-in tried wearing a balaclava for a day. We instantly recognised him anyway and used his recently-discovered name all day. Later he tried to start a fight and lost the balaclava. The huntsman, Bycroft, did himself more harm than he did us when he was caught on camera hitting one of our sabs. It just so happened to be about the same time he was photographed shaking hands with Nigel Farage (UKIP leader) so it got in the national papers.

The Crawley and Horsham hunt kept us occupied when all the other hunts were cancelling due to wet weather; the C&H doggedly carrying on wading through floods and getting soaked. There was one day which began with navigation confusion because the river marked on the map had turned into an ocean. We didn't have to do too much sabbing as we haven't seen any foxes with webbed feet yet.

Toward the end of the season we enjoyed a trip to the Hursley Hambledon, with lots of other groups. Everyone was very keen to sab them, since they haven't been done for about 15 years. It was great to see and work so successfully with all the groups together.

We finished the season in similar style to how we began; sabbing the Southdown at Firle. Despite it being difficult terrain we kept them moving all day with no kills.

Our group is going from strength to strength. We've had several new people coming and sometimes we overflow our vehicle. We're going to be sabbing the badger cull and some mink hunts over the summer... as well as doing a bit of sunbathing, hopefully!

NEW GROUP! Beds & Bucks Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/Bedsandbuckssabs

Berkshire Hunt Sabs

Paypal: Berkshirehuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk
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In the second half of this season sabs have continued with our long running campaign on beagle hunts, whilst still doing our local fox hunts.

Memorable sabs include kennel watching Eton Beagles; upon spotting us they went on the run. However due to us having quite a few cars out we had a close eye on them all day, they ended up spending all day on the motorways and in Fleet service station scoffing McDonalds. The hounds were not even unloaded. Well, at least it was an easy day!

We have also sabbed the Warwickshire Beagles who were hunting on quite difficult terrain and upon seeing us kept on the run too. The huntsman had no control over his hounds whatsoever, it was quite embarrassing really. In spite of their lack of control over their hounds, whilst they were running we were right behind them, they were not able to hunt. On this sab the landowner threatened to shoot one of us. Being told you are going to be shot is clearly quite a worry; however the police just laughed it off. The police informed sabs it was illegal to take pictures of children without the parents' permission. The police also informed us that they don't use beagles for hunting; they use terriers so this couldn't be a hunt. Obviously we have a new breed of police, not obviously corrupt officers, just plain thick ones.

We have also focused on the Palmer Marlborough Beagles.With an average age of 109, this hunt is understandably quite slow paced and just pack up as soon as antis show up. This suits us as it means we can move on to other hunts when we have done with them.

We have also focused on the and Aldershot Beagles this year. Melvyn Pike, joint master of the , attacked one of our sabs last year, and CPS dropped the case so we always make sure that we have the camera going when in his presence. The last time we sabbed this hunt it led to the whole group getting arrested, then de-arrested, in an underhand police tactic to get sab's details from them.

We have also done other hunts such as the Surrey Union, the Hampshire and the Vine & Craven joining up with local groups.

Following the end of fox hunting season 2013/14 we have also attended two mink hunts with the Culmstock Mink Hounds in which lots of local groups joined forces to ensure success. Using the HSA's drone we successfully followed them all day and prevented them from hunting on both occasions. Our group is really looking forward to sabotaging as many mink hunts as possible this summer and already have started to monitor our local hunts to gather useful intel in preparation.

We have also celebrated the HSA's new affiliation with the Anti Fascist Network by teaming up with our local antifa 'Berkshire Antifascists' (facebook.com/berkshireantifa). They have joined us on sabs and we look forward to joining up with them on their projects in the near future.

This summer we intend to sab mink hunts as well as surveying setts and preparing for the badger cull. Anyone wanting to join us, please get in touch!!



Cumbria Hunt Sabs

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Since our last report Cumbria sabs have continued to attend meets of the fell packs until the hunting season drew to a close in late March.

As always, the main focus of our attention was the Blencathra and Melbreak FH. However, atrocious weather conditions throughout late January and February severely curtailed the activities of these packs, allowing the group to take a look at the seldom visited Cumberland Foxhounds on a couple of lively occasions.

As February gave way to March the weather finally improved and normal service was resumed. With the help of the Lancaster and Borders groups we caught up with the Blencathra for their end of season kennels meet. With the hunt not setting off from the kennels until 11am our combined efforts had Barry packed up, totally humiliated, within two and a half hours and all in front of a large amount of irate support... result!

With the Blencathra's season over, we turned our attention to the Ullswater FH who continued to hunt off the card until the end of the month. The worst of these days was at the Travellers Rest, Glenridding meet. Joined by sabs from the Lancaster, Borders and North Tyne groups we pursued the outgoing huntsman, John Harrison, from Glenridding to Grisedale. Unfortunately we arrived seconds too late to stop a kill but we did get important evidence (despite being assaulted by hunt support) which is now in the hands of police.

The final two weeks of the season saw the group continue to look at the Ullswater as well as the Coniston, but no more incidents worthy of note occurred.

As always, as massive thank you to all the groups who've travelled to help us; it's greatly appreciated. Also a massive thank you to all who've supported and donated to our Go Fund Me appeals; without your continued help we would have seriously struggled to cope!

Bristol Hunt Sabs

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Bristol sabs were out with friends from Southampton, Bath and Pewsey on Boxing Day to pay a visit to the Vine & Craven hunt in Wiltshire. An easy day as the hunt who rarely get sab attention put down a trail and had a kill-free day.

Our next visit was to the Tedworth Hunt with our usual sab friends and we had a great day stopping red-faced fatty Mike Lane killing foxes. Every time he would attempt to hunt, sabs would take control of the hounds. One fox was spotted and helped away to safety.

We gave a visit to the Cotswold Vale idiots who were hunting in the middle of the Gloucestershire cull zone and, despite their best efforts to hunt, we were with them for the majority of the day to spoil their fun. Sabs were treated to racist remarks from the terrier men who later in the day were spotted trying to dispose of what looked like a dead fox believed to have been a bagged fox from earlier in the day.

A trip to the Curre and Llangibby was in order as they hadn't been sabbed for a while with sabs from South Wales, Somerset, Bath and Pewsey. From the moment we arrived we knew it was going to be a heavy day. We did our best to keep up with the hunt, and managed to get their hounds a good few times during the day. One of our sabs was ridden down and our vehicles were damaged during the course of the day.

We joined multiple other groups for the HSA 50th anniversary sab in Devon and, despite the shit weather, we managed to keep with the hunt who stubbornly stayed out until dark with their hounds scattered all over, thanks to sab intervention.

We expected a quiet day with the Llangeinor Hunt at the end of January but as soon as we entered the field we were set upon by the hunt and their supporters. Sabs were attacked and punched to the floor so we decided to retreat to meet up with South Wales sabs who were minutes away. Battling on, we caught up with the hunt again only to be victims of a mass attack from the scum. One sab was hospitalised as a result. We made the decision to stay with the hunt until they packed up. Despite their best efforts they didn't manage to kill.

We caught up with the Tedworth again who had a joint meet with The Avon Vale. Despite violence from both hunts and the most pro-hunt policing we've seen in a long time, we had a good day helping foxes to safety.

We managed to pack up the Severn Vale Beagles within five minutes of arriving, much to their dismay. This was their first ever sab visit and won't be their last.

We also gave the West Somerset Vale Hunt who were having a joint meet with the West Somerset Foxhounds. Despite our small numbers we did our best to keep close to the hunt, and helped a fox to safety.

The Hursley Hambledon got a visit from us along with several other sab groups. As a result the hunt did their best to lose us and called in plod to slow us down. Undeterred, we found the hunt, stuck with them and walked them back to box up early with little hunting even attempted - a great day.

We had a corker with the Tedworth's joint meet with the Royal Artillery Hunt. Together with sabs from Southampton, South Wales and Pewsey we pissed all over both hunts by having the hounds at every opportunity. At one point we had most of the pack at our feet for a good 45 minutes before the hunt came to plead for them back.

We paid two visits to the Ross Harriers this season. The first was over within two hours as clearly not happy with sab attention the hunt packed up early. The second time saw huntsman Lee Peters trying his best to hunt despite being swamped with sabs. We managed to get his hounds away from multiple hares over the course of the day which ended in Peters and his bunch of knuckle-dragging support violently attacking sabs and slashing a tyre of one of our vehicles. Peters tried to continue after the assault but after all of his efforts, the scumbag still didn't kill anything.

Lancaster Hunt Sabs

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Well, what a season! Not only has our group grown to the point where we are sometimes close to not being able to transport sabs to scum gatherings, it is also clear we (along with the brilliant and tenacious Cumbria sabs) have deeply upset the hunts in Cumbria. Even at this point we have outstanding videos that could yet lead to prosecutions and trail hunting licences being withheld. There have been days when we have literally boxed the Blencathra into valley heads with nowhere to go, filmed with up to seven cameras from mountain tops. A particular high point was when the Ullswater hunt were heard to say, "that's them Lancaster sabs."



It's comments like that that clearly indicate that we are upsetting them...which, as you can imagine, we went on to do. A shit day included the day the Ullswater FH killed a fox on National Trust land and were watched by the Police for a further hour as they hunted Glenamara Park (near Patterdale). It seems incredible that the police (knowing they had killed) allowed this to continue; still, there are videos yet to be given a free airing and the hunt knows it, as they troll our sites trying to find out if there is footage of the kill.

Along with sabbing, we have also been developing a campaign to persuade the National Trust to stop it's support of illegal hunting. We are now preparing ourselves to visit the cull zones and to pre-empt the grouse shooting season. It's been 3 years in the making but at last we think it is possible to say that Lancaster Hunt Saboteurs are here for the long term and in growing numbers and interest. Our group is made up of smashing people with a collective sense of what it is we are about, and although we all have loads of kids,animals and job responsibilities, we still get out and sab the bastards.

Thank you to two of the best Lush shops in Britain and their lovely employees (at least we think so), who support us whenever they can. Other groups we have sabbed with include Borders Sabs and North Tyne sabs who show incredible dedication given the distances they cover and the aggression of the hunts they sab.

NEW GROUP! Forest of Dean Boar Cull Sabs

www.facebook.com/ForestofDeanWildBoarSabs

Devon Hunt Sabs

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Twitter: @DevonHuntSabs
www.facebook.com/DevonHuntSabs

Much of our season was devoted to an ongoing tour that has included hunts not sabbed in years, although the trusty Lamerton have been treated to a sab presence on several occasions now. David Lewis and the gang (a suspicious number of whom seem to have been spawned by longstanding Dart Vale huntsman 'Happy' Gilmour Lewis) are widely held, even by the hunting fraternity, to be Devon's lowest of the low. When they met at Yeoman's Farm south of Lifton in January, an aggressive reception awaited us, and sabs were punched and pushed to the ground on a public road soon after. We continued to do what we came for and the two foxes we spotted were able to get away thanks to quick intervention. With the pack split into three, the huntsman's rather pathetic horn and voice calls didn't seem of much interest to the hounds who were enjoying themselves in the fields to the sound of our gizmo, while the huntsman dismounted and made frantic efforts to gather them up. By the late afternoon Lewis's face was as red as his coat (and the mist that had overtaken him earlier in the day)!

The following week, while undercover sabs attended the Lamerton meet at the house of Geoffrey Cox MP (where police and private security were in attendance) the rest of us headed off to a joint meet of the Dart Vale and the South Devon on the edge of Dartmoor. Next stop was across the border and into thunderstorms and pouring rain with the South Dorset Hunt and Dorset sabs near the aptly named Puddletown. Some of the most dramatic scenes of the season occurred when a magnificent fox appeared right next to us and sabs were perfectly positioned to rate hounds until the mounted sadists gave up and rode off in the opposite direction.

A joint meet of the Dart Vale and the Modbury Harriers offered a satisfying chance to sab a hunt made extra notorious by widespread media reporting this season of them digging out and killing a fox in front of children.

Our whirlwind tour took us next to the Lamerton, Eggesford and Stevenstone's joint meet at Sprytown, together with the wonderful Kernow and Somerset sabs. On our way to the meet, we were intercepted by Paul Martin and his partner, both masked up and driving a rental van dangerously into oncoming traffic on a busy road. Their efforts to intimidate us were fruitless and resulted in a telling off from the van hire company. Next, we sabbed the Eggesford once more (sabbing is contagious!), and then headed to the North Cornwall with Kernow sabs.

Things got interesting at the end of March when the Lamerton's one-woman camera crew Caroline Lewis decided to lead us straight to the mysterious and unregistered Virginstow Beagles, who move their foxhounds in the back of a Transit van and like to annoy the Lamerton by meeting nearby to kill all 'their' wildlife. Devon is cursed with about twenty registered packs and these 'rogue scummers' are at the shady end of the spectrum. With the season drawing to a close, we helped sab the South Dorset again with a trip to beautiful Studland. But where could we end things, but back with our Somerset colleagues at the Lamertons, who were now equipped with hired goons kitted out in fetching "hunt steward" attire. They've got to spend the caps on something! Special thanks to our old and new supporters, and to Dorset, Kernow and Somerset sabs, who joined us on several occasions this season.



Dorset Hunt Sabs

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twitter @dorsethuntsabs

The New Year started with a new hunt sab group in Dorset. Started by an experienced sab, the group quickly gained members of new sabs and old. Hunt Saboteur Associates started to connect again and things quickly got moving. The crucial starting point for the new Dorset Sab group was an amazing donation (by a member of the group) of a Freelander, which we sold and had a foundation of cash to work on. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of one HSA member, Dorset Sabs starting hitting a few of the Dorset Hunts who had been left to their own devices for some time.

The South Dorset Hunt have been relentlessly targeted this season, having seen an appearance from us virtually every week, and were sabbed 12 times. Sometimes every meet during the week was sabbed, which was good considering we were all on foot without vehicle support. The South Dorset seemed to be wilting under the pressure, culminating in heavy-handed tactics on the closing meet (at Knoll House, Hotel Studland) with 10 quads with three and four up on each and masked up. This did not deter the 10 foot sabs including Devon, Somerset & Bath Sabs, and clearly the huntsman Dominic Jones was not happy with our presence! We won't be put off and will be seeing you again next season!

We are pleased to say, with an almost certainty, that no kills were had by the South Dorset hunt whenever we were on watch. But we have certainly seen our fair share of fake landowners, wannabe security bouncers and blood thirsty, inhumane and sickeningly cruel people. This eclectic mix of social rejects gives us the incentive to keep going back out.

We have been lucky this season to have had the help of Devon Hunt Sabs who have driven from Devon in the gale force windy storms knowing full well that the hunt would still go out. Dorset Sabs have also helped Devon Sabs hit the Modbury Hunt (who were recently in the national press for digging out in front of their extremely young children) and the Lamerton Hunt, who continues to display their sad and depressing, scummy behaviour. We also sabbed the notorious Cattistock three times.

The season has now ended and Dorset Sabs have finally managed to purchase a Defender Landrover, with the help of an HSA grant, donations from Lush (charity pot sales), t shirts, Section 5 and the usual reliance on fellow sabs expertise and contacts, just in time to start hitting the mink hunts during the summer. Dorset Sabs have also, of course, been getting prepared for the Badger cull for some time. We have been attending the Badger meetings, training days and sett surveying.

And so, with the purchase of a Landrover we are very prepared to fight the Badger Cull and to start afresh for the next hunting season, gaining new members and accumulating more support. Look out, other hunts in Dorset; we'll be seeing you very soon!

East Kent Hunt Sabs

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A positive end of season for us over here in East Kent. We kept up the pressure on the East Kent & West St. Foxhounds, who still only field around ten riders on a Saturday. They reached a new low in early January, when new Huntsman (well, boy) Alfie, took out his hounds in the worst weather imaginable - with no riders, just the whipper-in for company. Well, no-one's that stupid to try and ride in that weather! Anyhow, he hunted like a madman through the wind and rain, but we kept up with him, and certainly warned them off one dig out.

The next Saturday found us with the terrier boys in the woods - plus a little child they had brought along with them to watch the dig. Until we showed up, and off they went. The rest of that day was fairly relentless sabbing, but we took the hounds right off one fox with whips and sprays in the woods - Alfie was not 'appy!



The next week we ended up with the Ashford Valley (having amalgamated with the Tickham, they are forced to do some of their old meets). An appalling meet to get about, we only kept them in sight for part of the day, but the normally vocal huntsmen was very quiet....hmm, maybe because they were (allegedly) trespassing at certain points!

The next week we were back to gales and floods - a check on the Beagle packs showed them to be safely cancelled again, so back off to the East Kent, only for our landy to conk out-big time. So, not to be beaten, some of us headed off in a car to the vast killing playground that is Crundale estate. We went in on foot, but the wind was so strong, that we could barely hear each other speak, let alone locate the huntsman. Luckily, our driver found him (and riders) a few miles from the meet; seems the hounds had rioted after something (probably a deer), and he had totally lost the pack in the wind, leaving the riders to sit in the rain for a couple of hours and the quad boys to drive around like sheepdogs....utter shambles.

The next week was a joint meet between the AV and the EK; we located the meet but, as usual, finding such small hunts (snigger!) is becoming a problem. Even the handful of support seemed lost. Our other vehicle, however, had found a rare outing for the Wye Beagles; so off we set. Seemingly though, the sight of 2 sabs and a camera made them pack up. So when we arrived it was show over. Another shit Saturday for the hare hunters.

With the East Kent season now all over (kennel cough cancelled their last few meets), we turned our attention to the Blean Beagles, not easy to find especially when the car you are in gets a puncture whilst trailing the hound van! We got that sorted though and checked meets, but nothing. Also, the Ashford Valley weren't at their advertised meet, so...a few beers in the sun were the order of the day!

The next couple of weeks were the same - the Wye seemingly not going out, and the Blean just impossible to find....then all became clear. The Wye Beagles were to disband!! A last meet was had and crowed over by all the scum, but at the end of the day they had no support, no money, and wouldn't hunt if we showed up. It was only a matter of time really...

So, in the last two seasons, two more hunts have gone/ been disbanded or amalgamated in Kent - it all means the same thing. Who said the Hunting Act isn't working?!

Kernow Hunt Sabs (Cornwall)

To donate via paypal: kernowhs@yahoo.co.uk
To contact us: kernowhuntsabs@riseup.net

The 12th April saw KHS finish the fox-hunting season with 23 hits and at least 5 covert monitoring operations under our belts.

Immediately we turned our attention towards Somerset and have begun sett surveying. All our time, energy and funds will go towards stopping/ sabbing this horrendous badger cull. Protesters had a massive effect last year and we fully intend to be even more effective this year.

As ever, we are so grateful to our supporters, you truly make a difference to the British wildlife.

North Downs Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/northdowns.huntsabs
northdownshuntsaboteurs@gmail.com
donate to account number 65545775
sort code 08-92-99

North Downs ended the season clocking up 54 hits and then went to Malta for a week at the end of April to help CABS try and stop the slaughter of migrating birds (which may be covered in a future Howl).

When we sabbed the Hampshire Hunt with Berkshire sabs we were shocked to be followed by a strange pervert of a terrier-man on a quad who was intent on filming a sab answering the call of nature and saying that we didn't have his permission to urinate on his land and we would get an ASBO, (there's strange folk in the shires).



Apart from a quick runaround at the Chiddingfold, we stuck mainly with the Surrey Union, sabbing them a further 6 times until the end of the season. We teamed up with Croydon, Guildford, South Coast, Brighton, Kingston and Southampton on various hits. All the sabs went well but two of the best were one at Elsted where we called the pack offa fox, and a big hit at Netley House where we took the pack off the hunt and forced them to pack up early.

We ended the season well and stronger than when we started with about 30 different people coming out with us, and we will be well prepared for next season.

North East London Hunt Sabs (NELS)

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January

A cold Saturday but bright and still mild for January saw 8 NELS join South East Sabs (SES) colleagues who found the Essex and Suffolk hunt. They don't like us getting foxes away and must be increasingly worried about being filmed. They are still shy at, yet again, being caught breaching the Hunting Act or the Highway Code.

SES were on them from the meet in Willisham Tye south west of Bonny Wood. SES guided an inexperienced but keen NELS crew to where this hunt tries to kill from this meet. NELS sabs did what they do best; supporting and complementing the expertise of their SES colleagues with passion, effective filming, help to get close to the hunt and help getting the quarry away. SES got a deer away but few foxes were seen to need sabs help. Wherever the hunt turned or moved to south of the meet around Somersham and back up through Nettlestead, sabs were there. The police kept a low profile, unlike the last time we were there when we experienced harassment and even an assault on SES sabs.

They hunted through gorse where no trail could have been laid and (unsurprisingly) failed to get a scent, they then went back up to Bonny Wood from where they packed up and were then seen rounding up stray hounds. No kills... no grief. A result for the sabs.

February

A depleted NELS joined SES colleagues who found a meet of the Essex and Suffolk Fox hounds. SES were sure these hardcore terrorisers of wildlife would show their twisted priorities. SES as usual did a great job of finding the scum. With overnight storms and rain we were once again expecting to turn back because they would be ill-advised to hunt.

The flooding caused us the usual disbelief that the idiots would still be out. It's almost embarrassing because our job is made easier by the conditions. They would be struggling in almost every part of their sick sport. Even more bizarre was that Cundy, the terrier man, was huntsman for the day. This made things easier still as his horn blowing (no jokes, please) was all spit and no polish. The hounds were under poor control. Who knows, maybe Ollie (the employed huntsman) refused to go out on health and safety grounds?! If grounds could be found, that is!

Next at Assington, and went from there to Bures Green. There were flooded meadows all around, it was bright but still hinted at rain and hail blew in early on. The field was tiny, the terrier men keeping a low profile. As Ollie moved the hounds warily (probably avoiding soaked ground from Assington to Nayland Wood) he was increasingly more of a browncoat than a redcoat. Claiming they were off to watch the rugby, they packed up at 2.30.

March

Saw NELS and SES ignoring late info on meets for other hunts and hunt's claims they had finished for the season. 6 NELS sabs and 9 SES teamed up to keep the Essex and Suffolk fox hounds noses clean again; a bright day but with the usual blight on the picturesque countryside.

The meet was at Hill Farm between Boxted and Langham Hall. They festered around there down to Maltings Farm and never came as close as in previous meets to the beautiful Stratford St Mary. This area (on Essex/ Suffolk borders) was well served by roads and footpaths and sabs were never far away from the hounds. They packed up around 2.30 with the pack split and rounding up in various vehicles. They spent a lot of time on the road and were easy to pick up on a bright day with hoof scuffs glinting away. As usual, the hunt ignored a wildlife conservation area. No kills, no grief, no flashpoints.



Manchester Hunt Sabs

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www.facebook.com/ManchesterHuntSabs

Manchester Sabs concluded the 2013/2014 with some style – as you would expect. Return trips to York and Ainsty South, the Meyell, South Staffs and the final weekend meet of the Quorn all went well. Staffs Police outdid themselves, threatening to smash the window of the van to arrest the passenger for refusing to give his details....which, by law, any idiot knows they don't have to do. Not this idiot though. See the video on our Facebook page.

Towards the end of the season we started taking longer trips. With a variety of other groups we headed deep, deep into North Yorkshire in mid March to visit the Sinnington Hunt who had, a couple of weeks previously, taken it upon themselves to set upon a lone hunt monitor. Four vans of sabs was not perhaps the end of season fun they had been hoping for! A surprisingly restrained reaction from North Yorks Police left sabs to get on with it and, despite the presence of several muppets on quads and a brief bit of feistiness by some riders, we had a kill-free and simple day.

No such thing in Northamptonshire the following week where we headed to visit the elusive Ryford Chase Rabbit Hounds, who were hunting by invitation of the Pytchley Foxhounds. As soon as sabs entered the field they were set upon by hunt support wielding large sticks. The attackers were quickly surprised that we could (and would) defend ourselves, and the huntsman wasted no time in packing up and leaving for home. After several of our number had received the medical attention they needed we moved on to the Woodland Pytchley Foxhounds who were hunting nearby. There we were treated to some of the most biased policing we have seen in many years. Helicopter, firearms officers, roadblocks, vehicle/ sab searches and driving at 5mph in front of us to try and keep us away from the hunt. The video from the day is our most seen post on Facebook with over 40,000 views causing many people to complain to Northants Police. And we're not finished with them yet, by a long way.

And so to the final day of the season and a return to the Middleton Hunt in Yorkshire where we had concluded the previous season with the same groups of hardy comrades. Once again, there were hundreds of supporters but, this time, a much more subdued hunt (now nursing a conviction for illegal hunting). Sabs' work saw at least 2 foxes away and we finished 2013-2014 on a high.

Manchester Sabs are currently charging the batteries on our torches, cleaning the lenses on our night vision for Badger Cull Round 2 as well as preparing to sab some mink hunts.

Norfolk & Suffolk Hunt Sabs

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This season has been a particularly good one for the Norfolk & Suffolk Sabs. We don't like to boast, but we know we are getting it right by the lengths that the Waveney Harriers are going to, to stop us finding the meets. We now have decoy horseboxes being sent out to lure us away. With the exception of only a couple of weeks, we have managed to find the hunt despite their best (pathetic) efforts.

One Saturday we found ourselves between two horseboxes and believed we were en route to a meet. However, the horsebox in front of us stoppedsuddenly and the passenger got out to video us. We then found ourselves well and truly the jam in the sandwich when the horsebox in front of us started reversing into us and the box behind was still driving towards us. After a couple of hairy minutes, we continued en route. The Master then called for backup in the form of a (well known) VW Golf that appeared from nowhere, nearly took us out while overtaking us, and then got between us and the horsebox, allowing the horsebox to get away and us to lose it. We still found the meet though and even got there before most of the hunt!

As well as sabbing the Waveneys we have also fitted in a trip to the Easton Harriers and two trips to the Dunston Harriers. We could not resist visiting the Dunstons for their last meet of the season, as rumour had it that the huntsman, Michael Karayan, is leaving. It would have been rude not to say goodbye..! As it turned out it was a joint meet with the North Norfolk Harriers and the huntsman from Holcombe Harriers was also present, so we had three hunts for the price of one! Whilst at this meet, we caught up with our old "friend" Geoff Block, who used to ride with the Waveneys.



He seemed very keen to show us his "drag", which must have been worked hard over the season as it was pretty threadbare. We asked for a sample of the drag but he said we would have to apply to the hunt in writing!!

When our hunts have not been out we have also been kept busy with sabbing shoots. One week we managed to find three pheasant shoots and sabbed them all. We also attended this year's annual Raveningham Hare Shoot (see report elsewhere).

To end the season, we thought we would pay a visit to the Waveneys' end of season "ball". Last year they hosted a ball but this year it was a rather more downmarket affair with a dinner. We received a very warm welcome.The hunt secretary was particularly pleased to see us. She came out to photograph us and then said "Why don't you f**k off". Most of the hunt ended up standing with us on the pavement as we were obviously better company than their comrades!

Notts Hunt Sabs

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The second half of our season started with a very busy day! We began at the kennels of our local beagles who decided to give the day's hunting a miss! We then moved onto the Quorn and immediately found their hounds worrying a field full of sheep. The huntsman followed his usual routine when sabs are present and took the field for a lovely gallop before packing up at 2. We then moved onto the Belvoir (who the Quorn support informed us were hunting nearby!) We found them briefly before the weather turned biblical and they packed up. We still found time to help a cyclist who was trying to fix a puncture in monsoon conditions before heading home for a well earned cuppa.

We returned to the Quorn with much larger numbers the following week and found them at the lovely-sounding Sludge Hall. It was a fairly quiet day apart from a hunt supporter being arrested for assault on one of our sabs. The legal process continues.

We paid a final visit of the season to the Meynell at the end of February. These charmers haven't received the attention they deserve this year due to the badger cull but we'll be back on them next year. It was a typical Meynell day – lots of illegal hunting, tedious support and charmless police - but was still an excellent day's sabbing. The high point was the smashing of our brake light by a local farmer wielding her bottle of orange juice! The police were forced to act as it happened right in front of them and we're still waiting with baited breath for Staffordshire police to let us know the outcome!!

We had a rare visit to the South Notts (or 'snots' as they are lovingly known) in early March. They don't normally hunt Saturdays, as they can't compete with the bigger hunts, so don't receive the attention they deserve. Even on this rare Saturday outing they could only muster 10 riders and a handful of vehicle support and were a pretty sorry sight. Upon our arrival they were blatantly hunting their hounds through a wood but, once they spotted us filming them, the very shy huntsman (who looked about 12) quickly gathered his hounds in and didn't attempt to hunt for the rest of the day! It was an excellent day and we look forward to a return visit to 'the snots' if they decide to hunt again on a Saturday!

Our last local meet of the season was the final Saturday of the Quorn and our last trip out with retiring huntsman Peter Collins. Cunningly disguised, Leicester police were already waiting for us at the services and that set the tone for a typical Quorn Saturday – sabs, lots of police and Peter bimbling around pointlessly before packing up at the earliest opportunity! We hope Eddy, the new huntsman, maintains these proud traditions!

That was the end of our local season but we spent the rest of March travelling North to Yorkshire to support our comrades on the Sinnington and Middleton and South to Northamptonshire for the Ryford Chase Rabbit Hounds and the Woodland Pytchley Foxhunt. We're now busy sett surveying in preparation for the badger culls and have some mink sabbing planned to keep us out of mischief over the summer.

Please get in touch if you want to get involved or support our work.

North Tyne Hunt Sabs

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Following the increase in violence over the last 3 meets we decided to adopt a stealth tactic. Our group has barely existed a year and, in the 8 times we have managed to operate in the field, we have always found the hunts up to no good; from hounds looking for a scent where no scent could possibly be laid, to having to call the hounds off a live scent, to violent mood swings when they have had something to hide.

February - Hunt and Location Undisclosed
This hunt was in a remote area and I doubt it has ever been touched before. We started off by observing from a pre-determined view point, then left the area and sprayed the tree line until we started to see support arrive. As soon as we were out of sight of the support we continued spraying along the road for over 2 miles. To avoid suspicion, we decided to observe the hunt from the other side of the hill keeping a safe distance from the support; we did hear the hounds in cry on the edge of the wood but it was a confused cry indicating that if they had the scent of something it had time to get far away... looks like the false trail we laid paid off! We spotted the support disappearing soon after, which looks like they had no kill.

March – Ullswater Fell Pack
We decided to visit the Ullswater pack with Cumbria, Lancaster & Borders Sabs. After climbing up onto Moor Side, we spotted several hounds straying on the mountainside looking for a scent. We were then informed that the hounds had been seen in pursuit of a fox across Nab Crag. We moved rapidly down Glenridding Valley, heading towards Lanty's Tarn. The hunt crossed over into Glenamara Park, owned by the National Trust. Sabs were already in the area and, just as we approached, we received a radio call about a kill. Despite the fact that there is supposed to be an operation going on to crack down on illegal hunting called operation "kilo watt" (operation micro watt more like), appalled walkers who had witnessed the chase and attempted to engage with the police, were ignored. It was only after sabs argued with the officer in question (and the fact that he realised that he was being recorded) that he started to take statements from the walkers. We found the hounds straying on the mountains looking for a scent once again when we arrived at Thornhow End. There was a significant number of police present to protect the hunt so that when a supporter 'veered' his 4x4 into a female sab, the police did nothing (why was the driver not breathalysed following a road accident?). Once again, as when the Haydon Hunt have killed foxes in public view, the National Trust don't even bat an eyelid!

South Scotland Hunt Sabs

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South Scotland Sabs visited the Lauderdale Hunt on New Years day with two sabs present; the hunt were not found at the meet and, despite hours of searching amongst the hills, they were not found...even the hunt support could not find the hunt with them telling us so!! The supporters and ourselves spent the rest of the day looking but never found them.

Second visit to Lauderdale Hunt at Gattonside in the Scottish Borders, found us missing the hunt from the meet and also finding one hound left alone in the horsebox...we tried to find them but again they remained out of sight all day from the sabs and hunt support, who were very frustrated at not seeing them. The terrain makes it difficult to find them and stay with this hunt as they disappear all too quickly amongst the hills of the Borders countryside.

More numbers needed to help us get out more often!!

Sheffield & Doncaster Hunt Sabs

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During February we sabbed the York & Ainsty South Hunt 4 times and sabbed a joint meet of the Ecclesfield & Colne Valley Beagles. Highlights of our visits to the Y&AS were: ruining their day one Tuesday when they were making a big show of hosting a Devon hunt, and seeing that the terrier men have stopped attending the hunt on Saturdays in an attempt to avoid sabs! The day with the beagles was very successful, with the hunts making a u-turn for the pub as soon as they saw sabs on the moors, and sabs stopping them hunting a white hare en route.

We started off March by sabbing the High Peak Harriers, who again rode out without the hounds upon seeing sabs watching them, only to have a horse collapse and die after 15 minutes on the hills. Then we sabbed the Sinnington Fox Hunt in response to them attacking a lone hunt monitor a fortnight before; 45 sabs descended on them and had a good day of it.

Then we formed part of another large group of sabs for a visit to a meet of the Ryford Chase Rabbit Hounds and the Pytchley Foxhounds. A huge fight broke out at this meet, resulting in the hunt being abandoned (prosecutions against hunt members are in the pipeline). The Woodland Pytchley Fox Hunt also got some attention later on but were unfortunately guarded like royalty by the corrupt Northamptonshire Police.

We finished off the main hunting season on the 29th, totally messing up a day of traditional fox hunting by the Middleton Foxhounds.

We spent almost a week on the Aberdeenshire coast in April, helping Sea Shepherd deal with aggressive seal shooters who they were preventing from culling seals. We helped Sea Shepherd's success continue whilst there with no seals being shot, and the shooters abandoning attempts to shoot on our arrival. On returning from Scotland we had an awesome benefit gig in Sheffield at which we somehow made nearly £950! Thanks to everyone who came along.

We've done some of the above sabbing alone, and much of it with much-loved comrades from other groups. If you are in or near Sheffield, then get in touch and join us!

Scottish Borders Hunt Sabs

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Borders Hunt Saboteurs formed late January 2014 after travelling to to learn about sabbing from good friends North Downs along with Guildford and . Getting home completely fired up and inspired, Borders was born and hasn't looked back.

Within our first season we have sabbed/ monitored 6 different hunts, some several times. We have joined with quite a bit (also sabbed with and) and have been able to learn how both mounted and fell packs work. It has been invaluable sabbing with these groups and seeing how differently they do things and how differently the hunts act.

There have been incredible highs. One being the day just 4 foot sabs from North Downs, and Borders packed up the Surrey Union early and saved a fox from being killed, totally wrecking their day. HA!

There have also been almighty lows, which I personally will never forget. One being the Ullswater Foxhounds killing a fox (on National Trust land with no licence) and feeling so damned helpless... just feet away from saving her after they blocked us in, stopping us from getting to her, and Cumbria Police being so pro-hunt that they may as well have been wearing tweeds and blowing a hunting horn. One of the saddest days ever. Borders sabs returned the week after and I was able to walk freely this time to the place where she was killed. I took some time to pay my respects and tell her that there wasn't just evil there that day; there were people who desperately tried to get to her. How her life was so precious to me and how desperately sorry I was.

I am so proud of being a Hunt Saboteur, so proud of the people who have joined our page on Facebook and been nothing but kind, encouraging and brilliant. I will never forget the support, the emails and letters of disgust and complaint they sent after reading my report of the killing of our fox to Cumbria Police and the National Trust and even to the papers. They have been our backbone. Watching the support grow and seeing how much people DO care is inspiring. Becoming a Saboteur has been an incredible privilege and next season we hope to grow bigger and stronger as more people express an interest in joining.

Borders will always reply to genuine messages from people wanting to sab and encourage and warmly welcome them. There is nothing quite like being around like minded people with only one united goal. Nothing quite like the chat at the end of a successful sab when eyes are smiling and hearts are beating with the pure joy of knowing you did good today for the animals.

Make no mistake, there are the ridiculous early starts, the long days, the driving, the cold, the wet, the mud, the graft, the lows that will haunt you forever. This is not a gentle stroll in the countryside on a sunny afternoon.

BUT...when you save an animal's life, what it is, pure and simply, is just about the best feeling in the entire world.

South Coast Hunt Sabs

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Hunts in the South East were hit hard by the torrential rain. Although this gave the hunted animals some much needed respite, there was nearly always one hunt stupid enough to still go out. Those who did not stay indoors knitting UKIP banners were the Chiddingfold and Leconfield and the Crawley & Horsham. We were also assisted by a round of kennel cough which put hunts out of action for a few weeks each; all in all rather a poor season for them all which must be hurting the purse strings.

All this meant that the generally lone hunt which did go out attracted the attention of many groups and we were hitting numbers in the 40s and 50s each week, which was effectively closing down the hunts.

While on the Chidd one day their terrier men on a quad bike swerved head-on in front of our Land rover. Which reminded us of the bulldozer joke from hitchhikers guide: How much damage will two bumpkins on a quad bike do if your drive in front of a speeding Landrover full of sabs? Answer: None to the land rover, but lots to the bumpkins!

There was a lot of off-roading done as a number of the hunts ventured near green lanes, which is great for sabs in the field and fun for our driver. Our trusty Landy only got stuck once, when a particularly wet and slippery field almost brought us up short.

The Criminal & Horsham huntsman Nick Bycroft (with a record for illegal hunting, criminal damage and abusive language) flounced off mid-season after 'not getting support from the masters,' leaving the said masters to hunt the pack. As they are unable to blow a horn or do effective voices calls we spent quite a few hours with cops in attendance, looking on in wonder and amusement as the incompetent huntsman split his pack time and again, with no help from us.

The Surrey Union met at near Shere, with the usual heavy policing from cops. This is National Trust land and, with no attempt to have a drag, they continue to attempt to kill foxes. Quote of the day from a frustrated Surrey Union terrier man, 'Stop blowing horns. It's illegal, so stop it". Now that's a good amendment to the hunting act!



After the court case where two terrier men were let off assault charges by bent magistrates, it was inevitable we would try to sab the Southdown & Eridge FH who have been in hiding all season. Thanks to a tip-off by a person they had pissed off once too often, we turned up at their frequent meeting place of Firle (this is the scene of many a violent attack on sabs by this hunt's supporters) and shut them down completely.

End of the season saw us travelling many miles to the famously violent Hursley Hambledon. Wiltshire police turned up and a female community officer asked what the driver was doing. 'I'm a hunt saboteur,' was the response. She then demanded he left the area (he was alone at this point) as sabs were 'spoiling people's fun'. When asked under which law this demand was made, she waffled about trespass and then declared that he could get an ASBO. When asked if this was for being on a road or just being a hunt sab she drove off in frustration.

South London Wildlife Group

(Croydon, Brixton and Hook sabs)

Text: 07900 603 742

www.facebook.com/pages/South-London-Wildlife-Group

Torrential rain was the feature of the opening weeks of 2014. The Crawley and Horsham swam for it at Wineham on New Year's Day with SLWG, , South Downs and sabs thwarting their every move. The next two Saturdays were sabbed by the rain even before SLWG joined sabs from across the country at the 50th anniversary celebrations.



The Bustow paddled out of Heaverham on the 25th of January and were most put out by the presence of the SLWG drone and three full sab vans. After a couple of miserable hours on what little dry land was available they packed up and went home.

February started with another 'rain day', but the Chid and Surrey Union managed a joint meet at Goodwood on the 8th. This meet is particularly advantageous for sabs, and with several groups operating together the hunt was intercepted at every turn. Clearly frustrated, some of their Redcoats began riding in an insanely dangerous manner in treacherous conditions, and it is pure luck that none of the horses were injured. The day ended with sabs providing first aid at the scene of a road traffic collision. One of the casualties turned out to be the niece of Lord March, owner of Goodwood House.

Another 'rain day' on the 15th was followed by a visit to the C and H at Small Dole, then an incredibly successful day in the company of North Downs sabs and others on the Surrey Union at Shere to start off March. The hunt's attempt to do a long distance runner was anticipated by sabs, and their frustration at being caught so easily was plain to see as they galloped back and forth next to the road at Ranmore Common before packing up early.

The 8th of March was a special day for the older sabs present, with the first outing to the Hursley Hambledon since the major incident there in the 90's. The hunt took place on a large private estate with no road access, but sabs on foot produced a miracle and stayed up on the increasingly agitated hunt until they threw in the towel at two o'clock. At one point three police officers tried to 'form a line' to block the progress of a large group of sabs and seemed surprised when their efforts failed!

Midweek saw the travesty of justice in Brighton Magistrates Court as two hunt thugs from the Southdown and Eridge were cleared of the Boxing Day 2012 assault on the driver in spite of overwhelming evidence. SLWG joined up with sabs on the S and E the following Saturday at Firle. Caught in a superb pincer movement by the sabs, the hunt milled aimlessly on the lower ground for about an hour, before making their way to the top of the . Here they picked a confrontation with the sabs at a gate before having to trudge off, humiliated, as the police looked on. In an unprecedented move at this meet they then rode miles to the east with sabs in hot pursuit, only to run into another group of sabs coming in from the road. One last gallop back to high ground trying to shake off the sabs only resulted in them running straight into yet another group and the hunt gave up and went home a little after two hours after they had set off!

The main season ended for SLWG with another visit to the Hursley, this time cut very short by a serious injury to one of the hunters sustained in a fall. The hunt took out their frustration by attacking SLWG and sabs who acquitted themselves very well against superior numbers and crass policing.
Just when we were thinking of fund raising and badger cull preparations, SLWG contributed the undercover team to the Scottish seal cull operation and the subsequent larger team in , but more of that elsewhere...

South Wales Hunt Sabs

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The last few months of the season have been eventful to say the least. We've experienced numerous incidents of hunt violence as the hunts became more and more desperate to make the most of the time they had left to go about their favourite pastime undisturbed.

Along with hunt violence we've had ourselves a dose of police brutality! Luckily we're good natured enough to tell them when they're making fools of themselves, even when they have us on our backs in the bushes.

On the day in question we were sabbing the Banwen Miners and things had been going well. We worked in two groups so that we could ensure that one group always had them in sight while the other could anticipate where they were likely to go next and position themselves appropriately. This effective pincer movement must have been more frustrating than we realised. Once satisfied that the hunt were packing up the groups headed back towards the landy. As one group made their way down they spotted a few more police vehicles than anyone could think necessary surrounding our landy. Communication with the sabs down there confirmed that three sabs had been arrested.

Once it was safe to return, the group were shown videos of the events. As one sab was being torn out of the vehicle and thrown on the ground before being cuffed, you could catch sight of the others being whisked away by the police for goodness knows what. Someone should explain to the boys in blue that kidnapping is illegal. Seeing as there was no reason to arrest our sabs in the first place we had them back a few hours later, bruised and annoyed, but safe.

Our last sab of the season was as eventful as ever. We joined up with Three Counties and Bristol – two sab groups we've always worked brilliantly with. We headed over to see our best friend Lee Peters at the Ross Harriers. We witnessed the most blatant hare hunting that day and sabs worked very hard that day to ensure that there were no kills. The Ross Harriers showed their recognition of our hard work by having a series of violent temper tantrums which, unfortunately, resulted in various injuries including one sab who had to be taken to hospital for stitches.

Despite the violence we continue to experience, we will not be deterred. As was mentioned in the last group news, we've had new recruits! They've have found their place in our team in no time and done a great job. South Wales Sabs are leaving this season on a positive note. We're ready to hone our skills even further over the summer as we head back to the cull zones and we'll be back next season to do what we do best, but even better.

West Midlands Hunt Sabs

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The first part of this report was missed from the Winter 2013 edition of Howl. Apologies to West Midlands Hunt Sabs

During November, with the cull still in progress, the group decided that our priority must be to continue helping the badgers. We did not want the hunts to have a free hand however, so we also determined to visit as many hunts as we could. A small team visited the North Cotswold twice and was unsuccessful in our attempt to stop a dig out on the first visit, but successfully stopped one on our second visit, a week later. We then spent a Saturday with the Albrighton, who we managed to move on consistently and whose hounds hardly went on cry all day. At the end of November the cull was finally called off so we could begin to go out in greater force and it was business as usual!

December was quite an eventful month for us. It started with us joining up with the Northants group to visit the Pytchley, who also had at least part of the Quorn along with them. The combined terrier men of the two hunts decided to get a bit violent at one point, but apart from that it was a very good day. The following week we returned to the North Cotswold again for a particularly active day, with the sabs helping to save several foxes. The Three Counties Sabs, who were covering a neighbouring hunt, happened by as we were helping one, in a quarry, and joined in to give their support. During the rest of December, we first visited the Fernie, again with the Northants group. We had a really good day, splitting the pack several times and stopping them from getting a fox which was hiding in a hedge with hunt followers surrounding it with sticks. The following week we had police hassle at the Albrighton, where they tried to serve us with an inapplicable Section 27. The Saturday after that, we again joined up with Northants for a visit to the Oakley. Here a police helicopter was deployed for at least 45 minutes, repeatedly placing itself between the hunt and ourselves at practically ground level. It then landed and the Police tried to wrongly detain us before eventually giving up. Then, just prior to Christmas went back to the Albrighton. We had a really good day, stopping a dig out at the start of the day. We also managed to split the pack on more than one occasion and took the whole pack on another. At the end of the day, however, Staffordshire Police sat and watched as the sabs were assaulted and ridden at by riders from the hunt.

New Year's Day saw us visiting the Warwickshire Beagles. After various hunt speeches about hunting within the law, it took them only a few minutes after starting to show how untrue this was, by putting up and chasing their first hare of the day. The next three hours saw us repeatedly having to intervene to save hares. In very poor weather, it was an exhausting, but rewarding, day. The following week we joined up with various groups to visit the Quorn, who had attacked another sab group a few weeks previously. The hunt did not get up to much in the very limited time they were out, but Leicestershire Police turned up in force to deliver hassle, under the guise of Section 60 and Section 60AA. One of our sabs was arrested for obstruction and subsequently bailed away from every hunt in the country, although the alleged offence was committed against the police and not the hunt, which were nowhere near at the time. Then it was time for another visit to the North Cotswold, where we had another good day, although their support and terrier men were quite aggressive. Finally at the end of January we again teamed up with Northants to visit a pack in Leicestershire. We did not even get to the hunt as we were stopped by the police, whilst still in a town. They claimed that no one present could drive our van on their licences and we were also not insured. Both claims were untrue. It shows, however, how the police are stepping up their harassment of sabs, whilst letting the hunts do what they like!

During January, February and March 2014, West Midlands Sabs visited the following hunts (some on numerous occasions): Atherstone, Grafton, Albrighton, North Cotswold, Fernie, Woodland Pytchley and not forgetting the Ryford Chase Rabbit Hounds. From this list it's clear to see that we have to cover hunts over a large geographical area, from Shropshire and Staffordshire in the west, to Leicestershire and Northamptonshire in the east.

We have also had to deal with an ever-increasing amount of pro-hunt policing from just about all the police forces we have encountered during this time. Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Staffordshire and West Mercia Police have been the main culprits in shocking and repeated displays of pro-hunt bias (and a total disregard for wasting tax-payers' money) by ridiculously over-policing sabs. From December onwards, we have had no less than five police helicopters deployed against us, as well as dog teams, Tactical Support Unit vans and countless other police vehicles present on almost every occasion we were out. It's increasingly clear whose side the police are on in the fight against blood sports, and it's not ours. That also places them firmly in opposition to the views of the vast majority of people in our society, who happen to oppose blood sports!

Yet, in spite of not only having to constantly deal with the police, (and the ever increasing amounts of hunt violence inflicted upon us) we have had a successful season, and have undoubtedly saved many animals' lives. This has been achieved by the time-honoured sab tactic of peaceful, non-violent direct action. Support for our group has also increased this season, with new sabs coming to us post badger cull and we are in good shape to continue the fight during next season and, as now looks very likely, in the return of the badger cull.

During this period we have finally also been able to publicise, via our Facebook page, the fact that one of our group has successfully sued West Mercia Police, following an incident that took place in 2012. West Mercia Police admitted assault and unlawful imprisonment. This payout helped to repair our van that was damaged at the end of that season.

Thanks to all that have supported us this season, please continue to do so. If you wish to donate to us, you can do so via gofundme on our facebook page. Keep up the fight!

Southampton Hunt sabs

www.facebook.com/southampton.sabs

We had some really good days and results in the second half of the season and some good results: here are the edited highlights!

We met up with our long term enemies the Tedworth who, whilst leaving the kennels, smashed our landy window, covering our navigator in glass and leaving him with some cuts to the face. The rest of our group went on to the meet with our usual comrades Pewsey Vale. Bristol were already there so after a wasted hour and a half with the plod, we joined the others and were surprised to find it was a joint meet with the Avon Vale FH. It was a very successful day; they were sabbed continuously but there was some violence, at one point from the police as well.

We also paid a long overdue visit to the Surrey Union and hooked up with South Coast, Croydon, Guildford, North Downs and Brighton. A good day; between all the groups we kept them on the run and packed them up early.

Towards the end of the season we decided to have a look at the infamous Hursley Hambledon FH at Clarendon Park (of *Only Fools and Horses* chandelier fame). They had not been properly sabbed in many years so, as a precaution, we asked for some help from another couple of groups...by the time word got round we had almost 60 sabs from Croydon, Bristol, Pewsey, South Coast and Brighton.



It was a slow start, like looking for a needle in a hay stack but when we found them it was priceless: one supporter with a police officer in the passenger seat crashed his landy in to another supporter's car whilst shouting abuse at us. Within 15 minutes they headed back to the meet and hung around waiting for their chance to leave. During this time their back-up (resembling a cross between the casts of *Dad's Army* and *Eastenders*) were called in and got a wee bit feisty and a small scuffle started to break out. We stood our ground saying that we would not be going until we had made them leave. One supporter used the old cliché, 'you and which army?' We replied, 'that one,' as about 40 sabs came marching around the corner! As tensions grew, so did the plod presence but they soon packed and the amazing scene of a broken huntsman with his head in his hands sent us away smiling.

The next week we decided to go and see our old mates the Tedworth with Bristol, Pewsey and South Wales. As we followed them from the kennels in Wiltshire and into Hampshire we found them to be having a joint meet with the Royal Artillery. The RA's hounds spent the majority of the day with us and, much to our amusement, we then realized that their unbelievably crap huntsman was our old chum Alan Morgan formerly of the Cotswold Vale only a lot older and even more useless than he was before! We kept on them most of the day stepping in repeatedly and ruining his feeble attempts at hunting.

Our last day out was a return to the Hursley with Croydon, South Coast, sussex and Brighton. We arrived at the meet to find they were not there. A few phone calls and an oscar winning performance from one sab got us the new location. It was quite far away and as the first group arrived on the scenes, they turned round and went straight back to the meet. After a long stand off with them and the plod (followed by some violence from the spineless bastards who decided to jump a small, lone group of mostly female sabs, while the police stood by and watched) they left the meet one-by-one in different directions. Job done.

We would like to say cheers to all the groups that came down to back us up with the Hursley; it was much appreciated. Also thanks to all the other groups we have worked with this season.

West Sussex Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/westsussex.huntsabs
westsussexhuntsabs@riseup.net

We dedicated as much time as possible to the Crawley & Horsham Hunt (C&H) with a few visits to the Isle of Wight Beagles as well as the Chiddingfold, Lechinfield & Cowdrey. This season saw the C&H hunting without a Huntsman, having waved goodbye to their convicted huntsman, Nick Bycroft. Nick took the rap for the C&H after one of our own monitors (and an independent monitor) filmed them illegally hunting a fox in Angmering Park. This was in February 2013 www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdT5G0exTLQ. Huntsman Nick Bycroft didn't last long having replaced Andrew Phyllis in 2011. Andrew Phyllis having left after we had him (also) convicted of illegal hunting!

The C&H spent the season in disarray, with the hounds trying to hunt with no apparent master. The hunt tried everything to evade us, and it did get tricky, but we would not be thwarted in our efforts to stop them killing foxes. We joined other sabs for a joint meet of the Chiddingfold, Lechinfield & Cowdrey and the Surrey Union on the Goodwood Estate in February. While driving down a lane to make sure the hunt were heading back to the kennels, we came across a road traffic accident. We immediately assisted the injured, one of which turned out to be the niece of Lord March! The Lord turned up at the scene and tried not to look uncomfortable surrounded by hunt sabs, he then graciously thanked us for our help and we went on our way.



In March we met with other sabs in Hampshire for a meet of the Hambledon & Hursley. The meet was abandoned not long after the start as one of the riders fell and an ambulance was called. The horse was fine, which was good news. We were soon surrounded by police who did nothing to help when two sabs were attacked in front of them, and a moron dressed as Stig kept sticking his video camera in our faces. With the hunt over we retreated to a quiet lane and sampled various cakes and sweets!

All in all, we feel we had a very successful 2013/14 season, saving many foxes from a horrible death. Our thanks to the many sabs who travelled from afar to help us sab the C&H. If you are thinking you would like to join us please contact us and get involved; if you are worried about age or fitness read the account on the next page from one of our veteran hunt sabs.▶



YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD!
by West Sussex Hunt Sabs

Just in case there's anyone out there reading this who thinks that they're too old or not fit enough to be of any use saving lives from those hunters the message is – EVERYONE can play their part, no matter what.

On Saturday 8th March after the Crawley & Horsham met in a field opposite the George & Dragon Pub, Dragons Green, for the last Saturday of the season, two "older" women in a car made it their job to try and stay one jump ahead of the hunt. The driver is over 70 and quite disabled but with her 68 year old passenger keeping radio and phone contact with others in the field and the use of a map and local area knowledge they made their way up to Marlpost Wood before the hunt arrived. They could be heard in the distance heading that way.

A beautiful fox was seen about 100 metres down the bridle path and as soon as it had run into the woods away from the hunt, the passenger legged it down the path and sprayed the whole area where the fox had been with citronella. Sure enough, when the hunt did appear the hounds had lost the scent and the riders set off across the road.

Back in the car, they drove round into Lackenhurst Lane just as a fox came through the hedgerow about 50m ahead of them. The hounds were in full cry as the passenger ran as fast as she could spraying and trying to call the hounds off, which slowed them down. When she glanced across the field she noticed riders swiftly pulling their horses up at the sound of her voice! The C&H don't want to risk even more convictions!!! Other monitors further up the lane saw the fox break through the hedges and escape and, although the hounds had continued on it, it hadn't been with the same impetus.

Shortly after this, the hunt packed up, but not before one of their snooty riders had referred to the women as c***s. Lovely people!



Please write cards or letters to the following prisoners. 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.

UK Prisoners

Debbie Vincent #A5819DE
HMP-YOI Bronzefield
Woodthorpe Road
Ashford, Middlesex TW15 3JZ

Overseas Prisoners

Walter Edmund Bond, 37096-013
USP Marion CMU, PO Box 1000, Marion IL 62959, USA
Walter Bond is serving a total of 12 years for his actions as the ALF Lone Wolf. www.SupportWalter.org
Birthday:16th April

Kevin Johnson #4565
Woodford County Jail, 111 E Court St.,Eureka, IL 61530, USA
Kevin was arrested in rural Illinois for "possession of burglary tools."

Marie Jeanette Mason, 04672-061
FMC Carswell, Federal Medical Center, P.O. Box 27137, Fort Worth, TX 76127, USA.
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

Ebba Olausson
Box 3, 701 40 Örebro, SWEDEN
In April 2014, Ebba was sentenced to two years and six months in prison for actions against the fur industry.
www.facebook.com/supportebba

Rebecca Rubin #98290-011
FCI Dublin, 5701 8th Street - Camp Parks, Dublin, CA 94568, USA
In January 2014, Rebecca was sentenced to five years in prison after pleading guilty to arson, attempted arson and conspiracy charges.

Justin Solondz #98291-011
FCI Loretto, Federal Correctional Institution, P.O. Box 1000, Loretto, PA 15940, USA
In March 2012, Justin was sentenced to seven years in prison for arson and conspiracy charges related to actions in the U.S. claimed by the ELF/ALF.
www.supportjustin.org
Birthday:3rd October

Brian Vaillancourt #M42889
Danville Correctional Center, 3820 East Main Street, Danville, IL 61834, USA
In February 2014, Brian was sentenced to nine years in prison for a McDonald's arson.

Adriano Antonacci
C.C. Ferrara, Via Arginone 327, 44122, Ferrara ITALY.

Gianluca Iacovacci
C.C. Alessandria, Via Casale 50/A, 15122, San Michele (AL), ITALY.
Adriano Antonacci and Gianluca Iacovacci were arrested in September 2013. They are suspected of involvement in actions against a fur store, banks, the Eni oil company and the Enel power company.

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) ❒ £150 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.uk

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

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

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



Nancy Phipps

Nancy Phipps was a formidable woman. Formidable in the strength of her convictions, her strength of character and the kind of inward strength you need to spend almost a lifetime fighting injustice. When Stuart Christie wrote the book "Granny made me an anarchist" I thought of Nance. Because when I knew her she was already in her 60's and had a firm grasp on the politics of animal exploitation that meant she viewed politicians and the state with deserved contempt. Long evenings were spent at her home in Coventry discussing campaigns, inbetween generous amounts of good vegan food and sharing hilarious stories of past shenanigans.

Nancy was a convicted ALF activist, breaking into Unilever and serving her time alongside her daughter Lesley; she campaigned tirelessly with Coventry Animal Alliance, running stalls locally and could be seen at practically all demonstrations alongside her wonderful family. When Jill, her daughter was crushed beneath the wheels of a lorry carrying calves to their eventual slaughter in 1995 she was utterly devastated yet instead of giving up and quietly grieving at home, she was back out taking part in civil disobedience actions against live exports and endlessly vocalising against it on TV stations all over Europe.

She would write to prisoners, always cheerful, always thinking of others inspite of her grief and was just an amazing, courageous and compassionate woman. Nancy left this world on May 30th 2014 a better place for having lived here.

by Mel Arnold

50th Anniversary Merchandise!

HUNT SABOTEURS 50 years Still saving wildlife 1963-2013

To celebrate 50 years of direct action against bloodsports we've released a range of merchandise featuring mugs, t-shirts and cloth badges!

Available now at www.huntsabs.org.uk or see enclosed merchandise flyer.

