The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association Autumn 2014 (Issue 106) £2 (free to members)

HOWL

Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

www.huntsabs.org.uk



Sabs saving badgers

Summer mink hunt campaign

Scottish seal cull update

Focus on: Bassets











Front Cover Story:
Sabs save trapped badger!





The first night of the badger culls began with Hunt Saboteurs out in full force in their hundreds across both zones doing their level best to stop the cullers from killing any badgers.

In Ryeford, Gloucestershire at about Midnight, a couple of experienced Hunt Saboteurs came across a badger trapped in a cage, (pictured on the front cover). Just as they approached two shooters were spotted nearby, part of the team employed to kill badgers. A tense standoff then ensued while the outnumbered sabs stood their ground as the shooters called in reinforcements. One of the shooters physically stood on the badger cage in an attempt to prevent the sabs from releasing the badger.

Eventually the police arrived on the scene and immediately approached the shooters taking statements from them. The sabs remained calm and knowing the 'best practice guidelines' of the cull informed the police that the badger had to be released for two reasons:



1. Cage trapped badgers must only be shot between dawn and noon.
2. Shooters must release trapped badgers if third parties are present.

The police spoke to the shooters again and after an extremely long wait a shooter with police escort approached the trapped badger. Time seemed to stand still, but evenutally the senior police officer present announced the shooter would be releasing the badger in accordance with the cull 'best practice guidelines'.

For the sabs involved it was an emotional and happy ending to a tense situation which had lasted several hours. For anyone needing further proof that hunt sabs save lives this is as good as it gets! Sabs filmed the release of the badger and it featured on both BBC and ITV news the following days.

This encounter is just one example of the tireless work that hunt saboteurs are putting into ensuring the badger cull fails and that a nationwide roll-out never takes place. If you are not already a member then please join the HSA today and help support sabs against the badger cull.

www.huntsabs.org.uk

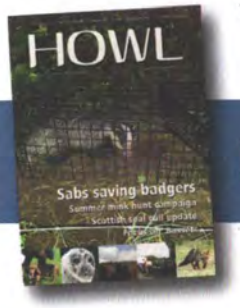
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The Hunt Saboteurs Association has been in existence for over 50 years, and is dedicated to saving the lives of hunted animals directly. Prior to the Hunting Act of 2004, hunt saboteurs used non-violent direct action to prevent the horrific deaths 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.

Editor(s)
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Editorial

So, here we are again, at the start, as I write this, of another fox hunting season... although those sabs who have spent part or all of their summer sabbing minkhunts, in the badger cull zone or travelling to the seal cull may wonder how it all came around so quickly!

There is a serious knock-on to all the extra sabbing that has gone on; traditionally sabs could spend the summer fund-raising to get a vehicle roadworthy or to replace old or broken equipment. The summer months were also an excellent time to raise awareness at events, festivals and on street stalls in order to attract new sabs as well as garner support and sell merchandise. All the extra sabbing has meant that many local groups are finding themselves financially disadvantaged and the HSA are having to provide grants much earlier in the season than would usually be the case. On top of this, the HSA has spent tens of thousands of pounds to fund sabs in the badger cull zones.

Despite this, we have still managed to provide considerable support for sabs where it has been needed; there have been more hunts sabbed this year than ever before, more animals saved and more that will have a chance to live out their lives as they should be able.

Although the badger cull is going ahead this year, there have already been notable successes; not least when sabs persuaded police that contractors were trying to shoot trapped badgers illegally and then looked on in delight as the shooters themselves released the even more delighted badger back to their sett!

The bird shoot in Malta has failed to go ahead and groups are mobilising in many other countries to protect their wildlife. See our excellent article about the work being done by our very own Hunt Saboteurs Global Network.

There is, as always, some not-so-good news. The season had barely begun when a sab was brutally ridden down by a red coat. As the incident in question is under investigation we cannot say too much but wish our fellow sab a successful and speedy recovery.

Sabs' ability to help the hunted animal is only made possible due to the continued support offered by the HSA. The HSA can only offer that support if we continue to get support from you, our members. Every membership, every t-shirt sold, every fund-raising event makes a difference to an animal somewhere – we rely on, and appreciate, your support more than ever.

Perhaps you could take another look at our merchandise when you are writing your Christmas lists! Mink hunt t-shirt for Granny?!

We hope you enjoy the magazine.



THE SCOTTISH SEAL CULL PHASE 2

As regular readers of Howl will know, the Scottish government licences the killing of up to 1000 seals each year. In April an HSA undercover team exposed the activities of salmon 'netsmen' Scottish Wild Salmon Company and Sea Shepherd and sabs from several groups brought the cull and salmon netting operations to a halt on a long stretch of coastline. One unexpected bonus of this has been an influx of new Scottish sabs.

At the end of July the same team returned to, this time ably assisted by one of our new sabs.

The target this time was the fish farming 'industry' on the West coast. The challenges here were substantial. The terrain on the West coast is very different from the East, with long sea lochs and mountains meeting the sea. The team also lacked the plethora of local knowledge and support that had been so vital on the East coast. However, a month of intensive advance research had given the team a good idea of the best places to look.



The list of seal licences that the Scottish government was forced to reveal last year names many of the fish farms, but the real challenge was to prove that these farms supplied the market. Most of the companies are Norwegian owned and most of the fish are exported.

One element of this campaign was always intended to be trying to link specific supermarkets to the seal cull. Most supermarkets are very shy about revealing their suppliers. Sainsburys' salmon is labelled 'Loch Sunart', but when asked on the phone which company supplied them, they refused to answer. Unfortunately for them, the sab team discovered that there are only two fish farming companies in Loch Sunart and one of them doesn't supply the market. This only left Marine Harvest, and they have licences to kill seals at ten separate locations, but the salmon farms at Loch Sunart were not accessible from the shore with the equipment available.

Marks and Spencer's salmon is labelled Lochmuir. Lochmuir is a con. It simply doesn't exist.



A little research, however, revealed that Lochmuir is a name used by Scottish Sea Farms. They also have ten separate seal killing licences. Shockingly, their main processing plant is at Loch Creran, an unparalleled site of scientific interest due to its flame shell beds and biogenic reefs. They also have a fish farm here where each of the fourteen pens holds 60000 salmon, according to the worker who unknowingly volunteered this information to a sab.

A visit to the processing plant revealed that the salmon are brought in from fish farms all around the coast in 'well boats'. They are semi frozen but still alive until they are sucked through a long tube to their deaths in the onshore facility.

From the shore and on the water the sabs started collecting evidence through a combination of photography and video, from both distance and close up underwater shots, and from chatting to unsuspecting locals.



"Unbelievably, the undercover sab was allowed to film in the control room, on the shore and at the pens. The workers talked openly about the smaller, weaker fish dying of starvation as they can't compete for food."

The horrific conditions in which the farmed fish live out their short lives soon became apparent, with overcrowding and disease rampant. The sabs were sickened to see the fish farmers dredging the bodies of dead fish from the pens; although worse was to follow.

The appalling environmental impact of intensive shellfish production was graphically illustrated at Loch Creran, with rusting equipment and machinery littering the shore. At the Dawn Fresh trout farm at the neighbouring Loch Etive, the 'Acoustic Harassment Device', which scares seals away from the fish farms can clearly be heard all the way to the shore, thus denying seals access to a vital 'haul out' which the young seals need in order to spend time out of the water. Underwater video footage here revealed the dire condition of the farmed fish, all of which seemed to have fin rot, which could have serious consequences for the wild fish population.

The real coup de grace, however, was to come at , where one of the sabs managed to get invited to watch the farmed fish being fed at the Marine Harvest facility. An initial contact with one of the workers led to a brief visit to the farm and the sabs giving the worker a lift home at the end of his shift, which then led to the invitation to return the next day. The giant square pens hold 78000 salmon each, with a theoretical fish density of seven per cubic metre, except that all the fish are concentrated into the top five metres, so the real density is three times higher. Unbelievably, the undercover sab was allowed to film in the control room, on the shore and at the pens. The workers talked openly about the smaller, weaker fish dying of starvation as they can't compete for food. The terrible plight of the wild caught wrasse, which are used for disease control in the salmon pens is also graphically illustrated; and all this in a facility that has an RSPCA Freedom Foods plaque on the gate. But the most valuable information was the names of the three supermarkets supplied by this disgusting place: Sainsburys, Tescos and Morrisons are all supplied by Marine Harvest and they kill seals.

Watch a video taken by sabs at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mv2kgwGBDHs



FOCUS ON: BASSETS

Winter 1990: rural Leicestershire. Four vanloads of hunt saboteurs roll up at a pub meet of the Westerby Bassets. My reaction, on jumping out of one of those vans and seeing my first ever basset pack, was simply to laugh. Did they really imagine they'd catch anything with those low-slung, floppy-eared hounds?

An hour later, out in the hunting field, it suddenly wasn't so funny. Despite a cacophony of sab voice and horn calls, the hounds were locked onto a hare and moving surprisingly fast. They didn't check or overrun like excitable beagles - the whole pack was strung out as each hound individually 'owned the line' with their characteristic deep cry. In the end, only a determined effort to swamp the hunt staff and get some of the hounds on makeshift leads prevented a kill.

"...there are stories of them hunting till darkness, then being brought back the next day to pick up the scent...no wonder we had problems calling off the Westerby."

The reminiscence above is from a long time ago but reminds us that basset hounds - despite appearances - can be formidable hunters. Since the HSA re-engaged the hare hunters a few years ago, several basset packs have been sought out and disrupted, but there is always more to do. This article will give a brief overview of hunting with bassets and the packs involved. It is hoped that it will inspire groups to get to know their local pack.

The basseting fraternity have always been regarded as an eccentric minority in the hare-hunting world. For them, the main attraction is the basset's exceptional scenting ability - there are stories of them hunting till darkness, then being brought back the next day to pick up the scent...no wonder we had problems calling off the Westerby.

There are currently just seven packs governed by their own body - the Masters of Basset Hounds Association. With one exception, these are based in the midlands and the south. Bassets struggle with hilly country and dry stone walls!

The first pack to come back onto sab radar was found quite by chance. Two seasons ago, sabs covertly trailing the Eton College Beagles hound vehicle found themselves being led many miles into Essex. This turned out to be an invitation meet hosted by the De Burgh and North Essex Harehounds. Once the beagles had been dealt with, sabs wasted no time in gathering bonus footage of the De Burgh supporters (in their attractive green fleeces) and their vehicles. This has paid off since, with the pack being followed then sabbed on at least two subsequent occasions.

So complacent had the De Burgh become, they could not even produce a soiled rag on a bit of string when sabs suddenly appeared in the field and challenged them about illegal hunting. Instead, they bowed their heads in shame and walked back to the meet in an awkward silence.

This pack's problems are not over. Surveillance by Suffolk sabs on the Stour Valley Beagles discovered that the De Burgh have recently re-kennelled with them. If this move is an attempt to avoid hunt saboteurs it has failed. We'll see you both this season.

Their western neighbours, the Albany and West Lodge Bassets are an amalgamation of two packs whose country now stretches from the northern outskirts of London up into Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire. The Albany were once the proud 'working pack' of the MBHA and would travel the country giving demonstration meets to basset enthusiasts. Now, like so many other footpacks, they have been forced to amalgamate just to survive. They were sabbed twice last season, the first occasion being on their prestigious 'Newcomers Day', the date for which they foolishly advertised in Country Life magazine. The HSA quickly messaged its thousands of Facebook followers and, within 48 hours, had the full meet.





Basset Facts

- The Basset Hound originated in medieval France and was a popular hunting dog.
- The first use of the word "Basset" in describing a breed of dog with short legs can be found in early French text written in the sixteenth century.
- The name Basset derives from the French from the word 'bas' meaning low.



On the day itself sabs made themselves known when hounds began to draw the first field. The obviously rattled master, Jeremy Ward, immediately stopped hunting, apologised to the bewildered 'newcomers' and ran back to the meet. To complete his embarrassment, the official *Horse and Hound* photographer was on hand to record the whole fiasco!

To the north and west of the Albany are the Four Shires Bassets who hunt over Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, Warwickshire and Oxfordshire. They have the misfortune to be kennelled with the Old Berkeley Beagles: this two-for-one offer on kennel-watching attracts sab groups from far and wide. We've had several good days against them recently, but on one distressing occasion had to endure the huntsman wearing an 'ironic' Christmas jumper.

Further west still are the Leadon Vale Bassets who now kennel with the violent Ross Harriers. They've been sabbed a couple of times since the ban and were caught out by Bristol sabs at the end of last season. As usual, the pitifully small field rushed back to the meet as soon as black-clad figures were spotted on the horizon.

The LVB, in fact, exemplify the problems faced by many footpacks - forced by the HSA and the Hunting Act to operate virtually underground, they have dwindled to a small and ageing core of supporters. It is difficult to see how many of these hunts will survive long-term.

In the Midlands proper are the Westerby Bassets who are kennelled near Lutterworth. They hunt Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire. As recalled above, in the 90s this pack could present problems for even a large group of sabs.



Not any more. When a couple of Notts sabs strolled into a remote Westerby meet last season the supporters couldn't box back up quickly enough.

The East Lincolnshire Bassets hunt the flat wolds to the east of Westerby country. This highly secretive hunt are kennelled with the Southwold FH. They hosted other basset packs for a 'hare week' last year in celebration of the MBHA's centenary. Sabs discovered the event too late to organise a response but the ELB are now firmly back in our sights.

The outlying northern pack - the Barony Bassets - was formed in 2006 by Dumfries-based Robert and Daphne Thorn as a direct challenge to the hunting ban. This charming couple have also found the time to revive the Dumfresshire and Stewartry Foxhounds and form an entirely new minkhound pack - the Three Dales. These bassets are hunted on Sundays to allow for Saturdays with the foxhounds.

So, the basset packs may be a shadow of their former selves, but they're still out there hunting twice a week. As hunt saboteurs our priority is always to save hunted animals on the day. But when we sabotage a basset or beagle pack we do even more. We make them paranoid, sap their morale and drive them even further into the ground.

Sabs up and down the country have been targeting the footpacks over the last couple of seasons to great effect.

This season let's increase the pressure!



Summer 2014 Mink Campaign

The mink hound packs have always presented unique challenges for hunt saboteurs. When they first formed in the early 1980s, sabbing was already a well-established reality and the mink hunters knew they were a priority target. From the outset they were paranoid about security and only welcomed the most trusted followers from fox and beagle packs. The Hunting Act has simply driven them even further underground. To compound our problems, most of them have huge, poorly-defined 'countries' that it would be impractical to search without very specific advance intelligence.

Undaunted by these challenges, the HSA was determined to break through the secrecy surrounding mink hunting and stop at least some of the slaughter. The first steps were taken last summer when several terrier and lurcher shows were visited undercover (gulp!). Sabs instinctively headed for the beer tents where they knew they'd find the loosest tongues. A great deal of useful background information was obtained which was then used in a sophisticated intelligence gathering operation. In addition, we were able to exploit the fact that mink hunters are very unpopular with other river users because of the damage they cause to sensitive riparian environments. Wildlife trusts, water bailiffs and even a fly-fishing club all passed on meets and other valuable information.

The action itself kicked off on Saturday 3rd May when 50 sabs descended on the opening meet of the Culmstock Mink Hounds in Devon. They unboxed at the Howley Tavern, Chard and were pursued by sabs down to the River Yarty.

Surprisingly, when the hounds were 'put in' the staff took them away from the river and tried to get them interested in a pile of old tyres lying around outside a barn. "We're...er...a ratting pack now," one of the whips explained. Someone should have told the hounds because all they wanted to do was get down to the river.

Once an HSA drone was in the air the unconvincing ratting display came to an abrupt end. There then followed a sedate five hour pursuit of the hound van and its police escort through the picturesque villages of East Devon. This finally came to an end when they sought refuge in Honiton police station. Eventually, several cop cars emerged, blocked the High Street and allowed the hound van to escape.





Good job too, otherwise we might have found out they are kennelled with the East Devon Foxhounds at Higher St Andrews Wood Farm, Dulford, Cullompton, EX15 2DF!

Sabs were back at the Culmstock on the Bank Holiday Monday and, the following weekend, attention turned to the Midlands.



"Wildlife trusts, water bailiffs and even a fly-fishing club all passed on meets and other valuable information."

The Dove Valley MH kennel staff must have choked on their cornflakes when they saw the 90-strong black block that had assembled at the kennel gates. Further east, a team of sab spotter cars were busy tailing the Northamptonshire MH to the River Kym. The Dove Valley never even got out and the Northants scuttled back to their meet as soon as sabs caught up with them on the riverbank. So ended the worst opening week for the mink hunters in at least 20years; and the season was only just beginning...

The later May Bank Holiday was a rerun of the first. This time the Devon & Cornwall MH were hit on the Saturday. On the Monday the Culmstock were swamped at the Anchor Arms in Exebridge, while the miserable Dove Valley endured another mass kennel blockade. Over at the Northants kennels, sab pursuit vehicles were left with nothing to do when the hunt flatly refused to come out and play. Result!

From here the campaign took on its own momentum, with sab groups all over the country using old tricks and new to obtain meets. Southern groups repeated the Midlands stunt of blockading one pack and following another. The Wealden MH hound van was pursued for miles whilst the Kent and Sussex MH spent their day trying to hide out in a barn!

In late June the amateurish Teme Valley MH were sabbed for the first time ever and, a week later, the Northamptonshire and Culmstock were visited yet again. Their frustration was now beginning to show: the Teme Valley huntsman threatened to knife a sab and at the Culmstock, outnumbered sabs had to face down violence and intimidation.

The Teme Valley were visited again in mid-August, this time at a joint meet with the Three Counties MH. Mark Allen, the meet host and former TCMH huntsman, was literally foaming at the mouth at the ruination of his special day.

Other notable days include a visit to old enemies the Courtenay Tracy (formerly Ytene) who were approached with caution at North Widcombe. However this once formidable hunt have abandoned their policy of trying to batter or drown any sab they come across. They now have a new policy when sabs turn up: stand around in a field for a bit then meekly drive home.

The Northern Counties Hunt - another pack with a fearsome reputation - were similarly unimpressive. When sabs rumbled them at the Green Tree Inn, Little Ouseburn, the hunt bravely drew the pub curtains and sat tight 'till the cops could escort them back to kennels! How the mighty have fallen!

Strangely, the 2014 mink hunting season ended for sabs as it had begun: with a pack actually venturing out along the river. The Eastern Counties MH - who claim to flush mink to a bird of prey - were sabbed in September from the minute they left the meet. It took about an hour of 'hound tennis' before the huntsman, sodden and dejected, finally blew for home.

By any measure, the 2014 mink campaign has been a massive success. We've saved many animals from a cruel and painful death, thrown the mink hunters into a state of total paranoia...and amassed enough intelligence to do it all again next summer.



What better way to celebrate the spanking we gave the mink hunts this year than with a new limited edition t-shirt! (See inside back cover). Available in a range of sizes from the HSA website and only £10 - order yours today and join team mink!

sabgroupnews



Three Counties Hunt Sabs

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vimeo.com/threecountiessabs

Here we go, back to the Gloucestershire cull zone. Well, we're actually in the cull zone most days as it's right in the middle of our sabbing territory, but once again we're having to try and save badgers as well as foxes and hares. Having sabbed a few mink hunts over the summer, whilst sett-surveying and fundraising, we got straight back into sabbing during the first few cubbing meets of the season.

The Ross Harriers were certainly not pleased to see four of us turn up on their second cubbing meet in September (as we dropped two total newbies in the deep end) and some pretty dodgy driving ensued. And yet a successful day out with two very enthusiastic new people up for coming out many more times in the future, including another great sab driver - can be hard to come by!

We've also paid a couple of visits to the Cotswold Vale Farmers' Hunt (although with other sab groups in the cull zone, we've been able to leave others to enjoy them on their own if meets are closer to their areas than ours) and the Ledbury. The 3C cycle squad seems to have stuck as a name and the sabs-on-bikes have made a re-appearance this season at a couple of meets.

As usual, 3C remain a small group (although we are growing in numbers) and have sabbed hunts with between one and four people these last few weeks - at least it makes it easier to communicate with everyone at once! We've had some pretty good days out, calling hounds in full cry off the scent of foxes, meeting two new huntsmen and the police even calling the secretary of the Ledbury to let her know their hounds had 'accidentally' (of course!) chased a REAL fox...

The cull, at the time of writing, has already lasted five and a half months for us and there are still over three weeks of actual killing left. Sabbing took up most of our time between the end of last year's cull and the start of sett-surveying this time round. We're out on a daily basis now, as well as doing various other roles out of the fields. We've taken part in a few really good events and fundraisers, like the Worcester Vegan Fayre and Vale Wildlife Rescue's Open Day, raising awareness and money and we'd like to do another Sab Skills Day once we have some more time to spare.

In the meantime, we'll be out with the Ledbury, CVFH, Croome, Ross Harriers and North Cotswold as usual and looking for the Worcestershire and Cotswold as well as helping 'train' new groups and backing them up at meets if necessary. Plus the badger and boar culls. It's all go in the West Country!



Dublin Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/groups/stopbadgerkillingbytheirishgovernment/

This group has been formed to gather information about the killing of badgers by the Irish government (and to act on that information).

This killing by the government takes place in secret locations around the country and the targeted areas are not public knowledge. The employed killers (those who set the snares or as DOA call them 'restraining devices') are also unidentifiable as yet. We also need to highlight the suffering involved and the numbers of animals killed brutally by snaring then shooting.

The BADGERWATCH IRELAND SITE is run by Bernie Barrett and is full of the facts, figures and the history of badger slaughter in Ireland. Please visit this site for any factual information you may require. One would be forgiven for thinking that the protection afforded to our native badger was absolute, in short, untouchable. How wrong can we be? According to Figures accumulated from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, (DAFM) thousands of badgers are captured and subsequently killed every year in a cruel multi-strand wire snare. To date, approximately 100,000 badgers have met their fate in Department of Agriculture snares. The trapping licence is issued to the Department by none other than the National Parks and Wildlife Service, (NPWS). Ironically, the NPWS is the office charged with the protection and conservation of the badger.

The AOHS aim to act on any information received. It is different from the UK as we do not know the areas, badgers are snared (not shot or clubbed as reports reveal) until removed from the snares. The recruiting is ongoing at the moment to sign up the killers. Contact 0872651720m with any information of if you can help us in Ireland or know of people living here in different areas who can alert us regarding the presence of snares.

Association of Hunt Saboteurs.
Po box 4734, Dublin 1 Ireland.

Northants Hunt Sabs

Northants sabs are back, reorganised, re-energised and with a bunch of new members. We held a training day in March with workshops on tactics, the law and dealing with Police, it was well attended and a really useful and informative day.



The summer has seen us teaming up with other groups from around the country paying visits to various Minkhounds including Northamptonshire, Teme Valley and Three Counties, all packed up as soon as we arrived! We also took a trip up to the grouse moors and ruined a days shooting, the combined effort of all the groups had them on the run all day.

We've been busy fundraising and at the time of writing it is two weeks into the Badger cull; we've had sabs in Gloucestershire and will continue to do so for the next four weeks.

If anyone is interested in getting involved, please get in touch via our Facebook page: Northants Hunt Saboteurs.

South Wales Hunt Sabs

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Since the end of the season in March, we have been working in the Somerset badger cull zone, surveying our new area and getting to grips with the hills! For a little light relief we've joined the local sab groups to pay a few visits to the mink hounds – a kind of rural team building excerise.

We are just starting the 4th week of killing, the cull has been very different this year – much quieter and the killers are relying much more heavily on cage trapping. Trapping is much easier for us and because we know the land so well we can seek about with ease.



We have learnt enormously from last year – we're better equipped, more knowledgeable, better organised and have made great bonds with the locals. We're sleep deprived but in good spirits because we know for sure that we are saving lives.

We're working in the most stunning location and are seeing wildlife treats on a nightly basis – badgers, foxes, owls, rabbits, deer, buzzards, magnificent stags, weasely things and bizarrely a raccoon dog. It never stops being a thrill.

Massive thanks to everyone who has supported us - we really appreciate it. Thanks also to the HSA for great kit (the thermal imager has kept us safe on a number of occasions) and help with fuel funds and the brilliant Stop the Cull – for everything they do. And the locals – great to work with you all. Thank you.

Just as soon as this nonsense is over, we will be giving the bumpkins in South Wales some attention.

NEW GROUP! Cirencester Illegal Hunt Watch

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07864745355

Cirencester Illegal Hunt Watch are a new group consisting of former Wounded Badger Patrollers and Sabs who met during the 2013 Gloucestershire badger cull. The novices are learning all they can from a very experienced and respected 'old hand' who is keen to pass on his vast local knowledge of all things fauna and flora.

We mostly monitor our local hunts, the Vale of the White Horse (VWH) and the Duke of Beaufort's but travelled further afield last season to support and gain valuable experience from our good friends, The Three Counties Sabs at the Ledbury Hunt and the Grafton Hunt Monitors. An incident in December resulted in a VWH supporter receiving a caution for an attack on one member of our group and one of our vehicles was badly damaged by a VWH rider in March. These incidents however only worked to strengthen the bonds and resolve of the group. There have been various reports to the police of blocked badger setts on VWH hunt days together with some local press interest. The Duke of Beaufort's and the VWH had, conveniently for us, a joint end of season meet at Cirencester Park and the group were particularly pleased to be supported by good friends and great sabs from Cumbria, Pewsey Vale and Three Counties.

Our friends inspire us and our wildlife compels us to continue so we will be back even stronger later on this season. At present the group is very busy in the badger killing fields of West Gloucestershire.

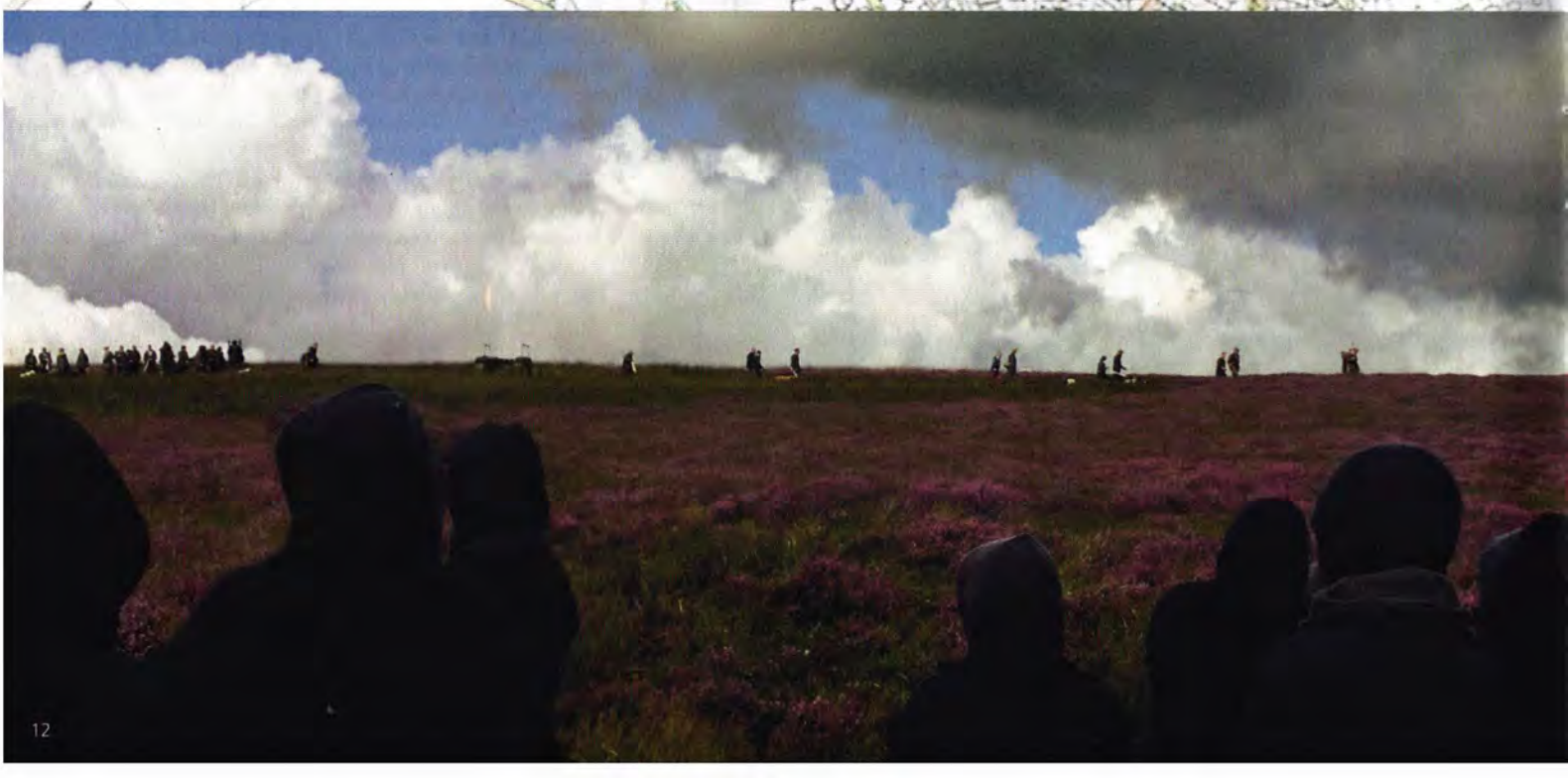
Manchester Hunt Sabs

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Donate via - www.nwhsa.org.uk/
www.facebook.com/ManchesterHuntSabs

Summer break? What summer break. Manchester Sabs, like many others, spent a lot of the summer driving many miles in pursuit of elusive mink hunts. Well, formerly elusive we should say. Dove Valley, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, Teme Valley and Northern Counties. All packed up, all kill-free days! Often the simple sight of a sab van on the horizon was enough to make them leg it...and then there were those who didn't even bother venturing out when we turned up at the kennels. Anyone would think they had something to hide. A pleasant side product of these sabs was meeting groups we rarely if ever have the opportunity to sab with – it's always good to see just how many sabs there are these days and to engage in the eternal debate – Landrover or Transit?

When we weren't on mink hunts we spent a lot of time in Gloucestershire mapping badger setts in the run up to Cull 2014. As we write we're 3 weeks in and we have a permanent sab presence there. It seems to be going well. That's all we can say at this point without fearing a jinx.

Before the cull started some of our group helped make up the numbers at a very early cubbing trip to the York and Ainsty South for a kill-free day and previous to that we did our bit to locate and sab a surprisingly big grouse shoot...whose entire day of killing was ruined. Thanks to all those people who have donated financially - we couldn't have done it without your support.





West Midlands Hunt Sabs

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www.facebook.com/pages/West-Midlands-Hunt-Saboteurs

During the summer the West Midlands group have been kept very busy. We regularly joined up with various other sab groups to sab mink packs across the Midlands and the North. These visits were all very successful, with the mink packs either not going out at all, or packing up as soon as the sabs turned up.

Throughout the summer we also carried out regular demonstrations at Upton House in Warwickshire. This is a National trust property that allows The Warwickshire Hunt to meet there, as well as holding hunt balls etc. The National Trust does not allow any independent monitoring of the hunts on their property and so we were peacefully demonstrating against this total pro-hunt bias. The demos all went off successfully, with many leaflets given out to the visiting public and many interesting conversations taking place. Upton House were always unhappy at our presence and generally sent someone down to challenge us and try and do some PR for themselves.

In August we also teamed up with lots of other groups to sab a large shoot in North Yorkshire. Despite the very early start and large distance travelled, this was also a very successful day with the shoot packing up very quickly and not re-starting all day.

We have also recently held stalls, over a weekend, at Lush at the Merry Hill Centre. It was a good chance to meet the public and money was raised through donations and the selling of merchandise. Thanks to the good people at Lush for allowing us to hold the stalls and for siding with us when a manager from the Merry Hill Centre unsuccessfully tried to get us to take down our banner.

As I write this, West Midlands Sabs are again deployed in Gloucestershire to fight this year's badger cull. So far things have been going ok really, with shooters being stopped on a very regular basis, at or near the setts that we are trying to protect. We are again teaming up with members of the public and are working closely with our friends from West Yorkshire Sabs in particular. Thanks to Sheffield sabs who also helped us out on one night and to Northants Sabs who have also had some people helping in our area.

During this year's cull we are also trying to sab cubbing meets. Obviously resources are stretched at the moment and people are already tired, but so far we have visited the Beaufort, the Cotswold, the Atherstone and a joint meet of the Albrighton and South Shropshire hunts and have had a decent impact on all of them. We will try to sab more meets throughout the cubbing season, badger cull permitting of course.

Finally we would like to thank all the people who have supported us through the recent months, especially those that have donated money to us via Facebook.

Sheffield Hunt Sabs

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sheffieldsaboteurs@live.co.uk
www.facebook.com/sheffieldsaboteurs

We have been busy over the summer, sabbing mink hunts, a grouse shoot and at the time of writing we are half way through sabbing the badger cull.

Since June we have sabbed the Northamptonshire Mink Hounds twice, the Teme Valley Mink Hounds twice (one was a joint meet with the Three Counties Mink Hounds), and we have also sabbed the Northern Counties Mink Hounds. On each of these occasions the hunts packed up and cancelled their day. On August 23rd we sabbed a grouse shoot in the Peak District, bringing their shoot to a halt and preventing them from returning to the area for the whole day. Since early September we have been in Somerset, where we plan to have a presence for the entire cull, and we have had sabs working in the Gloucestershire cull zone too. We have already had a number of encounters with shooters, all of which have ended with them leaving empty-handed, and have also found a number of traps and bait points.



Last season was our first dabble with reporting the illegal actions of hunt members. In early September, the York & Ainsty South terriermen who were caught digging into a badger sett and prevented from killing the fox on Dec 28th 2013 (watch the video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9rNbl3oU9s) had the case against them dropped, just days before they were due in court. Then the same week we heard that Jacob Whalley of the Pytchley Hunt, pleaded guilty to 3 counts of battery and was fined only £150, for kicking one saboteur in the head, and hitting others multiple times with a stick. While it is saddening that the courts let these thugs get away with senseless violence to both animals and humans, this will not deter us in our fight against them, and as always we will stand in the line of fire if it will prevent them from killing our furry friends.

Please see our website, sheffieldsaboteurs.wordpress.com for more detailed accounts of what we've been up to, and contact us at sheffieldsaboteurs@live.co.uk if you'd like to get involved!



East Kent Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/east.sabs
Donate:www.paypal.com/cgibin/webscr?cmd=_sxclick&hosted_button_id=T7HXX3SH68XJ2

Cubbing starts a bit later for us over in East Kent, but we have been out at the crack of dawn last few weeks doing kennel watches...couple of blank days, but found a fox hunt out two weeks ago. After studying footage taken though it seems we cant report just yet, as we believe that clear breaches of the Hunting Act were filmed - until we have shared this footage with others to study, we will be keeping it to ourselves....

Last week we found the East Kent with West Street out at 7am with a good few riders (half of whom were children), seemingly just about to "hold up" a wood and send in the hounds. Our arrival caused many a chest to puff up amongst the support, and they seemed at a loss as to what to do, now they were being filmed...so, diminutive huntsboy Alfie took the hounds and buggered off. The terrier bods then blocked the road, so we decided to head off around the other side of the wood.

Finally finding them again, they was much huffing from terrier Tez, who stomped about holding up his sobbing toddler daughter (the one he takes to dig outs with him), until finally melting down, he called the Police....a squad car turned up just as moronic supporter had blocked the road, and the usual debate began. No, Terry, no....it is not illegal to film people in public places, never has been, never will be. Them riding about without tax discs or number plates on roads seems to also be ok with the law though.

No matter, whilst we were all messing about with the fuzz, they couldn't do any killing. So we found the hunt again down the road, and from a good vantage point, watched Alfie hopelessly lose the hounds in the woods, then spend the next hour trying to get them back. Watching the support and terrier men wasting their day putting hounds on leads was fairly amusing, and after this, they packed up, after roughly two hours.

Before we go, we must give a mention to the heroic 'Trail layer': an embarrassed looking rider clutching her pathetic scrap of cloth whilst sitting on the road - really, you couldn't make it up.

Norfolk & Suffolk Hunt Sabs

ns.sabs@yahoo.co.uk
www.facebook.com/norfolksuffolk.huntsaboteurs

The 2014/2015 season has started earlier than usual for the Norfolk & Suffolk Sabs. We received info that our local hunt was going out cubbing and so it would have been rude not to join them. The Waveney Harriers has a new Huntsman this season in the form of Jake Oppenheim who comes from the Bicester Hunt. So it seems we have yet another fox hunter joining our harrier pack. No doubt the cub hunting is as much about training the new Huntsman as training the hounds. The Waveney's previous Huntsman, Joe Tesseyman, only managed two seasons with the Waveneys (was it something we said?) and has gone off to join the Essex & Suffolk Hunt. Bad luck to the Essex sabs, who seem to get all the Waveney's castoffs – the Waveney's previous Huntsman defected to the Essex Farmers, two seasons ago.



We have only been out a couple of times so far this season and have had varying success. We missed them at the kennels the first week but still found them. As you can imagine we didn't receive a warm welcome. There were only 5 of us out but we managed to keep the hunt constantly moving on. They were hunting one of their regular meets and we know it much better than the new huntsman does. Every time he went to get away from one group of sabs, he went straight in the direction of the other group of sabs – shame hey!

Our second trip out was a very tough day. The very dark morning and very thick mist did not make it an easy task finding the hunt but we managed it. We found the hunt pointing on a wood and the hounds in full cry. Shouting and hollering at the tops of our voices soon put paid to that and the hounds went off cry straight away. The hunt remained in the wood for the best part of the time and were clearly fox hunting. When they did break for cover they picked up a hare and despite our best efforts the hounds pounced after a very short chase. The young sabs present, one of whom had only been out with us a couple of times before, did their best to intervene and did very well to pick themselves up and carry on after witnessing the kill. We stayed with the hunt to the end of the day.

It looks like being a long season this year but with more and more new sabs wanting to join us, we are ready for it.
Stay safe everyone.

NEW GROUP! Perthshire Hunt Sabs

The Seal Cull happening in Scotland saw a group of people who have in the past done what they can to help save wildlife volunteer their help to this campaign and so Perthshire Hunt Sabs were born. We were used to more secretive tactics so this was a whole new ball game for us. The largest Wild Salmon netting Company, USAN Fisheries AKA The Scottish Wild Salmon Company run by the Pullar family had came to light as one of the worst offenders for killing seals in the north East of Scotland and we wanted to help stop the senseless killing, first we met up with Sheffield Saboteurs near Montrose, on our first day we seen a member of USAN Fisheries out with the gun attempting to shoot a seal, but with us fast approaching and filming they soon turned on their heels and scarpered.

We continued to monitor the area to the south of Montrose where USAN Fisheries have a number of Salmon nets and their main HQ, often being confronted, filmed and attempted to be intimidated by members of USAN Fisheries and other members of the Pullar family and numerous police call outs to us, we had a large area of coast to watch making sure nobody was attempting to shoot seals, but often cheered up by the sight of dolphins and other wildlife, we had a visit from Kernow Hunt Saboteurs to help watch the coastline for shooters.

Knowing the USAN Fisheries had nets elsewhere in Scotland we decided to travel further north and paid a visit to their netting station at Gardenstown, as soon as we arrived we sadly found a dead seal washed up on the beach, we did not know if they had shot it, but sadly there was a good chance they had, but it reminded us of how important it was to get out there and stop this from happening.

North Tyne Hunt Saboteurs paid a visit up here too, visiting the beach near USAN Fisheries HQ resulted in a confrontation by George Pullar and the police called out, but as the police said we were not breaking any laws so were free to continue what we were doing.

A couple of us decided to go even further north and check out what USAN Fisheries were doing at their netting area near Thurso, upon arriving at Castletown harbour we instantly seen the familiar black "Usan Salmon Fisheries" vehicle, John Pullar was not happy to see us all the way up there and gave us his middle fingered salute that is fast becoming his normal greeting when he sees us, they seem to be getting more and more fed up with the attention they are receiving from Sabs, it's harder for them to kill seals, hopefully sooner or later they will realise that if they stop the seal killing we will leave them alone.

We are looking to a bright future for Perthshire Hunt Sabs.





Berkshire Hunt Sabs

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Paypal: berkshire@riseup.net
Go fund me: www.gofundme.com/petrolfund

Berkshire has had a very busy summer and has travelled many miles to take part in the sabbing of mink hunts. We've been active from Devon to North Yorkshire, and many places in between. You've all seen the tee-shirt – we've been active at many of them! For some of us this has been our first experience of mink hunting.

The first was The Culmstock in The West Country, who we understand, hadn't been sabbed for about 10 years. We met up with many groups from the South and West, and arrived in numbers. One group used a drone to great effect. It really freaked them out and some were seen trying to throw stones at it. What followed could have been a Benny Hill farce. To say they were shocked was an understatement, and they went on the run almost immediately. To the hunt-masters house of all places! From there, they moved in convoy of hound van, scum, police and sabs to a local town where they had to hole-up in the police station to await another force from across the county line, to escort them back to their kennels.

For comedy value, the Culmstock cannot be beaten. The next time we crossed their paths was a joint meet with The Cheriton and sabs were heavily outnumbered by support. This however, did not make them any braver, and they still packed-up straight away. Best moment though was when their hound van knocked over one of their own hunt staff.

Our first trip to The Midlands saw us joining a large group of sabs from The Midlands and The North, sitting outside the kennels of The Dove Valley. After a stand-off of some considerable time, it became obvious that they were not going to leave the kennels, so the majority of the group hot-footed it across country and managed to squeeze in The Northamptonshire as well. As soon as we turned up, they went straight back to the meet, where interestingly, two of the support donned police jackets and hats and attempted to interrogate sabs. Not what we expect from our boys in blue!

We enjoyed meeting The Northamptonshire again just a couple of weeks later, where we met the Camilla look-alike, dressed in a fetching green Nazi uniform, (see page 8!) complete with jack boots. Another stand-off in beautiful sunshine followed. Once they packed-up, some of the support went for a picnic in a random field, and were not at all happy to see us when we found them.

Visiting The Teme Valley was an interesting and entertaining day. They put the hounds in the van as soon as we showed up and what followed was the slowest hot-pursuit we've ever been on. They managed to flag down a police car in the local town, who completely over-reacted by blocking the town centre for a good hour or so while we were all detained. A convoy back to the kennels then took place, with many, many police cars, to be met by a road block and a helicopter! About 10 police cars were involved in this fiasco. They obviously like to use their police resources in this neck of the woods, as when we visited a joint meet of The Teme Valley and Three Counties six weeks later, we again had numerous police cars and another helicopter.

Another trip North saw us in North Yorkshire to visit the Northern Counties. They were still in the pub having their pre-hunt jollies when we arrived. Poor dogs never even got out of the van. Interesting support here, who seemed to have a thing about the colour pink, whether it suited them or not. And mostly, it didn't! The police here were happy to block sabs to let the hound van get away, but this had been anticipated, and sabs were well placed to follow them back to the kennels and make sure they were unloaded.

Apart from the very active sabbing this summer, we've had a couple of benefit gigs which were great fun and well attended. Some of our group were involved in the great duck rescue at the beginning of August, and we've had people in the cull zones helping other sab groups to keep those badgers safe.

Sabbing isn't all doom and gloom and anyone wishing to join this happy band would be more than welcome. Please get in touch!

North Downs Hunt Sabs

northdownshuntsaboteurs@gmail.com
donate to account number 65545775 sort code 08-92-99

North Downs Hunt Sabs went wandering in April when two of us went to Malta to help the CABS (Committee against bird slaughter) campaign against the killing of migrating birds ,it was truly a shocking eye opener for us to release the scale of the massacre of birds there , and we left full of admiration for the work that CABS do and saved the lives of many protected birds due to our presence with cameras and destroying illegal traps.

Other than that we have had a couple of trips to the badger cull, nothing dramatic to report just good solid work protecting setts in our given area. A cub-hunt of the Crawley and Horsham hunt was stopped by most of the groups in the south east including us, and probably the must fun we had this season was when we did the Eastern counties minkhunt together with Berkshire, Borders and the local Essex and Sulfolk groups. After a comical chase of the hound van which led some of our sabs on a wild goose chase to Bury St Edmunds they returned to the meet and hunted for about half an hour before being forced to give up surrounded by sabs wherever they went ending a successful day for us.

South London Wildlife Group

(Croydon, Brixton and Hook sabs)
Text: 07900 603 742
www.facebook.com/pages/South-London-Wildlife-Group

After the first Scottish seal cull mission at Gardenstown, SLWG sabs saw action at both Montrose and Thurso. At both locations they were again subjected to intimidation by Scottish Wild Salmon Company workers and also had to endure some heavy handed policing, but stuck to their task and gained further valuable information.

Next on the list for the summer was linking up with other groups to sab the Culmstock mink hounds, where the SLWG was involved in gripping low speed chase with the hound van for 20 miles through the Devon and Somerset countryside, with speeds reaching anything up to 50 miles per hour. GTA eat your heart out!

More long haul to the West Country followed with several trips set surveying in Somerset.

The SLWG undercover team then linked up with the new Glasgow group for the next phase of the seal cull operation before a brief break ahead of two very successful outings against cub hunting on the C and H.

Notts Hunt Sabs

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Nottingham sabs had a busy summer with mink hunts and days of sett surveying in preparation for the glos badger cull. We travelled all over the country sabbing the Dove Valley, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, Teme Valley, Northern Counties and Three Counties mink hunts. Each time without fail the hunts packed up immediately or better still didn't even leave the kennels.

As we write the badger cull is over half way through and we have sabs defending setts every single night. Lots of shooters have been prevented from shooting. One morning in Gloucestershire we also stumbled upon the Cotswold vale fox hunt who were illegally cub hunting. We kept a close eye on them and were happy to see them quickly pack up. They had a hugely impressive 6 riders out!

After the badger cull has finished we'll be turning our full attention to our local fox hunting packs to ensure our foxy friends stay safe. Big thanks to all the kind people who have donated to our badger cull fuel fund!



Since its formation last year, the Hunt Saboteurs Global Network has been working hard to achieve its joint aims of locating and supporting existing sab groups around the world and assisting in forming new groups where none currently exist. The HSGN has been boosted by having its own website, www.hsgn.org, and its own range of ethically produced, organic merchandise, which is available through the HSA website.

News from around the world shows us the scale of the task facing us.

Sabs from the North Downs group joined activists from the Committee Against Bird Slaughter (below) to oppose the illegal shooting for migrating song birds in Malta and are planning a second trip; more of this elsewhere.

Sabs from the Hunt Saboteurs of North America have been having a very difficult time opposing the wolf cull after their main sponsored withdrew support when they were falsely accused of having right wing links. Although the accusations were later withdrawn, the damage had been done. They have been trying to raise funds and awareness with a very successful lecturing tour.

A young American film maker who attended the presentation we did in last year came across the pond in August and spent a month with sabs and other A.R. activists in the and . Amongst other things he experienced the joys of meeting barking mad Ross Harriers huntsman Lee Peters, who, surprise, surprise, tried to ride him down.

The American Hunt Saboteurs Association reformed earlier this year, only to disappear again almost immediately. Fortunately, they are now back again with a new contact who seems to be much more pro-active, and we are looking forward to working with them.

In there are groups opposing hunting in several areas. There is a specific law banning hunt sabotage, but to date it has not been used. An existing environmental group based in has carried out acts of hunt sabotage and we were very pleased when they invited us over to provide some training for them. We delivered two three hour training sessions (mainly in French!) and filmed an online session. Two of their sabs then joined us for a great day's sabbing in Hampshire and we are currently working on plans for strengthening our cross channel links.

The growing reputation of the HSGN saw us invited to three new events over the summer.

www.komitee.de



First up was VEGin Rome in June, the first ever Rome Vegan day, held in the Alternative Economy Centre, which used to be a slaughterhouse! Saturday started with bright sunshine and temperatures of 35 C, but at lunchtime a small tornado hit the site, demolishing two stalls, and torrential rain followed, leaving the three sabs sheltering under their gazebo and trying to keep the merchandise dry. Conditions deteriorated still further on the Sunday,

with much of the site underwater, and the event was eventually abandoned in mid afternoon. For all that, the HSGN presentation was well received and much useful networking was done. The main task facing the Italian sabs is trying to prevent the mass slaughter of migrating birds. This is illegal under the EU birds directive, but the Italian government refused to bring in the required legislation. We should have more news on this in the next Howl. The sabs also met Raffa, (right) the chef from the Sea Shepherd boat. She was due to speak at an event in which the HSGN was also attending, and the sabs agreed to take Sea Shepherd merchandise to for her.



The event turned out to be quite small, but very well worth it due to the scale of hunting in. As elsewhere in, there are isolated acts of sabotage but no co-ordinated anti hunt movement. We agreed to return to later in the year to help train a group of hunt sabs there, and some of the Swedish activists will be joining us in the in November. Raffa was busy cooking for the event, so the sabs ran the Sea Shepherd stall as well as the HSGN one. Raffa later donated 50 copies of her excellent book 'Think, Eat, Act,' to the HSA, which we now have on sale.

Next we attended the Dortmund Vegan Street Day's largest outdoor vegan event. This started five years ago with just eight stalls. This year there were over one hundred.

It is primarily a vegan food event, but the organisers want more activist organisation represented and we were very pleased to be invited. Again, our presentation was well received and we have kept in contact with many activists who want to set up sab groups in. We will be returning to in October to hold further talks.



Last on our round of summer travels was the International Animal Rights Conference in September. This is the event at which the HSGN was formed last year and we received a very warm welcome. Many of our friends from last year were there and we heard tales of anti-hunt activity from around the world. The sad news of the injuries sustained by a brave sab at the hands of a red coat had reached the conference and so many activists wanted to send their best wishes that the organisers had to buy three get well cards so that all the signatures could fit!

Everywhere we go we get the message from other activists that the HSA is fifty years ahead of the game, but more and more others are looking to follow our lead and get organised anti-hunt activity established. We are looking forward to more 'exchange visits' and we are also working hard on the political campaigning side in the European Parliament.

Any sabs who are interested in furthering the work of the HSGN or taking part in any of overseas actions should contact info@huntsabs.org.uk for further details.

Borneo adventure



Well after 20 years of mud, sweat and beers it came to the moment on 15th March 2014 when I hung up my sabbing boots (temporarily? – who knows)...

It's been a major part of my life since the first time when I was 18 years old and I turned up in my baggy jeans to sab a local hunt with the Sheffield group. I soon realised jeans were not the best style of clothing for running around wet muddy fields and standing on an electric fence just topped things off. That day we helped 3 foxes make their escape and I realised what an important job sabs do in protecting our wildlife from the bloodthirsty hunters and I wanted to be part of it.

Over the years I have been proud to be associated with so many wonderful people who dedicate their time to saving lives on a weekly basis. I have witnessed so many changes in my time and travelled the width and breadth of the country sabbing including the odd foray into Wales. The early days included massive national hits with over 100 sabs in attendance, organising without the use of mobile phones, drunk punks falling out of vans when we got there, cubbing weeks in the midlands, new laws bought in as part of the criminal justice act 1994 to deter us and several clapped out vans.

As the years progressed numbers dwindled and we found ourselves having to sab with only a couple of us on regular occasions, the gizmo became our most effective tool, meets became harder to get, police became even more biased (if that was possible).

Then on into the later years the ban came in and was supposed to be the end of hunting as we know it, numbers started increasing again and more groups started springing up, meets became even harder to get, sabs got fitter and we became far more effective.



On the way back home in the van on 15th March I reflected over all the years and became quite emotional knowing I wouldn't be doing this for the foreseeable future.

The reason for this is that me and my partner (also an occasional sab driver who has helped me organise teams of workers for many years raising money for sabs by working on bars at major festivals and putting on numerous benefit gigs) have just been offered an amazing opportunity to move to Malaysian Borneo and help run a bar in Kuching where the money raised will be put into the local wildlife sanctuary that predominately looks after orang-utans but also sun bears, macaques, binturongs, slow loris, gibbons and any other animal in need. The area where these animals live has been decimated in recent years by deforestation especially for the palm oil trade and add in other factors such as hunting and farmers killing animals to protect their crops, the future of these animals is danger. We volunteered on the sanctuary a few years ago and they do a fantastic job with very little resources and when the opportunity arose we jumped at the chance to help them out.

The Monkeebar opened in December but upstairs is empty and that is our first task to get that opened through the day selling smoothies, juices and soups. We have committed to a year but if things work out we are in it for the long run.



We have paid for our own flights over there including our 2 dogs and will be doing it all voluntarily apart from having accommodation provided and basic living expenses.



- We have set up a go fund me account – www.gofundme.com/80e8sc if anyone would like to donate to the costs of setting up.
- The wildlife centre is Matang Wildlife Centre - www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction_Review-g298309-d2524446-Reviews- Matang_Wildlife_Centre-Kuching_Sarawak.html
- If you would like to volunteer at the centre then check out – www.orangutanproject.com
- The bar we will be helping run is www.facebook.com/pages/Monkeebar/829653973717400 so give us a like and share please.

So if you ever find yourself in that part of the world then please call in for a drink or something to eat knowing that the money you spend will go directly to helping some of the most at risk animals on the planet.

If you would like to get in contact for any information then please email anji23@hotmail.co.uk

Keep up the good work in the field and will be thinking of you come august when you're getting up at ridiculous times for the start of 'autumn hunting!'

Skydivin' Sab

One of Southampton sabs' finest helped to raise much needed funds for the group by doing a sponsored sky dive and, as can be seen from photos, he looks just as good in orange as in his traditional black!

It was a tandem 4000m jump and raised £135+ but the main thing was that it was the "chance to do something amazing and raise money for my (ex)local sab group that was brilliant."

There is no truth in the rumour that he was, in fact, pushed from the plane by other sabs. But if any other groups would like to nominate a sab who they would happily eject from 4000m, we will publish details here.

Meanwhile anyone who would like to contribute to the Southampton sabs fund can do so through the usual addresses.





THE LIGHTER SIDE...

Quote from a hunter:

It did make me smile, the post about the sabs taking the hounds, leaving a hunt without hounds! You have to admit, that is pretty clever! I have heard some pro hunters say that some of the sabs blow the horn so beautifully, that they put the master to shame!

From **Horse and Hound: Hunt Sabs; your experience**

What happens when they come to a meet, do they come hunt the horses, ruin the wagons? Or do they keep a distance? What have you seen?

Worse i've had... about 2minutes away from the meet a lady - about 60 (may of seemed older as i was young) called me a evil f-in bit**, which seemed rather strong to me and scary as a 9 year old!! x Remember that she was stood inside her gate waving her crutch/stick at me! I was suprised that someone from the country was so against it - i guess i just assumed it was town people that didnt like hunting as it 'doesnt affect them' - eye opener!! x

The occasions where they are violent is rare. Mostly they are just abusive. The police are usually about to make sure everything is reasonable.

Also the sabs were at the opening meet a few seasons back; some of them had cameras which they were oggling at some of the children with..... if it was anyone else they'd have been had up in court for pervy offences.

Have seen them trying to lay a false trail as well; silly damn fools were spraying something which smelt like Citronella around the place.

They also will grab hounds & put in their vehicles, quite often driving away & letting hounds out away from the hunt totally disorientating the hounds. That said they should never put you off doing something what you enjoy & legally *(?! Ed)* pursue.

On **Hunting Life** website:

I went on a mink hunt with the Ytene. One of the best days out of my f*cking life! *Brilliant* craic! Ye get to act like a kid / hooligan and no one minds!

Oh dear...Ed



THE HSA COMMITTEE:

IT'S A DIRTY JOB, BUT SOMEONE'S GOT TO DO IT

Earlier this year I decided to attend an HSA committee meeting as an observer. I didn't really know what to expect but had heard they could sometimes get a bit feisty. However, it turned out to be a very positive experience that I would recommend to any other hunt sab.

The first thing that impressed me was the professional way the meeting was conducted. There was a lot to get through in the allotted three hours and the Chair skilfully moved the committee through the agenda efficiently and fairly. One of the first items was a brief report from each officer on their activities since the last meeting. During this section, I was struck by the sheer amount of work (writing press releases, processing merchandise etc.) these dedicated people do behind the scenes to keep the HSA active and relevant. It's easy to forget that all of this has to be juggled with the demands of their personal lives, their working lives and their own sabbing.

Decision making on the allocation of funds (a key way the HSA supports local groups) was equally impressive. Each grant request was carefully scrutinised and one key question was then asked: did it provide good value for money in promoting direct action against blood sports? In other words, did the committee ensure that money donated by our supporters is only used for the purpose it was intended? How many other organisations can genuinely claim that? Grant decisions were then taken using a non-hierarchical one person, one vote system; simple, effective and anti-bureaucratic.

A further positive was the obvious sense of being involved in an organisation that is on the up. In addition to discussion of our 'core work' of disrupting fox and hare hunts, it was great to hear of rocketing membership and amazing successes against the seal shooters, mink hunters and badger killers. It's clear, in fact, that we are stronger now than we've been since our late 80s/early 90s heyday.

I'm not saying that everything is perfect on the committee: it would be great to see more northern groups represented and, perhaps, some new faces and ideas. But that, of course, is down to the membership. So, why not attend a committee meeting and see how the world's oldest and most successful direct action organisation is run? I think you'll be impressed; but if you're not, and you think you could do things better, why not consider standing for a role yourself?

It's a dirty job...but someone's got to do it.



Howl is the magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association. If you have ideas for future content or would like to share your photos then please email them to: howleditor@huntsabs.org.uk

photo: www.stacywoolhousephotography.weebly.com

SUPPORT ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS



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

UK Prisoners

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

Overseas Prisoners

Adriano Antonacci
C.C. Ferrara, Via Arginone 327, 44122, Ferrara ITALY.
In July 2014,Adriano Antonacci received a sentence of 3 years and 8 months in prison after he was suspected of involvement in actions against a fur store, banks, the Eni oil company and the Enel power company.

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

Karl Häggroth
Box 213, 596 21, Skänninge, SWEDEN
In June 2014, Karl was sentenced to 2 1/2 years in prison, for actions against the fur industry.

Gianluca Iacovacci
C.C. Alessandria, Via Casale 50/A, 15122, San Michele (AL), ITALY.
In July 2014, Gianluca Iacovacci was sentenced to six years in prison after he was suspected of involvement in actions against a fur store, banks, the Eni oil company and the Enel power company.

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." In January 2014, Kevin was sentenced to 2 1/2 years in prison.

Richard Klinsmeister
Box 22113, 501 14 Borås, SWEDEN
In July 2014 Richard received a sentence of one year and nine months in prison, for actions against the fur industry.

Marius Jacob Mason (formerly Marie Jeanette Mason, 04672-061)
FMC Carswell, Federal Medical Center, P.O. Box 27137, Fort Worth, TX 76127, USA.
Marius was sentenced on 5th February 2009 to an outrageous 21 years and 10 months imprisonment for ELF/ALF actions. www.facebook.com/supportmariusmason/ and http://supportmariusmason.org, In July 2014, Marius announced that he would no longer be using the name Marie, and will be using male pronouns. Until his name is legally changed, mail sent to Marius in prison will need to be addressed to "Marie Mason."

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.

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



What better way to celebrate the spanking we gave the mink hunts this year than with a new limited edition t-shirt!

Available in a range of sizes from the HSA website and only £10 - order yours today and join team mink!

HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION

MAKING HUNTERS RED-FACED AND NARKY SINCE 1963

JOIN * SAB * DONATE

photo: Southampton sabs



www.huntsabs.org.uk