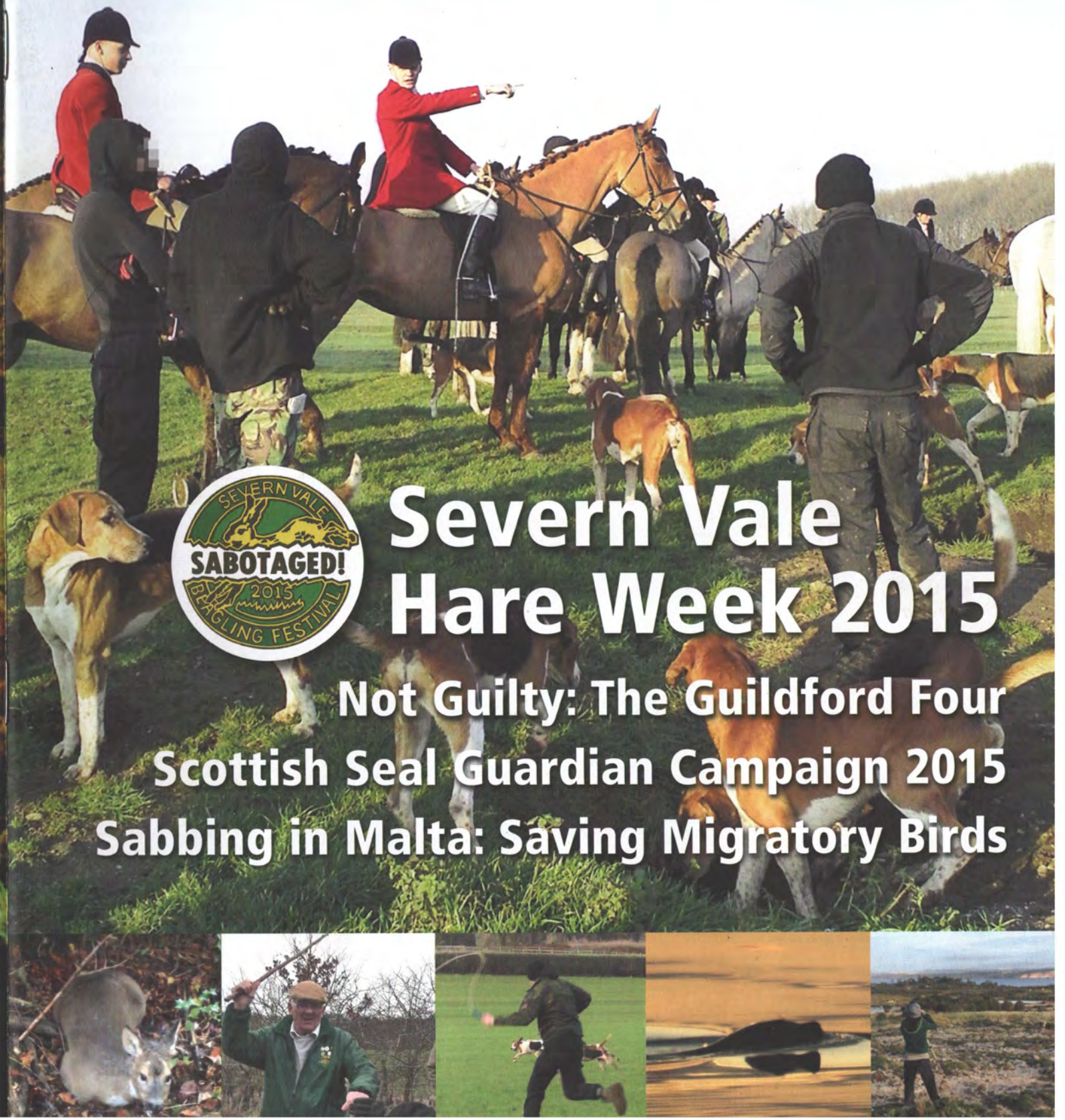
The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association Summer 2015 (Issue 108) £2 (free to members)

HOWL

Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

www.huntsabs.org.uk



Severn Vale Hare Week 2015

Not Guilty: The Guildford Four

Scottish Seal Guardian Campaign 2015

Sabbing in Malta: Saving Migratory Birds

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR: THE FIGHTBACK STARTS HERE!

This report was to have been celebrating our outstanding victories of 2014/15 against hunting with hounds, Mink hunts, Seal cull, Hare hunting festivals, Maltese bird slaughter and, of course, the Badger Cull but that will have to wait for elsewhere in this issue. The election result will be a game changer and have no doubt in your mind that the Hunt Saboteurs Association will be up to the task.

The Tories' plans to repeal the Hunting Act makes no changes to what we have been doing since 1963; we will be opposing hunters in the field each and every week. The hunting ban, in all reality, made little difference to hunters trying to slaughter our wildlife. The lifting of the ban will just mean we put down our video cameras and pick up our hunting horns. No doubt the police will become more aggressive in their tactics against hunt sabs but we have weathered that official persecution before and it will not deter us. We will save lives, come what may.

What has changed is the badger cull and we cannot oppose both hunting with hounds and the badger cull without your help. Over the past two years many hundreds of thousands of pounds has gone to organisations whose plan has been to fight politically, while those of us in the field (with no staff wages to pay) have been actually saving lives, whilst, ironically, also being starved of funds. If we want to defeat the cull we need to do it on the ground, in the fields and we need your money to do that. We need a war chest in the region of £10,000 to do this. As a member of this august organisation you have already given us your hard earned cash but the truth is we need more. Please donate if you can today.

Please continue to support us on social media, in the papers and with people you meet. Winning hearts and minds to our cause is, of course, important. Every time another atrocity is publicised (be it death of a fox or hare by a hunt, or the badger cull) and you see people express shock and disgust, ask them how they voted. Explain to them that this is the wages of electing parties who see the countryside and animals as commodities to be exploited, not to be cherished. Clearly we have at least five years of pain to suffer but we have been here before and we will not let the animals down.

We will fight back and we will prevail.



photo: © www.stacywoolhousephotography.weebly.com

www.huntsabs.org.uk

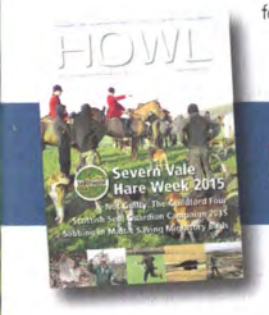
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The Hunt Saboteurs Association has been in existence for over 50 years, and is dedicated to saving the lives of hunted animals directly. Prior to the Hunting Act of 2004, hunt saboteurs used non-violent direct action to prevent the horrific deaths 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) Dawn
Contributors All groups who sent group news in.
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Distribution HSA
Big taverymuch to: all HSA members & anyone who we've pilfered stuff off and forgotten to credit.



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EDITORIAL

So, here we are again... when will we ever learn? Another Tory government, a possible repeal of the Hunting Ban... how will this affect us in our fight for the lives of animals? The simple answer is: probably not at all.

We are already dealing with hunts that go about their business (for the present) illegally, whilst still believing that killing is their right; who intimidate, threaten and attack us constantly and kill indiscriminately. The real question is: do we let this stop us? We all know the answer to this. We know that right is on our side; we do not need a law to tell us that it is not ok to kill for fun. Business as usual, it seems, for sabs.

And, let's be honest: if there is a repeal of the Hunting Ban we are in the strongest position in which we have ever been to deal with it. New groups, welcome! Central Lancaster, Derby, Grampian, Rother Valley, Swindon, North Shropshire; you are welcome into our rapidly growing family (or 'seething mass of malcontents,' if you prefer). And less hunts to sab! Every time they merge, close or start trying to hide, we know we are winning.

Look at what we have achieved: another Hare Week in ruins (not even sorry, Severn Vale), the blood bath of birds in Malta cut short by professional and organised sabbing, Badger Cull protesters packing their tents with enthusiasm for the next round, and serious questions being asked about the validity of the seal cull. Not to mention the exemplary way that sabs behaved, and were noted to behave, when the North Downs group tried to save a savaged deer.

It is true that we will need more funds than ever to deal with this. We know that keeping a presence in the cull zones, that replacing damaged vehicles, that sending our expertise to other countries, that generally picking up the pieces, costs money. But it will get done. Because we have more invested in this. We are not doing this for fun. We are doing it because if we don't, who will? Because every life saved is a triumph. Because every life saved is an affront to the bullies, the blood junkies and all those that think animals are a commodity.

Hold this thought from a real philosopher:

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." DR. SEUSS

Then bring it on!

Dawn



Severn Vale Hare Week 2015

When the Severn Vale Beagles formed in 2013, the Countryside Alliance tried to claim that this new pack was evidence that the 'sport' of beagling was on the rise. In fact, the Severn Vale were simply a rebrand of the old Wick & District Beagles who had disbanded amid acrimony in 2011. The 'country' and Mastership were the same as before - the only real change being a move to the kennels of the Berkeley FH.

Nigel Bell-End and the Wick

When the Severn Vale Beagles formed in 2013, the Countryside Alliance tried to claim that this new pack was evidence that the 'sport' of beagling was on the rise. In fact, the Severn Vale were simply a rebrand of the old Wick & District Beagles who had disbanded amid acrimony in 2011. The 'country' and Mastership were the same as before - the only real change being a move to the kennels of the Berkeley FH.

The Wick's Master, Nigel Bell, was the first huntsman found to have breached the Hunting Act. In 2009 he accepted a police caution after LACS filmed him hunting a hare. This admission of guilt did not stop the Association of Masters of Harriers and Beagles welcoming his new pack into their ranks just a few years later.

Happily, the Vale have not had an easy time of it in their first two seasons. They've been sabbed several times on their home turf and, even worse, some of their members travelled to Cumbria for the 2014 Alston Hare Week that was devastated by hunt saboteurs.

Careless Talk Saves Lives

The hunters, especially hunt photographer Kay Thompson, were unusually loose-lipped about the Severn Vale's beagling festival on social media. This made it much easier for the cyber sabs of the Anti-Hunt Nodal Technology and Intelligence Service (ANTIS) to obtain the full fixture list in advance. A selection of back-up meets was also obtained as sabs from across the UK began to arrive in Bristol.

Day 1: Shock and Awe

On the morning of Monday 16th February an impressive force of fifty sabs assembled at the redirection point. We were briefed to expect the Wiltshire & Infantry Beagles at The Lacys in Wortley. This pack usually box up on first sight of sabs but, as always, there was no complacency.

On arrival at the meet sabs poured from the vehicles to be met by less than thirty hunters - an indication of the pitiful state of beagling in 2015. Just like at Alston Hare Week, a stunned silence descended as the beaglers struggled to comprehend what was happening around them. Sabs were particularly pleased to spot a grim-faced Simon Beckett in the crowd.



Having had his own 'hare week' wrecked last autumn, Beckett had made the 300 mile journey south to enjoy a sab-free beagling festival. Not this week, Simon....oh, and see you in October.

Despite the general paralysis, the Wilts staff's military training kicked in and they came up with a plan: they were going home. Sabs were so surprised by the rapidity of their retreat that only a couple of cars were able to give chase. Less than ten minutes after the HSA had announced its arrival, day one of the Severn Vale Hare Week was effectively over.

With nothing left to do at The Lacys, the remaining sab groups headed off to protect foxes from the Vale of White Horse FH. Meanwhile, out on the road, the Wilts hound van tried to evade sabs by driving over a 70p toll bridge. This fee proved no obstacle for Berkshire sabs but Notts clearly struggled and it was some time before they were able to re-join the pursuit. Finally, at 2:45, after yet more aimless driving, the hound van pulled into the car park of Wiltshire Police Divisional HQ. Sabs watched the huntsman waddle into the building - presumably to hand himself in - and then left to join their comrades for an uneventful afternoon at the VWH.

Day 2 (am): The Only Way is Essex

Tuesday morning saw sabs heading out to Widley's Farm, Sherston for a morning meet of the De Burgh & North Essex Bassets. Many of us suspected they wouldn't be there: surely, after yesterday's fiasco, Bell would have switched some meets around?

These thoughts were interrupted as we suddenly encountered two women whose car had skidded into a field in the icy conditions. Twenty black-clad figures quickly surrounded their vehicle and literally dragged it back to the road. The grateful (and slightly startled) occupants waved us off and we were on our way again.

As we arrived at Widley's it was clear we had overestimated Bell. The hunt were out as planned and not pleased to see us.

SABOTAGED!



One frustrated beagle screamed "You're all cowards!" by way of greeting. A bit rich, really, coming from a man who gets his kicks watching a pack of hounds chase a single, terrified hare.

The bassets themselves were quickly located lolloping through a field and their huntsman, Matthew Lee, sprinted back to the farm as soon as he saw us. They were holed up there for almost two hours while a police helicopter clattered pointlessly overhead. Eventually, the hound van bolted for the gate and immediately picked up a sab tail. In a spectacular retreat, it was followed for over an hour down the M4 as it headed for their Essex homelands at the other side of the country.

Day 2 (pm): Severn Vale: Epic Fail

Sabs predicted that the afternoon would be trickier. The host pack would surely feel obliged to make a stand. What's more, the meet was at the Badminton kennels of the Beaufort Foxhounds - one of hunting's sacred sites where they could expect strong support. We were not wrong. From noon, large numbers of Royal Agricultural College pricks, backed by more serious thugs from the Beaufort FH, began to arrive in the area.

Sabs initially faced off against them outside the kennels until word came through that the pack was out and hunting a landing strip just west of the meet. First into the fields were Notts sabs who had the hounds off them straight away. Other groups then piled in from a variety of access points and scuffles broke out whenever the hunters had the numerical advantage. It was not an easy afternoon for us but it wasn't great for them either. The pack were confined to a couple of fields for three hours and the Severn Vale staff looked mightily relieved when it was all over.

We judge our success on whether they kill or not. They didn't even come close - despite the south west's hunting fraternity throwing everything it had at us.

Day 3: Dumb and Dummer

Wednesday the 18th February was the tenth anniversary of the Hunting Act. Sabs left the endless debates about the Act to others and instead focused on saving lives in the field.

We were up at 5am for an early-morning appointment with the Dummer Beagles. This was the first meet of a joint day with the Warwickshire that was unconnected to the festival. Our plan was to hit these two packs then race back south for the Park Beagles' festival meet at 1pm.

Sabs swooped on the Dummer just as huntsman, Steve Duckmanton, was unboxing hounds. His obsession with killing hares for once failed him and, like so many beaglers before him, he retreated to the sanctuary of a crap barn. The presence of some glum faces from the Severn Vale was our first clue that the festival had been abandoned.

After a couple of hours of standing around, most sabs headed off to look for the afternoon packs, leaving an HSA flag as a calling card. We were very flattered by how much excitement this flag caused: social media was later awash with photos of beaglers proudly posing with it. Hunters should note that additional flags are available via the HSA website - please be sure to include your full name and address with all orders.

As predicted, both the Warwickshire and Park Beagles were found to have cancelled their meets (with local sabs later confirming the Park didn't even leave Dorset!) Indeed, the HSA was just about to declare victory over both the festival and the joint day, when spotters reported that Duckmanton's pack had sneaked out again. Exhausted sabs rushed back to the area and were straight out into the fields. A blast on the horn was enough to have Stevo packing up again - this time for good.

Day 4: I Know It's Over

Thursday - basset day - was just never going to happen. The De Burgh were due to hunt again but had made their feelings clear on Tuesday when they fled the county. The other pack, the Four Shires, is far too full of Tory councillors, solicitors and other members of the Establishment to risk accusations of illegal hunting. We busied ourselves by checking kennels and old Wick meets but it was clear that Severn Vale Hare Week had come to an end on the Tuesday.

Still Hunting the Hare Hunters

Our stunning victories at both the Alston and Severn Vale festivals have book-ended yet another terrible season for the beaglers. So, thank you to everyone who made it happen: local sabs who did the research, sabs who travelled the length of country to be there and, of course, the HSA for logistical and financial support.

Our work, though, is never done.

The beaglers will try to pick themselves up and return to Alston this autumn. When they do, they can be assured of one thing: hunt saboteurs will be there to stop them.



If you would like to help us stop Alston 2015 please donate by visiting www.gofundme.com/mz1bfk

NOT GUILTY!

THE GUILDFORD FOUR



Last October four hunt sabs from Guildford Action for Animals and North Downs Saboteurs were arrested for section 68 of CJA during the opening meet of the Surrey Union Hunt. The four were taken into custody as they tried to save a Roe deer from being mauled by hounds. Following pressure on social media and in the press, Surrey police have been forced to reconsider their policy of providing free security and protection for hunts. The subsequent court case highlighted the failings of police, the lies of the hunt, and the honest intentions of the saboteurs.

One of the arrested describes the incident:

'We were running down a footpath with the police behind us when over the radio we heard the panicked shouts of a sab, "help they've got a deer, they've got a deer, I can't get them off, they're biting it, it's bleeding, I'm in the woods, there's terrier boys here, help me, come quickly, come quickly!"

We ran down the track when, to my right, the huntsman came past shouting and swearing. He turned his horse and booted it in the ribs whilst steering toward 2 sabs, who dived out of the way. I was filming and ran into the field hoping to catch the face of the huntsman for identification.

I hurriedly approached an officer, to report the attempted assault and the attack on the deer; I was dismissed in the usual manner. As I continued toward the wood, where I suspected the deer was being attacked, I noticed 3 more officers running towards us. It was then that Sergeant Ruane - the highest-ranking officer at the scene, shouted for us to leave the land under section 68 of the Criminal Justice Act.

I tried to explain to the officers that the hunt was breaking the law, but my allegations fell on deaf ears. It all happened very quickly. Within 15 seconds of the initial warning Ruane ordered our arrest.

Two sabs were apprehended trying to leave the land. All the while, the deer continued to be attacked and the lone sab threatened by hunt members.

Other sabs were being prevented from getting to the deer. After being cuffed we were paraded in front of the field and support that were photographing us. At one point I was shoved into the back end of a horse as we were pushed past the field down a narrow track.

Shortly after, we were informed the deer was to be shot and carcass removed by the hunt, we then heard the piercing bang of the gun whilst we sat cuffed in the police vehicles, it was very upsetting.'

The arrests happened in two separate locations. As four sabs came from one side of the covert another group attempted to gain access onto the private land from the opposite side.

Distressingly, they could hear the screams of the deer as the police and hunt blocked their path. Calmly, one sab attempted to negotiate with police, explaining his only intentions were to help the deer and check the lone sab was ok. The police reacted by continuing to threaten arrest under section 68.

The master of the hunt Alice Dunsdon, in an attempt to keep protestors out of the woods, rode her horse into the sab, brandishing her whip

(she later claimed in her court statement that it was the sab that had tried to assault her; this was dismissed in court after viewing video evidence). The fourth sab was then arrested and led away. The sabs were later charged with section 69 of the criminal justice and public order act, which carries the maximum sentence of 3 months in prison and/or a £2,500 fine.

News of the arrests spread quickly on Facebook, with the Surrey police page being inundated with outraged messages. In reaction the police released a statement, validating the lies of the hunt.

They announced that sabs had refused to leave the land adjacent to where a lawful activity was being conducted and, unconnected, a deer had been caught on barbed wire in the vicinity, and had been humanely destroyed. The statement was later proven untrue.

"...the footage showed the sabs were only given 15 seconds to leave the land. This was quite different to the 2-3 minutes the police had alleged."



The case was taken up by BIndmans LLP and brilliantly defended by Barrister Adam Paytor. The police video evidence proved difficult to watch for anyone with an ounce of compassion. It showed the deer being dragged by its broken leg out of a ditch by terrier men and, as it screamed in pain, the police continued to film, even though the hunt were violating animal welfare laws. They proceeded to try and get the deer to run with a broken leg and considerable injuries to its belly. They diagnosed and concluded that the deer was 'tired' and the best thing would be to destroy the animal.

It was later shown in court that the police had been unreasonable to allow the hunt to attend the injured deer whilst denying sabs access. The judge heard how the detained sabs were experienced with wildlife rescues and could have offered much better care of the animal. A turning point of the case was the submission of the expert witness vet report. It showed conclusively that injuries sustained by the deer were, without doubt, caused by dog bites. The prosecution agreed that the evidence from the vet was thorough and conclusive and there would be no gain in trying to contest the statement.

Another important part of the case came from the sabs own video footage. The camera and memory card had been 'lost' for weeks before the case but finally turned up at 11am on the first day of the trial. Incredibly the footage showed the sabs were only given 15 seconds to leave the land from the first instruction to arrest. This was quite different to the 2-3 minutes the police had alleged. Sergeant Ruane even remarked that he was 'shocked' when shown the footage as he gave evidence.

After announcing the acquittal, Judge Turner summed up the case. He remarked how impressed he had been with the honesty and good character of the saboteurs, commending their dedication and conduct, not only as they attended hunts but also in wider society. Lastly, and most importantly, he concluded that had the sabs been allowed to tend to the deer, the animal's suffering may have been greatly reduced and the outcome very different. We can only hope that this case signifies a change in the legal bias of both the police and the courts.

Following the case the police video evidence of the deer being mistreated by the hunt was sent to the RSPCA and the League Against Cruel Sports. Unfortunately both organisations, although very sympathetic, were not in a position to prosecute. The League stated they did not have the resources whereas the RSPCA explained that the case was too controversial for the organisation as they were currently under scrutiny, especially in regards to hunt prosecutions.

It seems Surrey police have been taught a lesson from the public backlash as their overtly biased policing methods have been exposed by this case. After all, their actions not only wasted public money and caused unnecessary suffering to the deer; it also prevented any chance of the real criminals being prosecuted.

Redhill Magistrates Court, March 25 2015

"All of you contribute immensely to society not only in your working lives but in your free time. You deserve high praise for managing yourselves and your behaviour."

Judge Turner

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 Send, Ripley road, Woking, GU23 7LJ
Debbie was sentenced to 6 years in prison followed by a 5 year ASBO for allegedly conspiring to blackmail people connected to HLS. The prosecution did not claim that Debbie carried out the blackmail, merely that she must have known about it. Debbie was further sentenced to 1 year in prison, to run concurrently with her previous sentence, for 'interfering with a contractual relationship,' again in relation to 'animal testing companies.' Debbie welcomes letters, but please remember that all correspondence can be read by prison staff.
Debbie's birthday is 12 January

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

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."

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.

sabgroupnews



Beds & Bucks Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/Bedsandbuckssabs

Beds and Bucks Hunt Sabs are 1 year old! And what a year it's been.

After finally getting our collective backsides in gear and forming the group we've been active in pretty much every operation from the Mink hunts last summer all the way through the badger cull (where we had people in both Somerset and Gloucestershire) and finally going up against the various hunts in our area and further afield.

As a fledgling group with a small but dedicated core of members we generally operated in conjunction with sister groups, most notably Northants Hunt Sabs, as our local hunt's boundaries covered both our areas. But we've also been much further afield, even as far north as Yorkshire and as far south as Dorset. Working in conjunction with other groups obviously offers the security of larger numbers but also adds to the effectiveness against the hunts, multiple vehicles give more flexibility and a bigger headache for those who oppose us.



We've been fortunate enough to find ourselves in the right situation at the right time on several occasions, these included: Boxing Day sabbing the Cambridge and Enfield Chace where we stopped the hounds on the tail of a fox which ran right past us, again a similar situation against the Fernie later in January (when the fox sought sanctuary in a badger sett), and stopping a dig out when sabbing the Puckeridge in Hertfordshire. Plus, of course, countless times up against our main target The Oakley, who we've been giving an especially hard time. They've even had to change the way they operate in an effort to thwart us and judging by the numbers following and riding field they're suffering. We're looking forward to hopefully putting them out of action for good.

Going forward, we've had lots of interest from potential new sabs so we'll be training these over the summer for the season to come. Our Facebook page has really taken off with well over 1500 likes and rising every day. We'll also be fund raising hard for new equipment and hopefully a new vehicle to accommodate all our new members. We're currently battling through the baffling bureaucracy involved in securing a group bank account, something you'd assume would be fairly problem free but is proving otherwise. Hopefully this will all be sorted by the time of going to press. The morale in the group is high and we're totally committed to what we do and are looking forward to facing the multitude of challenges that await us.

Thanks again to all the other groups we've worked with over the year, we couldn't do it without you and you know who you are. Also thanks to the general public who help fund us and offer the support and intelligence we need to operate successfully. Finally, let's hope for a Government that will take wildlife crime seriously and instruct our police to enforce the hunting act properly; a tall order we know but we live in hope.

Brighton Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/BrightonHuntSaboteurs
Brightonhuntsaboteurs.wordpress.com
brightonhuntsaboteurs@riseup.net

Brighton Hunt Sabs have had a pretty good second half of the season. Our new sabs are learning the ropes, we've had some successful days and we've enjoyed sharing cake with Hastings and Croydon Sabs. The year began with a trip to the Crawley and Horsham where the police have been being strangely co-operative most of the time. That day was a pretty tiring one, but we were on the hunt all day. The next time we went to this hunt their terrier boys were a bit bothersome and our group spent most of the day with them, leaving the other groups free to sab illegal hunting unimpeded.

We finally found the elusive Southdown & Eridge by some combination of good luck and good thinking. They have been going to great lengths to avoid us, perhaps ashamed at the sorry state of their hunt these days. The violent assistant terrier man has been promoted to whipper-in, bouncing about ridiculously on top of his horse, the field is pretty small and their territory seems to be shrinking too. They didn't get much hunting done and packed up at 2.30.

On one of our outings to the Burstow the hunt was held up for a large part of the day when one of the riders was injured falling off. Luckily sabs were there to help with first aid and calling the ambulance as the hunt didn't really seem too bothered. The Burstow have mostly trail hunted when we're there, taking us on a merry dance up and down and round, until they get away from us enough to get some real hunting in. Speeches at the meet have been asking for them all to vote UKIP so they can go back to killing foxes legally.

We finished the season at the Burstow with a bit of an altercation over a footpath which was clearly marked on the map. When we did continue along the footpath and caught up with the hunt, surprise, surprise, the hounds were in cry in the woods! We've also done the odd benefit gig and meal, which helps keep the Landy on the road and will help with sabbing the badger cull if it does go ahead. New sabs and donations are always welcome.

Bristol Hunt Sabs

bristolhuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk
www.network23.org/bristolhuntsabs
www.facebook.com/bristolhunt saboteurs

Bristol Hunt Sabs stormed into 2015 with a visit to The Curre and Llangibby with friends from South Wales and Somerset. Sabs took control of the pack multiple times during the day much to the dismay of the masked-up huntsman and his gang of simpleton thugs. Four foxes were spotted throughout the day and aided to safety. We got home to find the hunt circulating a false report of us being responsible for injuring 20 hounds (with no evidence of course). You have to feel a bit sorry for them sometimes.

A return visit was on the cards for the posh boys at The Royal Agricultural University. The RAC Beagles packed up within 10 minutes of seeing us so took out their frustration by hurling dead animals at us, smashing a window on one of our vehicles and attempting to follow us home. It all backfired for them as the press ran riot with the story shaming the thugs. One of the main perpetrators on the day was spotted by sabs a few weeks later at the Severn Vale hare festival unable to keep his shaking under wraps. The festival itself was a massive failure thanks to the constant sab presence. We managed to have a few sabs out over the course of the week. Full respect to all those that travelled from as far as Scotland to protect hares.

We had a great run towards the end of the season, dropping in on The South Herefordshire Hunt for the first time in four years and visiting the Cotswold Vale Farmers Hunt multiple times and having an effective day each time. We worked well with other groups from Three Counties, South Wales and Southampton and kept on the top of the hunt as much as possible. On our final visit of the season, the CVFH drafted in some 'muscle' from up North to protect them for the day. Bless.

Interest in our group has been great during our outreach days at Lush Bristol and the Bristol Anarchist Book Fair. We plan to have a skill-share day in the summer for new sabs to learn how we operate before we get back out in the field to oppose the cub hunts in August.

Cambridge Hunt Saboteurs

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Cambridgeshire hadn't had a sab group for nearly 2 decades. The badger culls of 2013/14 brought this to the fore locally, the product of which has been a fantastic first season with an already tight group of sabs thinking long-term.

We became active in November 2014, so are yet to experience cubbing and mink hunts, something we're already preparing for financially and tactically. Hitting the fox hunting season proper, we were privileged to be out with experienced groups SES, Bristol, NELS, N&S, Beds & Bucks and Northants. This has meant that we've been well exposed to the trials, triumphs and travesties that occur whilst out protecting the UK's wildlife from the lowest of our own species.



Our main focus regionally has been the Cambridgeshire Hunt with Enfield Chace, the East Essex, the Puckeridge and the Essex. All hunting illegally, all with varying degrees of violence and receiving mollycoddling treatment from the rural police. Having had a successful season preventing kills and seeing foxes to safety, the Cambs & Enfield were the only hunt we witnessed making a kill. They'd been hunting on Wildlife Trust land and we'd alerted the attending cops of illegal hunting, a claim to which we were in receipt of the response, "fox hunting is legal if it's on private land..." Er....no officer, just no. An hour later, our sabs witnessed the kill devastatingly short of being able to pull the hounds away. This was a terrible low for attending sabs but made us focus all the more on future tactics and public education.

Highlights have been the mass hit of Blackmore & SV, the Boxing Day hit of the Cambs & Enfield that saw 4 foxes helped to safety, preventing a dig-out from the ever smug East Essex, shutting down the Puckeridge hunt in the snow and the training workshop we held with NELS in London. Building the team, helping each other progress tactically and receiving mentorship from some rather fantastic sabs has been invaluable.

We're conscious of building a public following, so alongside our Facebook and media presence we're working with Lush and appreciated the local AR group holding outreach stalls whilst we were in the field. We already feel like an established group with a growing network of supporters against persecution in our region. Next up for us is finishing the new Landy, fundraising, purchasing much-needed equipment and sabbing mink hunts.

Croydon, Brixton & Kingston Hunt Sabs

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SLWG went into the New Year with some frustrating weeks. The Old Surrey Burstow & West Kent Fox Hounds weren't out due to kennel cough, the Southdown & Eridge were being elusive, and the Crawley & Horsham were behaving strangely, so it wasn't until the end of January that we got some good sabbing on the C&H at Shipley. This was followed by a successful day on an OSBWKFH/S&E joint meet, where our new gizmos proved very effective, and then an early meet of the C&H.

Dogged stakeouts of the S&E produced results the next two weeks; then the strangest incident of the season occurred on the OSBWKFH when a trained paramedic from the Croydon group treated a badly injured Red Coat until an ambulance arrived. 5 days later the tyres of the SLWG Landy were slashed, but, undeterred, the group was back out on Saturday, again on the OSBWKFH for the final meet of the season. The group has grown substantially this year and we are hoping to purchase a second Landy over the summer.

Devon Hunt Sabs

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Ten hunts sabbed in 2015, with not many in Devon left unvisited by now. Judging by their provocative actions the Lamerton are always keen to invite us back. Meeting at Laneast just over into Cornwall, one rider on her high horse pompously announced she would sue us, but more serious was a female sab being grabbed by the throat and having her hand slammed in a gate. Once again the Lamerton and their support reveal themselves as nothing more than thugs. The South Tetcott are no better, with a rider producing a knife and threatening to slit a sab's throat just days later.

The East Devon have also seen us a few times. On a joint meet with the Taunton Vale they hunted a fox to ground and sabs moved in just in time to prevent a dig-out. Spare a thought for good old Marie Walters, who was summoned by the hunt only to be enraged by the shower of rocks and the reckless quad driving she witnessed as hunt support tempers flared later that day.

Into February and back with the Lamerton, our Landy was deliberately rammed by an angry hunt follower in a pickup. What made this incident stand out was that his very young kids were in the back of his vehicle, and he sped away from the scene skidding all over the place. A first visit to the Cotley a week later looked like a day of putting up with annoying teenagers on quads, but, as they packed up, we became suspicious that a dig-out was in progress nearby. Reaching the wooded site in fading light we found blood around an earth and quad tracks leading up to the fence. We will not forgive this sickening display.

Working with other sabs is always rewarding, and recently we've been out with Kernow, Somerset, Three Counties and more besides, notably at the Severn hare hunting festival. We've paid visits to the North Cornwall, the South Devon and the Exmoor Foxhounds. In this part of the world theseason drags on, with hounds running through fields of new born lambs. Our last outing was the Exmoor's closing meet on 26th April, but before this we were back out with the Lamerton one last time at Lydford. A sab was assaulted by a rider and a farmer as we made our way along a public footpath. The landowner stole our camera, only giving it back when police arrived but with footage of the assault wiped. Fortunately we have more than one camera!

Heartfelt thanks as always to sabs, friends and supporters.



Dorset Hunt Sabs

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After a busy Christmas spent mostly sabbing local fox hunts, and in need of a change, we spent New Year's Day in the company of the Park Beagles at Compton Valence making sure no hares were caught. The hunt did not share our festive spirit and duly packed up early. Returning to sab our usual fox hunts, the early part of the year continued in much the same vein throughout with the regular company and abuse from our local anti antis who now appear to have consolidated their efforts into one large thug group who persist in following us from hunt to hunt (and even into Hampshire, when we sabbed the New Forest Foxhounds). Despite our weekly calls to 101, our local Plod has been somewhat lacklustre in their response. As the ante was 'upped' further, we had help from sab friends from other groups who are usually very appreciative of what we have to put up with week after week.

Nevertheless, foxes have been saved and some were lost. In February, a bagged fox was released and torn to shreds by the hounds just in front of us; a conveniently high fence prevented us from intervening. Our Landy was trashed and sabs assaulted at the BSV in the same month. This didn't stop us from sabbing in other vehicles and on occasion sabbing two or three hunts on the same day! Always followed by masked up antis (some of whom the hunt and their support mistake for sabs, how could they?) and with the addition of two women thugs who like to provoke the male sabs, we carried on regardless.

February also saw us join up with other sab groups at the Severn Vale beagling festival, successfully closing it down mid-week. Along with our many sab friends, we attended the Justice for Nid demo in March where the talents of our local scum were displayed to much appreciation. Again, sabs were assaulted and the Police remained ambivalent.

The end of March brought the South Dorset's last meet of the season at Corfe Castle to a violent crescendo with some childish use of muddy ditch water followed by a serious attack on sabs who were trying to leave the area. It took a serious physical injury for the Police to finally intervene and we will keep you posted on this matter. We wait with baited breath to see how the authorities will respond to what we have had to put up with this season in our consistently peaceful efforts to ensure that wildlife is not hurt. Bring on next season!

By the end of the season we'd sabbed 4 of the 5 Dorset hunts, leaving just the Seavington, which I'm sure we'll sab next season.

East Kent Hunt Sabs

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Starting this season on a high after the hugely successful Boxing Day Demo against the East Kent with West Street hunt, we wasted another Saturday trying to get onto the BLEAN BEAGLES. Aware now that they move the Beagles the day before hunting, we searched the area from early morning until we found the hound van at a supporter's house, it seemed they couldn't get away...but they did, with some sneaky usage of blocking cars.

Guessing the direction they were headed, our landy managed to pick him up again, the hound van then headed towards London on the motorway!! By then we were in convoy, but the weather was now so bad that visibility was almost impossible. We estimate that the hound van was going about 80 mph and decided to pull over (just goes to show that these people have no care for the safety of other road users or for the safety of the dogs stuffed in the back of the vehicle...)

Next Saturday the EKwWS were at Barham, where after an impromptu demo from us they moved off to "trail hunt" through thick woodland. Using yet another stand in huntsman (this one an old East Sussex & Romney Marsh boy), they of course had no hound control, and the day was an utter shambles. Despite hassle from their boys we didn't back down, and it was fairly incident free.

After another failed attempt at finding the Beagles, we were rewarded by none other than the huntsman of the ASHFORD VALLEY (Neil Staines) who was driving his hounds to Conyer, on the north Kent coast. Not a great meet for us as it has poor access and an icy north wind was blowing, terrible weather from the start. Hounds chased a deer at one point but the hunt was very poorly attended and packed up early, which was a result!

The next Saturday was worse - a joint meet of the EKwWS & AV, which was full of bloated pissed fuckwits in masks...after much aggro and a collision with our van (and no help from police), we decided to tactically retreat due to low numbers. We returned to a Beagles kennels watch the next week, only to find the AV meeting just up the road! The support tried to block us in, and things got very messy when the beaglers also arrived... but we managed to get on with things - taking the whole pack out from under the huntsman's nose, in front of the hilltop support! Fairly surreal, but no kills... or trails laid, of course (the terrier boys also left as soon as they saw us!!)

The next week was fairly uneventful - we are sure we stopped a dig out. (Kent police have decided to take "no action" over repeated quad offenses...apparently they take the plates off the quads when we are there as they "fear for their safety!" And Kent cops are happy with this as reason. You really couldn't make it up).

The next Saturday we had one last crack at the Beagles....no joy of course. By midday we had tracked down the EK, where we had a tyre blow out almost as soon as we arrived! So, after losing time, struggling to get near them at an almost inaccessible meet (a large shooting estate), and thugs everywhere, there was little we could do. A shit end to a fairly tough season.

A Kent Police investigation into illegal hunting is also underway, but we will report on this fully next time.

Grampian Hunt Sabs

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We have had a very successful first season, learning more and more as we go along, and tarnishing the Fife Foxhounds' reputation as we go. (They even mentioned us on their website.) On the day of their last meet of the season we heard one of their riders say that we have, 'upped the ante' after we managed to protect a fox who had gone to ground before the whipper-in could react! This 'upping the ante' was largely a result of our UK tour in February when we went down to the Severn Vale Beagling festival and a couple of other hunts after it had finished, meeting very likeminded people and managing to hit ten hunts in six days! We watched blatant illegal hunting by the Ledbury and York & Ainsty South Hunt, (in Scotland the law against hunting isn't as strict) and were there when a fox was killed at the Y&AS, but managed to save some deer which the hounds rioted on to. The Ledbury hunt had to deal with our new found 'vegan rage' and we managed to help three foxes flee to safety, and were given permission by land owners to get the hunt off their land.

Back to Scotland: we have three potential cases against the Fife Foxhounds which are currently being looked at. The hunt packed up after only about two hours of attempted hunting on the day of their last meet, which we saw as quite an achievement. As well as this, the active badger sett that Iain Dickson, terrierman, was adamant wasn't active, was, according to a local badger expert! We did try and warn him! He still owes us a thanks for preventing him from illegally interfering with it.

We managed to follow the Kincardineshire Hunt to one of their meets after a couple of failed attempts (thanks to Grampian Police protecting the hunt). As far as we know we are the first sab group to have ever gone to a meet of theirs. It was more of a monitoring day due to vast terrain and our low numbers that day, but we will be seeing them again for sure. The police, who started off okay, have slowly been turning sour. But we have to thank the copper who 'accidentally' told us one of the hunt's meets.

At the moment we are part of the seal defence campaign since the Scottish Wild Salmon Company wants to shoot the beautiful creatures. We have been watching over the court case against the company and are interested to see how it plays out.

To sum up our season, during the first visits we took to the Fife Foxhounds their huntsman, Robert, was very collected and polite. On the day of their last meet, he ran out of his hound van, pulled his hat over his face and growled at us, making claw shapes with his hands. We think he's losing his rag, and it may be somewhat to do with us. We can't wait to see him next season, but they're not the only Scottish hunt that we'll be targeting. That means you too, Jed and Duke.

Lancaster Hunt Sabs

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Since our last report our group has doubled in size. We extend a big welcome to our new sabs, who are massively keen and energetic, and have lots of skills. We have continued to monitor and sab hunts in Cumbria and Lancashire. A visit to the Holcombe hunt with Manchester and Liverpool sabs resulted in the hunt packing up early and a shoot being stopped. With Cumbria and North East sabs, we have also visited the Ullswater hunt, who again avoided National Trust land when we were present, as did the Melbreak, Blencathra and the Eskdale and Ennerdale hunts. This essentially cripples their day's hunting as they are so reliant on National Trust land. We also stumbled upon the Coniston a couple of times.



We used our full camouflage ghillie suits to upset the Eskdale and Ennerdale on one meet as they were unable to see us even though we were within a stone's throw of the huntsman and the pack, who walked straight towards us. The hounds gave voice and we gizmoed them off the fell. As the huntsman didn't know where we were, he beat an undignified retreat.

Newlands week, the formerly prestigious event, was essentially cancelled, bar one 'secret' meet hosted by the National Trust, who clearly hoped we hadn't noticed. We did. A visit to the Melbreak ended with the hunt hiding round the back of a farm, the huntsman being camera-shy as usual.

Our last visit of the season to the Eskdale and Ennerdale and Ullswater joint meet saw us outnumbering the hunt as we teamed up with North East and Cumbria sabs. The hunt behaved like spoilt brats that had been stopped from having sweeties, and tried to instigate violence but soon backed off. As the season came to an end a few facts became definite – a number of the hunts appear to be using bagged foxes on their showpiece days – we intend to get footage next season. The National Trust appear to have told hunts to avoid National Trust land when we are present as last year's publicity made a big impact - we intend to continue bringing this to public attention. The group will be out during the summer months monitoring areas where grouse and other creatures are shot and sabbing mink hunts.

Manchester Hunt Sabs

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

A freezing cold January day saw us attending a joint meet of the Holcombe Harriers and Essex FH. No kills and Manchester police even visited the kennels following a tip off regarding a "bagged fox."

We paid a visit to the Airedale beagles, who had not received any sab attention for years. With a trailer full of beagles, they rammed our colleagues van and then promptly returned to the kennels to ring the police! The beagles didn't leave the kennels again. Next followed quiet days on the High Peak Harriers and the Meynell FH.

On our first outing to the Claro beagles they packed up immediately so we moved on to the York and Ainsty South FH. This foxhunt killed a fox at a meet held on David Cameron's father-in-law's land. We weren't present that day, but other sabs were able to retrieve the body for post-mortem. A police inquiry is still ongoing. Following this incident the hunt stopped going out on Saturdays to avoid sabs.

The prestigious closing meet of the Claro beagles involved the hunt standing around for half an hour moaning to police before driving back to their kennels without even unboxing the beagles. What a fine spectacle for the support!

At the closing meet of the Atherstone FH the hunt retreated to the private estate of Sir William Matthew Stratford Dugdale (David Cameron's cousin) and before you could say 'Tory Tosspot' a police helicopter, riot vans, scrambler bikes and half of Warwickshire Police force arrived in a Section 35 frenzy. The police helicopter kindly pinpointed the hunts exact location and the noise from it kept foxes below ground - so all things considered a good day for us, and the foxes.

More section 35 dispersal orders followed at a meet of the York and Ainsty South FH. It didn't hamper our efforts and sabs stuck with the hunt, taking hounds off the scent of foxes, hares and a couple of deer.

On a visit to the Woodland Pytchley FH dim-witted Northants police kindly left the hunt's route-map displayed on their riot-van windscreen so we were able to keep tabs on the hunt all day! Local sabs were well positioned to help a fox to safety late in the day. No kills - a good end to the season.

Thanks to everyone who has supported us financially or otherwise - we couldn't do it without you!



Norfolk/Suffolk Hunt Sabs

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The second half of the 2014/2015 season has proved even more challenging for the Norfolk and Suffolk Sabs than the first half. Since Christmas we have fitted in nine visits to the Waveney Harriers and three visits to the Easton Harriers. The Waveneys are definitely running out of meets as they have done Ilketshall Hall at least three times, Blyford three times and Somerleyton four times. The repetition just means that we become more and more skilled at knowing where to position ourselves to have the best effect.

The Easton Harriers do not get so much attention from sabs and this is plain to see as they are very complacent in their illegal hunting of hares. At their last meet of the season, in one hour alone, they chased 11 hares. All got away, mainly thanks to us.

A growing trend amongst the hunts in our area is going off and leaving the hounds to do their own thing and if that means they are engaged in a spot of illegal hunting, then what does that matter? This is a very risky thing to do and it has backfired on more than one occasion. On 24th January 2015, the Waveney Harriers almost became famous for being the first hunt in the country to be sent home by the Police. Mind you, since this historic moment became public knowledge, the Police have backtracked and denied that it ever happened. We were there to witness events though and the two fingered salute the huntsman gave us as he left the meet said it all.

It has to be said that this season has been one of our toughest yet. We have had eight arrests on our patch. All of these arrests took place when sabs were taking direct action to stop a hare or fox being killed. One case is yet to go to trial but one case has very recently been discontinued. The sab in this case was on a grass verge, using a gizmo to stop the hounds. The terrierman was caused great "alarm" by the gizmo so he saw fit to drive down the verge dangerously at two sabs and then proceeded to get out of his vehicle and, without warning, stole the gizmo from the sab, assaulting her in the process. The terrierman admitted to theft but was just given a "Community Resolution." However, the sab was prosecuted for a Public Order Offence for causing the terrierman "alarm." The case was thrown out four days before the trial due to lack of evidence. We just hope our colleagues' cases go the same way.
Enjoy the summer, everyone!

North Downs Hunt Sabs

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See articles elsewhere in *Howl* for NDHS news

North & East London Hunt Sabs

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In the second half of the season NELS continued to concentrate on Puckeridge and Cambridge hunts as always teamed up with our colleagues from SES and also Cambridge sabs. We started the year with Puckeridge, Cambridge & Enfield Chace joint meet in Kimpton, Herts. Local police pestered us at the start of the day in order to try and delay us setting off. Sabs were blocked from going up a footpath early on, with the police trying to force them to remove their face coverings, stating it was better for 'anti-terrorism.' They also tried to confiscate our citronella sprays, claiming that they may contain 'dangerous substances or chemicals' and could damage crops or may harm the hounds and we could be arrested for cruelty against animals... It was really rewarding working with the region's other sab groups (Cambs, SES, NELS, Beds & Bucks) and building future connections there.

The other interesting hit of early 2015 was the Essex hunt. The hunt support and terrier-men seemed almost excited to see us. You could tell that this lot were going to be trouble from the start. A fox was chased through a hedgerow by the hunt and when it broke cover in the opposite direction was headed by the hunt, forcing it to run along a ditch seemingly breaking away. But a single hound picked up on the scent and the rest of the pack then gave chase to the exhausted fox. Sabs managed to rate some of the pack away and pull them in a different direction, but the remaining hounds chased the fox to ground in an active badger sett. The hounds then began to open up a sett entrance but were pulled off by some of the sabs who had got there first and used their bodies to intercept a dig-out. The terrier-men were not pleased and three of them attacked one of our sabs, causing a broken nose, facial lacerations and bruising/swelling to the head and face. The other sabs soon arrived and helped ease the situation and see off the terriermen fully. The injured sab was back in action next week.



The rest of the season went in similar tone with some disappointing and frustrating visits to Puckeridge hunt. The huntsman and small field found a way to avoid sabs in the area and spent our visiting days hiding away. We had a more interesting time with Cambridge hunt and their aggressive and racist supporters blocking our vehicles and foot sabs, but we still managed to do our 'jobs' effectively!

We also organised a successful skills workshop for new sabs and now we're going to focus on fundraising and recruitment for next season. See you in the fields!

North Tyne Hunt Sabs

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The York & Ainsty South rescheduled their Saturday meet on 14/03/15 to a Sunday which is unheard of shows how desperate and paranoid they are. The following Tuesday meet saw them use the police to lean on sabs by issuing (abusing more like) section 35 orders along with the usual hunt violence so the hunt can attempt to carry on hunting with impunity. This, however, did not work.

The end of season meet saw sabs from all over the North of England descend on the area at different positions. The police did not to issue any section 35 orders due to legal action taken against them following their behaviour on Tuesday 17th. Despite the police presence and all the roads constantly being watched by hunt spotters, a North Tyne hunt sab managed to get to an advantageous position ready to see a white tail deer fleeing from the hunt 5 minutes before the so-called trail rider (point rider, more like). The hunt turned up, the hounds came into cry and had to be rated vocally even though the hunt was given a chance to call them off.

Pre-scenting tactics had also been employed as a safe guard; this made the hounds smell nice and ensured the hunt could not pick up a scent for at least 2 hours! The result was that the hunt were forced into stopping and making the decision to take the hounds for a bath in a large irrigation ditch; this was confirmed by one of the mounted field (Godfrey Bloom ex UKIP MEP) asking the sab in question if he had sprayed the hounds while nearly falling off his horse cock-eyed drunk. The presence of terrier men and game keepers (Dickie Boy Tonk and his sidekicks) along with the fact that they could not pick up the scent of anything as well as not being able to pull strings on the police unlike earlier on in the week, the hunt attempted to resort to intimidation and violence towards sabs and local residents. Even though one of the hunt support ran Sheffield sabs' van off the road; it was up and running in no time despite an arsy landowner (a shooter) breaking the van window by punching it, and attempting to intimidate sabs. The hunt eventually packed up without any kills.



North Shropshire Hunt Sabs

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After a long summer of mink hunts and sett surveying, North Shrops sabs upped sticks and relocated to Gloucestershire for the duration of the badger cull, providing a constant presence in the zone, whilst also joining up with Three Counties to sab several hunts local to the area during cubbing.

Once the cull was finally over, we joined up with North Wales hunt sabs and returned to our old stomping ground of North Wales and The Flint and Denbigh hunt. As the full season kicked off, their usual hunt lackeys, true to form, tried to assert their authority and "enforce the law," by
assaulting sabs, smashing our windscreen and stealing our equipment. As the season progressed, with sabs present at nearly every meet, filming hounds rioting after foxes on a weekly basis, the hunt started to become a little more secretive and attempted to hide in the hills around the kennels, to no avail.

North Shrops and North Wales sabs' continued presence was clearly getting to them; one hunt follower in particular decided to take the law into his own hands and an ambulance had to be called after he assaulted a female sab (at this moment, we are awaiting a date for his court hearing).

In late January, after several threats of violence were made towards US, two of our group were arrested under section 35 (failure to disperse), sabs having called hounds off a fox and been assaulted again in the process.

Bail conditions meant no more Flint and Denbigh hunt for us, so we joined our old buddies, Three Counties and finished the season sabbing the South Hereford, Cotswold Vale and The Ross Harriers. We gave the lovely Mr Peters (hobbit huntsman from The Ross Harriers) a lovely leaving present on his last day as huntsman by taking his hounds off him whilst in full cry!

So now it's back to sett-surveying and preparing for mink hunts and this year's cull with a bit of court thrown in!

North East Hunt Sabs

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North East Hunt Sabs have had quite a good season on the whole, managing to be out every Saturday and sometimes on Wednesdays, especially when we attended the last meeting of the Farndale Hunt, on the North Yorkshire moors, teaming up with Rother Valley Hunt sabs and making our presence clearly felt. On this occasion the police remained surprisingly neutral. Our trips over to the Lakes to meet up with Cumbria and Lancaster Hunt Sabs were also a huge success. We attended the Ullswater Foxhounds at Glennriding early in the season where the hound van led us on a wild goose chase all the way to Scotch Corner; at least they weren't hunting though!

Then, on New Year's Day, we attended the Eskdale Foxhounds where the hunters met at the Woolpack Inn and let off a bagged fox across Little Barrow. Later in the season we attended Blencathra Foxhounds, at a Mungrisdale meet and, also on the same day, saw the Cumberland Farmers Hunt (mounted) ending the day with a confrontation in a car park with the Melbreak foxhounds' supporters who were seen well on their way. Another great success was the last meet of the season at Scafell Pike when we brought 20 sabs over to make up the numbers.

Locally we have still been out rigorously sabbing the South Durham and Braes of Derwent hunts getting them both more and more hot under the collar and wound up. Last season we were surprised at the boost in membership of our group, with some young blood coming into our ranks with much needed talent and organisation. We shall be continuing to fundraise now throughout the summer in time for next season and hopefully we will have more new members out in the field. We are always looking for new members and donations.

North Wales Hunt Sabs

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Hard to say when our season started, it was like it just rolled on from last season; sett surveying, badger cull, cub hunts, fox hunting season. Some of our members spent the whole six weeks of the cull based in Gloucestershire, teaming up with North Shrops sabs. Other sabs, when possible, travelled down to join us, but also focused on the cub hunting season back home. We'd go as far as to say our mission in Glos was a success; we also managed to sab a few cub hunts while there. And the sabs at home focused on cub hunting which really set us up for the season ahead (I'll explain why soon!)

Fox hunting season started in the last week of October and our main focus was the Flint and Denbigh hunt; over the season we managed to hit them on almost every meet. With NShrops sabs frequently joining us, the pressure was getting to the hunt. The Flint and Denbigh resorted to more violence than we'd seen from them in the past. In one incident a hunt supporter jumped on our bonnet and smashed the windscreen; he was ordered to pay for it and write a write a letter of apology! In another incident the terrier man pleaded guilty to assault and received a 6 months conditional discharge plus fine.

The F&D also scrapped their meet card, changed meets and tried hiding; this also didn't work out for them. Hunt master Jeremy Reed had very little control over his hounds (back to the previously mentioned cub hunting and training of the hounds that didn't go very well for them) earning him the nickname 'Scatterpack,' and saboteurs were able to take control of his pack and intervene when necessary, saving the lives of many foxes. The hunt also had police presence toward to end of the season, not a well thought-out tactic as the hunt then had to be on their best behaviour!

We also managed to hit North Shropshire based Wynnstay hunt, eventful but with all four tyres on our car getting slashed and a few badger setts filled in. With the F&D season finishing we joined up with NShrops sabs once again to hit the Wynnstay on their last meet, which also turned out to be the retirement of one of their huntsmen. We ended to season with a Trip to Cumbria to join sabs from Cumbria and Lancaster (Lancaster sabs had paid us a visit earlier in the season too).

Other good news we had this season was that Britain's oldest beagle pack The Royal Rock (residing at Flint and Denbigh kennels) had disbanded after 170 years.

Massive thanks for all your support.

Nottingham Hunt Sabs

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The second half of our season continued where the first had left off – working closely with Derby, Northants, Beds and Bucks and Rother Valley sabs when necessary and also heading out on our own as often as possible. As usual we focussed mainly on the Meynell and the Cottesmore with occasional trips further afield to the Blankney, Fernie and Per Ardua Beagles.

In February we made one of our regular trips to the elusive Westerby bassetts who are always so welcoming. Despite having nothing to hide they always high-tail it back to their kennels as soon as we arrive. We're trying not to take it personally!



It was great to receive a tip off about the Burton hunt in Lincolnshire. They used to be a regular target of Notts sabs before going underground about 5 years ago. Imagine our joy when we rocked up to their meet to discover they were having a joint meet with the lovely Essex foxhounds. We had an excellent day regardless, although weren't exactly thrilled when they stayed out until 6.30 and were still hacking for home in the pitch dark.

A decent sized crew from Notts headed South in mid-February to help play a part in completely destroying the Severn Vale Beagling festival. It was a great week and a pleasure working well with so many like-minded folk and dealing a blow to this sick blood junkie festival from which it will hopefully never recover.

Once our regular hunts had finished in local March (hurrah!) we headed slightly further afield to support our comrades in their battles against the Atherstone and the Woodland Pytchley. The final two Saturdays at the Woodland Pytchley, whilst tough due to the numbers of hired thugs they had brought in to deal with us, were incredibly effective in showing this hunt that if they try and extend their season to make extra money then they will be mercilessly hounded by sabs and any potential visitors will receive very poor "sport."

With foxhunting behind us we have already started sett checking in our part of the Gloucester badger cull zone and are pleased to report that setts are generally looking healthy and full of life. We will shortly be starting mink sabbing and have got a busy summer of fundraising, vehicle maintenance and recruitment ahead of us. We'll sleep when we're dead!

Perthshire Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/pages/Perthshire-Hunt-Sabs/521968741261981

Our first fox hunting season came to an end mid-March, and what a season it's been!

Our attentions have mainly been on the Fife Foxhounds, for some reason they don't seem too happy now that the novelty of sabs turning up has worn off. We have teamed up with a number of other sab groups, particularly Grampian and Glasgow.

In February we, along with Grampian and Glasgow sabs, made the long journey Down South to help sab the Severn Vale Hare Hunting Festival, the festival was a success for the sabs but not for the hunters. Once the festival was over we joined Three Counties Sabs to sab the Ledbury hunt, another successful day for sabs but not hunters! On our final day in England we joined Sheffield, Liverpool, and West Yorkshire sabs at the York and Ainsty South hunt, unfortunately the hunt killed a fox but sabs managed to call the hounds off deer, so prevented it becoming an even bigger tragedy. Despite its sad end, we had a great time on our "sab tour," we met so many amazing people and most importantly, we saved lives!

One of our biggest problems has been the police acting as hunt security. They well and truly showed whose side they're on back in March when they arrested 3 of our sabs; despite the sabs not committing any crime. We can't say much about it at the moment as the case is ongoing. We do believe that we have had a big impact on the hunts, given that the police are so heavy-handed with us.

We are now looking forward to a busy summer defending seals from greedy salmon fishermen who are determined to kill any seal that might dare to eat fish!

Special thanks to Grampian sabs and Glasgow sabs: love you guys! xx



Rother Valley Hunt Sabs

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Rother Valley Hunt Sabs was formed in December 2014. Since formation we have sabbed independently and with other groups, focussing on the Per Ardua Beagles in Lincolnshire. We have also sabbed the Holcombe Harriers, the Claro Beagles, some hare coursers, and the last ever meet of the disbanding Farndale Foxhounds. We have had a great deal of success so far with beagle packs cancelling their activities because of our presence, the Holcombe having to trial hunt due to unwelcome eyes, and the Farndale packing up after a pitiful 25 minute mooch on some moorland.

Somerset Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/pages/Somerset-Hunt-Saboteur-Group/490279164404314



Many miles have been covered through tussocks and bogs, muddy tracks and lanes in pursuit of illegal hunts during the latest cubbing, fox and hare hunting season during which we liaised with several groups, mostly SDAR, Devon and Dorset and others further afield for national hits such as the Beagle Festival and the Protest for Nid.

We are keen to expose the lawlessness linked to these hunts to which the police often turn a blind eye, or worse openly refuse to deal with blatant lawbreaking and danger to the public, although recently action has been taken on a few occasions, which is encouraging.

We spent several weeks patrolling the River Otter in Devon. The beavers living along the banks were potentially carrying a parasite dangerous to livestock and in danger of being culled. The opposition to such a drastic measure grew, resulting in a decision to capture and test the animals. They are now happily back in their home having been declared parasite free.

The incident when Nid was so horrifically injured was a low point. No remorse from the rider responsible and as for the followers obstructing the ambulance, it beggars belief. This appalling lack of justice led to a protest by HSA members at the hunt's point-to-point fund raiser which we attended.

The mink hunting season is here; the people wielding sticks, whips and spikes will be out with their packs of otter hounds along our rivers and streams, trampling through increasingly rare ecosystems, causing untold damage in search of animals to kill. The numerous Somerset hunts will be visited as time goes by. The Go Fund Me donations kept us on the road and our next goal is to purchase our first vehicle. Huge thanks goes to Green Car who has been the 'driving' force in our regular attendance at meets for the past season.

And finally, thank you to all who have supported us so generously, both financially and otherwise with your expertise, advice and encouragement. This includes Lush who have helped us so much and enabled us to get our message out to the public in Taunton. We couldn't have done it without you.

Sheffield Hunt Sabs

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Fresh from the cull zone we began our season of sabbing back home with a visit to the York & Ainsty South fox hunt for their opening meet on the 1st November. On the 5th we went to sab the High Peak Harriers. Interestingly, the hunt took just 2 hounds out with them and brought along a gunman to give the appearance of sticking to the law. Sabs kept a close eye on both shooter and hounds, intervening when needed. We even captured footage of the gunman being so well distracted by sabs that he was completely oblivious to a hare running past his feet!

On the 8th we returned to the YAS. A hunt supporter decided to put our windscreen through with a golf ball but funnily enough the hunt master wrote us a cheque to pay for the repairs! Once again we went to the High Peak for their meet on the 12th, who didn't bother with the gunman this time. On the 15th a few Sheff sabs travelled to Scotland to sab the Fife Foxhounds with the newly formed Grampian and Perthshire groups. On the 29th we sabbed the Ecclesfield Beagles.

December began with a visit to the Badsworth and Bramham Moor hunt on the 13th. This day was marked by a strange incident wherein a hunt supporter mooned sabs, even going as far as pulling her bum cheeks apart. What this was meant to achieve is unclear since we all know that seeing arseholes is an inevitable part of visiting hunts. On the 17th we went to the High Peak, who, upon seeing us, decided not to take their hounds out with them. Boxing Day was unfortunately stressful and violent as we visited the Colne and Holme Valley Beagles and were met by masked thugs on a quad bike, wielding weapons.

We started 2015 off with another visit to the YAS on the 3rd January, who made a brief attempt at laying a trail before heading off in the opposite direction. The YAS really showed off their skills, losing control of the hounds and getting their quad bike stuck in a ditch. We returned to them on the 24th. On the 31st we visited the Airedale Beagles. Ex-master of the hunt Paul Myers rammed our van with his car, mangling his own front bumper whilst our battle bus came off unscathed. For our full report visit: https://sheffieldsaboteurs.wordpress.com/

South Coast Hunt Sabs

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Since our last report we have finished off the Fox Hunting season and, with a small break, started on the Mink Hunting season. Since Christmas we managed to locate the violent Southdown & Eridge fox hunt on three occasions by good detective work, some luck and the help of the fox hunting hating public. True to form, they responded by driving quads at sabs, trying to smash windows, riding people down and throwing punches. Undeterred, we stopped them killing. There was an incident on the Crawley & Horsham hunt when our beloved Landy was blocked in by supporters and on trying to escape was stuck in a water logged field, Sussex Cops looked on refusing to move the supporter's vehicles but while this was happening sabs were all over the hunt so the supporters actions were futile.

We didn't ignore the Old Surrey Burstow & West Kent fox hunt and at the end of the season they were targeted. A lot of press was received when one rider came off his horse and seriously injured himself, medical assistance from a paramedic sab (by profession) was at first refused with the comment 'I'd rather die first,' but his mind was changed when it was clear how badly he was hurt. With this act of humanity you would think the hunt would at least grant us some respect for our actions, but it was not to be. Just two weeks later sabs were the victims of a violent assault by a number of hunt supporters in two separate incidents. This is with the police who are moving at their usual snail's pace and of course the media was uninterested in sabs being injured.

Finally, after a very short break we managed to track down the opening meet of the Kent & Sussex Mink Hounds which consists of just eight very old men and women desperate to kill these small creatures. We let them move into the fields before descending on them and bringing them to a grinding halt, their plans fooled. A four hour stand-off occurred with more cops then hunters trying to find a way to remove us from the land, finally escorting the hunt to Bexhill police station for asylum where we don't think any mink live.

We are always looking for new members so get in touch if you want a good day out saving animals lives followed by some great end of hunt cakes.

South Devon Hunt Sabs

https://www.facebook.com/SouthDevonAnimalRights

Not for a couple of decades has South Devon Animal Rights experienced such a frenetic sabbing season. Hot on the heels of the Exmoor badger killing fields in mid-November we were precipitated into action in the hunting fields of south and mid-Devon. Although occasionally sabbing the Dart Vale & South Pool Harriers, the Spooner's & West Dartmoor Hunt and the South Devon Hunt, we stepped up our campaign to twice weekly against the Mid-Devon Hunt who meet on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

"Overjoyed" must be the understatement of the year for the Mid-Devon when the new master John Lightfoot took the reins for the 2014-15 season and, we understand, paid off their debt running into tens of thousands of pounds. The combined result of being sabbed almost every hunting day and a couple of weeks being confined to barracks with kennel cough, however, saw a noticeable loss of riders and car followers. That, in turn, of course meant a loss of income.

"Overjoyed", it seems, has turned into "double desperation." Incited by hunt chairman Robert Curtis, Rent-a-Thug were brought in during the second half of the season and subjected us to increasing intimidation and aggression. No-one wants to pour money into a sinking ship, however, so now the Mid-Devon Hunt is begging for money to keep it afloat.

Twin-crewed on single-seater quad bikes, hunting in Forestry Commission land without a licence, riding quad bikes without insurance, riding quad bikes roughshod over Dartmoor National Park – all in a day's work when so-called trail hunting. Or, as the Chief Constable of the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary stated at a public meeting in November 2014, "the overwhelming majority of hunts are well intended and take place lawfully." Believe that and you'll believe anything.

Our drone has caused quite a sensation and not a little nervousness in the minds of the hunts. We plan to hone our flying skills by practising over the summer months.

Quote of the season: "What are you doing?" farmer on quad bike arrogantly enquires as he pulls up alongside our Land-Rover in a country lane. Sab: "Looking across the fields. That's not an offence, is it?" Farmer: "It is in my book." So there you have it ....

Southampton Hunt Sabs

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The second half of the season was as frantic as ever! Thanks to sabs from as far and wide as Cornwall, South Wales, Croydon and Brighton and plenty of groups in between for putting up with our quite bad jokes, pretty bad smells and (mostly) really bad cake baking skills! The lot of us have ruined weekend after weekend for hunters across the country.

Our never ending battle to keep the Land Rover working meant we couldn't have the numbers we should have for chunks of the season, even so the group is constantly growing and our ability to leave hunters as red faced as their coat always improving!

Special moments for us include having the Southdown & Eridge hounds for most of the day, (everyone else's) cake, our super new gizmo and Northern Ireland Hunt Saboteurs joining us and best friends Bristol to frustrate the Cotswold Vale Farmers Hunt on the last day of the season.

Some of our rabble made it to the Justice for Nid demo which managed to stall and block the entrance of Blackmore point to point fund-raiser for hours, since then the footage of her getting run down has gone viral and the case has been picked up again!!!

Our Land Rover never has an easy time, in the second half of the season alone the window screen was smashed by posh yobs from the RAC Beagles before suffering a serious breakdown on the way back from a tactics meeting just over a month later costing us way over £1000, we fundraised like we have never fundraised before and the community response was incredible! GoFundMe targets were smashed and we had stalls everywhere anyone would let us (Lush have been great!) and now our Landy looks in the best shape of its life! Massive thanks to everyone that has helped!

We're not used to having a Saturday off now the hunting season is over but there is no point getting used to it, we are still yet to see what is happening with the badger cull this year and cubbing isn't far round the corner. As always get in contact if you wanna lend a hand!

Love & Rage

Southampton Sabs



South Wales Hunt Sabs

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The 2015 season has been a pretty good one for us here in Cymru.

One hunt to be blessed with our presence this season was the South Pembrokeshire, who in desperation to get rid of us, called the police stating that we were threatening them with a gun! An armed response unit of Dyfed Powys' finest were quickly on the scene to search us and our landy for this firearm. Needless to say, there never was such a thing and within about 20 minutes they'd gone and we'd found the hunt just a couple of fields over.

This year we also joined in the national hit to shut down the Severn Vale Beagling Festival. It was a cracking week as the vast majority of hunts boxed up straight away when we turned up at their meet. The second day of the festival saw us take on the Severn Vale Beagles who met at the Duke of Beaufort's kennels. The tension rose as a mass group of saboteurs made our way into the kennels of one the UK's largest and most 'prestigious' hunts where a stand-off between us and (so it seemed) every scummer from Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. However, we still managed to ensure a kill free day, with the huntsman confined to a small number of fields close to the meet.

As the arse end of the season was drawing closer, we joined our old mates from Bristol to see what the Cotswold Vale were up to. These visits proved to be very successful affairs, as we stopped them chasing numerous foxes amongst the fragrant smell of citronella and took the pack off them more than once with some sneaky horn blowing skills.

As well as these few highlights of the season, we've had a pretty busy time of it, sabbing the Carmarthenshire, visiting the Curre and Llangibby and nicking the pack off them, packing up the RAC Beagles, and topped it all off with a long, tough day at the South Herefordshire.

Our group's been growing in number this year, with some tidy new recruits. If you'd like to get involved, either to come out with us in the fields or to support us by fundraising then contact us.

West Sussex Hunt Sabs

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Without a doubt a very busy season. We sabbed several hunts and shoots around the country while keeping a close watch on our local hunt, the Crawley & Horsham. 2015 started off with the C&H at the Royal Oak Pub in Wineham for their New Year's Day meet. We were joined by Croydon and Hastings hunt sabs for a day filled with the usual violence from supporters and hunt riders. The police managed to do their job on this day and actually arrested hunt supporter Lenny Akehurst for threatening sabs with a stick. He later appeared in court and pleaded guilty to 4 counts of threatening/abusive behaviour.

A couple of weeks later more violence against sabs from supporters and riders of the C&H at a meet in Balcombe. We were again joined by Croydon, Brighton and South Coast sabs and the whole day was vile with supporters blocking our landies in, threatening sabs, and a rider hitting a sab with his whip. A young male supporter dropped his trousers to bare all to a female sab who was filming the hunt; unperturbed she filmed his hairy backside and sent it along with a complaint to the police.



On Tuesday 3rd March we followed the C&H hound van and supporters car from the kennels joining the A24 at Bucks Barn. The car being driven by a dedicated follower of the C&H swerved continuously from lane to lane in front of our vehicle in an attempt to hold us up and prevent us from following the hound van. The video of this incredibly dangerous incident can be viewed on our Facebook page. We joined groups at a meet of the Southdown & Eridge, and made several journeys to the I.O.W hunt.

The Chiddingfold, Leconfield & Cowdray met on 14th March at the Toby Stone, where the huntsman was heard saying, "this is the last meet of the season." However, we caught them illegally hunting again in Stagg Park a week later on a Sunday! We will be busy this summer with anti-snaring, the seal cull in Scotland and fundraising to keep our vehicle on the road.

A big thank you to all the sabs that joined us during the hunt season, and to our supporters for their generous donations. Please keep the donations coming and if you want to help out in other ways please contact us.

West Yorks Hunt Sabs

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The end of the fox hunting season has drawn to a close and we have much to write about this season; some incredibly sad, some violent encounters and lots of sabs where team work and determination has overcome a lot of biased policing and barbaric hunting.



Throughout the season we have visited hunts including Beagle packs; Claro Beagles, Colne Valley Beagles, Hunsley Beacon Beagles and Fox hunts; Badsworth & Bramham Moor , York & Ainsty South, High Peak Harriers and the Holcombe Harriers. Most of the beagle packs didn't even bother going out once our presence was known, although the Claro Beagles did walk (on a road!) for around 4 miles before giving up and going for a pint instead. On Boxing Day we visited Colne Valley with good friends; whilst the hunt didn't go out they did send some hunt thugs to smash the windscreen and wing mirror and unfortunately one of our sabs was viciously assaulted. The police have taken the incident seriously and there is an ongoing investigation, we are pleased to report there have been a number of arrests.

We have had a successful fox hunting season working closely with various groups. At most of the hunts we attended we successfully, with good communication and team work, used a number of tactics to stop hounds from chasing foxes and rioting on deer and hares. Unfortunately, in one incident in February, a fox was illegally hunted and killed by the York and Ainsty South – this was after meeting at David Cameron's father–in-law's estate. At the time of writing the election is drawing near and we hope for our foxy and badger friends that we wake to find we are no longer governed by a Tory government intent on destroying wildlife. If this happens then our worst fears will be realised and we face the prospect a legal badger cull and the repeal of the hunting act. Whatever happens we will remain determined and ready to stop the persecution of wild animals in the name of sport AND (in badger's case) a cull which defies all science and reason.

For the rest of the summer we will focus on sabbing mink hunts and cubbing. We will also be fundraising. A couple of upcoming events include a benefit gig in May (thank you to the organisers!) and say hi to us at the Great Yorkshire Vegan Festival in June. Finally, a massive thanks to the kind people who have donated financially to us – we couldn't do it without you!



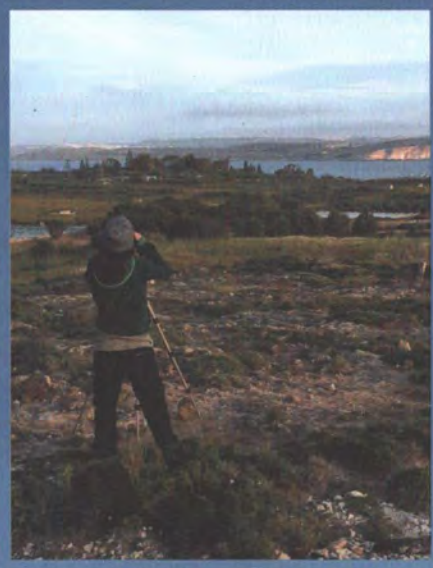
SLAUGHTER

VOLUNTEERING FOR THE COMMITTEE AGAINST BIRD SLAUGHTER IN MALTA, SPRING 2014-2015

Spring 2014 saw the first two Hunt Sab volunteers from the UK head to Malta to help the Committee Against Bird Slaughter (CABS) in their excellent, relentless campaign to protect migratory birds from hunting.

Malta provides one of the three main migration routes from Africa to Europe. Maltese hunters and trappers have a well deserved reputation for illegally killing thousands of birds on passage. So much so that they are causing a massive reduction year on year in populations across Europe. The 10,000 hunters on the island are allowed to shoot 2 Quail and 2 Turtle Dove over the two weeks of the spring season. The shooting above their allotted quota or any at other species is deemed illegal and CABS send small teams all over the island to record and film illegalities, to prosecute hunters, raise public awareness and to gain evidence to stop the hunting season.

Our work focuses on protecting migratory birds and our presence with cameras deters the hunters from blasting birds from the sky. Days are long for the volunteers. We're are up at 4.30 am each morning so we can be in position in our given areas before dawn. We then try to film each passing bird as a preventative measure but also to gain evidence should they be shot. Shooting tends to tail off around 9am. Then, we return to the Hotel to try and catch



some brief sleep before the afternoon briefing. We're then out until dusk noting roosting spots and watching over the birds.

Our first trip was truly an eye opener and every day saw us shocked by the sheer level of cruelty and wanton destruction of wildlife on the island. Every morning the island sounded like a warzone, with hundreds of shots coming from every valley.

Motivated by watching videos of eagles, storks and egrets being blasted illegally from the sky before we left the UK, we were determined to try and save as many birds as possible with our CABS guides.

In the two weeks of the 2014 season CABS managed to get over twenty prosecutions for illegal hunting and trapping; this included footage taken by one of our volunteers which resulted in a 1000 euro fine and loss of his shotgun license, which we were very pleased about. Other successes included a night raid with the wildlife police (ALE) where we destroyed artificial callers (which attract quail to be shot in the morning) and an illegal trapping site. We also searched under rocks in Mizleb Woods, finding the bodies of many hidden illegally shot birds such as marsh harriers and nightjars, which got a lot of press coverage. Probably the greatest satisfaction was to film birds getting safely away when we knew that, without our presence with cameras, they would have been shot.

Spring 2015 saw 5 volunteers from the UK return to Malta to build on our success of last year. There was a



Our haul of illegal callers and nets after a night raid with police 2014



The poor kestrel with its eye shot out which landed in a school playground which was the final straw that brought the spring 2015 season to an early end saving thousands of other birds



Hunter out illegally after curfew

IN MALTA

referendum on spring hunting just before we flew out and the Maltese narrowly voted in favour of hunting by just 0.8%. This was a huge disappointment but at least demonstrated the growing number of Maltese who are anti-hunting. As with the previous trip, we searched woods for the bodies of illegally shot birds. One notable example was a freshly killed cuckoo under a rock. The Maltese press covered the incident.

"...the greatest satisfaction was to film birds getting safely away when we knew that, without our presence with cameras, they would have been shot."

The season was closed early by the Prime Minister on the 27th of April after a kestrel was shot down into a school playing field full of children. It had sustained a nasty gun injury and its eye was distended. The hunter who shot the kestrel was in court the very next day. Justice was served swiftly and he was sentenced to a year in prison, a 5000 euro fine and had his hunting license removed. I can't help thinking if this happened in the UK with fox hunters, the law would soon be upheld!

The bird migration this year was very quiet, for reasons we have yet to ascertain. This meant that, in some valleys, shooting was down from around 700 to 40 shots per morning, which made it harder to film illegalities.

No hunting is allowed after 2pm, therefore carrying a gun or taking a shot is illegal, and again one of the UK volunteers had a great success in filming a hunter after curfew which will hopefully result in a prosecution and large fine. It is a cat-and-mouse game tracking hunters across the countryside and we came very close to catching two illegal hunters, on one occasion sending wildlife police running towards a hunter who they just failed to catch. We also searched for trapping sites and passed information on to CABS who will investigate and hopefully catch the illegal trappers later in the year. CABS filmed a number of incidents which all helped to bring to season to an early close, potentially saving thousands of lives. On the final day, one of the CABS teams caught an illegal hunter who was arrested. This was a good end to our two week stay on the island.

Looking to the future, volunteers from the UK will be back with CABS in Malta in September for the autumn hunting season. Migrating birds are being slaughtered in their millions (by shooting and trapping) all across Southern Europe and there are a great many experienced saboteurs in the UK with the right skill set to try and stop this.

I hope this article will help to raise awareness of this important issue and will be the start of activists travelling to these killing zones either under the banner of the Hunt Saboteurs, volunteering as individuals for CABS and similar European organisations, or setting up a specific UK based organisation to operate in Europe for which I feel there is a desperate need.





2015 SEAL GUARDIAN CAMPAIGN

The 2015 campaign follows our very successful first Seal Guardian Campaign in 2014, where a small team of sabs observed salmon fishery stations ahead of a joint HSA and Sea Shepherd hit on the seal killers of Scotland.

In April this year, sabs from the Kingston group headed up to Scotland to get the 2015 Seal Guardian Campaign started. They scouted a large area of the east coast, and once again pinpointed important sites of interest. Focus once again fell upon the USAN/Scottish Wild Salmon Company, because official records show that this family-run mega-fishery is responsible for the killing of more seals than the rest of the Scottish fisheries.

USAN/ SWSC (Scotland's biggest salmon-netting company) own, and continue to acquire, properties all along the Scottish coast, from Thurso all the way down to Montrose. They are effectively cordoning off huge sections of coastline. They own the salmon netting rites of miles of shoreline and have family members on the river boards for the districts in which they operate. This family have been largely acting with impunity for over four decades. It would seem that the police and the government are unwilling to stand up to the Pullars.

However, the tide may be turning. Locals in all operational locations have been protesting against USAN, and lobbying governments for years, insisting on action being taken against these perpetual perpetrators of wildlife crimes.

There has recently been a major success; locals have forced the Scottish Government to reconsider their position regarding seals in the estuary of the River Ythan. After a meeting with the Sea Mammal Research Unit of St Andrews University, officials are looking at various issues and it seems as though pressure from locals and activist groups is getting to them.

Sabs headed to Scotland this April in time to attend the Pullars' latest court hearing at Forfar Sheriff's Court. The Esk River Board have brought a lawsuit against the family for multiple cases of illegal over-fishing over many years. The Pullars claim that the MET Office has frequently got its reports wrong and that weather conditions and/or jelly fish attacks have prevented them from bringing in their nets at 6pm of a Friday - as per their licence conditions! This has given some salmon the chance to pass along the coast without being caught over the weekends and get to their spawning grounds. Leaving nets in over the weekend effectively means that they continue to fish illegally. Official reports say that the last salmon catch has been the lowest for 63 years; it seems this company are finally being brought up on their years of over-fishing. The case rolls on, and will recommence on July 9th.



Sabs from Kingston, Croydon, Glasgow, Grampian and Perthshire groups patrol the many USAN/SWSC operational sites, guarding the seals that are present from the guns of the fishermen, who kill seals because the seals dare to eat what the nets men consider to be their harvest.

The seal shooting licence, issued by Marine Scotland, gives a ceiling number of seals that may be shot in each location in order to protect the salmon harvest (ie: protect the profits of the salmon companies), but shooting seals is meant to be the last resort if all other non-lethal deterrents (such as the very successful acoustic deterrent devices and secondary net walls) have failed and the seals are attacking the salmon nets.

USAN seem to shoot this ceiling number as a target number, seeing it as a legal quota. They always fulfil the quota. Even more alarmingly, no-one currently polices seal shooting, so numbers that are reported are reported by the shooters themselves. Locals tell of the seal populations dropping over the last four decades so dramatically, that they are convinced the numbers of seals being reported shot falls far below the number that are actually shot. According to locals, USAN/SWSC shoot seals that are hauled out on beaches and rocks; this does not comply with the 'last resort' rationale, as seals on the beaches and rocks are obviously not posing a direct threat to the netted salmon.





"Our presence seems to not only be saving the seals, but the salmon, too."

Shooters report an average of 300 seals shot every year along the Scottish coast, but conservation groups estimate that the true figure is in the region of 2000 seals. With no official government monitoring of the shooters' activities, they are free to shoot as many seals as they like and only report numbers that comply with the licence. The seals' 'protected species status' doesn't seem to count for much. Indeed, in late April, George Pullar the Director of USAN/SWSC, was quoted in the Herald Scotland newspaper saying legal limits on the number of seals they are allowed to shoot are "pointless."

Sabs are in the relevant areas, ready to defend seals from the gunmen as they now start to catch the vulnerable young salmon of the early spring period.

So far, because of our presence, USAN have only put one net in at one location. This is a major victory, considering this is the biggest netting company in the country. And this single net was removed later the same day, in accordance with the netting hours legislation that says the netting must stop on a Friday at 6pm. So they stuck to the rules on the first day of the netting season... And have not bothered to fish at all since then!

Our presence seems to not only be saving the seals, but the salmon, too. We intend to maintain a presence throughout the salmon season. We will be beach-cleaning, enforcing weekend net removal and, of course, we will put ourselves between the seals and the gunmen.

Beyond the killing grounds of USAN, there is a bloody link between Scotland and South America: commercial fish farms. One of the world's largest fish meal producers is in Peru. Here, anchovies are a mega-industry and are fished industrially, with fishing companies owning huge areas of coast and flaunting fishing laws that pertain to conservation areas and fishing hours.

The anchovies are processed into fish meal to feed the battery-farmed fish. Decades of protest by locals and environmentalists has gone ignored as processing companies decimate the anchovy "stocks," which, in turn, forces the sea lions and sea birds into a conflict with company profits; sea lions and sea birds in Peru get shot just like Scottish seals. Such is the scale of production that pollution and biological waste is rendering the environment toxic; locals suffer allergic reactions, rashes that cover their entire bodies, respiratory diseases due to the smoke from the processing plants, and chemical burns from the sea. The major customer of this Peruvian-source fish meal is Marine Harvest, the biggest fish farming company in the world, who operate fish farm sites worldwide, including in Scottish waters. Marine Harvest hold a seal shooting licence for Scotland.

Last year Croydon sabs investigated a Marine Harvest site in Scotland. There were typically between 50 and 78 thousand fish in each pen. These fish are fed with fish meal, imported from Peru. The huge numbers of fish in the pens creates a very stressful environment, where fish are hemmed in and have to fight for their lives to feed and survive. The "runts" literally hide in the corners of the pens, and slowly starve to death. Wild wrasse are caught in their thousands and dumped into these pens, to eat the lice that infest the fish farm "stocks." Upon pen rotation, these wrasse are then killed. They cannot be released back into the wild because they are by that point themselves lice-carriers. Lice get out of the pens by jumping onto wild hosts as they swim past the pens, and then infect the wild populations of fish. The thrashing around of thousands of fish, the dead runts floating on the water and the fish meal that goes uneaten and sinks to the bottom of lochs and rivers all attract seals, who then get shot for daring to exist and seek food themselves.

Scottish salmon is world famous and considered a great luxury. Salmon is Scotland's largest food export. The Scottish farmed salmon industry is worth over a billion pounds a year. The wild-caught industry is worth 200 million. The public do not know the truth behind this "luxury" product. The producers do not want this info getting out, because it would smear the product and impact profits; so tell everyone you know! It is the animals and the environment that pay the real price, as usual.

The latest update from the Campaign: following evidence gathered by sabs in May, the fisheries board is taking the Scottish Wild Salmon Company to court, and sabs have been asked to give evidence in the case.

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, produce leaflets and salesgoods, staff stalls, manage websites/social media 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, mechanics or donating financially.
- If you are not already a member of the HSA, please join now by using the form below - or join online at www.huntsabs.org.uk/index.php/get-involved/join-the-hsa
- 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 - see enclosed salesgoods catalogue or visit www.huntsabs.org.uk/index.php/merchandise
- Let the hunters know what you think! Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, contact your local newspaper's letters page and your MP to let them know your views on Government plans either regarding hunting or hunt saboteurs.



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*)

❒ £20 (1 year subscription) ❒ £200 life membership

❒ I enclose a donation of £..... to help fund the HSA's work

Name.....

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

Hounds Off
PO Box 162, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 7AZ
www.houndsoff.co.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

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.
www.veggies.org.uk/arc

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.....

Help us wipe the smirk off Cameron's face



HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION

www.huntsabs.org.uk