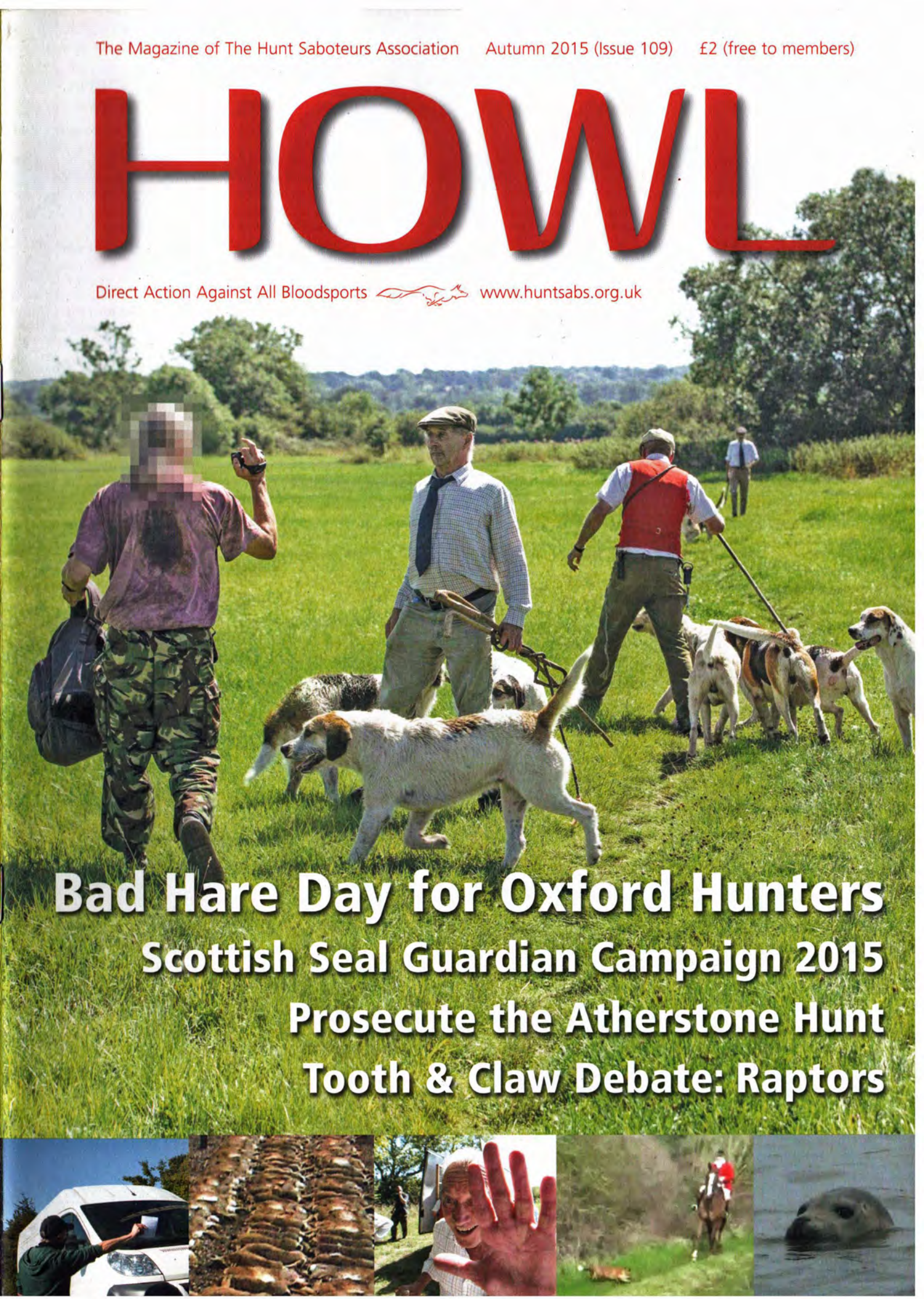
The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association Autumn 2015 (Issue 109) £2 (free to members)

HOWL

Direct Action Against All Bloodsports www.huntsabs.org.uk



Bad Hare Day for Oxford Hunters

Scottish Seal Guardian Campaign 2015

Prosecute the Atherstone Hunt

Tooth & Claw Debate: Raptors

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR:

Our opponents regularly accuse the HSA's campaign against hunting as a thinly disguised excuse for waging some sort of class war. Setting aside our opposition to dog fighting, badger baiting and all forms of terrier work (an almost exclusively working class pursuit), this argument holds no water.

A stronger argument is that we are engaged in progressive social reform as opposed to a traditional and conservative approach to life (conservative with a small 'c'). One defence of hunting with hounds is that it is a tradition and, as such, should be left alone. Other such 'traditions' as slavery, corporal punishment and child labour (not to mention other 'working class' blood sports) have been made unlawful for ethical reasons and this is, obviously, our stance.

It is, however, interesting to look at the differences between us and those who enjoy blood sports. The idea that all that is old is good and anything new is bad seems to run in the mind-set of the hunting fraternity, and this has worked to the advantage of the modern day Hunt Saboteur. Since our inception in 1963 we have gone from just copying the behaviour of the hunters (to distract or, where possible, take hounds away from their control) to more sophisticated methods; the use of hunting horns, voice calls and whips are still much in evidence, but we have over the years tested and developed fake scent trails with little success. This experimentation has shown us the pack of lies which is the 'Trail Hunting' solution, much promoted by the Countryside Alliance. Scent dullers were quickly adopted as a tool early on in our history, and in the correct place and time can be effective. With the advent of mobiles phones and cheap GPS systems, sabs were quick to adopt and use new technology to the hunted animal's advantage. Gone are the times when sabs spent a good portion of a hunting day hoping to see their vehicle come around the corner; now it's just a quick phone call away. Cheap video cameras (carried or mounted in our vehicles) record not only illegal hunting and animal abuse, but catch the hunter's violence towards saboteurs on an almost weekly basis. In the past few years we have started using airborne drones and this year we used an underwater drone to oppose the Seal Cull. Use of the 'Gizmo' (a small recorder with speaker which plays the sounds of hounds in cry attracting the hunter's hounds) has become more prominent and I am pleased to announce that the HSA has supplied one such device to every sab group in this country and abroad. Rest assured we are using your membership money to directly assist sab groups to save lives.

As for the hunters, well, they are still living in an age where it is acceptable to kill animals because it gives them some sort of perverted pleasure. They haven't moved on in any ethical or technical sense. 80% of the public now disagrees with hunting, and until the Hunting Act is changed so that anyone parading around with 30 dogs under minimal control is considered illegal, we will need hunt saboteurs to protect our wildlife.

As always we could not do it without your valuable support. Thank you.



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www.huntsabs.org.uk

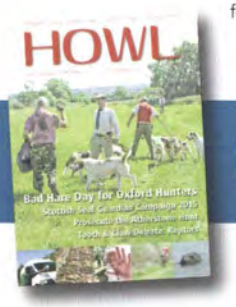
Hunt Saboteurs @HuntSabs

Hunt Saboteurs Association
BM HSA, London WC1N 3 XX Tel. 0845 2501291
Howl e-mail: howleditor@huntsabs.org.uk
info@huntsabs.org.uk
www.huntsabs.org.uk

The Hunt Saboteurs Association has been in existence for over 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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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: the new season. Boots barely dry from mink hunts, funds raised, vehicles souped up and back ready to do business, hare hunts and cubbing disrupted, badger cull zones well-patrolled... and they said we would get tired of it!

The Hunting Ban stands, due to timely intervention and campaigning from so many organisations (including the HSA, backed by 80% of the public) and some very unexpected political supporters...

The (Conservative) Minister for Sport, Tracey Crouch, said, when talking about the proposals to the Hunting Ban: *"I hope colleagues on all sides ... will not be fooled by the spin of the pro-hunt lobby and inadvertently vote for a measure that makes a mockery of public opinion on foxhunting."* She has also been keen to distance herself from the hunting lobby by saying that she is *"not the minister for hunting."*

It did not stop the scandalous government-funded Badger Cull from going ahead. Groups of activists in Gloucestershire, Dorset and Somerset endured early mornings, long walks to check traps, aggravation from farmers and harassment by police to stop this nonsensical slaughter of wildlife. Once again, Tracey Crouch voted against the badger cull, calling it *"barbaric and indiscriminate."* She told : *"I did something I wish I hadn't: I read the evidence, which very plainly showed the cull wasn't going to make any significant difference."* Am I the only one who thinks she may be in the wrong job, or at least the wrong party?

Sabs who are in the know agree that the cull makes no significant difference and report thriving badger activity in all cull areas. However we know that one animal trapped, taken away from its sett and shot, is one too many and we wish success to everyone out there in the field. Stay safe, people, there's still plenty to do!

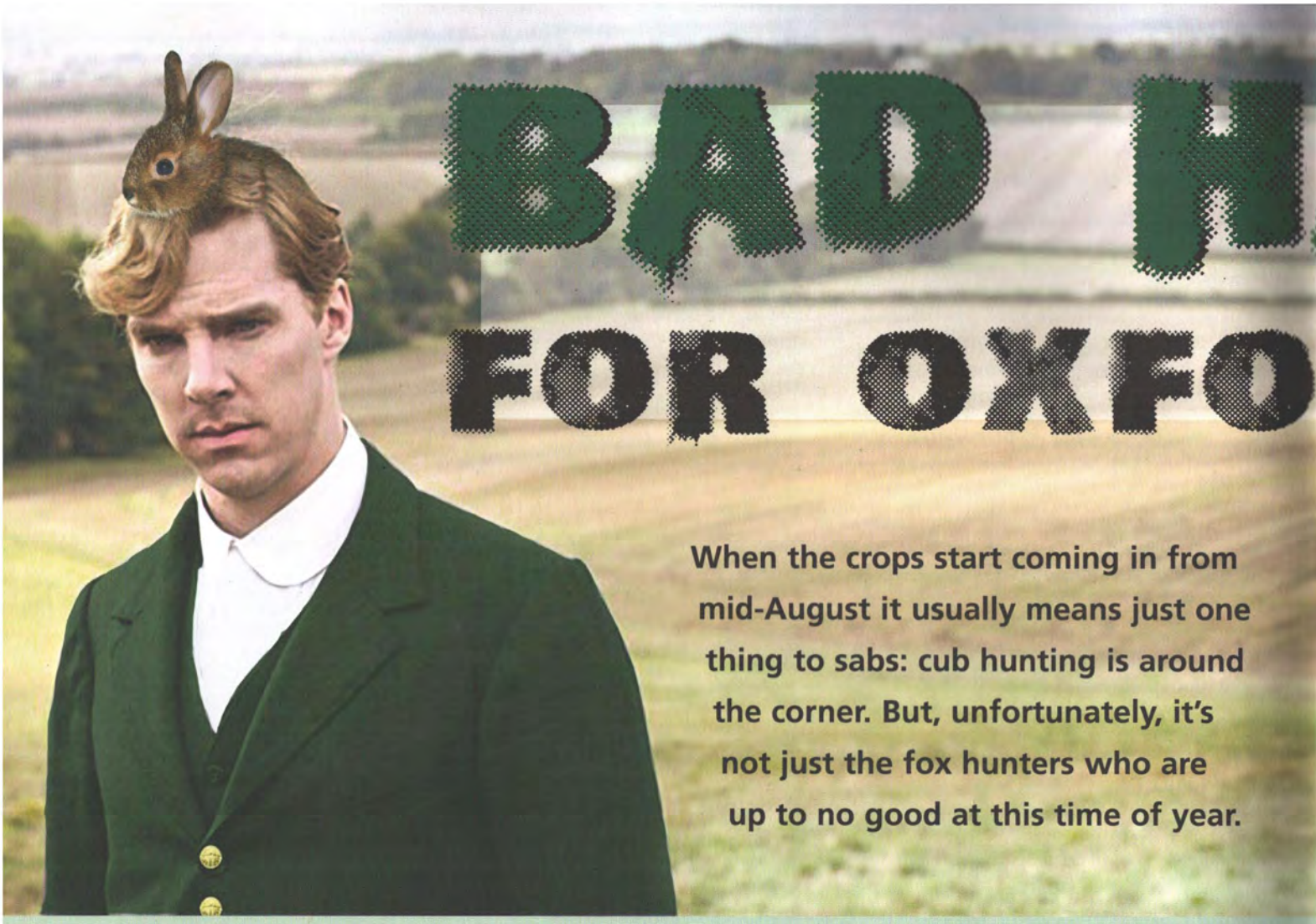
The Scottish Seal Cull also continues to fall apart with sabs joining locals against big business (see more detailed article further on in *Howl*) and having outstanding success. And what about the poor, thwarted Oxford hare hunters (see *Bad Hare Day* article)?!

These are awesome achievements, made possible when people care enough to organise, put up with discomfort and face danger. It would also not be possible without those who may not be able to stake out a badger sett overnight or sit on a freezing cliff top but who fundraise, donate and support the cause in countless other ways – just look at the fundraising efforts detailed on the Group News pages alone.

Sadly, more news of old friends passing on in this issue but all of us who sab have been inspired by someone like John Hicks or Toby Roy. Their passion and determination is what we hope to pass on to others (and remember, they sabbed without GPS or mobile phones!) I feel sure that they would both approve of the directions that sabbing, and the HSA, is taking.

New Seasons Greetings to all, can't wait to meet some new sabs out in the fields and thanks again to all our supporters whatever you do to help us help wildlife. They'll never get us all!





BAD H
FOR OXFO

When the crops start coming in from mid-August it usually means just one thing to sabs: cub hunting is around the corner. But, unfortunately, it's not just the fox hunters who are up to no good at this time of year.

Dirty Secrets

Almost all beagle packs indulge in pre-season hunting. As in cubbing, new, inexperienced hounds are taken out early - when the scent is best - and encouraged to chase leverets. The young hares are easier to catch and so the new entry quickly get a taste for killing their quarry. Unsurprisingly, beaglers are sensitive about their dirty secret and so info on these bye-days is hard to come by. This season, though, was a little bit different...

Holiday Fun

Our good friends at the Hare Preservation Trust passed us intelligence they had received about a bizarre hunting holiday taking place in early September. They had discovered that the Oxford-based Christ Church & Farley Hill Beagles had booked a holiday cottage in the tiny Northumbrian village of Whittingham. Their intention was to use this as a base for six days of early morning leveret hunting. The CCFH Beagles have always had strong links with Oxford University. When the ban came in, the university severed its official ties - but this was a formality only: the pack is still largely run by its students.

"...young hounds should be allowed to get away on a well-grown leveret rather than an old experienced hare."

'Early Hunting Lessons' chapter in 'Beagling' by J.C. Jeremy Hobson.

Time for Action

Sabs immediately began to plan their response. The cottage was identified, and the village and surrounding area were quickly reconnoitred. Nearby accommodation was booked (thanks HSA) for sabs coming in to support the local groups. Special leaflets and posters - informing Whittingham residents about the hunters in their midst - were quickly produced and printed. By Sunday 6th September a large group of sabs - local and from further afield - had gathered in the area ready to save lives.

Day One:

Sabs were up and about very early on the Monday. Unfortunately, so were the hunters. Their hound van was on the move even earlier than anticipated and sped past before sabs could give chase. A frustrating few hours was then spent searching the local area. However, the hunter's luck ran out at lunchtime when they found their vehicle sandwiched in the middle of a large sab convoy. Their response was to make a 999 claiming sabs were trying to steal the hounds! The cops arrived with blue lights flashing but were quickly pacified when shown our video of the 'incident':

ARE DAY

RD HUNTERS

possibly the politest sab ever recorded is seen approaching the hound van and offering them a leaflet. Hardly the crime of the century.



Eventually, the convoy of hound van, sab vehicles and police trundled back to sleepy Whittingham and both sides retired for the night.

Day Two:

Sabs were determined that the hunters would not get out again. We arrived in the village at 5am to be met by a police guard outside the cottage and the beaglers, dressed in hunt gear, ready to go. The reasonable policing of yesterday had disappeared - this time the cops attempted to block sabs in and allow the hunters to escape. However, Northumbria's Finest were no match for the cool-headed sab drivers who repeatedly evaded them, followed the hound van and forced it to return to the village.

After several such false starts it dawned on the hunt that we were here to stay. We were then told that the hounds would be returning to Oxford, the hunting week was over and the beaglers would be escorted from the area! Obviously the police were not taken at their word but by Tuesday evening, southern sabs had confirmed the presence of the hound van back at their Stanton St. John kennels. Job done!



"...hounds are taken out in the early morning or late afternoon. This is, for the hare hunters, equivalent of cub hunting; some masters, in fact, call the period, "leveret hunting."

'Beaglers' by Jack Ivester Lloyd.

With several days on their hands sabs busied themselves in the Alston area researching the Hare Week and other dodgy goings-on in the north east.

Sabinder

The fall-out on social media was interesting. While hunters have tried to rebrand cubbing as 'autumn hunting,' their response to our exposure of leveret hunting was simply to deny it even exists! Leading the charge on this was Sabinder, current favourite of the pro-hunt online community. Sabinder is a very confused individual - he tries to portray the HSA as small and insignificant yet devotes his every waking hour to obsessively scanning our FB pages for material for his next post.

In his longest-ever rant Sabinder tore into our claims on leveret hunting, saying it "does not and has never happened." Well, perhaps he was never part of the in-crowd invited out pre-season or - more likely - he's just lying. Either way, he finds himself at odds with the AMHB and every 'authority' who has ever written a book on beagling.

Leveret Hunting Exposed

Thanks to the dedication of sabs in the field, the event was a massive success. We were able to prevent five of six days hunting going ahead. We've continued to grow productive links with other organisations and, best of all, we've shone a light on yet another of hunting's dirty secrets.



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

TOOTH & CLAW DEBATE: RAPTORS



As part of the Norfolk and Norwich Festival, a Literary Festival was held in the Hostry adjoining Norwich Cathedral. At 6.30 pm on Saturday evening 16 May, a 60 minute slot was given over to a "Tooth and Claw debate: Raptors," featuring Mark Avery, Jake Fiennes, Robin Page and chaired by Mark Cocker.

We had previously witnessed the handiwork of (then gamekeeper) Jake Fiennes at the annual Raveningham Hare Shoot, (Google it and weep) and, therefore, decided that we should make our presence known to the other 90 or so members of the audience. The protest was deliberately kept low key, having due regard for the venue and the type of audience expected. We presented a handful of members to picket the main entrance with their placards.

Chairman Mark Cocker, author and naturalist, who lives at Claxton in South Norfolk, commenced the evening by reading out a profile of each contender, who would then be given a three minute opportunity to give their views on the issues presented by raptors in the countryside.

In alphabetical order, he began with Mark Avery, "a scientist by training and a naturalist by inclination". He has written books on environmental issues, worked for the RSPB for 25 years, and lives in rural Northamptonshire.

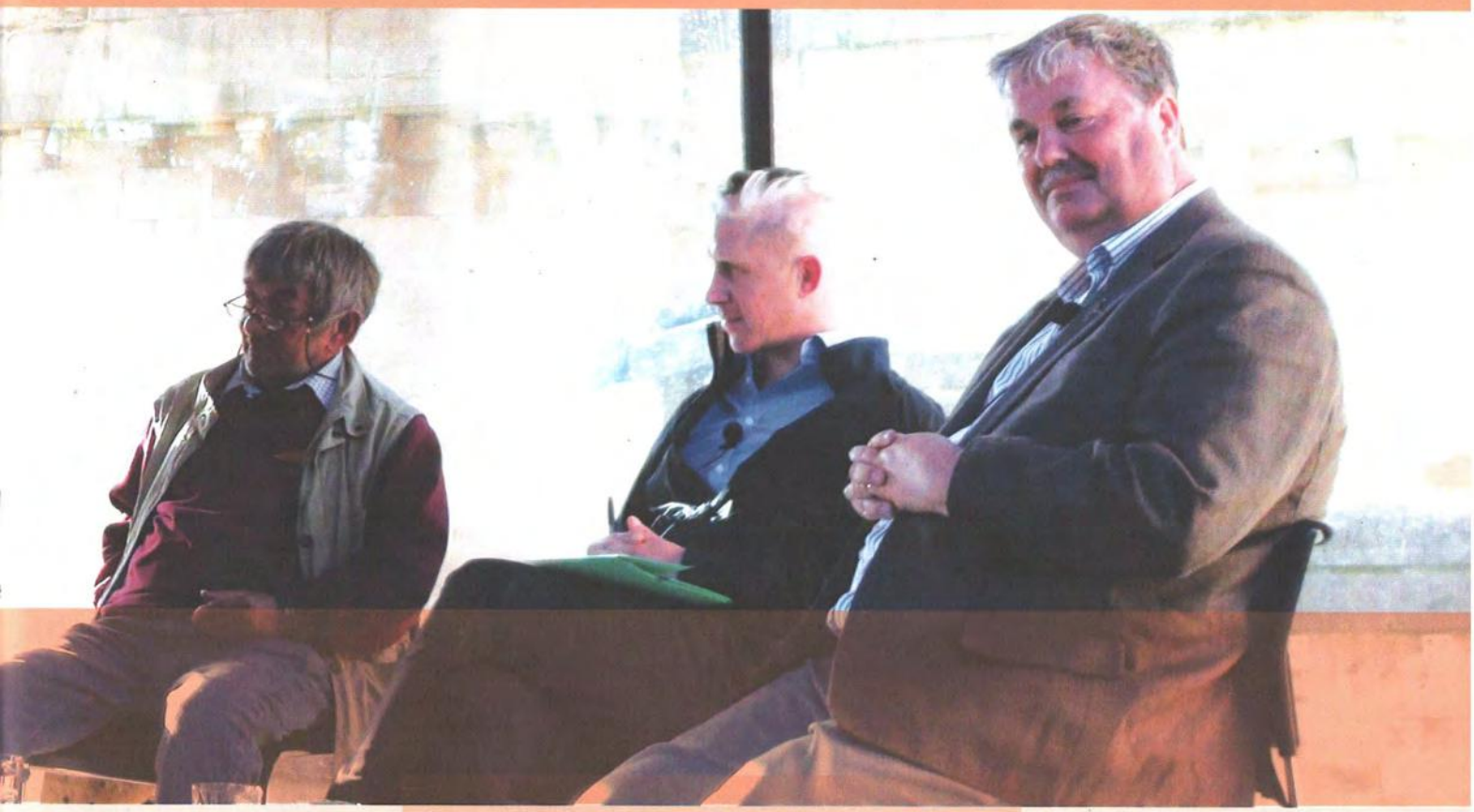
Jake Fiennes was next. The chairman was keen to point out that Jake was from an outstandingly talented family. Jake himself had apparently insisted that the chairman made it clear to the audience that he had been educated in a number of state schools. Personally, I do not understand why we needed to know those two facts concerning Jake's background, nor why it could possibly be of any relevance to the debate. Perhaps he erroneously believed, as many do, that the fight against animal cruelty in the countryside is just somehow part of a class war.

Jake (Jacob) came to work for the Raveningham Estate, home of Sir Nicholas Bacon, after leaving a gamekeeping position with a large intensive game shoot. He had only been there for 12 months, and the audience was given the impression that this type of game shooting was not to his liking. It was revealed that Jake had been the recipient of many awards and prizes for wildlife conservation. I can understand how there is a need to encourage farming types to fulfil their obligation and duty of care to our native wildlife but those organisations who give awards to people, without first checking out the reality of some of their management techniques, could find themselves damaged by the hypocrisy of such an award.

Finally, we were to learn about Robin Page. Robin, now 70, has been a farmer, a journalist, political activist, television presenter and is Chairman of the Countryside Restoration Trust.

With the preliminaries over, the fight was ready to begin. Each contestant was to be given three minutes to state their case. Mark Avery was first into the ring. He talked about the value of science to conservation and cited the work carried out by the RSPB on their experimental Hope Farm. Purchased some ten years ago, it had been managed using science to show the way, resulting in crop yields being gently improved and a massive positive for biodiversity, all without the need for any predator control to favour one species over another.

Jake was on next. To be honest, and I am ashamed to say it, but I cannot recall too much about what he had to say. He is a man who shows very little emotion and this reflects in his delivery. There was no passion. His eyes were cold and if he wanted to be there, he gave no sign of it.



Unlike the others, he read from a script, fumbling his words at times. It seemed to me that he was unable to interact with his audience. I took the opportunity to take some snaps. This certainly was one for the album.

When his time was up, on stormed Robin Page. He quickly sank his fangs into Mark Avery, accusing him of distorting some of the facts and deliberately forgetting to mention others. He rubbished the contribution that scientists have made to improving biodiversity and stated that if only people would listen more to born and bred country people like himself, there could be a no-nonsense approach to managing agriculture and wildlife. It was obvious to onlookers that he and Mark Avery were old adversaries. It was water off a duck's back to Mark, who had obviously heard it all before.

With this part of the debate over, they were then allowed to discuss matters between themselves. With Robin's good humoured but aggressive nature towards Mark, coupled with Jake's reluctance to get involved, we were sadly not going to learn much about raptors and their role in the countryside. Robin criticised the erstwhile plan to reintroduce white tailed eagles to East Anglia, a scheme that Mark had been involved with a couple of years ago. Mark stated that his one regret about the whole project was that he lost his nerve and cancelled it when faced with fierce opposition from the game shooting lobby. He pointed out that a healthy population consisting of a variety of raptors, would not send the population of other species plummeting but would complement them instead.

"Robin Page rubbished the contribution that scientists have made to improving biodiversity and stated that if only people would listen more to born and bred country people like himself, there could be a no-nonsense approach to managing agriculture and wildlife."

Jake told of the buzzards he saw regularly on the Raveningham Estate where he is now manager, and also boasted of the good population of hedgehogs to be found there. He also cast doubt on the success of Hope Farm and claimed that the yields were not sustainable. When it was pointed out to him by Mark that the results had proved good for the past ten years, he became flustered. >>>



"A number of people had shown an interest in the hare shoot and some came to us afterwards for details. We advised them to Google Raveningham Hare Shoot, view the evidence and make their own judgement."

He hit out by claiming that his contemporaries referred to Hope Farm as, "No Hope Farm."

The system of grants given to farmers, and funded by the public purse, to encourage them to farm in a more wildlife friendly way, now came under scrutiny by the panel. All agreed that the taxpayer was not getting value for money. Jake ventured that the level entry payment was viewed by many as compensation for the scrapping of the set-aside. I was wanting to ask the panel why landowners allowed mounted huntsmen with their hounds to use the field margins created under the stewardship scheme and why the NFU should have moved to bar police rural crime vehicles from driving on them only after an East Anglian based animal welfare organisation had made an official complaint about the hunters using it. I was not to get my chance.

Robin was then slipping into overdrive when the chairman reined him in and called for questions from the audience. Two were quickly plucked from the small number of hands that were raised. Their questions were answered by the panel. One of our members, well known as an "anti" in local hunting circles persistently kept her hand raised and was eventually able to pose her question. Predator control had been under discussion earlier and she asked Jake Fiennes directly what kind of predator control was being used on the Raveningham Estate which resulted in a high population of brown hares, which in turn according to the estate, made it necessary for around 50 or so "guns", many believed to be Greek restaurateurs, to travel to Raveningham and kill huge numbers of hare with shotguns resulting in many being wounded and left to die in agony.

Hardly had her words left her lips when the chairman interceded and dismissed her question on the grounds that they weren't talking about hare. This seemed unfair as the role of other mammals in the countryside had been debated earlier. To be fair to the chairman, I think he must have realised his error when our member persisted and frustrated his attempt to move on quickly and, consequently, he did prod Jake to answer the question. We waited with bated breath: when the mumbled answer came, it was to say that they used all sorts of predator control on the estate. Hardly an adequate reply to explain why this horrendous event needs to take place on this 5,000 acre estate. This shoot has been going on in February for many years and frequently produces a bag of 200 to 300 hare a day. It is sometimes repeated just a few days later in another corner of the landowner's domain. For reasons that we do not know, the shoot in February this year did not take place. The owner, Sir Nicholas Bacon, and the police, who were in the know, refused to say why. We have no option but to assume that it will resume next year and we must therefore continue to protest against it at every opportunity.

Time had run out and the debate was brought to a close. A number of people had shown an interest in the hare shoot before the debate and some came to us afterwards for details. We advised them to Google Raveningham Hare Shoot, view the evidence and make their own judgement.

Altogether, an entertaining evening but I was left feeling that the good old country boy attitude was going to stand in the way of making the English countryside something that everyone could feel part of and be able to view it with pride. I felt that there were many dark secrets yet to be exposed to the public and dealt with, before that day happened.



Anyone who would like to express their dissatisfaction with, and lack of understanding of the involvement of, the Norfolk and Norwich Literary Festival in this type of discussion can contact them at:

www.nnfestival.org.uk
email: info@nnfestival.org.uk
Telephone: 01603 87750
Write to: Augustine Steward House, 14 Tombland, Norwich, NR3 1HH

sabgroupnews



Beds & Bucks Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/Bedsandbuckssabs
email: bedsandbuckshuntsabs@riseup.net

Summer would normally be a time for sabs to put their feet up a little and generally prepare for the coming season but hunters will always hunt so we'll always be there to meet them. Along with other groups we've been targeting the mink hunts over the summer break and although notoriously hard to find we've managed some success. These hunts also give us the opportunity to introduce some new sabs and we're very pleased to have some very keen people on board as the new hunting season approaches. Having more people in the field will clearly make us more effective and we look forward to being a right pain in the bum to all our local hunts and those further afield.



The badger cull is obviously big news at the moment and we will of course be fully occupied with this. We'll have people active in both Somerset and Gloucestershire and we'll do our upmost to make sure the casualties of this Governments disgusting wildlife eradication policy are kept to a minimum. At the same time those sabs which can't make it to the West Country will be targeting the cubbing meets of the fox hunts in our area so we'll be fully engaged in all theatres of operations.

We've also been engaging with the local police forces in an attempt to change their perception of us to a more favourably and highlight the abuse and law breaking of the hunts. Although we don't expect any miracles we understand the PR battle we're fighting and the bigger picture.

We also have some very exciting developments which are all a bit hush hush for the moment but needless to say the hunters won't be pleased. Stay tuned!

Cambridge Hunt Sabs

cambridgehuntsabs@riseup.net
www.facebook.com/cambridgehuntsabs

With our focus shifting from sabbing to outreach and fundraising, we have managed to really make the most of the summer down-time to maximise the group presence locally and raise vital funds. Recognising the need to tackle all areas of social change as well as field work, our summer strategy has been to raise awareness of wildlife persecution and what we as Hunt Saboteurs do. We intend to change people's perceptions of hunting and sabbing, being really impressed with the level of support gained in a few short months. Armed with an invaluable personalised banner, HSA merchandise and outreach materials, we've been able to have a presence regularly in Cambridge and the regional press. We've put on lots of events including Lush Charity Pot days, street stalls, festivals, demonstrations, workshops and educational talks.

One highlight was an evening with undercover operative, writer and long-time sab Mike Huskisson, seeing 35 members of the public - both new to and experienced in wildlife protection - gather in Cambridge to hear Mike speak on his decades exposing and stopping hunters. We were present for both demonstrations in London against Cameron's attempted sneaky amendment of the Hunting Act and our sabs took part in the Lush stunt, wielding orange smoke flares and donning the now iconic geometric fox-head masks. Special mention to one of our sabs, a mechanic, who has tirelessly worked on building a new Landy from scratch which has just seen its debut on our first cubbing hit.

We've been helping form a new group in North Cambridge and look forward to working with them soon.

With the badger cull now underway and cubbing in full swing, we are gearing up for an intense few months back out in the field. Our continued fundraising should see us through financially, and we warmly welcome our rather badass new recruits into the CHS family.



Croydon, Brixton & Kingston Hunt Sabs

(South London Wildlife Group)
Contact us on: 07900 603 742
SLWG@riseup.net
www.facebook.com/pages/Croydon-Hunt-Saboteurs/105305009534130



The summer started with a visit to the Kent and Sussex Mink hounds at Pevensey in the company of sabs from around the region. Sabs quickly gained control of the pack with voice calls and the gizmo. Once the huntsman regained control he trailed back to the hound van where a tense stand-off occurred until the police arrived. This was followed by a comical attempt at sab evasion which failed dismally and the hunt ended its day in the yard of the local police station.

After that most of the group settled down to a summer of fund raising and training until Saturday 22nd August when a group training exercise tripped over the Kent and Sussex Mink hounds again, this time at Gabrielle's Manor near Edenbridge. To our surprise, the Kent police responded quickly to our report of illegal hunting, and most of the hunt had their details taken as they tried to leave!

Two of our sabs have spent the entire summer on the Scottish seals campaign, which has recorded some major successes, but more of that elsewhere.

Derby Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/derbyhunt saboteurs
Derbysabs@outlook.com

After a long and educational first season under the watchful eyes of Nottingham sabs and after being inspired by our success out in the field, we spent our summer raising vital funds for our much needed van. With a helping hand from Lush, the HSA, and even Bill Oddie making a guest appearance, we managed to hit our target and buy our vehicle which will enable us to reach our full potential and increase the number of people we can get out into the field.

With all the fundraising out the way (but not stopping there), we can turn our attentions and invest our time on hitting the cull zone this year.

Many thanks to our neighbours Nottingham Hunt Sabs for taking us under their wing and showing us the ropes, and many thanks to all those that have helped us get up and running. We can't thank you enough.

East Kent Hunt Sabs

eastkenthuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk
www.facebook.com/east.sabs



Fairly busy summer for us over in East Kent....we had been working closely with Kent CID, and our wildlife officer and, finally, on the 8th June 2015, five people associated with the East Kent and West Street Hunt attended Folkestone magistrates court, charged with Hunting Act offences. The hunt were accused of hunting on two separate occasions, the 8th of November and 23rd December 2014, on the Romney Marsh. Video footage of the two offences (and an incident on 13th September where the same hunt appears to dig out a live fox and take it away on a quad bike) was also presented to the CPS. A date for a court hearing was set for mid-July, however we have now heard that the case against them has been dropped due to lack of evidence to secure a conviction.....sigh.

We got some great press out of it though, especially from the Kent on Sunday paper, who sent a reporter out with us on a few occasions. We feature in an article here: /www.kentnews.co.uk/news/the_fox_hunting_debate_should_it_remain_illegal_1_4159941

Other than that, we have also set up a YouTube page: www.youtube.com/channel/UCSzbiK99zugXAgiv2ZIB38A

We have also been involved in local protests against the Government attempts to modify the Hunting Act, and have been fundraising locally, plus liaising with potential new sabs, looking into possible artificial earth sites with new camera equipment and getting the Landy ready for those early mornings...!

Grampian Hunt Sabs

grampianhuntsabs@yahoo.co.uk
www.facebook.com/GrampianHuntSabs
or donate at :
www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=EWVWMFP9KCUXL

Our summer has been all about raising funds and meeting new sabs, holding a benefit gig for our group in May which let us see all the local support for what we are doing. Other than that, our summer started with the seal defence campaign and working with our friends Perthshire Hunt Sabs with a potential longer summer tackling USAN. With the areas divided up we protected and watched over the Ythan Estuary at Newburgh where USAN have purchased the rights to coastal netting; the only problem for them being up to 1,500 seals who live there, so we have been watching over them.

We have learnt that USAN accepted payments from local fishing groups of up to £20,000 not to net there this season so it was all quiet. We covered the area with our Sea Shepherd friends whose range overlapped with ours. We since learnt that the Scottish Government want to ban all coastal netting and this would end USAN's murderous plans for killing more seals. We have also stopped a shooter from killing pigeons in stubble fields by getting in his way. He claimed in 64 years he has never been sabbed before or seen any opposition so it was nice to send him home after destroying every argument he came up with for killing, especially the one about how wood pigeons eat all the corn from the fields, even though the field was already harvested and he had decoys actually attracting them to the area he was trying to protect. Anyway, the silly man was re-educated before he went home with no kills.

Now with many new sabs we gear up with our good friends from Perthshire and Glasgow Sabs and new ones from Dundee and Lothian and Borders sabs who are just starting out, for cubbing and the season ahead.

North & East London Hunt Sabs

nelsabs@riseup.net
www.facebook.com/huntsabnels
http://northeastlondonsabs.wordpress.com/

NELS spent the summer mostly fundraising by selling vegan cakes at a 'Caketastic' event, doing stalls and selling our new t-shirts, organizing an online art auction and some benefit gigs coming soon. We did some recruiting too, so hopefully we'll have some new faces out this season. Also some of our members attended the protest against the amendment to Hunting Act in Westminster.

Besides that we relaxed and prepared ourselves for next season of hard work.

See you in the fields soon!

HSA Ireland

www.facebook.com/pages/Hunt-Saboteurs-NI/736001806448497

While this is being written we are entering our second year of sabbing here in NI and have been out early mornings making sure hunts don't get away with their dirty secret of cubbing.

Unfortunately, hunting is still legal in NI and a decision was made early in 2014 that we would become active in stopping the murder of wildlife (there had been no active sabs in NI for well over 20 years). Through the help of the HSA and various groups within the organisation, we were able to have a successful first season.

As expected, we were faced with violent hunters which resulted in a number of assaults and injuries but thankfully nothing too serious. One surreal moment of the first season was when hunters asked us to mind their horses while they attempted to drag a horse out of a drain. This horse was put in unnecessary danger by irresponsible hunters who don't give a dam about anything. After two sabs were assaulted on this occasion we went on to assist the hunters in any way we could to rescue the horse putting aside any previous tensions for the sake of the welfare of the horse and surprisingly got thanks from a few of the hunters after the horse was rescued. Hands where even shaken and the day ended with no kills and a successful rescue of the horse.

We had approximately 20 active members last season and during this summer we have been recruiting new members, expanding our ranks greatly for when the official hunting season starts. Many thanks to the HSA for their support and guidance and the continuing support of all the groups working within the organisation.

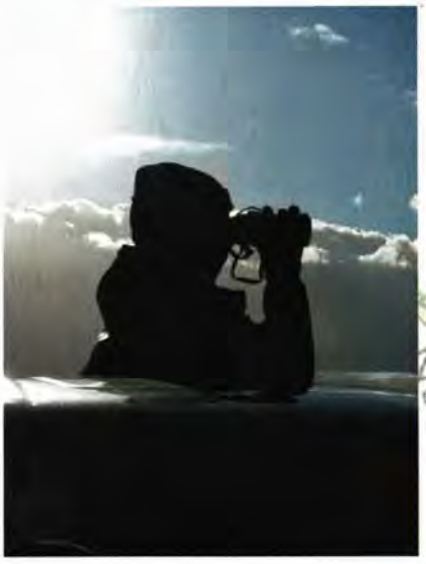
Finally we would like to wish every sab and each group success and safety this season.

HSNI



Nottingham Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/nottssabs
huntsabs@hotmail.com



Nottingham sabs have managed to keep ourselves occupied over the summer months during what used to be our quiet period (until someone realised how much fun it was disrupting mink hunts!) We paid visits to the Northamptonshire, Dove Valley and Teme Valley Mink Hounds and had some successful days out. It was particularly enjoyable catching the Northants hunting the river Tove near Milton Keynes. They raced back to the meet and one of their masters was in such a hurry she 'accidentally' ran one of our sabs over!

We've also spent time down in the Gloucestershire badger cull zone preparing for the Autumnal slaughter of these iconic creatures. We've re-surveyed our part of the zone and are gratified to see so much badger activity after two years of culling.

We've also had a summer recruitment drive, done lots of fundraising which has put us in a healthy position for the cull and the forthcoming sabbing season (thanks to the amazing fundraising crew, you know who you are), did a weekend at Lush raising funds and awareness and did a stall at the Green Gathering. Phew....

So that's our quiet season out of the way. We're now cracking back on with fucking up the crazy Government backed badger slaughter and prepping for the new sabbing season.

See you in a muddy field.

Sheffield Hunt Sabs

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

Summer is now drawing to a close and our thoughts are on cubbing and the Badger Cull. We spend a good amount of our "off" time to fundraise but don't stop sabbing - we are always watching!

We had a great summer, sabbed a couple of mink hunts with other groups with great success. We can't even go for a day out without bumping into scummers - one of our group went for a spin on his bike near Sheffield and bumped into hare coursers, there where 5 of them with lurchers and terriers and, even though he was outnumbered, our fearless sab held his ground and told them to stop being gits and go home. (It helped that he recognised one of them from near where he lived). They slunk off with their tails between their legs, no blood spilt. Result!

Somerset Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/pages/Somerset-Hunt-Saboteur-Group/490279164404314
somersethuntsabs@riseup.net

The summer months were mainly spent sett surveying and targeting mink hunts, often the Culmstock Mink Hounds. Their territory covers much of Somerset, Devon and Dorset so joining forces with our more experienced neighboring groups has proved very effective. Nothing pleases us more than surprising them on a river bank and accompanying them on their 'Walk of Shame' to their vehicles!



In early May we took a road trip to West Sussex to meet up with West Sussex, South Coast, Croydon and Berkshire Saboteur Groups and help stake out the opening meet of the Kent & Sussex Mink Hounds. The hunt was shut down almost immediately but it took several hours of police and hunt deliberation before the hound van drove to Bexhill Police Station under police escort, rather similar to what happens with the Culmstock except their escort heads for Honiton Police Station.

Meeting and working with other groups has been most rewarding and we get to tap some of the most experienced sab minds at the same time. We've made some very good friends on our journey so far, your support has been invaluable.

Cubbing is happening now, as is stag hunting and no doubt fox hunting. The worst news was that the third year of badger cull will go ahead and now also in Dorset. It's an ongoing battle; we are swamped with hunts and animal abusers here and the associated cruelty make life very difficult for us. Far worse for the animals who have no voice and no protection and that is why we are here; for them and to protect them whenever we can.

Thank you for all the support we've had over the past months from public and associates. We couldn't have done it without you. The donations keep us on the road saving lives.

South Wales Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/pages/South-Wales-Hunt-Saboteurs
southwaleshuntsabs@hotmail.com

With the Tory majority this year and their plans not only to continue the cull but to try and repeal the hunting ban, it felt like they were set on doing everything they could to put us down. But, as determined as ever, following a successful season of annoying the hunts in Cymru and beyond, we've been getting stuck in to our summer time activities in the cull zones.

We've always enjoyed the beauty of our strolls through the country and we've been pleased to say that this year is just as lovely. Our setts are looking great, some better than ever! Not to mention the exciting latrines we've discovered, showing our badgers are thriving – giving the finger to the Tories as they go. Despite Dorset getting their licence for the cull to go ahead there as well, our good spirits have continued and everyone has kept working as hard as they can to prepare for the killing to start. We'd like to thank everyone who has helped us raise funds to support our work while we're in the zone, it's such a great help.

No matter what they throw at us we're never going to stop. A positive of the election is the impact it has had in getting people active and doing something to help, so we should have a few new recruits on the way!

If you're interested in getting involved, please get in touch via facebook or email.

Three Counties Hunt Sabs

threecountysabs@live.co.uk
www.facebook.com/3CHuntSabs
vimeo.com/threecountiessabs

By the end of the 2015 season, 3C sabs had been out over 80 times to sabotage and monitor hunts in our area (as well as a few trips down to Dorset and Devon and into neighbouring counties to support other groups), sometimes as one group, sometimes split into two or three smaller groups to cover more hunts on the same day and occasionally just a lone sab. This isn't including any of the days which we spent out during the cull last autumn or the months we spent preparing for it, so we're pretty proud of that achievement. Some of our sabs were also able to join up with other groups during a local beagling festival. We'd like to say a big thanks to all of our supporters for helping us out with costs of fuel and to replace broken cameras - we couldn't have done it without you!

This season looks to be starting in a similar fashion, surveying setts and preparing for the next round of the cull. At the time of writing, licences have only just been issued and we expect it to start in the next few days. Cameras are always our loyal friends, capturing evidence of illegal hunting and tampering with badger setts, assaults and criminal damage. As well as losing Lee Peters from the Ross Harriers at the end of last season, Roger Warner has also ended his reign as a Master of the Ledbury Hunt. What a way to finish your last season though Roger, allowing illegal activity on your land! We're expecting more of the same in the next few months...

We've spent the summer fundraising and building up a new website, putting together reports and videos from previous seasons with as-yet-unreleased footage from hunts investigated by the police which we couldn't comment on at the time as well as preparing for the cull. If you're in our area, contact the Gloucestershire Badger Office on facebook or gloucestershire_badger_office@riseup.net if you can help out.

See you in the fields, on the streets and online!

3C

West Midlands Hunt Sabs

07914 977 664
westmidlandhuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk
www.facebook.com/pages/West-Midlands-Hunt-Saboteurs
twitter-@westmidssabs

Over the 2014-2015 season we have gathered a lot of footage regarding the Atherstone Hunt. On Boxing Day 2014 two men from this hunt were filmed filling in an active badger sett after sending in a terrier to flush out any foxes. As the case was drawing nearer, we were informed that it was no longer proceeding. The police gave three different reasons why the case had been dropped. However, when we made contact with the CPS who were reasonable with us, we were told the police were given a deadline by the court which the police failed to comply with, leaving the CPS with no option but to discontinue the case. The CPS also stated that lessons needed to be learnt from this case and they will be subsequently meeting with Leicestershire police.

Footage of this can be found via https://vimeo.com/136698911#t=0

We also had the news that the CPS decided not to press any charges against the Atherstone Huntsman Stuart Barton for illegal hunting and assault even though at no point did the Huntsman try to stop the hounds from chasing a fox in clear view, but instead assaulted a sab by ramming him up against a wall using his horse. The video of this incident can be found at: https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=1011157702246296 - Subsequently we set up a campaign called 'Prosecute the Atherstone Hunt' (see article on page 16 for contact details).

On the 24/01/2015 we filmed the Albrighton & Woodland Hunt chasing a fox. The fox ran straight past the entire hunt closely followed by the full pack of hounds. At no point did anyone from the hunt attempt to call the hounds off. What was the wildlife officer for Staffordshire Police doing whilst this illegal hunting was happening? He was detaining the sabs van and accusing them of going out to commit burglaries!

We reported this incident to West Mercia police who investigated it fully and professionally. Unfortunately the CPS had to drop the case but you can view the footage at: https://vimeo.com/135911225.

West Sussex Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/westsussex.huntsabs
westsusssexhuntsabs@riseup.net
Phone: 07871 569 494

Following deliberate obstruction on the road by a Crawley and Horsham hunt supporter who was dangerously trying to stop us getting to the hunt meet at the end of last season, we complained. This resulted in a warning being formally given this summer to a supporter: this means police can confiscate his vehicle if he repeats it. A PIN warning (Police Information Notice) was also given to a barrister who rides with the hunt, and hunt staff member following abuse and threatening behaviour.

During the spring, some members of the group have been looking for the cruel Larsen traps which hold a live crow or magpie. On one estate there were some 15 magpies held in terrible conditions, and a number of dead and sick crows in another. The magpies were released and police were called and the sick and dead crows taken as evidence – charges are expected. Many wild birds are now free and we recommend sabs take a lot of country walks post hunting season and hopefully save a few more lives.

The group joined others for a mink hunt at Pevensey. As many know, the hunt soon packed up on our arrival, but not before intimidation by supporters driving their van and a tractor at sabs by a gate. While the hunt and hounds hid in a police station car park, one of our group filmed covertly some hunt support saying "how well organised the antis are," which we posted on our Facebook site.

With cub hunting in full swing, the Crawley and Horsham Hunt have been meeting in August at 6am. However, as the following week they can change to 5 pm, valiant efforts have been made to find them. On Friday 21st August, we surprised the hunt and caught them holding up a small wood with hounds spinning around in full cry and riders bashing saddles to contain the cubs in true cub hunting style. The hunt were sufficiently shocked they could not get away fast enough, packing up immediately, having only been out for an hour. Police have been sent the video.

Since the election and then the push on getting the Hunting Act amendment through, we have had a huge amount of people wanting to help or join us. We, of course, appreciate any help and are always ready to welcome new people to the group

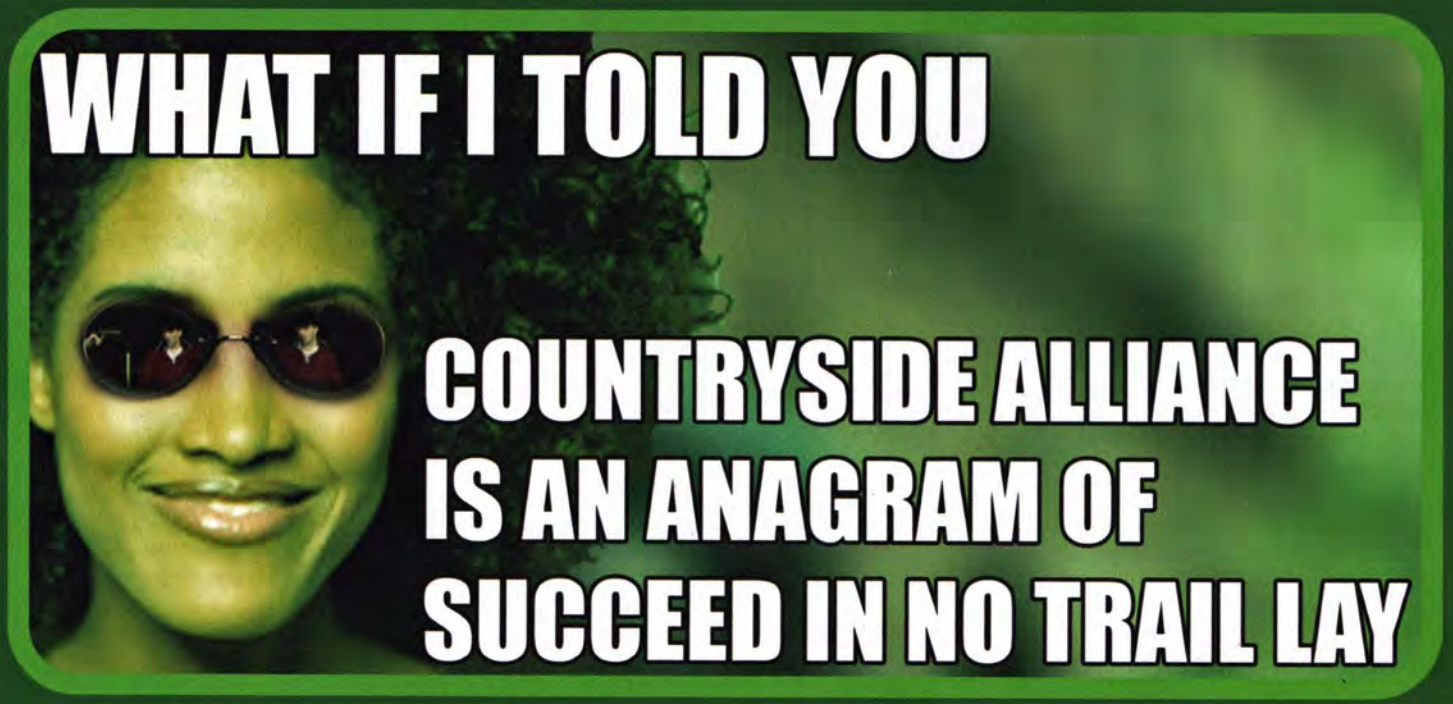
Belgian Sabs

belgianhuntsabs@tutanota.de
via forward.nearlyfreespeech.net
www.facebook.com/belgianhuntsabs

We started to gather our first volunteers by the end of 2014.

A few months later we met with members of the HSA for the first time. We learned what we should focus on and could research hunts right away.

In the meantime, more people have joined and we are meeting anti-hunt organizations who can answer our questions about legal issues, to see what is allowed in Belgium and how we can work safely. Unfortunately the hunting season in Belgium is already getting started by now, but we are looking forward to our first sab.



KARMA POLICE



Ian Gibson, a professional hunter for Chifuti Safaris, was killed by an elephant bull in Chewore North in the lower Zambezi Valley. The bull was in musth and instantly turned and began a full charge. Gibson began shouting in order to stop the charge. It didn't work. The scene was very graphic.

A wounded fox shot its would be killer in Belarus by pulling the trigger on the hunter's gun as the pair scuffled after the man tried to finish the animal off with the butt of the rifle, according to Belarus media. The unnamed hunter, was in hospital with a leg wound, while the fox made its escape in the Grodno region.

A British man working as a professional hunter on a private game reserve in Zimbabwe has been killed by a wounded buffalo he was trying to kill. Owain Lewis, 67, had been tracking the animal for three days. The buffalo charged from the undergrowth and tossed him in the air.

In Martin County, Florida, USA, Brad Meade's body was found off of Pigeon Roost Road in the Pilgrim community after a hunting accident. Meade, 22, died from a bow and arrow wound. Martin County Sheriff John Kirk said that Meade must have fallen when his arrow was loaded in his bow, but strapped around his back. Meade reportedly pulled the arrow out of his leg, wrapped his shirt around the wound, and tried to make it back to his vehicle.

A man suffocated after his head became wedged in a hole at a beauty spot while trying to catch a rabbit. Stephen Whinfrey, 50, had been involved in 'rabbiting' most of his life and used ferrets and dogs to hunt them. He had gone to Squirrel Wood Scout Camp, near Burghwalis, Doncaster, on New Year's Day, an inquest was told. Whinfrey was found the next day, wedged in the hole next to a bag containing ferrets, a spade, knives and a net. Dr Susan Rodgers, who carried out the post mortem, said Mr Whinfrey had died from asphyxia due to a lack of oxygen. She added: "It is difficult to say exactly when Mr Whinfrey died. He had probably been dead for some hours by the time he was found."

A Berea man was killed while hunting in Laurel County, Kentucky, USA. Stanley Wayne Pearson, 69, and another man were squirrel hunting when the two men separated during the hunt. Pearson never came out of the woods. Officials say it appears Pearson shot a squirrel and fell down an embankment as he tried to retrieve it.

Kelly Hobbs and Shannon "Bubba" Tunnell died when their plane crashed last Friday near Raton, New Mexico, USA while they were hunting coyotes. The purpose of the flight was to find and "terminate" coyotes in an area "with a history of livestock damage."

Kaillua-Kona, Hawaii - A Kona fishing boat captain is dead after being speared by a swordfish at Honokohau harbor. Hawaii police identified the victim as 47-year-old Randy Llanes. Llanes jumped into the water and speared a broadbill swordfish. The fish then reportedly struck Llanes in the chest repeatedly with its sharp bill.

Farmers hunting in northern Brazil were attacked and killed by giant anteaters in two separate incidents. "Both were farmers, hunting and attacked by wounded or cornered animals," Vidal Haddad of the Botucatu School of Medicine at Sao Paulo State University told AFP. In 2010, at a separate incident, a 75-year-old man was killed when an anteater used its long front claws – normally used to help dig into anthills to puncture his femoral arteries, located in the groin and thigh.

Reginald Jacques, 60, of Waterville, was turkey hunting with his wife Janice in China when Janice accidentally shot him in the face.

In Grand County, Colorado, USA, grouse hunter Brian Chamberlain, 48, was killed when he drove his ATV off the side of the road. The vehicle flipped over and landed on top of him. Chamberlain had been grouse hunting with friends before the accident.

PROSECUTE THE ATHERSTONE HUNT

West Midlands Hunt Sabs have started a "Prosecute the Atherstone Hunt" campaign and have been visiting local towns within the hunt's area to talk to local people about what their local hunt has been up to. They've been surprised by just how much support they've been shown and how many people don't like the hunt.

We have gathered a lot of footage of the Atherstone Hunt this season from illegal hunting, violent assaults, racism and blocked badger setts. The hunt have visited the home of one sab slashing the tyres on a car used to monitor the hunt and setting fire to a second car. We've also had to deal with biased police who have been advising and helping the hunt get away with all of this.

On Saturday the 28th February we filmed a fox being closely pursued by the Atherstone hounds. The huntsman, Stuart Barton, and whipper-in are present at the time and do nothing to stop this illegal hunting. Their only concern is to impede and assault the saboteurs who are filming their law breaking. The fox runs in front of Barton who, instead of calling the hounds off, assaults the nearest sab by pinning them against a wall. The video then shows the saboteurs being assaulted by hunt supporters who try to steal their cameras. One saboteur received nasty cuts to her face after a hunt supporter dug her nails into her face. The CPS decided to drop both cases against Barton for assault and illegal hunting, despite the clear video evidence. The police have separately charged the woman in the footage with two accounts of assault.

"We eventually found out from the CPS that the police were given a deadline by the court which the police failed to comply with, leaving the CPS with no option but to discontinue the case."



A second case was dropped by the CPS which again had clear video evidence of a member of the hunt acting illegally. On Boxing Day 2014 the Atherstone Hunt terrier-man Rob Pickering and another man were filmed filling in an active badger sett after sending in a terrier to flush out any foxes. One of them can then be seen filling in the entrances to the badger sett with a spade. Hounds then follow later searching over the sett followed by the Atherstone Huntsman Stuart Barton. The Terrier-man was subsequently charged, and the case was due to go to court when we were told the CPS had dropped the case. The police gave us three separate reasons as to why the CPS had dropped the case after first claiming the CPS don't tell them why a case has been dropped.

After visiting Hinckley Police station to find out why, we were told that no one could see us as they were too busy; when we asked if we could book an appointment we were told no one would speak to us. We eventually found out from the CPS that the police were given a deadline by the court which the police failed to comply with, leaving the CPS with no option but to discontinue the case.



The CPS also stated that lessons needed to be learnt from this case and they will be subsequently meeting with Leicestershire police.

These incidents of biased policing culminated in the police issuing two sabs with Police Information Notices (PIN's) for harassing a member of the hunt. No evidence is needed to issue a PIN and they can be issued based purely on allegations. They can also be used as evidence of harassment if the same person makes a similar allegation in the future. As a result of this, the two sabs contacted their MPs who wrote a stern letter to the Chief Constable. A petition to the Chief Constable asking him to overturn the PINs gained over 3000 signatures. A formal complaint to the police was also made. During this period we released a letter which showed the police had been advising the hunt on what to do when visited by sabs: "*to continue having good sport, we all have to do our bit to discourage the saboteurs / monitors by following the advice of the police... we want everyone to enjoy this season, but the presence of saboteurs will make this difficult. Please follow the advice of the police as above. If you do not you will spoil everyone's fun and will not be welcome.*"

Eventually the PINs were overturned after a meeting with the police who apologised and said they should never have been issued in the first place. The Prosecute the Atherstone campaign was then launched with a petition to the CPS asking them to reconsider prosecuting Huntsman Stuart Barton for illegal hunting and assault. We've gained lots of signatures after visiting towns in the hunt's area. Posters have also been seen on village notice boards asking for information. We have also been changing people's perceptions of us after the hunt have had numerous articles printed in local papers making us out to be violent thugs who harass them.

This is just one hunt that, week in week out, we are seeing illegally hunting, being violent and being assisted by police who turn a blind eye and advise the hunt.

This hunt is no different to any other hunt and their actions are no different to any other hunt.

Prosecute the Atherstone Hunt petition: www.change.org/p/crown-prosecution-service-prosecute-the-atherstone-hunt
Prosecute the Atherstone Hunt Facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1509872899304228/





2015 SEAL GUARDIAN CAMPAIGN

The HSA Seal Guardian Campaign comes to a conclusion at the end of the 2015 salmon netting season. By midnight of the 31st of August all nets, anchors and other coastal salmon netting equipment must be out of the water.



With the close of season and the removal of nets, so the "reason" to shoot seals is gone. Seal shooting licences are given by Marine Scotland in order that the salmon nets men can shoot any seal that is actively attacking/ripping into a net and daring to eat a fish. (They don't do this, by the way; they will not waste energy trying to rip into nets when they can easily dig up a lug worm from the sea bed. It has been proven, in fact, that salmon makes up less than 10% of a seal's diet.)

This "seal management" technique is supposed to be a last resort, after all other non-lethal deterrents (acoustic devices and second net skins) have been tried and failed. However, Usan/Scottish Wild Salmon Company co-director George Pullar and his number one hired-in seal-killing lackey Steven Anderson (of Breahead of Lunan) have been caught many times this season scoping for seals and trying to shoot with none of the non-lethal deterrents having been in place first.

This has been a very intense campaign; the HSA's longest-running full-time campaign, covering five months from April until August. Daily patrols were made between 2 and 3 times a day, depending on tide times. Days started before 5am, and the 14 Usan coastal nets spanning 10 miles of Angus coast were covered each time they were fished (2 or 3 times a day, tide-dependent). We had to be at the nets for fish "harvesting" times in order to be in place should a seal pop up. Sabs also had to be in place for the prime seal shooting time – between 6pm and 9pm, when George Pullar and/or Steven Anderson would scope for seals from cliff tops or rocky outcrops. We located their favoured shooting positions and staked them out. We've deployed our drone, named White Dove, and our underwater ROV, named Black Shark.



In 5 months, we lost two seals. It was heart-breaking. One of these seals was pregnant, and she aborted her pup as she bled to death on Lunan beach. The self-proclaimed "expert marksmen" of Usan had not shot cleanly; it was not a clean kill.

Locals have been in fear of the Pullar family and their lackeys for 4 decades. Anyone who tried to stand up to them met relentless intimidation, they told us. Sabs also experienced this. We received physical threats, were blocked in down remote lanes, stalked, and were on the receiving end of a hate campaign played out on Facebook. Steven Coull, ex son-in-law of the number 1 seal shooter Steven Anderson, posted relentless libellous attacks on sabs, saying they were friends with paedophiles and had had images of children deleted from their recording equipment by Montrose police. Addresses of sabs were also posted.

Coull's hate campaign against sabs, seemingly on behalf of the Pullars and the shooter Steven Anderson, got so out of hand that he received a formal warning from Police Scotland. We are waiting to be told if the police will take this further. Another lackey who came unstuck was Pauline Rintoul, who called police to report sabs for intimidating behaviour... whilst still on the phone to the cops, she said "You better get up here quick before I give this (sab) a fucking hiding." For this, she received a formal caution, which will remain on her police record, and footage was looked at by the police that proved sabs had not done anything wrong. Steven Anderson repeatedly blocked a lone female sab in on narrow lanes, and often acted in a way that was intimidating. Sabs are in talks to get his gun licence revoked and have handed in a lot of dashcam footage as evidence. Not one sab on the Seal Guardian Campaign 2015 was arrested or cautioned.



During this season, Usan was on trial at Forfar Sherriff's Court for multiple counts of illegal fishing out of hours, pertaining to previous seasons. They pleaded guilty and were fined £7,000. It is testament to their arrogance that during the court case, which dragged out all summer, they continued to leave their nets in the water out of permitted times! Sabs handed in hours and hours of footage of illegal fishing out of permitted times, as well as instances of sea bird deaths (directly, at the hands of George Pullar and indirectly killed by Usan, due to drowning in nets that should have been out of the water). At the time of writing, the authorities are investigating and we cannot reveal more at this stage.

The HSA Seal Guardian Campaign 2015 has worked with high-profile stakeholders, the Scottish SPCA, fisheries boards, fish associations, conservation groups including Animal Concern, Marine Concern and Angus Wildlife Group, Sea Shepherd, the HSE, SEPA, Scottish Natural Heritage, Customs and Excise officials and has had dealings with Angus Council and Ferryden Community Council. Sabs called and hosted a round-table meeting that was attended by fisheries boards Chairmen and Clerks, council reps, conservation groups, an SNP MP and locals. It was a successful meeting, with shared intelligence on Usan and forward, collaborative planning.

Over the past 5 months, sabs have also removed masses of drift nets from beaches, and rescued an array of injured or sick souls, including gulls, fledglings, pigeons, and a poorly female seal.

The media attention that the HSA and Sea Shepherd has brought about through their seal campaigns over the last 2 years has had considerable impact on the wild salmon netting industry. Our work, along with pressure from fisheries boards and associations, and other whistle-blowing groups such as Marine Concern, Animal Concern and Angus Wildlife Group, has contributed to the Scottish Government banning coastal salmon after this season! This is great for the seals, because if there are no nets in the water, there is no excuse for shooting to protect nets. Sabs will now focus on salmon farms, who also have licences to shoot seals. This work was started last year, when undercover sabs infiltrated a fish farm on the West coast of Scotland to reveal that up to 78,000 fish are hemmed into each pen, and many other atrocities.

The Seal Guardian Campaign brought disparate (and desperate) locals together from Aberdeen, Montrose, Ferryden, Lunan, Corbie Knowe, Ethie Haven, Arbroath and Dundee. These locals have been empowered, encouraged by the criminal conviction the company received (seeing that "finally something is being done officially"), they've been trained as sabs and have taken up the campaign as their own. Sabs are very grateful for the local welcome, including accommodation, lots of priceless information, gifts of books and clothing, a few home-cooked vegan meals and some lovely vegan cakes! Locals say they are very grateful to sabs for standing up for their seals, and putting in the hours to gather evidence and protect the marine life of Angus.

We have been invited back and open invitations for wee holidays stand... but right now, we don't care if we never see Angus again! We continue to work 'behind the scenes' to bring about change on political and local levels that will secure the future of marine mammals, keeping them safe from gunmen. We now leave the seals in the capable hands of the locals, and will continue to support them in their work, just as they supported us in ours.


© Mateusz Włodarczyk



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

Kevin Johnson #47353-424
MCC Chicago, Metropolitan Correctional Center, 71 West Van Buren Street, Chicago, IL 60605 USA.
Kevin Johnson (Kevin Olliff) was arrested in August 2013 in rural Illinois on charges of "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."

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.

Obituaries





John Hicks – an obituary by Dave Wetton

John Hicks, a former Chairman of the HSA, died in February at the age of 63.

John joined the HSA committee in 1974 and, appreciating the value of direct action, John and partner Jo had set up Animal Activists to fight other aspects of animal cruelty; principally the fur trade and vivisection. John and Jo chained themselves to racks of furs in Harrods and many more demos at this, and other such stores nationwide, were to follow.

John and Jo staged a hunger strike outside the Alderley Edge, Cheshire HQ of ICI in protest against ICI's forced inhalation tests on beagles for their New Smoking Material. Fifteen years later, BBC TV's 'The Rock 'n' Roll Years' actually featured John and Jo's hunger strike.

Earlier that year John had taken over as manager of the Foal Farm animal rescue center in Biggin Hill; within six months John and Jo, with the help of sabs, had made dramatic improvements. They were to stay there for three years, during which time they carried out a massive rebuilding project, paid off the debts and left the trustees with almost £125,000 in the bank.

John had now left the HSA committee and joined LACS; taking over the management of the League sanctuaries on Exmoor. He lived under constant threat of attack. He was badly beaten up many times but sometimes the attackers were actually convicted of the assaults. In October 1987 John had been given £300,000 by an elderly lady, with potentially millions in the pipeline. He put the money towards his new sanctuary and set up a committee of three which included the elderly lady, himself and old fellow HSA committee member Alan Knight. This was the beginnings of what was to become International Animal Rescue (IAR) which was formally set up in September 1989.

By May 1999 John was back on the LACS committee but by then, he and Jo had decided to set up International Animal Rescue Goa, having witnessed the lack of animal welfare facilities out there. In October 2000 they moved permanently to Goa, leaving the IAR (now run by Alan Knight), to deal with dancing bears in India and, eventually, orangutans and slow lorises in Borneo.

Since its formation, IAR Goa has sterilized over 30,000 dogs and 11,000 cats, rescued countless dogs, cats, cows, bulls and even snakes from wells, handled thousands of road accident cases, treated hundreds of animals for which the owners couldn't afford treatment, and, because of the number of monkeys in need of help, set up the Primate Trust as a sister charity to IAR Goa. John became recognized as one of the leading Primate experts in India. The work has continued ever since.

John could be an irascible bugger at times and regularly went over the top in his insults, but he was passionate. Ever true to his beliefs, he always led from the front, whether it was in the hunting field or mucking out in a stable; definitely the sort of person to have on your side.

Remembering Toby Roy

When I was handed the reins of area contact for the HSA back in the nineties, I began a recruitment drive in order to put the Grimsby group on the map. Gradually, as the group progressed, we came to trust each other, lifelong friendships were forged and have remained the same to this very day.

It is, therefore, with great sadness that I announce the untimely loss of one of our family members: Toby Roy, who passed away on the 20/08/2015 aged just 41.

Toby was a loyal and truly dedicated animal rights activist and was involved in several Animal Liberation Front activities in the nineties; in addition to this, on a weekly basis you would find him out there in the killing fields, right by your side and never once showing his disgruntlement about having to leave his bed in the early hours to sabotage cub hunting.

He will be a great loss to not only those who knew him, but also to the animal rights movement.

Farewell my fellow comrade,

P



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.....


photo: © www.stacywoolhousephotography.weebly.com
As a new fox hunting season begins
please help us to help her
HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION
www.huntsabs.org.uk