The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association Spring 2018 (Issue 116) £2 (free to members)

HOWL

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

In the hunt, undercover - Part II

14,567 Reasons to sab the cull

Compiègne stag hunt sab

The whipping story!

Group news













LETTER FROM THE CHAIR:

Since my last ramblings the National Trust vote went against our cause by a narrow vote, and the NT board has been rapidly backtracking from the very sensible procedures they had devised to make sure illegal hunting was not taking place on NT lands. All of which goes against the grain of public opinion and hunt sabs will continue to be in the forefront of highlighting the hypocrisy of the NT board's stance, plus of course chasing hunters around NT owned land.

In better news Teresa May has finally conceded that a vote to overturn the hunting ban, no matter how weak that legislation is, is not a vote winner. She stated: "As Prime Minister, my job isn't just about what I think about something, it's actually about looking at what the view of the country is, I think there was a clear message about that and that's why I say there won't be a vote on fox hunting during this parliament." You have to wonder where she has been most of her life. The first poll about hunting took place in 1936 when 55.1% opposed hunting in England and 75% in Scotland. The higher figure in Scotland was explained by popular opposition to private hunting estates reserved exclusively for the upper classes. These polls were followed in 1958, 1972 and 1975 when 53%, 50%, 60% respectively were against fox hunting, with higher percentages of opposition for hare, stag and otter hunting. Fast forward to 1997 and 80% of people who lived in rural were opposed to fox hunting. Since the ban opinion has steadily risen in opposition and support of keeping the ban is between 74%and 86% depending on which poll you read. It is hard to believe that an elected MP for over 20 years has not realised the majority of the publics thinking on hunting. The message has been clear before she was born, she has just been ignoring it.

A personal note for Teresa when she reads this (I'm sure she gets a copy), slavery was banned in 1833 and we would like to keep it that way, just saying.

Since the last issue of HOWL, sabs and hunt sabbing has been prominent in the news for all the wrong reasons. From sabs being whipped, bricks chucked into sab vehicles paths and irrational sab arrests failing in the courts. The larger hidden truth is the police forces and the CPS are still not accepting that hunting is illegal, are blocking all paths to prosecutions and targeting hunt sabs the same they did pre-ban. I have personally met with representatives of three different police forces who all have told me that they will not investigate illegal hunting on the day it occurs, but 'might' look at evidence we supply after the fact. This of course weakens any potential court case from the start where police officers could have collected first hand evidence. Sabs all over the country (and abroad) will continue to save lives but we are hampered by the very forces of the law which should be assisting us. So next time you write to your MP ask them why police forces are refusing to enforce the law, over 80% of the populace wants?

With your support sabs will continue to protect our wildlife, until we finally have laws which ends hunting for good. Until that day your support is as always much appreciated.

HSA Chair



photo: © richardbowlerwildlifephotography.com

www.huntsabs.org.uk

Hunt Saboteurs @HuntSabs

Hunt Saboteurs Association
BM HSA, London WC1N 3XX Tel. 0845 2501291
info@huntsabs.org.uk www.huntsabs.org.uk
Howl e-mail: howl@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 (nvda) 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 Sam
Contributors All groups who sent group news in.
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Howl is printed on 100% recycled paper using vegetable inks.



This issue of Howl is dedicated to the memory of Hunt Saboteurs

MIKE HILL & TOM WORBY

Killed

9th February 1991 & 3rd April 1993 respectively

whilst lawfully trying to prevent hunts from killing our wildlife.

YOU WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN



EDITORIAL

It seems the 2017/18 fox hunting season has been an extremely bad one for those who take pleasure in the bloodsport. Each week a new story is featured in the national press, be it to do with a kill, an assault, hunt trespass or police bias towards hunts. One such news item, which I am sure you must be aware of, is the whipping of a South Coast sab by an irate member of the East Sussex and Romney Marsh Hunt. The unprovoked attack was huge news, with news outlets as far as Germany, USA and even Japan reporting the assault. In this issue of HOWL, however, we have an exclusive; we hear from the (slightly bruised) sab himself!

Part two of the story of some animal rights activists who went undercover in the Pytchley Hunt is an enthralling read (part one can be found in HOWL 114) as they explain what really goes on when sabs aren't present and the devastating effect that we have when we are.

Hunt sabotage continues to grow globally, with Hunt Saboteurs Sweden working around the clock to fight the Swedish wolf cull, activists from Poland taking on boar shooters and Melbourne Hunt Saboteurs springing into action (see HOWL 115). In this issue, we hear from some sabs who ventured across the Channel to join forces with French and Belgian comrades and hit a French stag hunt, as part of the HSA International initiative.

Also in this issue, the HSA's Legal Officer give us some extremely useful information when it comes to finding funding for court cases.

As always, a huge respect is due to every saboteur who goes out to stop the abusers from killing wildlife and to those who support us either financially or otherwise. So, grab a cuppa and settle down to read of the fantastic work done by those from all over the UK (and further afield) and who come from every walk of life yet are united by one thing; compassion.



14,567 REASONS TO SAB THE CULL

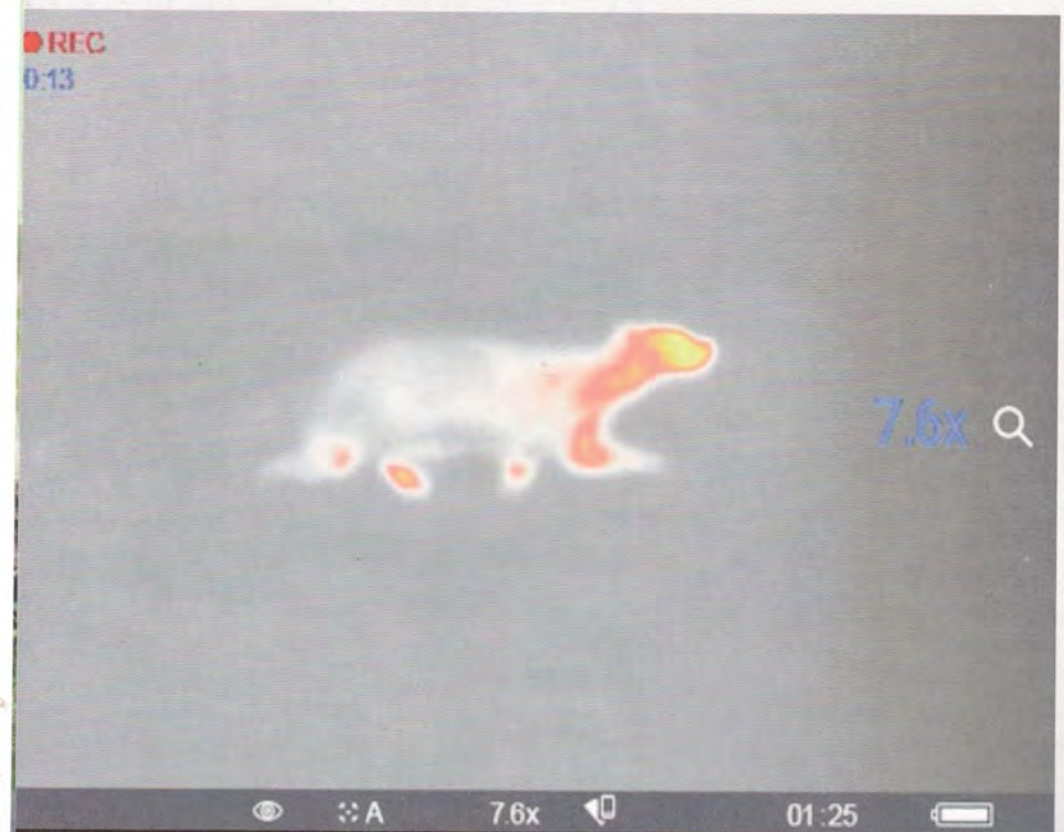


In 2017, the badger cull aimed to kill 33,841 badgers. It was rolled out to 11 new cull zones, 21 in total across the UK. The majority were in the South West with 6 zones in Devon, 2 in Cornwall, 3 in Somerset, 3 in Dorset and 3 in Wiltshire with further zones in Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and Cheshire.

Sab groups from as far apart as Brighton, Cornwall, Grampian, N. Wales and Cambridge, fought the cull. Priority was given to new zones where the highest numbers of badgers were at risk.

Many groups showed fantastic flexibility to uproot themselves from areas they knew well, travelling to brand new zones, sometimes hundreds of miles from home, to work where they were most needed.

Liaising closely with Stop the Cull and the Badger Action Network, the Hunt Saboteurs Association worked with local anti-cull groups to ensure sabs and equipment went where they were most needed. Not just during the cull but in the long months beforehand, sabs tirelessly surveyed new areas, gathered intel, shared their skills and learned new ones. Strong relationships were built during this time meaning that when the killing started and the pressure was on, trust had already been established.



Each cull zone has it's own challenges, in Wiltshire for example local people came together to form Wiltshire Against the Cull thinking that there would be a new cull zone in Wiltshire. They ended up co-ordinating 3 new cull zones and worked with 7 different sab groups – a very steep learning curve. Cheshire, another county that had culling for the first time, had been preparing for two years and so the cull zone had been extensively surveyed. This preparation and strong local knowledge made defending the area and the badgers more effective and really demonstrates what can be achieved when we all work together.

Whilst resistance in the cull zones comes primarily from local people, sabs have a particular set of skills which we are always happy to share in order to protect wildlife. As more and more folk become involved in the anti-cull movement, sabs are able to move on to new high risk zones.



"Many new sab groups have formed since the badger cull began in 2013. As Individuals have grown in confidence and knowledge they have banded together to protect wildlife from hunting, culling and other persecution year round."

Many new sab groups have formed since the badger cull began in 2013. As Individuals have grown in confidence and knowledge they have banded together to protect wildlife from hunting, culling and other persecution year round. This upsurge in new groups has also brought more sabs into established groups and an increase in HSA membership.

Defending wildlife is very expensive and the HSA has contributed tens of thousands of pounds to our local groups to help with fuel costs and provide vital equipment since the cull started. Supplying groups with military grade thermal imaging and night vision scopes has enabled them to find and track shooters at night. Money for fuel enables groups, who are often travelling large distances, to maintain a presence in their chosen cull zone.

After 6 long, hard weeks of fighting the killers the final death toll was 19,274 badgers. This sickening figure is hard to comprehend but falls far short of the intended 33,841. Interesting to note that several weeks into the 6 week cull, the majority of the new zones had their kill figures revised down by Natural England, as it became clear they wouldn't hit their original targets.



Wherever the cull rolls out to next, it will be met by a committed alliance of hunt sabs, locals, badger patrollers and individuals who will never stop fighting to protect badgers. More people involved means more lives saved.



To get involved and for more information:

huntsabs.org.uk

innocentbadger.com

badgeractionnetwork.org.uk



THE WHIPPING!

A few months ago, a South Coast saboteur was struck seventeen times whilst preventing a rider from the East Sussex and Romney Marsh Hunt from riding down fellow sabs. Despite making international news, with the attack being featured in news outlets from Germany, Japan and America (including the BBC, et al.), Sussex Police decided to take no further action against the attacker, Jane Miller.

Miller's husband, Richard Goring, is part of the dynasty of the luxury Goring Hotel in Belgravia, which the Queen and other Royals regularly visit. It seems once again Sussex Police protect privileged hunters when they so openly and violently attack the people who are preventing them from breaking the Hunting Act. The following is the story of the attack in the saboteur's own words...

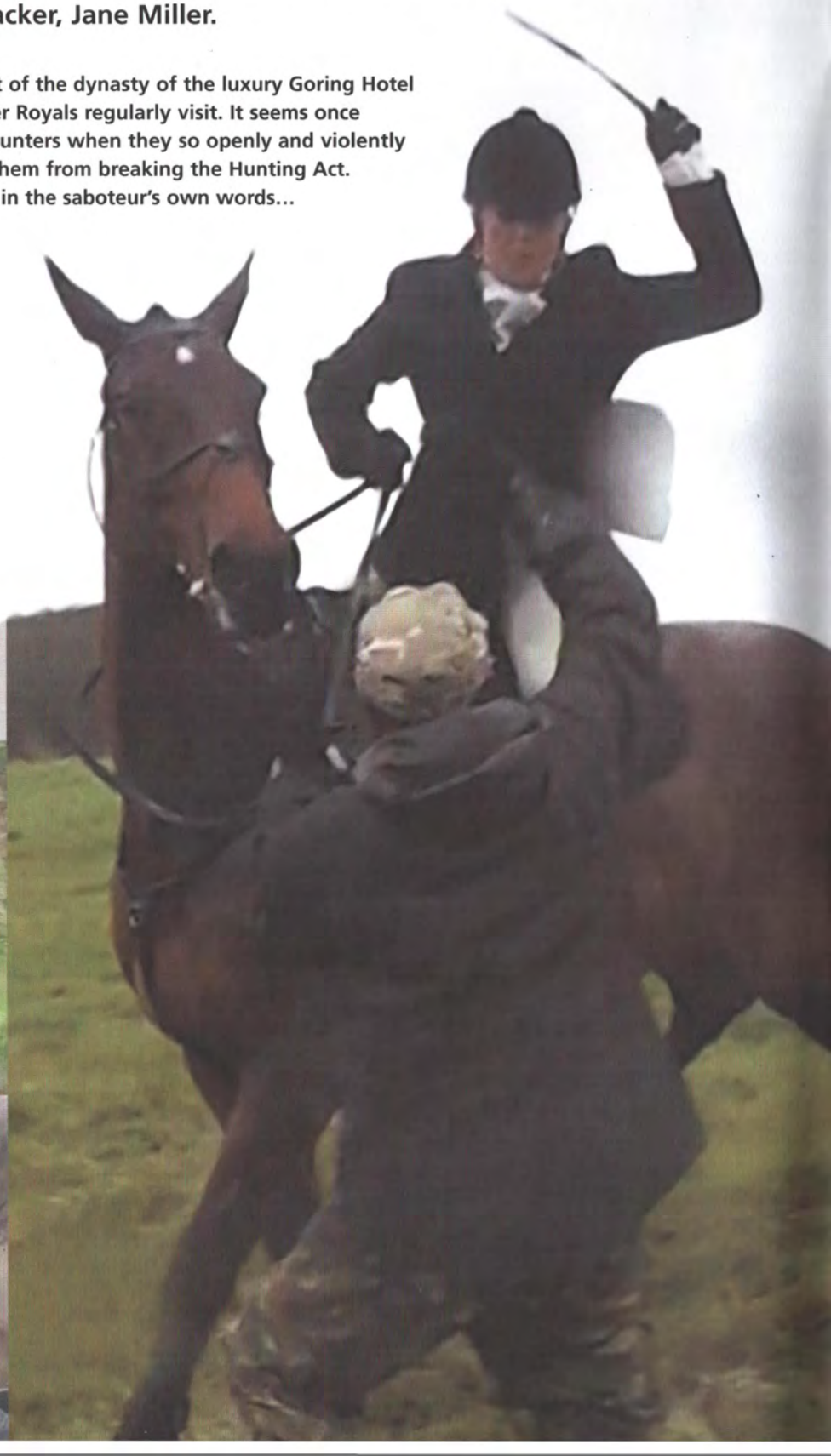
18th November was a cold day. The mist lay heavy and close to the earth on the Sussex marshes as it also clung onto the hedges full of wildlife, but from the get-go, all the hunters and their support could see was Red Mist.

Terriermen on quads carrying terriers and spades tried to run us down on the lane, then they tried to block us from walking up it, so we crossed over into a field.

As there was no gate the terriermen had to go round to the far side of the field, which was empty all around us.





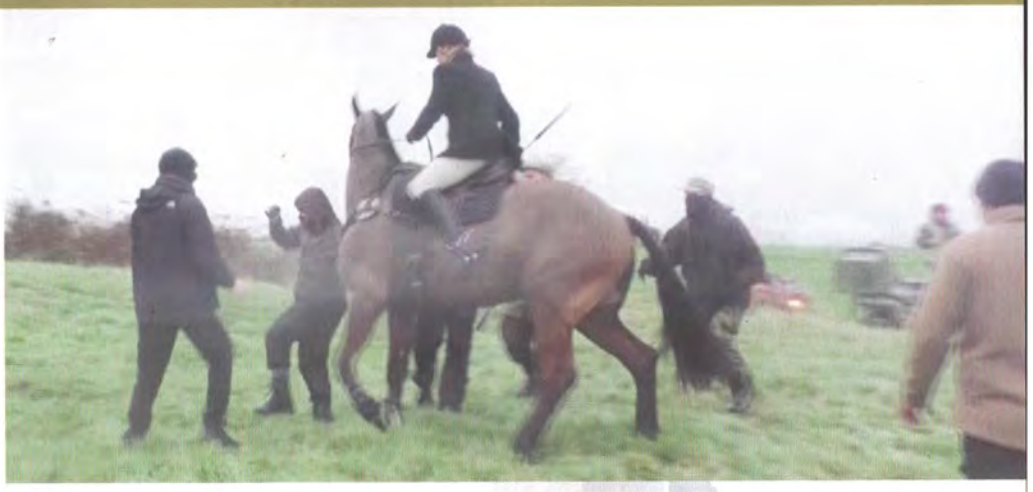


It was then that Jane Miller and another rider came up to us on horseback, neither of the two were given any provocation, this was the first meeting with sabs that day. She then started to ride into sabs demanding we leave the field. Each sab was ridden into in quick succession, she was using her spurs to urge and quicken the horse into sabs, on her 3rd attempt to ride a sab down I knew I had to take control of the horse.

The sab was stumbling and had she fallen, serious injury would have occurred. In taking hold of the reigns I knew I'd have control of the horse.

"Jane Miller was breathing Red Mist and she had become a danger to her horse, us and herself."





I have been around horses since an early age, I grew up on a farm where my father was the blacksmith and also rode in my youth. This isn't the first time I've had to take control of a horse in a dangerous situation, nor the first time I've been whipped but that's not relevant here. So when taking control of a horse in this kind of situation you must know what you are doing and have no fear, because if you have fear, the horse will pick up on it and you will make things worse.

Jane Miller was breathing Red Mist and she had become a danger to her horse, us and herself. She attacked me as I tried to lead the horse away from the situation, then a terrierman attacked me from behind, that is when the situation became impossible to resolve so I let go of the reigns.

She was then called away by her fellow hunters but she still came back five minutes later billowing more Red Mist from her nostrils. It was then that she nearly rode down a hunt supporter (pictured below) after which she was called off for good.

Below: Jane Miller verbally abusing and flipping off sabs during a previous encounter



So I say this to the police, whether you think I'm worthy of justice or not, what about the sab that Jane Miller nearly trampled over intentionally with her horse? Don't you think her actions warrant an investigation? The next time a fox hunter rides down a sab and hurts them, your inaction may well be why the hunters think they can get away with violence to all forms of life.



SCOTTISH SAB FESTIVAL



4 HUNTS, 3 DAYS, 2 CAMERAS AND 1 INTERVIEW WITH A HUNTSMAN!

On the evening of Monday 18th December 2017, a small number of sabs from around Scotland met a camera crew from the media company Unilad to do interviews regarding hunting, sabbing and many things in between, with a plan for even more sabs to hit three hunts over the coming three days.

On the morning of Tuesday 19th December, we went to the Berwickshire Foxhounds who stole a fox's body (who they had killed) from sabs a few weeks earlier. Activity was seen at the kennels with the huntsman readying his hounds. Soon a copper arrived, went into the kennels and came out again to say that the hunt had decided not to go out due to 'conditions'. The temperature, weather and ground were all perfect for hunting, so it appeared that we had put them off. The camera crew went into the kennels to ask for an interview and were instead asked to leave.

With a free day now, we drove over to the territory of the Lauderdale Hunt who we had not visited in a long while. At one point we spotted a red coat and made our way to the scene. He seemed to have completely vanished, as had a man standing at the edge of a woodland – a possible gunman. With no more luck, we headed back to the Berwickshire to make sure they hadn't snuck out and were pleased to see that they had not.

"Some of what the huntsman said is definitely interesting and includes things which you would never expect a hunter to tell you, such as what they do with their hounds when they reach a certain age and what he would do were a full ban to come in Scotland."

On Wednesday, we made our way to the hunt we most hoped we would find; the Fife Foxhounds. Thinking they'd lost us soon after crossing an A road, they didn't look too pleased when they hunted illegally right into the camera crew who had just walked right through the areas where gunmen should have been and weren't.

They tried to draw the woodland again, unsuccessfully, and then terrierman Adam Galpin appeared on the scene, loaded his gun then approached the camera crew only to unload it and tell them they were in his way – this was completely staged for his camera as they had been there for five minutes before him. Only ten minutes later he did nearly the exact same thing: when the cameras approached he put in a cartridge, showing that it was not already loaded (meaning the presence of the gun was a token gesture). Immediately he took it out again and once again told the camera crew that they'd made him unload his gun – another lie. The hunt continued the day unsuccessfully, scattering deer about.

The day ended pretty early and the camera crew asked if they could interview Galpin, but he was more interested in raving about how shotguns and firearms aren't the same thing and had to get two riders to surround him to shut him up.

The third day was spent attempting to find the first mounted pack to be convicted of illegally hunting in Scotland – the Jedforest. Eventually discovering that they had not gone out, interviews between camera crew and sabs were done on the road by their kennels and we drew our festival to a close, saying goodbye to the camera crew and heading back to our cars.

Literally thirty seconds before we were about to drive off we noticed a man approaching from the kennels. In a confrontational stand-off between sabs, cameras and him we soon realised this was the Jedforest huntsman. He was very unhappy, but surprisingly agreed to grant the camera crew their wish –to finally get an interview with a hunter.

Trying to get many of us into his house for a cup of tea we instead came to the agreement that we would sit off the drive by our cars, and he pulled out nine chairs for most of us to sit on. Obviously this was a weird situation, but as he had agreed to talk to a camera crew, which is very rare, we thought it was important to see what he had to say.



The interview ended up lasting for one and a half hours. In this interview many things were said by him which you may see in the documentary or if not then on one of the Scottish sab pages. By the time you are reading this, the documentary has probably come out already. Some of what the huntsman said is definitely interesting and includes things which you would never expect a hunter to tell you, such as what they do with their hounds when they reach a certain age and what he would do were a full ban to come in Scotland.

Look out on Unilad for the full documentary and our pages for some of the footage which was not included – as well as Sab Camp we have decided that we will probably make sab festival (with or without a camera crew!) a yearly occurrence as we managed to stop one hunt from going out at all and pack another up on days when we would usually not be sabbing, as we tend only to do Saturdays. If we do more midweek hits whenever we can, then even more lives can be saved, and it seems that having a professional camera crew with you can really put a hunt off!



In the hunt UNDERCOVER

PART II

In 2011 two animal rights activists volunteered to infiltrate a hunt in order to gain a better understanding of how they operate. The operation had 2 objectives, firstly to observe the methods used on the day of hunting and secondly to obtain intelligence on the methods used behind the scenes, with regard to the work of the terrier or country man and how a supply of foxes was maintained for the hunting days. We expected the infiltration to last 1-2 seasons but it eventually lasted until the opening meets in 2015 when we were confronted and had to exit the process. Here is part II of our exposé

Misogyny

In the first part (in HOWL 114) we explained how we initially had to become trusted by foot followers and had to endure an interrogation involving one of the masters before being allowed into the outer circle of this close knit hunting group. We had passed the first test, but only just. It was now nearing the end of the first season as hunt members and as foot followers we had made friends with others and conversed regularly. With Easter approaching, we did encounter a rather bizarre aspect of the hunt members and the pecking order, when, on one accession several women who had all baked hot cross buns competed against each other to get one of the masters to take one. The talk was of the 'red mist' which turned out to be a term accepted and which described the ambition of women to gain the attention of a red coat! With these women on this day, the aim was to get a home made bun taken by a master, but in a later season we learnt that it can involve hunt masters abusing these feelings and trying to take things further – leading to arguments and on one occasion a master being thrown out of his own house. The whole situation was one of a misogynistic nature and was not very nice at all.

Racism

Racism was also a daily occurrence on this hunt and it seemed that no race or religion was tolerated by the hunt followers. Our first experience was when we were simply talking about the best place to shop to buy good cuts of meat (we could hardy say the local health food shop so joined in as best we could!). One person suggested a stall in a nearby market but was met with a tirade of abuse from several others saying there were too many 'blacks' in that area, and it was the same treatment for anyone who was not white, Christian and of a certain social class or attaining to be of a certain social class.

But these were just observations made whilst trying to concentrate on the task in hand, which was to understand more about the methods used and the dirtier side of hunting.

We were into season two and an early cubbing meet meant only the die-hard support turned out at 4/5 am. This was a good way to get known as solid supporters and to get to know the members who were the most desperate to see wildlife suffering. The first cubbing meet was near a busy main road and we were now being given a copy of the meet card by a local foot follower who also owned stables.

There was around 8 mounted field and about 10 foot followers, at each covert the usual would take place – the huntsman would put the hounds in while the mounted section would spread out and saddle slap. As foot followers we were told whether to let the fox pass or not. Early cubbing we were instructed to try and keep the fox back, but as the cubbing season progressed, around week three, we would be asked to let it pass so that the chase could begin. Being part of a small group did bring its challenges with regard to conversation and maintaining cover, but it also meant we had access to privileged information. At times we would be standing side by side with the terrier boys – usually two at this stage. The terrier boys were opposed to 'chopping' the fox – a term used to describe killing as soon as possible rather than allowing time for a chase.

This was because they had been up half the night blocking badger setts and bolt holes and wanted some good 'sport' in return. For the first time we heard mention of earths having been put in in certain areas, and we were starting to get some of the info we needed, including the regular reference to 'fucking pigs' a term used to describe badgers and the fact that some land owners would not allow them to block setts, while others would. However, it was a slow process as trust was still not at 100%.

Artificial earths

The first definite use of artificial earths came when an ex-terrier man, now a foot follower, was chatting to us towards the end of cubbing and bragged that they will definitely find in the next covert because he had dug in an artificial earth some years ago for the hunt.
A female supporter, wanting to add to conversation then bragged that Geoff (one of the masters) had told her he was feeding the foxes in the earth each day. This was a well-known covert and one with excellent views for the field and foot followers. It also had good exit routes and pre-prepared jumps meaning support would get what they paid for – hounds chasing a fox with themselves close behind. What we then experienced was text book hunting. The terrier boys would enter the wood, on foot holding two terriers and ahead of the mounted field and hounds arrival, but foot and car support were in place already. Some had parked up almost an hour before waiting for this particular covert to be flushed. Once hounds arrived the eerie silence prevailed as they were put in on the side adjoining a pond. Within a minute or so the hounds were speaking and the support became agitated. Seconds later a holloa from the other side of the wood, hounds in full cry and the chase started. The terrier boys would re-appear with their dogs and swiftly get the quad on the move. The field would follow and foot/car supporters would be running to get the best views. We had now started to document the locations that showed signs of artificial earth usage, so that further covert monitoring could take place at a later date. We also wanted to know why the terrier boys had entered first, on foot and with terriers.

"Two foxes were mating near the hedge, and we were waiting until they had finished as they will be tired and give some good 'sport'. The entire hunt then looked on, watching the foxes – it was a disturbing ten or so minutes that seemed more like hours."

A new low

When mixing regularly with the type of scum that follow and support illegal hunting, you do become a bit hardened to how they are; the sexism, racism and lust for killing do start to become normalised a little, but on one meet late in season two we were both shocked further by events that showed a new low point in these people's behaviour and treatment of animals. We arrived at an area a little after everyone else and everyone was standing, some with binoculars looking towards a hedgerow. We could see the hounds and huntsman with the field just the other side of a hill, again all just standing still. We asked if we were digging out, which was the first thought, but were told that two foxes were mating near the hedge, and we were waiting until they had finished as they will be tired and give some good 'sport'. The entire hunt then looked on, watching the foxes – it was a disturbing ten or so minutes that seemed more like hours. Some of the hunt laughed and joked about it, others just focused on the situation. Suddenly we heard shouts of 'they're off', and both foxes were away – quite low to the ground through fatigue. The huntsman then bought hounds down, the terrier boys marked the spot and hounds went straight into full cry. ▷



▷ We made a swift exit as if wanting to follow and took a guess on the route one or both may take with scent duller (we always had the essentials hidden in case we could use). We didn't guess right and we lost the pair – but talking later we were told that both had got away – some of the support quite annoyed that "if he can't get them what can he get!" It was a shocking experience to see people behave like that – they really are sick.

The 'bloody antis'!

One of the better experiences we had in season two was the arrival of hunt saboteurs – we had a contact in the group and were able to feed them info on locations etc throughout the day, but the rest of the group were not aware of our presence. In order to bolster up our position we initially tried to block the sabs telling them it's private land, whoever the sab was that replied with "fuck off you blood junkies", I have to say you made our day – it was good to see that resilience and the sabs stormed through into the area being hunted. By this time we knew the coverts hunted and the general order the hunt did so and had given this info to the sabs, within an hour the hunt was at a standstill – in a corner of one field. We, along with other supporters wandered over – the masters with hounds were discussing what to do – they didn't know were to go and openly said they couldn't risk being caught hunting. They asked that the support stop holloas and stop pointing or marking the route of any fox. They took about half an hour to re organise themselves and ended up riding well away from the planned routes that day trying to avoid the sabs. Sabs kept close, the hunt became more and more agitated. We had witnessed first hand, the effect that sabbing can have on hunt. They were completely fucked that day – no 'sport' at all, and a job well done by the group.

Having now been quite apparent in our support for the hunt – and trying to stand up to the 'Antis' our trust levels had increased. The following week we were approached by 2 masters who asked if we could take Lady Mary back to stables as her horse was lame. They also asked our names again, and a bit of detail that all went ok. We picked Mary up and she got in the back. It was only a 15 minute drive to get her back to her house and stables, but during that time she dominated the situation with question after question. Her son was a master and her husband was an ex master so we expected it. Even our politics was questioned. We believe this was a further check on our credibility and it had all gone ok. We were now seen as hunt supporters who could be relied upon to assist. And over the coming weeks they would ask that we check out unknown cars and people, just as we had been checked out when we first arrived 2 years earlier.

Trusted at dig outs

It also meant we now conversed with the heirachy, meaning the terrier boys took it for granted that we were ok. This meant proximity to dig outs was now tolerated. And we could get further information on the dirtier side of things.

The dig outs we witnessed tended to 'find' in about half of the digs. The routine became predictable. If the hounds marked to ground the huntsman would call for the terriers (horn call plus a phone call if he had a signal). On arrival of the quad bike the huntsman would take his hounds away – sometimes he would stay local, other times he would continue hunting elsewhere.

The Terrier boys would net some holes and additional support would stand around to keep watch on the earth and on the roads etc in case of police. Terriers with tracking collars would be put down and monitored with a locator from above ground. Once the terrier stopped the digging would start. We have seen terrier boys up to their waist in frantic attempts to get to the fox. If the fox bolts some holes had nets to catch the fox, others had spades in front. The ideal scenario for the hunt would be a fox trapped behind a spade ready to be released. Once trapped a phone call would be made to the hunt or someone sent off to find the huntsman. The huntsman would return with hounds (but not field).

"In order to bolster up our position we initially tried to block the sabs telling them it's private land, whoever the sab was that replied 'fuck off you blood junkies', I have to say you made our day – it was good to see that resilience..."

If the fox was in a position that would not provide a feasible good chase it would be 'chopped' by releasing it directly into the hounds. We witnessed this on a new years day meet, a meet that saw the hunt chase and kill 3 brace (We were able to intervene on 1 other that did get away) The final kill saw a dig out with a fox kept behind a spade in the earth until the huntsman returned when he did, with hounds, the fox was released directly into the pack to be killed. The terrier man was furious that he had spent so much time digging to simply have the fox 'chopped' in this way and not hunted, but he did not vent his anger to the huntsman, only to some of us support.

If a chase looked like giving some sport, it would be released with the hounds being about 20 metres away. As the spade is lifted the terrier boys holloa and the hounds pick up the scent and into cry. It was not all good 'sport' for the terrier man, on one occasion we witnessed a fox go to ground only for the huntsman to publicly chastise the terrier man for having not blocked up properly the night before, it was a savage attack on the terrier man involving a fair amount of abuse, but it did demonstrate that it was the hierarchy of the hunt that co-ordinated the dirty side of hunting, and that the lower ranks were extremely subservient to the masters.

What we wanted to do now was to start night time activities and surveillance and combine this with a day time presence with recording devices deployed in both situations, which we will explain in the final part...

PART III NEXT ISSUE

Mud, Sweat & Gears:

A Navigator's Story



Three years ago, I joined my local sab group and started off learning the crafts and skills of the foot sab from an experienced and supportive team. Some time later, I was asked to step in as navigator and this has been my weekly position in the group for the last few hunt seasons.

I wrote about my experiences as a new foot sab back then in HOWL, and now it's time to find the words which best paint a picture of the navigator's role.

The navigator is responsible for so many things within the vehicle and a good working relationship with the driver is essential. I've been really lucky as our driver has been sabbing for over 20 years, and from the start, gave me the time and patience to help me to prepare for (and get through) the demands of the day. My first day of navigating for our team was probably one of the most stressful I've had in a long time. Reading maps was not one of my strong points when I started off and I had never used a radio mike for communication either. Keeping an eye out for the hunt, for footpaths, listening for messages, for instructions from within the vehicle and noting the vehicles and behaviours of the foot support turned my role into what felt like a circus act of fire juggling and plate-spinning, but not with any kinds of plates I knew. But, like anything else, if you just keep on turning up and giving it a shot, you can make friends with a new thing and develop the skills to make it your own. So, this is my story as a navigator from two years in...

My first job of the day is to learn where the meet is, and to organise my map so that I have the meet and the surrounding land in sight for the day ahead. Achieving this can be more difficult than it sounds, as OS maps are not small, and sometimes I find myself doing a kind of origami-style manoeuvre with it until I get it how I want it. Once that is done, I spend some time looking at the area surrounding the meet, clocking the footpaths, the possible view points for the driver and I, and the wooded areas where the huntsman may take the hounds. I'll also make myself familiar with the road circuits so that I know how to get to key locations as quickly as possible - particularly in the event of shenanigans from the hunt's foot and vehicle support, which can include block-ins and road jams. It really is about thinking ahead and seeing the bigger picture.

> "As with every other role that goes to make up a sab group, the real satisfaction comes at the end of the day when the hunt goes home cold, bored and without the thrill of the kill that they came out to enjoy."



Another of my first jobs is to make contact with the driver and navigator of the teams we are working with on that day, as we will need to communicate between ourselves (by phone if the radios go out of signal) so that we can ensure an organised and systematic approach to supporting our foot sabs whilst keeping the huntsman as close as possible in our sights. We also ensure that the vehicle is able to receive radio messages from our foot sabs, although the terrain often makes this difficult to maintain at times. It is essential to fine-tune your listening skills as a navigator, as you have to listen to communication both within and between the vehicles, as well as to learn what to respond to and what to let go. Hunt saboteurs can be very funny, and it's a challenge at times to listen 'around' the banter and to ▷

▷ focus on what we are really there to do. I'd say that focus is at the absolute core of the navigator's role.

As we approach the meet, and throughout the day, I note down as many hunt-support vehicle details as I can. Later, home and dry, I input all the registration numbers into the DVLA database and complete the details (the make, model and colour) and add these to our records, all of which contribute to our ever-growing profile of each hunt. Sometimes a little reward awaits via the DVLA website, as un-taxed hunt support vehicles will be flagged up. Of course, it's our duty to uphold the law and so these irresponsible citizens have to be reported to the DVLA! Tut tut, indeed.

If you have a good visual memory, then the role of the navigator may well be for you, as being able to remember good turn-about points, laybys and view points all adds to the success of the day. Essentially, we want to be able to drop off and pick up our foot sabs whenever we are needed. Yes, there are times when that becomes difficult. If we've been blocked in or have to take a longer route back to them, then that can compromise things for a time; but again, good map reading, communication with the driver and the foot support all help us to make our way back to them and to drop them in where they are next needed.

The driver I work with has the enviable ability for thinking through the options of the huntsman and getting a feel for where he might take the hunt. Often, neatly parked up, we are there to watch the hunt move into their first territory of the day. There, we get to take note of the faces and horses of the huntsman and the whip. Horse colour is good to know for later distance-surveillance through binoculars. With landy windows rolled down slightly, we can also pick up on some of the chat of the riders as they pass and get some clues as to where then plan to go in search of Charlie Fox and his friends. It's always nice to keep them close and spoil their fun!

To capture the navigator's role in one bite then, 'multi-tasking' is the only phrase that really fits - with the emphasis on 'multi.' At times, it looks like this: one eye (or finger) on a paper map, one hand holding a mobile phone with the 'live' OS map, messages crackling in through the radio from other vehicles, other foot sab teams and our own sabs, listening out for hunting horn calls, watching/predicting the movements of the huntsman, keeping the landy doors locked when our lot get out and keeping watch over the behaviour of the oft-not-too-well-behaved foot support that are on the other side of the glass, as well as that of the vehicle support. If that's not enough, then add 20 or so hounds around the wheels of the vehicle and scatter a few more across a busy road to help the driver avoid (Henry Hunter doesn't often show too much care about these little ones, in truth) with a few large horses to boot, and there you have it - the navigator's day.

As with every other role that goes to make up a sab group, the real satisfaction comes at the end of the day when the hunt goes home cold, bored and without the thrill of the kill that they came out to enjoy. With all our muddy sabs safely back in the landy, the pieces of the day are put together as we share our stories and reflect on what went well. These are the navigator's last lessons of the day - all to be 'downloaded' and applied next time. Finally, the last job is to get us back to the pick-up places and to help everyone get home as quickly as possible.

Sabbing from the vehicle is being part of an organised, dedicated team of people who get themselves up and out to save lives every week. Yes, it is warmer and drier than foot-sabbing (and much less taxing physically). It is also less in-your-face in terms of contact with hunters, hunt support and the police most of the time, although it does have its hairy moments simply due to the types of people who are attracted to hunting.

For me, just 3 years in, navigating is painting the bigger picture of hunt sabbing in my head. When I go back out as part of the foot team, I'll take what I've learned with me - in or out of the vehicle - getting up and out to save Charlie Fox and her friends. After all, they are relying on us to be there for them, so what's a bit of mud, sweat and gears between friends?



sabgroupnews

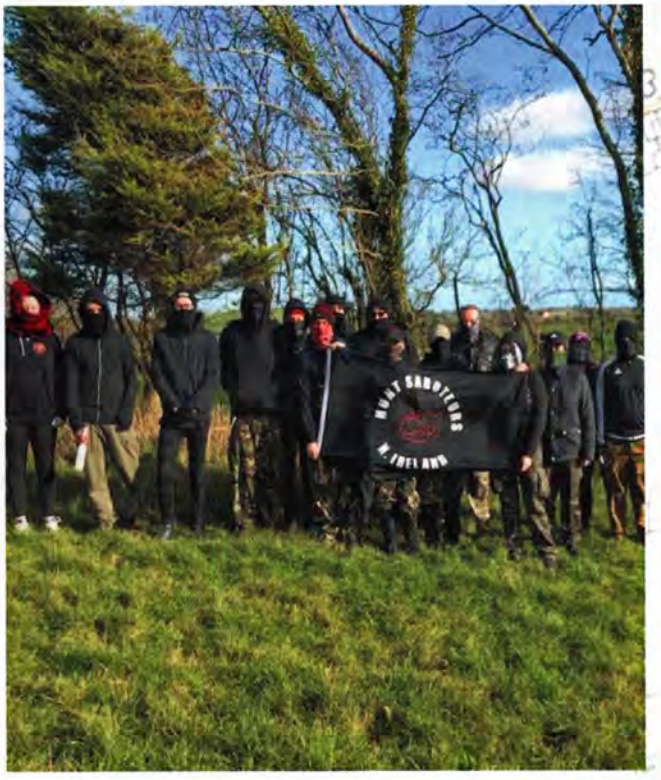


Northern Ireland Hunt sabs

huntsabni@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/Hunt-Saboteurs-NI-736001806448497/?nr

We have had great success and have set a new record in NI for a hunt calling it a day. On one of the days out sabbing the North Down Hunt, we consistently took the hounds off them and they were that fed up they called it a day just under 2 hours from when they started. They were disgusted but we were overjoyed!

Due to constant sabbing of this hunt, they have cancelled numerous hunts this season. We really believe that due to this it is only a matter of time before they close down. Which would again be a first for Northern Ireland.



In the second half of the season we hope that this will be the final nail in the coffin for the hunt. We also find the public we encounter are anti hunt, which is pleasing but not surprising. On one particular day the police were called for the hunt trespassing into someone's back garden! The police came out but we where saddened and disgusted to see they where more interested in talking to us and in fact never approached the hunt regarding the trespassing even though they told us that's why they where there. So it seems regardless where sabs go, the law always seems to support the establishment. Good luck to all sabs for the rest of the season.

Long run the fox,
Hunt Sabs NI



Bath Hunt Sabs

bathhuntsabs.wordpress.com
bathhuntsabs@yahoo.co.uk
Donate: ko-fi.com/bathsabs

There was no summer holiday for us as we focused on shutting down as many mink hunts as we could find, as well as sett surveying and sabbing the badger cull in the new North Wiltshire cull zone. We found setts filled in and discovered appalling breaches in shooting licences. We worked with fantastic local groups and were out day and night to sabotage the efforts of those who would trap and kill these beautiful and innocent creatures.

Before we knew it the cruel fox 'cubbing' season was upon us, where young hounds are trained to kill fox cubs. You may already know that the South Herefordshire Hunt were caught by the Hunt Investigation Team in 2016 feeding live fox cubs to their hounds. They were disbanded but have in fact joined up with the Ledbury Hunt to create what sabs have named the 'Ledbury South'. We decided to focus our efforts on thwarting their efforts to kill fox cubs, to show we haven't forgotten what they did. Joining up with Bristol, South Wales and Welsh Border Sabs, we sabbed the Ledbury South week after week, as well as paying a visit to the Beaufort Hunt with Cirencester Illegal Hunt Watch.

We were also busy fundraising and recruiting new sabs and ended the summer with an even fuller landy ready for the main season, which we started off with a successful sab of the Tedworth Hunt.

This autumn we have kept the momentum going, sabbing the Curre & Llangibby, the Berkeley, more visits to the Ledbury South and the VWH. With Bristol, South Wales & Severn Vale Sabs, we also paid attention to the elusive local hare hunting packs; the RAC Beagles, Severn Vale Beagles and Woolaston Bassets.

Thanks to everyone for your support, we couldn't do it without you!



Beds and Bucks Hunt Sabs

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

It's been an incredible busy time here at B&B Towers and we've been saving wildlife non-stop.

We ran successful operations against both the badger cull and our local hunts that were cubbing. Long hours, late nights, early mornings and many miles covered. We did what needed to be done although we feel for every life we couldn't save.

Our new sabs are coming along and learning quickly and more sabs in the fields mean more lives saved. We've continued with our success against the Oakley and have included regular hits against the Fitzwilliam with our neighbouring groups. Speaking of the Fitzwilliam, we have a final court date for our case against them and hope to secure a prosecution which could have much wider implications for other hunts across the country which cynically use the bird of prey exemption. We also caught them red handed hunting through the middle of a small rural village including private gardens and assisted the locals in evicting them. The video went viral and made national news which was a major embarrassment for the hunt who were forced to offer an apology although of course they tried to lie and blamed us!

We continue to foster a working relationship with our local police and hope for a continued improvement and as we have the overwhelming backing of the British public there would seem to be little option for the authorities.

We hit multiple hunts over the festive period although were unable to save the life of a young fox killed on Boxing Day at the Thurlow. Once again this made national news and local TV. We have however very damming footage and once again to bring them to justice for their crimes not only against the Hunting Act but also for assault against our sabs.

There will be more revelations in due course so stay tuned, exciting times at B&B.



Bristol Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/bristolhuntsaboteurs

Bristol Hunt Sabs were out every week of cubbing. We paid a lot of attention to The Ledbury South, a hunt made up of riders and staff from the South Herefordshire hunt who are still being investigated for feeding live fox cubs to their hounds. We worked closely with other groups and had some amazing moments sabbing them. We helped foxes to safety on numerous occasions and made sure the hunt was well and truly exposed online.

Cubbing also saw us visit the Cotswold Vale and introduce ourselves to their new huntsman by taking his pack off him for most the morning. Whilst we kept ourselves busy through the Autumn months, we still had a dedicated crew out doing their thing in the badger cull zones.

We managed to sab three opening meets this season, the first being the Ross Harriers where a fox was aided to safety. We shut down the opening meet of the Severn Vale Beagles and stopped them hunting and we also had a good day with the Tedworth Hunt.

We paid a few more visits to The Ledbury South before Christmas and also a few visits to old friends at The Curre and Llangibby. Our second visit to the Curre was short and sweet as the hunt packed up by 2pm. We also decided to focus on local hare-killers, the Severn Vale Beagles. They managed to give us the slip the first week but by the second we well and truly shut them down along with a rough shoot!

We managed a couple of visits to the Vale of White Horse hunt over the holidays and stopped the Woolaston Bassets from killing hares on Boxing Day.

We're storming into 2018 with more sabs, more experience and more knowledge of our local hunts than ever before. Shout outs to Bath, South Wales, Severn Vale, Southampton, Welsh Borders, Three Counties and all the other groups we've worked with.

Brighton Hunt Sabs

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

Although we predominately protect foxes, we have also been busy saving other species too. Whilst some of our group were sabbing the cub hunts, others were working around the clock sabbing the badger cull. We've stopped pheasant and partridge shoots too.

Every week can see us getting ridden at, vehicles blocked in, receiving abuse from the terrier boys, Neanderthal hunt support and drunken banshees on horseback. But that just means we're doing a good job, right?!

Our group become globally famous after one such incident of one of our sabs getting ridden into and a fellow sab taking control of the situation only to get assaulted by frantic whipping to his head. The psycho rider with the East Sussex and Romney Marsh Hunt is connected to royalty so it was no surprise when we were recently informed that no charges will be made due to 'insufficient evidence'. We've all seen the video, it went viral!

The pathetic police representatives continue to be biased towards the illegal fox hunters and contrary to hunt scum beliefs, we do all work, so we're really not happy to pay the incompetent police their wages.

We've had a few dedicated newbies join us and the camaraderie amongst our group certainly uplifts a cold, muddy, arduous sab!.

Cirencester Illegal Hunt Watch

Twitter: @cihwatch
CIHWatch@gmail.com
Donate: paypal.me/cihwatch



Protecting wildlife has been full on all year with no breaks. With the badger cull merging into cub hunting, then main season hunting there's no time to catch up. With the cull coming down to South Gloucestershire and Wiltshire, we were out busy checking known setts around familiar hunt territories and looking for new ones in new zones. We concentrated our efforts mainly in South Glos and North Wilts working alongside Gloucester Badger Office with local meetings, sett surveying days and leafleting. The total badgers killed of 19,274 makes grim reading if we are to believe DEFRA's data.

We were out with the Beaufort Hunt on their first cub hunt of the season. Where as it used be a dirty secret, they seem to be blatant these days and conveniently publish their cub hunting meets. At the start of the main season, we try to spread ourselves between the Beaufort, VWH and Cotswold Hunts frequently working alongside 3 Counties Hunt Sabs with N. Cotswold and Heythrop hunts. The number of blocked badger setts around hunts is increasing even though each one is reported to the police and monitored by the local Badger Trust group.

Like other groups we have attended Demos – Cirencester Park Country Fair, National Trust HQ Demo and the Boxing Day demo at Badminton Park. We are grateful to the talented person helping us with banners and merchandise to help with much needed funds for fuel, vehicle repairs and equipment.

We are glad to report that we have new members in our group and more and more people contacting us with info on meet locations and wanting to help in some way. If you would like to help us in any way please contact us on links above. Huge thanks to all our supporters.

Devon County Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/devoncountyhuntsaboteurs
twitter.com/devoncountysabs
devoncountysabs.wordpress.com
devoncountysabs@riseup.net

For the last few years, summer has meant the badger cull, starting with the long plod of sett surveying and culminating in an exhausting period of being out day and night when the shooting and trapping begins. We had four new zones to deal with here in 2017 on top of the existing three.

An array of patrollers and sabs spread across the county ensured it wasn't plain sailing for those in the dairy and shooting industries, not to mention the usual bloodsports junkies, whose clear intention is to see badgers all but wiped out. We tried to focus on where the most killing would take place, and minimum zone targets were only met in the end because they were revised downwards. In other words, they weren't met at all!



We had a healthy number of cubbing tip-offs this year and were able to sab several, including the South Tetcott, Eggesford, Tiverton, Stevenstone and Dulverton Farmers, often with the help of groups visiting for the cull. We want to pay particular tribute to Sheffield Hunt Sabs, whose dedication and stamina were an inspiration to us.

On Boxing Day we hit the Cotley, whose meet in Chard was joined by protesters. The violence we face and the total police inaction on all things related to illegal bloodsports is getting increased attention and more people outside the world of sabbing are starting to make a fuss.

It was a sad start to 2018 as the Silverton, who we're seeing a lot of this season, killed in front of sabs on New Year's Day. Initially their supporters accused us of producing a roadkill fox, but the huntsman, well aware of having been caught red-handed, has had to admit the kill to press and police.

Somerset Hunt Saboteur Group have been helpful recently with vehicle sharing and joint sabs. Our thanks to them and all who came down for the cull.

Derby Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/derbyhuntsaboteurs
derby_sabs@outlook.com

As the badger cull began, Derby Sabs headed in to the Cheshire cull zone, where they stayed there for almost 7 weeks. During this time, some quite concerning things happened. Not only did the police harass sabs, pulling their car over up to 3 times some nights for strange reasons (such as 'driving too carefully' or 'having a number plate that might get too muddy at some point') they threatened innocent people with arrest; making wild accusations, and most importantly failed to protect them when they were in potentially quite serious danger. One night during the cull, 3 people had a gun shot over their heads from a footpath in an attempt to threaten them, an immediate 999 call was made, yet no police came to the scene. It is quite scary to know the police won't show for badger protectors, even when their lives are potentially endangered.

Whilst out in the Cheshire zone, Derby Hunt Sabs started the season by also attending fox cubbing meets in the area. Once the cull ended, they travelled around to North Wales, Staffordshire, Derbyshire and more; working with various other groups up and down the UK. While down south, they got to team up with comrades they have previously worked with in the Gloucestershire cull zone.

The van has undergone some major repairs and is now back on the road. A new group logo has been created - a recreation of a well-known picture of a Derby Sab holding a saved fox.



Dorset Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/DorsetHuntSabs
dorsethuntsabs@riseup.net.

So far we have had a successful start to the hunting season. We have been joined by a couple of new recruits who have become invaluable members of the team. We had to spend a considerable amount of money on our Landy at the start of the season and we're very grateful for a grant from the HSA, a big thank you to them and all who donate. We still have some ongoing badger cull business to finish off which exposes a serious breach of the guidelines. Over the coming months we will be keeping the pressure on the hunts in Dorset and preparing for another badger cull. We have started sett surveying and are constantly checking known setts. If your in our area and want to get involved we would love to hear from you so please get in touch.

All of us at DHS wish everyone a happy and kill free new year.



East Kent Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/east.sabs
eastkenthuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk
Donate: paypal.me/EASTKENTHSA

So, as usual we lot of time with the ever dwindling East Kent with West Street Foxhounds (EKwWS), and took action many times during cubbing (on a couple of occasions when we arrived, the hunt didn't even attempt to hunt at all, just trotted around the lanes!) and into main season to protect the foxes they so excitedly hunted.

Other Saturdays saw us back at the Ashford Valley Tickham Hunt (AVT), who we started sabbing for a couple of hours one Saturday (saving one fox for sure), but after a tip off, we ended up with the nearby Bolebroke Beagles hare hunt, a very secretive hunt that we had not sabbed for 20 years! The huntsman did try to continue hunting, but was completely surrounded by sabs all day, so no hares were killed. A couple of our members also spent many hours in the SW badger cull.

An unpleasant day in December saw the EKwWS issuing threats to us all day, chasing the landy at high speeds on overcrowded quads, and of course, blatant illegal hunting. After sabs saved two foxes, the hunt retaliated by whipping and riding down sabs, then attacking them, leaving one girl hospitalised. They also stole and destroyed some equipment. It now looks like Kent Police are to take no action against the hunt, and instead are harassing sabs over alleged "public order" and "trespass" issues!

Boxing Day saw our annual demo against the EKwWS, and once more, hunt support was down in the square, and the hunt only managed around 30 riders....the terrier men taunted us at the start, but with 6 vans of cops there, we are sure they felt safe! We then travelled over to the Faversham public meet of the Blean Beagles, to find that once more, they had also cancelled!

So, a good first half, and with more new sabs coming out, we hope for an equally successful end of season, and no more kills!

Grampian Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/GrampianHuntSabs
grampianhuntsabs@yahoo.co.uk

With sabs fresh back from the badger cull, we set about preparing for a new season ahead joining up with our friends at Fife and Central Scotland Hunt Sabs and Glasgow Hunt Sabs to start the season at the Fife Foxhounds but also began to start making use of the good information coming in from the public and other sources about the Berwickshire Foxhounds who we targeted numerous times.

The more we focused on them, the more came to light how much of a shady fox hunt they really are, with suspected illegal kills and fake sponsors on their websites which resulted in the University of Edinburgh forcing them to remove their logo from their sponsors list. We started to ruffle quite a few feathers at this hunt which is Jamie Stewart's local and with Jamie being the head of Countryside Alliance Scotland, they weren't too pleased. One day out with them resulted in the body of a fox which we had been planning to hand over to the police being stolen from sabs by terriermen.



December was a very big month full of lots of actions which started off with the Royal Agricultural College beagle pack trying to sneak up to Scotland to come and illegally kill hares. They were extremely surprised on their very first day to find the local hunt sabs in the kennels with cameras making sure they knew that we found and exposed them for their secret illegal holiday. You can see more on our Facebook reports and on the HSA website.

Only a week after that, we had Scotland's first hunt sab festival where we were joined by a film crew from Unilad and spent three days in a row targeting Scottish fox hunts. See the separate article in this Howl mag to see how we got on and watch out for this documentary to air in 2018 and see a little more about how Scottish hunt sabs work.

Greater South London Hunt Sabs

www.southlondonhuntsabs.wordpress.com
www.facebook.com/southldnhuntsabs
Twitter: @SouthLDNHuntSab

This has been the strangest start to a season the group has ever known. Our old adversary Mark Bycroft, huntsman of the Old Surrey, Burstow and West Kent Foxhounds, has finally retired, although he still works as their stockman. He pulled up next to us whilst we were staking out during cubbing and had a (surreal) friendly chat with the sabs! His successor, Luke, previously First Whip with the Surrey Union, doesn't seem to have a clue, and even his own Red Coats are complaining openly in front of sabs how boring his trail hunting is.

After several weeks of enduring this boring debacle, our friends from other groups went off to find more challenging hunts, leaving us to mainly deal with the Burstow although we have also visited the Romney Marsh, Southdown and Eridge and Crawley and Horsham.

Altogether more excitement was had when the local mink pack was finally tracked down. They have resorted to hunting on Sundays, which meant that only one sab was available. Undeterred, he waded into the field armed with a video camera and a phone. The hunt immediately packed up, but the landowner decided to hit the sab with her stick whilst he was on the phone to the police. Plod eventually showed and threatened to arrest the sab for breach of the peace, but at least the hunt could do no more that day.

The dramatic end to last season ended up with Kim Richardson, Master of the Crawley and Horsham, being convicted of Causing Alarm, Harassment or Distress after threatening to ram his hunting horn down a sab's throat. He got a total of £3255 in fines, costs and victim surcharge, but has now appealed.

The high point of our season so far, was, however, the trip to France, which is reported elsewhere in this issue

Kernow Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/kernowsabs
kernowhuntsabs@riseup.net

Some of the Kernow team, like many other sab groups, were very busy during September and October with the badger cull. It was the second year for North Cornwall and we are sure more zones will be added to our county next year so we will be resuming surveying from January. We've had a surge of people enquiring about joining the group so we're arranging training to get them out with us and we're very happy with the new Landy. We also have a new member who has been running very successful online auctions to raise funds for the group.





Lancashire Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/lancashire.huntsabs

We started the season in August, visiting the Blencathra Foxhounds. We had heard that the Blencathra had killed a fox at Birkett's field during one of their 'autumn hunting' meets, and the huntsman had then disturbed a wasp nest, leaving him and another hunt member badly stung. Perhaps they should have taken the hint and given up killing wildlife, but they decided to continue with their vile activity. We then made sure that sabs were present at every meet of their Caldbeck week, and we also filmed Blencathra hounds chasing a fox at their Blencathra meet.

Contrary to their NPA licensing obligations, the Blencathra were also witnessed hunting illegally at Uldale, in the same area that they had killed a fox last year. Shocked members of the public also witnessed the fox attempting to escape from hounds at the waterfall, whilst the hunt quad rode around the fell tops, also in breach of National Parks Authority licensing obligations.

As the National Trust have brought in more stringent rules for hunts, this has meant that the vast majority of hunts have been unable to comply with terms and conditions and have been denied licenses or have refused to apply. The Blencathra is one of the latter, and they did a leaflet drop of local farms and landowners begging for land to hunt on as they have lost National Trust areas such as Newlands. However, it appears that United Utilities are now supplying hunts with extra meets.

We have also visited the Cheshire Hunt before Christmas and the Cheshire Forest twice, including New Year's Day at their Crowton meet with our colleagues from North Wales, Welsh Borders, Cheshire sabs and Cheshire Monitors. Lancashire sabs are committed to destroying hunting through sabbing, covert monitoring and other campaigns.

North Cambs Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/northcambssabs
northcambshuntsabs@gmail.com

We have been paying the Fitzwilliam Hunt more attention this season – as our local hunt, it'd be rude not to really. Beds and Bucks and Northants have provided us with invaluable help as we're clearly getting to the hunt. They have steadily descended down the path of violence and intimidation – using horses as weapons, employing thugs and generally making Phillip Baker's face get redder and redder as the season progresses – his like a scarlet hulk, powered by alcohol.

They haven't done themselves any favours – they were pictured hunting through a churchyard in Little Gidding – very respectful – and also chased a fox through the village of Upwood. The hounds raced through people's gardens and through village streets. Angry locals confronted the hunt, they were clearly not welcome, and as this is a very rural area, it totally shoots down the Countryside Alliance's view that hunting is a town versus countryside issue.

We have witnessed a kill from the bird of prey – we understand this is a first for sabs – and also a fox killed by hounds at the Thurlow on Boxing Day. There is an on-going investigation into the latter at the time of writing.

Cambridgeshire Police have, in the past, been very understanding, but recently we've seen them go down in our estimation – failing to deal with hunt support obstructing the highway, assaults, blocked badger setts and intimidating sabs for carrying bottles of citronella. We hope they revert to unbiased, professional policing soon. Suffolk Police were very helpful on Boxing Day.

After Christmas, a Fitzwilliam terrier man was witnessed speeding away from a freshly blocked badger sett – a clear sign that the hunt intended to break the law on that day – we will be keeping a very close eye on setts in their hunting territory over coming weeks.

Norfolk and Suffolk Hunt Sabs

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



Norfolk and Suffolk Sabs have been out in the fields every single week since the end of August and this season we have made a concerted effort to try and cover other hunts on our patch that do not normally get much attention. In September, we were joined by other local sab groups to hit the illusive West Norfolk Foxhounds at one of their cubbing meets. To say the hunt was surprised by our visit is an understatement.

We have also managed to fit in five visits to the Dunston Harriers who have clearly become sick of our attendance and have decided to call in some protection in the form of Norfolk Constabulary. Unfortunately, in November, one of our sabs was arrested for aggravated trespass at one of these meets. The case is yet to go to trial. Norfolk Constabulary clearly will have some explaining to do though for their use of the hunt's quad bike in order to arrest the sab in question.

Despite the fact that we have been covering extra hunts, we have also managed to still give a fair amount of attention to the Waveney Harriers and the Easton Harriers. Both of these hunts are also clearly pulling out the stops in order for us not to turn up. This only goes to show that they have something to hide.

Thanks so much to all our supporters for their help with information and donations this season. You know who you are and we couldn't do what we do without your brilliant support. Big, big thanks also to the HSA for the grant they provided to our group this season and the Lush in Norwich for hosting a charity pot event to support us.

Nottingham Hunt Sabs

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

Autumn saw us wave our tearful goodbyes as we split into two teams to help out in separate cull zones. Some of us stayed in Herefordshire for the second year whilst others headed further South to protect our stripey friends in one of the new Somerset cull zones. Despite being physically and mentally gruelling the cull did, as usual, have many positives. Working with great locals and getting stuck in on the ground to do everything in our power to protect this truly persecuted species was incredibly rewarding.



Once our 6 week hols were done and dusted we stormed (limped) back into action with our local hunts. The Meynell were so pleased to see us on their final cubbing meet that a little bit of wee came out! Even with us present they cubbed in the traditional manner. Using riders to surround coverts and maize fields to stop fox cubs fleeing the advancing hounds. Apparently having a bird of prey somewhere in the same county convinced the hunt that they were hunting within the law. 'Cos they heart us so much we've visited the Meynell a fair few times this season but we've also shared the love with visits to the Belvoir, Quorn, Fernie and Westerby Bassetts.

The Quorn rarely hunt Saturdays but when they occasionally venture out we feel it's our duty to give them a warm welcome. We feel they lived up to their proud heritage by thoroughly blocking any badger setts that interfered with their days hunting. With huntsman Peter Collins leaving at the end of the season we'll be keeping a close eye to see if they add Saturdays back on the meet card. If they do we'll be there!

Get in touch folks. It's a blast!

North Wales Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/Nwalessabs
northwaleshuntsabs@yahoo.com

Hi folks, we are as busy as ever here at North Wales Hunt Saboteurs. Straight from the badger cull in Cheshire, where we had a constant presence and straight into the hunting season. We've been covering hunts in North Wales and Cheshire, including the Flint and Denbigh Hunt the Cheshire Forest Hunt and the Cheshire Foxhounds.

We are also hoping to be going further afield in the New Year. In North Wales our main focus is the Flint and Denbigh Hunt. This season what we've witnessed is a bigger police presence. We've even had the rural crime team out gathering evidence and filming with drones. The police have managed to crack down on illegal use of quad bikes on the roads, we know the hunt are furious being under so much scrutiny, but it's still too early to know if the police presence is having a positive affect or not.

We've seen some brutal stuff in Cheshire this season and there has been some great evidence gathered, so maybe we'll be hearing some news on that in the near future. Cheshire is a very interesting place with locals standing up and protesting against the barbaric hunts. This is very much welcomed and the hunts are really showing their stress, this usually comes in the form of violence and currently there's a couple of ongoing cases of assaults on sabs.

Behind the scenes we've been working on badger persecution. We'll be able to say more on this next time after a high profile court case.

Until next time...
Love, North Wales Hunt Saboteurs

Perthshire Hunt Sabs

This season we have been focusing on the Fife Foxhounds. We filmed the hounds killing a fox at their opening meet, despite our footage which clearly shows that it was the hounds that killed the fox the police decided there was no case to answer and didn't investigate at all. With regular sab attention and cancelled days due to bad weather, the hunt have clearly been feeling the pressure with dwindling support and the huntsman on multiple occasions trying to use his horse to intimidate sabs. The huntsman has also been trying to disguise himself by switching from his usual red coat to tweed almost every meet this season, unsurprisingly it's fooling no one.

The hunt have been trying to win over new support in the Summer, at the start of the season we saw a large increase in the number of mounted followers but as the season has gone on the field has gotten smaller and smaller, even on Boxing Day and New Year's Day they had a small field. We had our most successful Boxing Day when we stopped them digging out a fox from a badger sett.

We are out at least once a week and our numbers are growing with new members.





Severn Vale Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/SevernValeSabs
severnvalesabs@gmail.com
Donate: ko-fi.com/severnvalehuntsabs

Severn Vale Hunt Saboteurs have had a good start to the season. After fighting against the senseless badger cull in several zones, we were out helping to stop hunts from carrying out their detestable activities. Our group is growing; with all the various, loathsome hunts around, you can never have enough sabs! We'd like to thank our supporters and the other established groups that have worked with us, notably South Wales, Bristol and Bath.

We have visited a variety of hunts, the hare and rabbit killing Severn Vale Beagles and Woolaston Bassets and foxhound packs, the Vale of White Horse, the Berkeley, the Curre and Llangibby, the North Herefordshire Hunt and the South Herefordshire/Ledbury. We've removed illegal traps and snares, disrupted shoots, caught hounds hunting (often across roads in front of traffic), seen foxes fleeing from imminent danger and a member of a hunt with blood on their face. We have exposed those who enable illegal hunting and we will carry on shaming these people. Until the hunting ban is strengthened and properly enforced, we will continue to fight against the cruel exploitation and persecution of animals. Please get in touch if you would like to join us or have any information about the hunts or badger killers.

Sheffield Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/sheffieldsaboteurs
sheffieldhuntsaboteurs@riseup.net

Firstly, we'd like to say a big thank you to our supporters, whose donations kept us sabbing when our Land Rover broke again and again. Without your continued support we wouldn't have had anywhere near as much success this season.

With a team of sabs constantly in the Devon cull zone, others up north were able to focus on cub hunting. Sustained visits to the Middleton resulted in them leaving a kennel meet without hounds! An unprecedented success, however this has provoked them into hiring private security, some of whom have SIA badges, but claim to be able to detain and assault people on public land. Next up, the Badsworth and Bramham Moor, who got sabbed during cubbing and the start of the season. We'd had trouble with their new terriermen, presumably brought in by new (to them) huntsman Nick Thornicroft. A violent gang of individuals who decided to throw rocks through West Yorkshire Sabs' van windscreen from a moving quad bike. The Badsworth, seemingly tried to distance themselves from this behaviour by hunting on the Sunday the week after. We found them. You should've seen their faces after what turned out to be a successful, but last minute, day for us, Notts and West Yorkshire!

Before Christmas, a Nottinghamshire local turned our attention to a local council meeting in Bawtry, where they were to discuss whether to hold the Boxing Day meet of the Grove and Rufford Hunt in the market square due to their conviction for illegal hunting this year. We worked with locals to campaign before and demo the meeting, resulting in the council refusing to host the Grove on Boxing Day! This lead to a demo at their rescheduled Boxing Day meet, where masked up quad bike riders, who were "nothing to do with the hunt" (hmm), ambushed our Land Rover, throwing bricks, smashing a window and denting bodywork. Again, thank-you to our supporters for donating to get the vehicle back on the road! Here's to the rest of the season.

South Coast Hunt Sabs

southcosthuntsabs@gmail.com
Donate:
paypal.me/SouthCoastHuntSabs

Following a successful cubbing (sabbing) season, things went from strength to strength each week being tipped off or locating the ever more secretive South East hunts. Needless to say with sabbing success comes the downside of irate bumpkins' fists and whips. All came to head when we found the East Sussex & Romney Marsh Hunt when one rider went full-on psycho and whipped one of our sabs numerous times after he had the temerity of trying to stop her riding down a sab. The video of this went viral, and we then had to deal with the general media all suddenly taking an interest, on their own terms of course and the video was cut to make us look bad and those journalists who wanted to come out thought they could make demands on when and how they did that. More jollity ensured when extra video was found of the same psycho rider call us 'the peasantry', a label we will wear with pride.

Since then, it has been the usual rounds of sabs being pushed in ditches, illegal quads and the lasts was one sab ridden into by a red coat and then arrested by Sussex plod for pushing the horse! He was released without charge but only after they had driven him 20 miles out of the area. He was happy as he found a pub while the rest of us waded through mud and hunter abuse. So a pretty normal season so far.

If this sounds like fun to you, drop us a line as you sound like just our sort of recruit.



South Wales Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/southwaleshuntsabs
southwaleshuntsabs@gmail.com

Since our last update, the 2017 badger cull has been and gone. We worked in two zones - Herefordshire and Wiltshire. In both areas we worked with old friends and made some great new ones. Special thanks to the folk who put us up and basically let us take over their homes with our kit and mud. Sabbing the cull is always really intense, hard work - it's also always inspiring and encouraging to see the way so many different types of people come together to fight this massacre. We do our best to save as many lives as possible and our skills and knowledge improve every year. Despite the number of lives lost, the roll out has failed, with the cull companies unable to hit their own minimum targets in 9 out of the 11 new zones.

Once we had scraped the badger poo from our boots, we started on the hunts. So far this season we have blessed the following organised criminal gangs with our presence - Banwen Miners, Curre and Llangibby, Ledbury South (a.k.a the dregs of the South Herefordshire cub killers), RAC beagles, Severn Vale beagles, Berkeley and the Vale of the White Horse. We've had some cracking days so far this season, helping wildlife to safety never gets old. And as ever we are enjoying working with the lovely folk from nearby groups. Award for most ridiculous sight of the season so far goes to the Banwen, who sent their oldest master out on foot for a 90 second shuffle with a hanky on a rope... as he wheezed his way back to the meet, the huntsman and hounds headed out for the day... yep you've guessed it - in an entirely different direction. Finally a hearty thank you to all our supporters - diolch yn fawr!



West Midlands Hunt Sabs

Facebook: facebook.com/WestMidsHuntSabs/
Twitter: @WestMidsSabs
westmidlandhuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk
07767620767

The Atherstone Hunt is still on life support as they do the bare minimum to keep the name going. At the beginning of the season we released an audio recording of the Atherstone Hunt's pre-season meeting in which they revealed that their governing body, the MFHA, has had enough of them and have refused to contribute towards the hunt's legal fees due to the vast amounts the Atherstone has cost them over the past few years. The audio recording also revealed that Leicestershire Police's wildlife officer Rob Cross attended the meeting and could be heard advising the hunt on what laws can and can not be used against hunt sabs.

The joint masters of the hunt can be heard in the audio recording repeatedly warning their supporters to keep out of trouble and behave themselves. A week later the hunt chairperson's son-in-law, Ashley Davies, was filmed attacking sabs and driving them down in on his quad bike. The incident is being investigated by Leicestershire Police who we fully expect to not investigate properly and drop the investigation which is what happened to a previous incident involving Davies running at us with an iron bar. We hold Leicestershire Police accountable for this escalation of violence.

Atherstone Hunt supporter John Hadfield was found guilty of criminal damaged after our dash cam caught him taking out a penknife just moments before our tyre was slashed. He was sentenced to 18 months conditional discharge, £625 costs and £64 compensation.

A month later Atherstone Hunt director Pete Taroni was found guilty of assault after bashing a female sab over the head with a riding crop which required hospital treatment. He was also found guilty of disorderly conduct likely to cause harassment alarm or distress after spitting and using homophobic language. Finally, he was also convicted of three counts of missing bail. He failed to attend his trial and there is now a warrant out for his arrest after he went on the run. This brings the total convictions for the Atherstone Hunt up to 20 in the last few years.

Three Counties Hunt Sabs

www.network23.org/3CHuntSabs
vimeo.com/threecountiessabs
threecountiessabs@live.co.uk
07891 639803
PayPal.me/threecountiessabs

As the area we operate in has covered several badger cull zones for years now the summer was spent sett surveying new areas and checking setts we have known for years across the zones alongside other autonomous groups. This includes cataloguing sett blocking, predawn patrols and post hunt sett checks to deter the blocking of badger setts by hunts (to stop foxes escaping down them). We were busy in the old West Gloucestershire zone, North Cotswolds and North Wiltshire fighting the cull and sabbing cub hunting. Bumping into the same people day riding out with a hunt and by night shooting badgers/spotting for shooters /trapping/driving dangerously continues as it has done for the last 5 years. This year the royal family joined in with the culling with Prince Charles and Princess Anne signing up and cull activity being found on their land.

The Ledbury, are now hunting in old South Herefordshire country. The SHH are not allowed to hunt their own country due to shocking footage obtained at the kennels in which 2 fox cubs were seen grabbed by their scruffs into the hound's lodges alive and come out dead and half eaten. Case still pending. Meanwhile the rebranded "Ledbury South" are now out chasing and killing foxes in that area. As the Ledbury are one of our main packs we have assisted Welsh Borders sabs in keeping up the pressure. And yes, the Ledbury are notorious badger sett blockers.

In the North Cotswold areas the North Cotswold Hunt and the Heythrop have been sabbed on numerous occasions and to the South Cotswolds we have assisted Cirencester Illegal Huntwatch with the VWH and Beaufort so far this season.

West Sussex Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/westsussexhuntsabs
Twitter: @Wsussexhuntsabs
07871569494

It's been a long, arduous and often hazardous season so far for our small group, and the other groups who have so often joined us. We have focused on the Crawley & Horsham Hunt who openly disregard the hunting ban and continue to illegally hunt foxes. This is with impunity, as the police seem to have no desire to intervene and investigate when justifiable complaints are made to them of illegal hunting. We caught this hunt several times during the cubbing season surrounding various copses and woods. Riders were banging their saddles while hunt staff were inside the wood screaming and whistling; it was disturbing to see a young child on horseback banging his crop against a telegraph post, this is illegal cub hunting.

Throughout the season, certain members of the C & H have been violent, intimidating and abusive. In October, the C & H Huntsman, Kim Richardson, was found guilty and fined for his aggressive and threatening behaviour towards a Croydon Hunt Sab. During the 2016/17 season, we have been ridden at by hunt staff on quad bikes, spat at and humiliated. They have used their horses as weapons to stop us filming illegal hunting, and harassed and abused us at every opportunity. This is because we have managed with luck and judgement to attend nearly all of the meets so far this season, and we have done our very best while out to protect wildlife.

We watched as the hunt laid pretend trails, and witnessed with despair and disbelief (maybe not disbelief) as sabs were arrested due to false claims of assault by the hunt. We still have a couple of months ahead of us, thank you to all the groups who have helped us and to all our supporters.





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 prisoners. Remember all correspondence is read by prison staff. Also don't expect a reply as there is a limit to the number of letters each prisoner can write.

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

Joseph Buddenberg #12746-111
FCI Victorville Medium I, Federal Correctional Institution, P.O. Box 3725, Adelanto, CA 92301, USA.
In early 2016, Joseph Buddenberg and Nicole Kissane signed non-cooperating plea agreements in which they pled guilty to Conspiracy to Violate the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act. Joseph and Nicole were accused of releasing thousands of animals from fur farms, and causing damage to associated businesses in 2013. Joseph was sentenced to 2 years in prison. Nicole was sentenced to 21 months in January 2017.

Nicole Kissane #20651-111
MCC San Diego, Metropolitan Correctional Center, 808 Union Street, San Diego, CA 92101, USA.

Sven van Hasselt A3021ED
HMP Winchester, Romsey Road, Winchester SO22 5DF
Sven was sentenced to 5 years in prison for 'Conspiracy to Blackmail', accused of attempting to close down a notorious animal testing laboratory in the UK, Huntingdon Life Sciences (now rebranded Envigo).

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."

Brian Vaillancourt #M42889
Danville Correctional Center, 3820 East Main Street, Danville, IL 61834, USA
In February 2014, Brian was sentenced to 9 years in prison for a McDonald's arson.

COMPIEGNE STAG DO



Ever since we first started working with French sabs in 2012, a top target has been the thoroughly disgusting former Royal stag hunt near Compiègne. This hunt was closed down after the French Revolution, but was revived after the Second World War by the wealthy Rothschild family.

For the last six years the HSA has been developing links with existing sab groups around the world and providing training for newly established groups outside the UK. This has been protracted, and at times, frustrating process, with new groups emerging but then not being sustainable. Sabs abroad are usually having to outcome far greater difficulties than us in terms of terrain and legislation. In Canada and the USA, sabbing can mean trips lasting several weeks into the wilderness, and in many counties sabbing a hunt is illegal and can incur massive fines.

The Belgian Hunt Sabs have proved to be one of the most dependable groups abroad. Despite the risk of a 10,000 Euro fine, they have found ways of disrupting shoots and gathering information on illegal activity by the hunters for the last three years. One of their sabs was seriously injured when they visited the UK for what turned out to be a lively day on the Southdown and Eridge, but they were not deterred and have continued to sab regularly. We were very pleased when they offered to help us train a new group in Northern France in the Spring.

Ever since we first started working with French sabs in 2012, a top target has been the thoroughly disgusting former Royal stag hunt near Compiègne. This hunt was closed down after the French Revolution, but was revived after the Second World War by the wealthy Rothschild family.

The hunting ground is a huge forest with some steep and difficult terrain. The first French group we worked successfully blockaded their kennels and prevented them from hunting on one occasion, but then found a large and unhelpful Police presence on their next visit. Several sabs were arrested and the group dissolved.

"The State of Emergency following the Paris terrorist attacks made it very easy for the authorities to clamp down on animal rights protestors."

Two sabs travelled to Paris and spent two days working with a new sab group there. Some of their sabs joined us for a day on the Old Surrey and Burstow to gain experience. On their return to France they had a successful days sabbing, but then came a 'disaster', in their words. Gradually contact was lost and it looked as if hunt sabotage had fizzled out in France. The State of Emergency following the Paris terrorist attacks made it very easy for the authorities to clamp down on animal rights protestors.

About a year ago, another new group emerged in Picardie. Many of them live in villages in the Foret de Compiègne region where the stag hunt regularly runs riot. They managed to follow the hunt and film Drack, the huntsman, make three bodged attempts at killing a stag before the hounds finally brought it down. They contacted the HSA and the International Officer travelled to France in April to give a presentation and train the local sabs. The Police found out about the presentation and banned it on the grounds that the hunters had threatened violence, but the resourceful local sabs simply found a secret venue and the presentation went ahead.

The Belgian sabs joined in the training session in the forest and soon got to put their skills to good use when a shoot started nearby. The sabs split into two groups and closed in on the guns. As one team got near, a man with an air horn ran by. Immediately, the guns fell silent and the other sab team reported seeing an irate group of hunters leaving. It seems that the shoot had been taking place illegally out of season, but it gave the French sabs a big confidence boost to have been in action.

The Picardie group gathered support and even found members of the old Paris group.

Their cause was much aided when the hunt killed a stag in a front garden against the wishes of the householder, and with Police preventing the sabs from intervening. This horrific event was widely reported in the French media. ▷



▷ A poll showed 84% of French people opposed to Hunting with Hounds.

The French sabs identified a joint meet of the 'Futaie des Amis' and another pack and requested assistance from other groups. Teams travelled from Belgium and the UK to help them.

For the team from Britain, this would be a long day! We set out from London at 4am and, after suffering a long delay at the Channel Tunnel, finally arrived in Compiègne at 11am. The hunt had just set out, and the French and Belgian sabs were on them. It was bitterly cold and the ground was frozen hard, so we were very surprised that the hunt could ride. After a few minutes, our French transport arrived and we were driven into the forest. The local sabs had a rough location for the hunt, and moments after being dropped off we heard the hounds in cry.

Stag hounds have a much deeper cry than the English fox packs we are used to, but the urgency in the note was unmistakable. We soon met up with one of the French sabs we knew from the April visit, and after a lung busting run through dense undergrowth we were close enough to use the gizmo. This had an immediate effect, and we quickly had about half the pack. We were expecting some serious opposition from the hunters and the police, but plod were nowhere to be seen and the hunters just seemed bemused by the presence of nearly 60 sabs. The next 45 minutes was spent with the huntsman slowly gathering his hounds.

Unlike British hunts, the huntsman does not stay that close to his hounds as they chase the fast deer through the dense forest. The hunters exploit the numerous bridleways and seem to change horses frequently with their horseboxes following them though the day. When we finally lost the hounds we got back to the vehicles.

A report came over the radio of huntsman Drack's horsebox in a nearby village. Sure enough, Drack had just changed horses and initially rode straight at us, although he changed his mind at the last minute. Unfortunately, ours was the only car to have reached the village, so just three of us went into the woods, where all hell broke loose. The hounds were in full cry to our left. Two deer shot across our path left to right, with hounds close behind. Again, the gizmo saved the day, with the entire pack wheeling to their right and following the sabs for nearly a mile until they ran into the hunters on a bridle path.

With the hounds back with the hunt, the scattered sabs had to regroup and locate their vehicle, but a larger group of sabs had gathered near the village and were able to intercept the hunt again.



One of the French sabs had seen the deer that were being chased by the hounds and told us there was a stag and a fawn with them.

The hunt had covered a huge distance, so we rejoined our vehicle, but the hounds were a long way from the nearest road. Again our vehicle was first on the scene, but other UK and Belgian sabs caught up with us just us we found the hounds again. The third and final use of the gizmo again yielded results with the pack well split, but the huntsman was close and there was a duel between our gizmo and his hunting horn which he eventually won.

Drack lead the hounds along a long bridleway to the road, where he was heard complaining bitterly to the French sabs that they had spoilt his day and stopped him killing!

With dark falling and the weather closing in, the British sabs regrouped and decided to head for the coast. This turned out to be a good decision as heavy snow and ungritted motorways made for a hair-raising journey back to Calais. The French sabs phoned to tell us the hunt had ended without a kill and steam coming out of Drack's ears!

The French sabs have kept up the pressure on the Futaie des Amis and elsewhere in France the inhabitants of a village, including the Mayor, stood in front of the hunt for two hours after they cornered a stag in a garden. The hunt eventually left and the stag walked off into the forest unharmed.

France is one of only two countries in Europe where hunting with hounds is still legal, but the tide is beginning to turn. We look forward to our next visit to Compiègne and to stamping out this evil once and for all.



FUNDING FOR COURT CASES

Government funding for Legal Aid has been cut over recent years, which means many hunt saboteurs have to pay more for both criminal and civil court cases than before. Often the costs are difficult to cover, causing stress as well as financial hardship.

As sabbing is generally a team effort, I believe it is important no-one should be left to face unaffordable legal costs alone. This article discusses defending criminal cases, when a sab has been arrested, and a later article will look at funding civil actions against police and hunters.

(This information is only valid in England and Wales. Parts will be relevant in other countries, but Legal Aid and court cost rules differ in other countries.)

FREE SOLICITOR AT THE POLICE STATION

You are normally entitled to talk to a solicitor at the police station when you are arrested. This can be a solicitor of your choice, so make sure you know who is the sab-friendly solicitor in your area. **Duty solicitors can be rubbish or hunters - do not use them.** Sometimes you can only speak on the phone, but sometimes the solicitor or their agent will come in to the police station and you can chat in private. Either way, it is highly recommended to use this free legal advice while in custody. If you have the brainpower at the time, try to ask questions to make sure you are clear about the important aspects of the charges you may face, get as much legal advice as possible. If you are too exhausted or stressed, don't fret – you can catch up later.

LEGAL AID

This is always the first option to explore. It means the state pays your solicitor's costs. (The solicitor still works for you). If you are on a very low income, the whole cost will be paid by Legal Aid. However, those on a moderately low income will have to pay contributions to cover a proportion of the cost. The amount is calculated according to your individual circumstances, taking into account your income and savings against expenses such as supporting children.

However, the contributions you are expected to pay can still run into thousands and be more than really affordable. Often this is because owning property counts as savings but obviously isn't available cash. If you earn over about £22,000 you are less likely to get any Legal Aid, but it does depend on individual circumstances. Your solicitor can tell you whether to apply for legal aid and help out with the form. A common mistake with these forms is to forget some of your essential expenses, or not to take advice about complicated domestic arrangements. ▷



▷ Your solicitor should be able to help a bit but advice services such as the Citizens' Advice Bureau can help fill in the form to best represent your situation.

If you are required to contribute to the Legal Aid bill, you can arrange to pay this in instalments. As with any finances, they get upset if you don't pay on time, but it is always better to talk to them if you have problems. Legal Aid also depends a bit on how serious the charges against you are. You get more help for more serious charges. If you can't afford your contributions or you don't qualify for legal aid at all, there are some more options to help.

NEGOTIATING WITH SOLICITORS

There are a few solicitors who can and will sometimes kindly reduce their rates for hunt saboteurs. I don't think we should demand and expect this, as they need to earn a living and keep the business afloat, but if there looks like a chance then why not ask nicely. Ask the HSA Legal Officer (legal@huntsabs.org.uk) if you need to find out more about this.

FUNDRAISING

Legal fees tend to run into thousands of pounds so I suggest separating legal fundraising from your normal fundraising appeals because it is so much. But I see no reason, normally, why a sab group should not appeal for legal funding. You can do this through all the normal channels, but there is a website called CrowdJustice, which is specifically set up for this. You write about why you are fundraising and donors can see how the appeal is doing against the target, much like GoFundMe and similar sites you will probably have used. A major difference with CrowdJustice is that the money pledged goes directly to the solicitor, which gives donors confidence and saves you some irritating bookkeeping too. There's also professional support in using the site, including advice on promoting your page. Whatever fundraising channels you use, take a bit of time over the blurb explaining the case. Remember most people won't have any idea about the background to it at all. Then when you have that down word perfect, and some suitable picture, you need to put a lot of work into publicising your appeal everywhere, to your loyal supporters and to new ones. After launching it all with a big fanfare, keep pushing it at every opportunity and update followers on the progress. The HSA Legal Officer (legal@huntsabs.org.uk) and Social Media Officer (socialmedia@huntsabs.org.uk) can help with this stuff.

REPRESENTING YOURSELF

Although last on the list, I wouldn't always leave this as a last resort. Speaking for yourself in court, rather than using a solicitor, is probably a daunting challenge but it can be really satisfying and get good results. You do not need to have any legal training or special skills, just determination. If you are thinking about doing this you'll need to do some more research but here are a few points to consider:

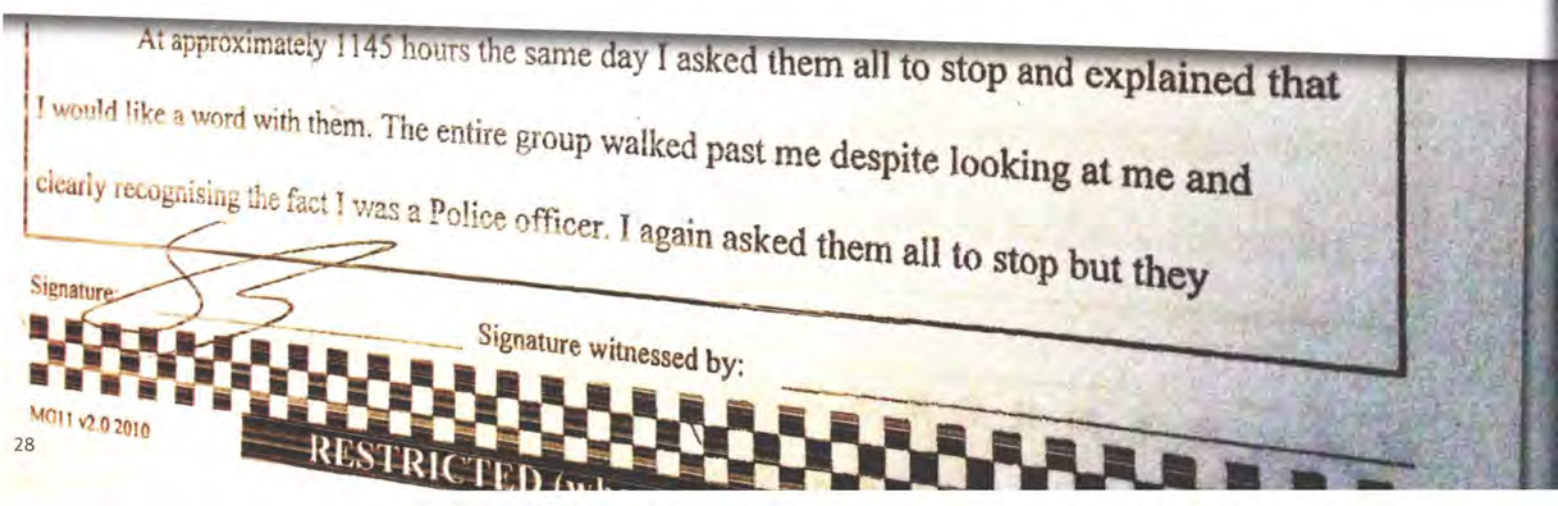
- Self represented defendants can get away with saying things lawyers can't and so it can be a useful tool if you want to make the trial 'political.' Judges, court officials and even the prosecuting barrister have a duty to act 'in the interests of justice' so must allow you a bit more time than a professional, and make allowances for your inexperience.

- You have the right to have a friend with you in court to help. This person is called a 'Mackenzie friend' because the case where this was established was for someone called Mackenzie. They are not allowed to address the court directly but can discuss quietly with you what you will say. They also help take notes and organise all your paperwork.

- If you are passionate, strategic and able to speak in front of strangers, then you may feel you can make your point better than a solicitor speaking for you, who was not there and may not understand as much about hunting and hunt sabotage as you.

On the other hand, there is always the possibility you won't do such a good job as someone who has trained in law for years and is used to the courtroom and forms. Also, you will need to spend a fair load of time on putting together your case, both evidence and researching the legal background. There will still be some costs, like printing and travelling. A good support network is very useful.

While this has all been about the financial strains of court cases, we need to remember court cases can also be emotionally and practically consuming too. I think it's important for sab groups to make sure those who have been arrested are supported right through the process. Things I have found helpful as a defendant or done for my friends include being someone to talk to, or someone to forget about it all with, helping with childcare around court, going to court with the defendant, making special treats for the defendant, lending court clothes or arranging the transport. Just remember to check in with the defendant what they actually want!



save us some dosh if you're moving!

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

Please make sure we have your current address!





HELP SAVE A LIFE AFTER YOUR DEATH

REMEMBER THE HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION IN YOUR WILL

You may think that it is not worth your while making a Will but you may be surprised at how much you are worth, especially if you own your own home. Most people in this country die without making a Will and that means that the government gets more than their fair share. Making a Will need not be complicated or time consuming and it could save your loved ones a lot of unnecessary heartache. If you do not have a Will when you die there is no guarantee that those closest to you will benefit from your wealth and property. In addition, many people like to know that the organisations they support whilst alive will continue to benefit after their death.

The Hunt Saboteurs Association relies entirely on the generosity of its membership to function. As the organisation strives to function on minimal running costs more of the money coming in can be put to good use where it counts most – in the hunting field. Leaving a gift to the H.S.A. in your Will helps to ensure that the good work carried out by active hunt saboteurs can continue. With a ban now in place, and so many hunts blatantly flouting it, the role of sabs has never been more important, so your gift will still be put to good use – the HSA will continue until no sentient creatures are abused in the name of sport.

A Will is a legally binding document and needs to be prepared properly. The services of a solicitor should be employed. A solicitor is the only person who can give professionally qualified advice. Have a look in Yellow Pages (under 'Solicitors') or call the Law Society on *020 7242 1222*. If you already have a Will you can include a gift to the H.S.A. by adding an amendment (known as a 'codicil') – you will need to consult your solicitor about this.

If you are able to remember the H.S.A. in your Will it would help if you could let us know.

I plan to / have already prepared a Will and have remembered the Hunt Saboteurs Association as follows (please tick as appropriate):

☐ **Residual Legacy** - a percentage of my estate once my family and friends have been provided for.

☐ **Pecuniary Legacy** - a cash gift of £.....

☐ **Specific Gift** - an individual item of value e.g. jewellery.

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Signature.....

Date.....

HOW YOU CAN HELP END BLOODSPORTS

Organisations such as the Countryside Alliance are backed by some of the richest people in Britain, and can spend millions on advertising and paid campaigners. Their wealth and power gives them a stranglehold over most of the media and some of the most influential people in government.

The Hunt Saboteurs Association, in comparison, runs solely on funds from you, the public, who keep the organisation afloat with donations and membership. It depends on the small band of volunteers who give over their spare time to keep the HSA running smoothly, 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 Justice Project
www.animaljusticeproject.com

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, 27 Old Gloucester Street, London WC1N 3AX
Tel: 0300 111 0501 admin@seashepherduk.org
www.seashepherd.org.uk

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

Obituary



In Memory of Sue Hardie
12th July 1956 – 7th December 2017

Sue Hardie died from motor neurone disease on the 7th December 2017. Sue was affectionately known to her fellow sabs as 'Aunty Sue' or 'Anti Sue' and joined Berkshire Sabs in 2013 after joining badger groups following the start of the cull. Sue came to be a much loved member of her group and was an active member until her illness prevented her.

Sue was also well liked throughout the anti-hunt community, having worked with many other groups to save badgers and other wildlife from persecution.

Some of our fondest memories of Sue is her being sat in a car getting a mouthful of abuse from a hunt person outside her window. She wound down her window and asked him "is that the best you've got, you sad old bastard?" Sue's confidence and low tolerance for nonsense had everyone present in stitches. Another sab remembers one special moment whilst stopping at Stonehenge after a sab and a raven flew over and ate some food from their hands. Another memory is of her stoic and fearless driving of a minibus full of sabs at Alston hare hunting festival.

Sue had requested that donations were made in her memory to the Hunt Saboteurs Association via the website or the collection box at her funeral.

Sue was a great friend and dedicated animal rights activist and she will be sadly missed.



HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION

HSA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

9th June from 12 noon
Jacksons Lane
269a Archway Road
Highgate
London
N6 5AA

www.jacksonslane.org.uk

Presentation by
Joe Hashman
founder of 'Hounds Off'

All members
and active sabs welcome



www.huntsabs.org.uk