The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association Summer 2018 (Issue 117) £2 (free to members)

HOWL

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

In the hunt, undercover - Part III



Beagling exposé

Back in the day: Ytene mink hounds

Ladders & larsen traps

Group news





LETTER FROM THE CHAIR:

I've been pondering the nature of evil recently and, in particular, the question of whether hunters are actually "evil." The very word has connotations that I am not keen on and is usually reserved for the most heinous of crimes unless, of course, you write for the tabloids. I recently finished a book on the subject: essentially, it comes down to a question of empathy. Although the book did not mention animals as such, it points out that a signifier of low empathy is the ability to harm animals. This does not mean that those involved in animal abuse cannot feel empathy for their loved ones, but their circle of compassion is so limited that it rarely extends beyond those closest to them. This makes perfect sense when you consider hunting: seriously injured riders are left untreated while the rest of the hunt moves on unaffected; their treatment of hounds injured on the day and their slaughter when they start to slow down. Also consider the general infighting within the hunting community which gets very vicious, very quickly. So, although I am still reluctant to call hunters evil, I believe they are limited in empathy and that their lives are the more limited because of it.

That very low-empathy organisation the Countryside Alliance (CA), are currently trying to make media noise with their tedious 'Rural Oscars', basically a way to push their 'we are not just about killing animals' agenda. Last year one of the awards went to a company smack bang in the heart of Lewes, East Sussex, a town of 16,000. Their definition of the term "rural" is clearly quite wide!

When discussing the CA we need to start pointing out that they are a violent organisation. They actively promote violence towards animals and do nothing to prevent violence to their opponents. Sabs are unfortunately regularly the target of hunter's violence, but so to are Protect our Wild Animals (POWA) monitors, League Against Cruel Sports (LACS) monitors and, at times, even members of the public who dare to oppose them. Not once I have seen the CA make a statement against such violence. The standard response from local hunts is that any violence was due to 'provocation', as if someone stopping you killing an animal illegally is enough justification to beat them up, smash their vehicles or ride horses over them. So, the next time you are arguing with anyone about blood sports and the CA comes up, point out to them that this organisation supports violence against animals and humans.

In February I was pleased to be able to host a founding member of Melbourne Hunt Saboteurs for two weeks. The group is now in its second season and is growing in strength promising to make life hell for Melbourne hunters. Two weeks was not long but, despite the snow, we were able to get him out on quite a few hunts and one hunt ball demo, as well as introducing him to the delights of malted vinegar on chips and pickled onions - two culinary delicacies that are sadly unavailable in Australia! We have over the past few years played host to a number of sabs from France, Belgium, Sweden and Germany proving that compassion knows no boundaries.

Finally, I need to report that we have lost another brave warrior for animals. Anna Campbell was killed in Rojava by a Turkish missile, while fighting with the Women's Protection Units, a Syrian-Kurdish militia group fighting for a secular, democratic and egalitarian region, with equal rights for women, and against ISIS, Syrian and Turkish troops. I sabbed with Anna on more than one occasion as she had been active in the south east before moving to Bristol. My first real contact with her was shortly after I had been seriously injured by a group of hunt terriermen and was unable to call for an ambulance. She was one of two sabs first on the scene and gave me first aid while an ambulance was called. As we waited, a quad bike of more hunt supporters arrived to offer more threats and jeers while I was unable to move. She stayed with me, facing them down, until more sabs arrived and they left without further violence. She will be sorely missed by those who knew her and by the animals and people she dedicated her life to protecting with such bravery, compassion and dedication.

HSA Chair



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
Confidential Tip-Off Hotline: 07443 148 426

The Hunt Saboteurs Association has been in existence for over 55 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 Ed
Contributors All groups who sent group news in.
Photos Front cover: Berkshire hunt sabs stacywoolhousephotography.weebly.com, richardbowlerwildlifephotography.com HSA Archive, Sab groups all over the country - Ta folks!
Distribution HSA
Big taverymuch to: all HSA members & anyone who we've pilfered stuff off and forgotten to credit.



INSIDE

It's My Party And I'll Cry If I Want To
Sabs spoil huntsman's leaving do.....4

Ladders & Larsens
Severn Vale sabs tell all.....6

Hares, Hounds & Red Herrings
Beaglers exposed again.....8

In The Hunt, Undercover - Part III
Sabs infiltration and exposé.....10

Group News.....13

Support Animal Rights Prisoners.....25

Back In The Day:
'90s Ytene Mink Hunt sabs.....26

Useful Addresses/Membership.....30

Obituary: Chris Kneath.....31

Copyright: All material in Howl is anti-copyright (unless otherwise stated) and indeed we would encourage its repetition elsewhere. Please do remember to credit us (or the appropriate stated source) should you reproduce what you see here. Ta.

The views express in Howl do not necessarily reflect those of the editor(s) or the Hunt Saboteurs Association Committee. Nothing printed should be construed as HSA policy unless so stated. Nothing in Howl should be taken as encouragement to commit illegal acts.

Howl is printed on 100% recycled paper using vegetable inks.

EDITORIAL

As always it is incredibly inspiring to read of our core work in Group News: our week-in, week-out forays to save lives in enemy territory. As usual, it is the fox hunters who have borne the brunt of our activities. In the final part our exclusive exposé - In The Hunt, Undercover - the brave activists who infiltrated the Pytchley explain how hunting is not the random pursuit of foxes (though that would be bad enough), but a highly-organised conspiracy that involves the trapping, feeding and rearing of fox cubs to provide "sport" for the paying hunt subscribers to enjoy.

This is not to say that the hare-hunting beagle and basset packs have got off lightly. Many groups have found their local foot packs and the picture is always the same: a dwindling band of ageing supporters perform the ritual "walk of shame" at the first sign of sabs. However, you can read about an unusually lively basset sab in "Its My Party..."

With summer here, mink hunt sabbing is already underway, with several packs having been hit. Like their beagling mates, the mink hunters almost always about-turn back to the meet when sabs show up. Our "Back in the Day" feature on the Ytene MH reminds us that this wasn't always the case - they are weak now because sabs stood up to them when they were strong.

Of course, we fight all forms of wildlife abuse and Severn Vale sabs have written a very timely article on Larsen and ladder traps. These hideous devices are less well-known than snares or spring traps but are, if anything, even more lethal. Trapping is also a feature of the badger cull and, as we go to press, this cruel and discredited scheme has been rolled out across the country. Sett-surveying in the new zones has been going on for months and sabs stand ready to fight the cull. If any good can come of this tragedy, it is that many more people will be drawn into the fight for our wildlife.

Very sadly we have lost two sabs this year, "Old Man Chris" Kneath and Anna Campbell. Chris was a veteran activist with decades of involvement in sabbing, animal rights and other causes. Those who knew Anna as a courageous and dedicated sab (see Letter from the Chair) were unsurprised when she decided to fight for her beliefs in one of the most dangerous places on Earth. This edition of HOWL is dedicated to their memory.


Leadon Vale Basset makes a new friend

Editor's Note

HOWL is your magazine and the mouthpiece of active hunt saboteurs everywhere.

Please ensure your voice is heard: send Group News, articles, photos and any other items of interest to howl@huntsabs.org.uk to arrive no later than 1st. September 2018.

Please also get in touch if you have ideas for content but are not sure how to proceed. We can't promise to include everything but we'll have a look and, if it's bad enough, we'll publish it.

IT'S MY PARTY AND I'LL CRY IF I WANT TO

Sabs Give Mike Smith The Send-Off He Deserves



Hunt thug snaps a useful photo of some vegan sausage rolls

One of the very first tip-offs we received on our new hotline (see back page - Ed.) was about a possible hunt from an Oxfordshire pub on 17th March. A follow-up phone call to the pub, The Sow and Pigs at Poundon, confirmed that they would indeed be hosting two hunts: the Four Shires Bassets and the Old Berkeley Beagles.

These two packs are kennelled together at Whitchurch and looked after by OBB huntsman Mike Smith. It appears that the joint meet was a send-off for Smith, who is heading north next season to hunt the North Yorkshire's Ampleforth Beagles.

With our invitations having got lost in the post, we had no option but to gatecrash the party. It was an intensely cold day - a last growl from the Beast From The East - but that did not deter a good crew of sabs assembling to save hares.

"Four Shires master Rupert Burchett hauled the bassets into the hound van but it was poor old Mike Smith who was ordered to drive them back to Whitchurch - a bit rough at his own leaving do!"



New OBB huntsman demonstrates perfect execution of the "bloody antis" position



Mike Smith fails to intimidate sabs at an earlier Poundon meet

The exclusive guest list included the Grafton "boys" who enjoy abusing the brave monitors of Grafton Hunt Watch, but who were oddly quiet and polite when faced with a group of sabs. However, as time wore on the hunters started leaving the pub, some with still-wrapped presents, and the skies began to darken. When word came through that Smith had finally left the kennels in a car we knew that no hunting would take place and so withdrew to a nicer pub for our own celebratory drinks.



If you have any info on hunting, shooting or animal cruelty of any description please ring our 100% confidential hotline:

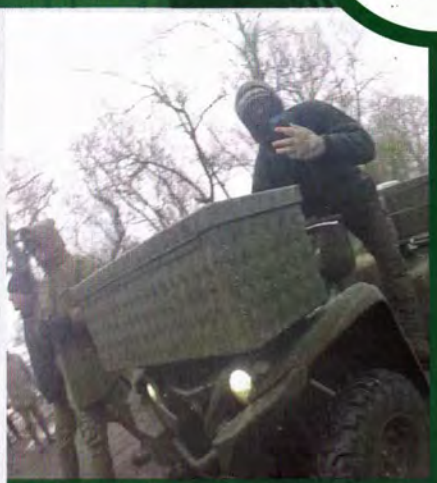
HSA TIP-OFF HOTLINE

07443 148 426

The hunt were not at the pub when we arrived, but the car park was full. We scouted the immediate area and quickly encountered a hare racing across the road - a sure sign that a "trail" hunt was in the vicinity! Sure enough, the pack - which turned out to be the bassets - were sighted drawing fields west of the pub and sabs piled out of the vehicles towards them. The hunters were shocked and extremely pissed-off at our arrival but quickly headed for the road. There was a nasty gang of masked-up thugs on quad bikes in attendance here (perhaps the fox hunts had cancelled) who tried to intimidate us and enter the Guildford Landy, but their efforts were rebuffed.

Four Shires master Rupert Burchett hauled the bassets into the hound van but it was poor old Mike Smith who was ordered to drive them back to Whitchurch - a bit rough at his own leaving do! When he eventually arrived at the kennels, Smith encountered further sab vehicles that had been stationed there in case he decided to take the second pack - the beagles - to a different meet. Smith made several attempts to leave in the hound van but was ultimately deterred by the presence of sab vehicles.

Miles away, back at the pub, Smith's party was in full swing without him.



A set of tools arrive on the scene



Blizzard conditions and padlocked gates fail to stop sabs reaching the hunt

LADDERS & LARSENS

Severn Vale Hunt Saboteurs examine these lesser-known but lethal traps



In April we published a post about Larsen and ladder traps on our Facebook page. The post was very popular and attracted a lot of comments from people who had previously been unaware of these types of trap. It also attracted the attention of a lot of unpleasant folk - gamekeepers, mainly - who crawled from under their rocks to comment. These people kill animals for a living and for fun, and their ignorant and lame attempts to justify the traps only helped draw more traffic to our page.

Larsen traps were designed in the 1950's by a Danish gamekeeper named Larsen to capture birds from the corvid family. They are now banned in Denmark because they are viewed as being inhumane, which of course they are. In 1988 their use was encouraged in the UK by bloodsport front-group the Game Conservancy Trust. The traps use a live decoy or call bird to attract other birds into the trap - magpies, crows, jays, jackdaws and rooks can all legally be. Birds get lured in or fall in but then cannot get out again. The traps are mostly used during spring and summer meaning the trapped birds may have a nest of eggs or chicks that are left to die. Ladder traps work in a similar way to Larsen traps but are of larger construction.

Other species often find themselves incarcerated such as birds of prey and even foxes. Last summer we received a message about a fox cub stuck in a Larsen trap. Bristol and Bath Hunt Saboteurs raced to investigate and freed the terrified cub which was trapped next to a crow. (The video of this rescue can be found on Bath's Facebook page).



"...we received a message about a fox cub stuck in a Larsen trap. Bristol and Bath Hunt Saboteurs raced to investigate and freed the terrified cub..."

Trapped animals, whether the target species or not, are always distraught.

There are legal requirements for using Larsen traps: they should be checked every 24 hours when in use. The birds should have a perch. There should be food and water. There should be some sort of shelter, this is usually just a covered area on top of the trap. If you find a pigeon or pheasant in a Larsen type trap then it is illegal and could be used to trap birds of prey. We found illegal goshawk traps near a pheasant pen in Herefordshire last year with the remains of a pheasant that had been used as bait.

It should be noted that the decoy bird may have its wings clipped to stop it flying. If you come across a trap you must be prepared to take the animals for veterinary treatment. We have seen birds in atrocious conditions.

You are most likely to find Larsen and ladder traps (along with spring traps and snares) on game bird shooting estates. You may also find them in crop fields and even gardens. People falsely believe

that corvids have an impact on songbird populations. While they will predate other birds, this is part of nature. The RSPB and the BTO have analysed years of research and state that magpies do not have an affect on songbird numbers. The decline in songbirds is largely down to the loss of food, particularly insects, due to pollution and pesticide use. Habitat loss and intensive farming techniques have had a huge impact on all wildlife.



Some people even make the outlandish claim that corvids peck out the eyes of lambs. However, we frequently see fields of lambs with their eyes intact and corvids in the vicinity! We have seen footage that does appear to show crows very interested in lambs, but it must be remembered that these birds will eat carrion. Lambs have rings put around their tails to make them drop off which birds will eat. If lambs are born in the field there will be afterbirth that will attract other animals. Corvids will not attack healthy lambs and neither will foxes, the mother sheep is very protective. If farmers believe newborn lambs are so vulnerable, why are they left out, exposed to the elements and supposed predators? Figures on lamb mortality in the UK show that predation by wild animals is negligible. Dogs kill a small percentage of livestock, most die from disease, starvation and neglect.

Of course, the biggest killer of lambs is people as they are all destined for the dinner plate.

"Most likely they will be killed in view of each other by having their necks broken or their skulls smashed. We strongly believe all traps designed to kill animals should be destroyed. We hope they will all be illegal soon."



What to do if you find a trap? It is criminal damage to destroy a legal trap. You may find breaches in the law that you should report to the RSPB and police. You may wish to report to your local sab group. What will happen to the birds caught in the traps? Most likely they will be killed in view of each other by having their necks broken or their skulls smashed. We strongly believe all traps designed to kill animals should be destroyed. We hope they will all be illegal soon. You may wish to contact your MP about the subject.

As the famous quote goes "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."







If you have any info on hunting, shooting or animal cruelty of any description please ring our 100% confidential hotline:

HSA TIP-OFF HOTLINE

07443 148 426

HARES, HOUNDS & RED HERRINGS

Beagling exposed again



RED HERRINGS

The dictionary defines a red herring as "something that misleads or distracts from a relevant or important issue." The phrase was coined by social campaigner Williams Cobbett in 1803 after he sabotaged a hare hunt by dragging a kipper - a smoked herring - in front of the hounds. While today's vegan hunt sabs won't be adopting Cobbett's tactic, his phrase perfectly describes the deceit that lies behind "trail hunting."

BEAGLING BEFORE AND AFTER 2005

Back in December, an eagle-eyed sab spotted an interesting item on eBay: a 2014-5 newsletter from the Wilts & Infantry Beagles who hunt MOD land on Salisbury Plain. The document provides a rare and disturbing insight into what goes on at hare hunts when sabs aren't present. Before looking at it, let's remind ourselves of what hare hunting used to look like and what the beaglers claim they do now.

Beagles and bassets are bred to hunt hares using stamina, not speed. They kill the hare by gradually wearing it down over an extended period of time. When a hare is found it will initially be much faster than the hounds; however, as the hunt progresses the beagles' stamina will begin to give them an advantage as the hare tires. The hare will generally run in large circles (as it is reluctant to leave its home range) and the huntsman will become involved if hounds lose the scent or start to chase another hare. Eventually, the exhausted animal will be overwhelmed by the hounds and torn to pieces.

Pre-ban beagling is therefore a dynamic, fast moving activity characterised by circular chases that can last anything between 30 minutes and three hours.

Since the Hunting Act beaglers claim to hunt artificial trails. The Countryside Alliance invented "trail hunting" as soon as the Act became law and have aggressively promoted it ever since. Their central claim - which they have repeated under oath in court - is that trail hunting is a legitimate, legal activity that happens to be completely indistinguishable from traditional hunting.



THE EXCEPTION THAT PROVES THE RULE

The group that I sab with know hare hunting very well. We seek out beagle or basset packs whenever we can and some of us have significant experience of sabbing them pre-ban too. Of the many, many foot packs we have visited since 2005 the only time we have ever witnessed legal, non-lethal hunting was at the New Forest Beagles. The NFB operate in unique circumstances: they are subject to strict licensing conditions by the Forestry Commission and hunt in an area that is extremely popular with members of the public. Because of this they appear to have developed a form hound activity that is legal. We obviously don't know what they do when we're not there, but on those occasions we have attended we have not needed to intervene. They use a runner who jogs around spraying a substance - which they claim is Olbas Oil - as he goes. The key features of this activity are:

(a) It is very small in scale - the trail is sprayed for a few hundred yards at most.

(b) Each 'hunt' is therefore very short - certainly no more than a couple of minutes. The huntsman jogs along behind the hounds but plays no meaningful part in the proceedings.

(c) The route is generally linear or simply dictated by the terrain. No attempt is made to replicate the circular running patterns of hunted hares.

(d) The trail is sprayed in full view of the huntsman so he is aware of exactly where it has been laid.

(e) Hounds show minimal interest in the trail - there is very little 'voice' or 'drive'. In fact, with the trail-layer often remaining in sight, hounds sometimes appear to be running towards him rather than following a scent.

(f) It is very stop-start: once hounds have run up to the trail layer the whole process has to begin again.

The Countryside Alliance would no doubt like to call this trail hunting, though it is actually a form of drag hunting. Whatever they call it, one thing is clear: it looks absolutely nothing like pre-ban beagling. This is because it is physically impossible to artificially reproduce the experience of hare (or fox) hunting. If it looks like real hunting, it's because it is real hunting! This simple fact has eluded our stupid and corrupt police forces for the last twelve years.

THE WILTS & INFANTRY SPRINT OF SHAME

Anyone who has sabbed a beagle pack will be familiar with the "walk of shame" - the response by 99% of beagle packs when confronted with sabs. They pack up



because trail hunting is a red herring and so there is literally nothing else for them to do. The Wilts & Infantry have developed their own version of this manoeuvre: the "sprint of shame".

They absolutely peg it as soon as we appear and then career off in their hound van at high speed! A look at The Season Past section of their newsletter explains why: about forty meets are described, all of which are nothing like NFB-style drag hunting and exactly like traditional beagling. Here is just a small selection:

(1) *"After a warm welcome by the Collins family at Manor Farm, Codford hounds were quickly away on a good scent running fast from the valley onto the high ground with the Field totally enthralled as they ran several large circuits almost to the main road and back before a successful conclusion."*

(2) *"A red letter day at Home Farm, Seend...hounds crossed the brook twice settling on a line and two big circuits around Great Thornham finally crossing the brook yet again heading to Bulkington stopping short of Manor Farm swinging back towards Pantry Bridge and back up the brook for a successful conclusion."*

(3) *"Back to Rodmead...as Angus and Sarah hosted the largest Wednesday meet of the season. Putting in on the West side hounds were away almost immediately but on a tricky scent running under Little Knoll towards Newmead then back over the drive to lose touch in sheep foil. Drawing on they picked up on the Elm Farm side with two hard circuits and were duly rewarded."*

(4) *"And so to the Closing Meet at Manor Farm, Stockton with Phylidda Stratton our hostess...Dry and hard underfoot with the wind still Easterly scent was uncertain however hounds ran outstandingly well after putting on the left of the track running away toward Sherrington Dairy and working back over the dry ground gathering pace running past the pheasant pens down the valley beyond up through Gilberts Cleeve then left handed for a successful conclusion."*

"All the hunts also ended in a *'successful conclusion'*: what exactly does this mean in trail hunting?"

IT ALL SMELLS A BIT FISHY...

....to say the least. All of these hunts were long, fast, continuous pursuits over several miles across the challenging terrain of Salisbury Plain. They all also feature the characteristic circular patterns run by desperate hares. In hunt (1) the trail was supposedly laid by the "main road" - the very busy A3; in hunt (2) the trail appears to have been repeatedly put across a stream; while in hunt (3) it was laid through a flock of sheep. All the hunts also ended in a "*successful conclusion*": what exactly does this mean in trail hunting? Countryside Alliance guidance clearly states that the huntsman "does not know exactly where the trails have been laid" so how does the Wilts & Infantry huntsman know when the trail has finished and that hounds have been "successful"?

The answer to all these questions, of course, is that the Wilts & Infantry Beagles are openly describing their cruelty and criminality in a document that they never imagined would enter the public domain.

SAB THE BASTARDS

In TV crime dramas the police eventually see through all the red herrings and arrest the real criminal. In real life it's not so simple: twelve years on from the Hunting Act the police continue to dutifully believe everything they are told by the Countryside Alliance. Meanwhile, the heart-breaking cruelty revealed in the Wilts & Infantry newsletter - hares chased for miles until complete exhaustion - is repeated twice a week, six months a year by over sixty other beagle packs up and down the country.

There is literally only one way to stop them: we've got to get out there and sab the bastards!



In the hunt UNDERCOVER

PART III

In 2011 two animal rights activists volunteered to infiltrate a hunt to gain a better understanding of how they operate. The operation had two objectives, firstly to observe the methods used on the day of hunting and, secondly, to obtain intelligence on the methods used by terriermen to maintain a supply of foxes 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.

Part One explained how we had to become trusted by foot followers before being allowed into the outer circle of this close-knit hunting group. Part Two exposed the true nature of many of those involved in hunting – racism, misogyny and, of course, animal cruelty were found in abundance.



Digging Deeper

By now we had a good knowledge of the methods deployed on the hunting day with regard to dig-outs and artificial earths, but in our third season we needed to dig even deeper and find out what was happening behind the scenes to lead to such regular "finds" in popular hunt areas. We started with a well-known covert that we had been told contained an artificial earth. Another source told us that one of the masters was feeding foxes at the earth. We had thought that this was the full story: hunt members and supporters feed known fox areas to maintain a presence of foxes for the coming season. It turned out to be far worse, and far more organised, than this.

Night Manoeuvres

We visited the area overnight not long after the season ended. Being known was by now something of a double-edged sword: if those not in the know caught sight of us, they would think it nothing out of the ordinary; however if spotted by the inner circle, they might wonder why an unsanctioned visit to a hunting area was taking place at night. So, we had to have swift exit plans in place.



The area we searched was in a covert that we had observed being hunted on many occasions. The terriermen would enter at the middle of the covert, about 10 minutes before the hounds were put in at the lower end. We entered at the same point as the terriermen and followed a well-trodden path that led us straight to a clearing that contained two brick entrances. Next to each entrance was a large block that, if moved, would seal up the entrance. Both entrances led to a central living chamber. This was an old-style artificial earth (newer earths tend to be made of plastic piping) and it was clearly in use.

Caught on Camera

The decision was taken to install cameras at the entrance to the woods and over the earth. On the hunting day around the covert, the hunt followed the usual route and eventually foot followers started to gather at the covert to the side; here they would unpack sandwiches and drinks in their own small groups and wait for the "main event." The terriermen duly arrived and entered the covert as expected and soon we could hear the hunting horn as the huntsman and hounds appeared. The field were placed behind the covert ready to pursue the huntsman and hounds when permitted.

"One instance caught on camera (photo left) shows the hunt employee finding one of the cubs dead; he lifts the body out, examines it, then swings the lifeless cub into the undergrowth."

The cameras show the terriermen entering the covert with terriers, and then positioning themselves at the earth. A delay on the camera misses the terrier going in, which is done at the entrance nearest the camera. The hounds arrive and are seen moving past the earth and then into cry as they reach the fresh scent left by the bolted fox. The external camera on the road picks up the fox leaving the covert with the hounds, huntsman and field in pursuit. Our legal advice was that, because the huntsman was not on film actively encouraging the hounds, a conviction was unlikely. ▷

▷ Organised Crime

The question we then asked ourselves was this: how does the hunt always seem to have foxes inhabiting the artificial earths? So, at the end of the season we continued with regular inspections of the earth. One evening in June the covert was visited at night, and we discovered that a wire cage had now been pegged down around one entrance. The cage had been adapted to fit tightly over the entrance. A water container was strapped to the side and dead chickens were inside the cage. On shining a torch up the entrance through the cage 2 or 3 fox cubs could be seen, with no adult present.

What happened over the next few weeks answered a lot of our questions. Hunt employees were filmed visiting the cage and feeding the cubs. One instance caught on camera shows the hunt employee finding one of the cubs dead; he lifts the body out, examines it, then swings the lifeless cub into the undergrowth. A week later the cages were removed but feeding continued every other day. Similar cages were seen on the back of hunt vehicles which strongly suggests that this practice is taking place right across the hunt's country.

Exposure

We prepared for the start of the season and bought some additional cameras for use on this and other coverts. However, we were also involved in the cull areas and had been the subject of some police attention, which we believe led to the police informing the hunt of who we were.

On the first day of cubbing we arrived as usual but noticed that the foot support were not making eye contact or returning the odd wave. Something wasn't quite right. We were positioned next to a field of elephant grass, and one of the masters with two field members approached through the hedge and asked who we were. At that point we remembered the previous season when we, along with several other trusted followers, were asked to form a group to 'sort out' some antis. In that instance the car thought to contain antis turned out to be locals just passing through, and we were stood down. We replied to the master with our cover names, as we did three years earlier, and tried to lighten the atmosphere with some hunting talk. The two field members positioned themselves to either side of us and the group of foot followers started to move towards us. We turned, walked to our vehicle and left. That was the end of that.

Lessons Learnt

At the start of the process we had no idea what we would find and what the hunt and its followers are really like as individuals. The truth is that they are simply evil. The hunt, the foot followers and, yes, the mounted field, who are so often referred to as being unaware of the dirty side of hunting, knew full well what was going on, and they loved it. Any notion, whatsoever, that hunting has anything more to it than a basic desire to see an exhausted animal ripped apart, completely disappeared.

The practice of placing cubs in artificial earths is widespread and has now been discovered on other hunts up and down the country. Feeding cubs with dead chickens, eggs and fallen livestock is also widespread. The knowledge gained is now being used on other hunts and this particular hunt's terriermen now operate only when heavily disguised and on a much less frequent basis. The number of finds on this hunt has reduced drastically because of their fear of being filmed. It is therefore important for all sab groups to note the areas of regular hunting, investigate those areas thoroughly, then use the information gained to disable the use of these methods.

The two volunteers have now returned to regular sabbing in addition to night time observations. If any sab groups have information that they want to act on, and they need help with the use and placement of cameras, then let the HSA know and it will be arranged.



sabgroupnews



Bath Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/bathhuntsabs
bathhuntsabs@yahoo.co.uk
bathhuntsabs.wordpress.com

We have worked with many great groups this season, including our friends at Bristol, South Wales, Severn Vale and Welsh Borders, and many others. We have sabbed the VWH, the Ledbury (who lost their hounds to sabs for 40 minutes!) the Curre & Llangibby, among others.

In early February our Landrover broke down and needed a new gearbox but thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we were out sabbing the following week!

Mid February sabs stopped the Curre & Llangibby from digging out a fox; this clearly upset them as the following week sabs were assaulted by a supporter who sprayed an unidentified substance at us. We also made sure we didn't forget the fox cub-killing 'Ledbury South' and the Tedworth Hunt.

Late February at a joint meet of the Curre & Llangibby, Minehead Harriers and West Somerset Foxhounds saw sabs outnumber the field! Snow in March gave local foxes a reprieve when hunts were forced to cancel meets. We stopped the elusive Leadon Vale Basset Hounds from hunting hares. We had a mid-week sab of the Palmer Marlborough Beagles (linked to Marlborough College) with West Berkshire and South Devon Animal Rights. The following weekend at a meet of the Cotswold and Ledbury a horse was killed. The rider simply got onto another horse and carried on.

We ended the season with a mass sab of the Royal Artillery Hunt's closing meet! Thanks to a tip-off from Stop The Cull, we joined many groups and scuppered their plans to kill foxes on the MOD's land on Salisbury Plain. For a hunt to still be killing foxes mid-April, when they have dependent cubs, is disgusting.

With the cruel badger cull in Avon this year, we are busy sett surveying so we will be ready to defend local badgers. We are also fundraising at events and recruiting new members – get in touch if you'd like to join us!



Beds and Bucks Hunt Sabs

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

Well what a season it's been!

We continued with our pressure on the local hunts, most notably the Oakley who saw their attendance drop significantly and their whipper-in leave due to our pressure and the Fitzwilliam who resorted to hunting on a Friday to avoid us. Of course, we couldn't have done it without the support of the other groups we regularly work with. Speaking of the Fitzwilliam, we finally got our day in court and secured a conviction against the huntsman George Adams and proved the bird of prey exemption is no alibi for illegal hunting. At the time of writing we are still awaiting a CPS decision on the case of the Thurlow who killed a fox last Boxing Day.

We made a surprise visit to the Cambridge & Enfield Chase late in the season where we stopped a dig out. We also hit the Puckeridge several times and managed to save the lives of four separate foxes - including a very rare leucistic one - in quick succession as they ran from the same covert. We also joined many other groups for an end of season hit on the Royal Artillery Hunt and, needless to say, they weren't too pleased to see so many sabs and have their day ruined.

We'll be raising funds over the summer plus making preparations for the potential extension of the horrendous badger cull and no doubt visiting some of those nasty Mink/Otter hunts. Our new sabs for this year are now valued members of the group and we have big plans for next season. The main hunt season may not be in full swing but the work never stops and the hunters better watch out as we'll be coming for them.

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





Brighton Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/BrightonHuntSaboteurs
Twitter:@BtnHuntSabs
brightonhuntsaboteurs@riseup.net

In February Brighton Hunt Saboteurs had a great turnout at the Burstow hunt ball. We made sure the scum knew what we think about their bloodthirsty activities. In the past few months we've chased some of our local hunts around as they have actual been trail hunting! However, when we turned up unexpectedly we caught them digging out a badger sett, with the huntsman and hounds just over the hill waiting for the fox to bolt.

We had one memorable day when none of our local hunts were out so we made the trip over to East Kent Sabs and the hunt packed up as soon as we arrived. We've done lots of talks and fundraisers recently including doing the food at the Cowley Club's vegan beer festival.

Our season ended with a trip to the Royal Artillery Hunt along with groups from across the south. It was inspiring to see all the sab groups working together to make sure the hunt had no chance of fulfilling their bloodlust.

We have also said goodbye to a long-term Brighton sab who sadly passed away in February. 'Old Man' Chris had been involved with Brighton sabs since the 90's, helping to get the group back on its feet after a bit of a lull. He was a regular out sabbing, sometimes driving, but more often as a very good navigator. In recent times, Chris would still turn up to help raise funds for the sab group, despite having lost half a leg a few years back due to an infection (see inside back page for full obituary-Ed).

We are now getting organised for another year of sabotaging the badger cull

Thanks to all supporters. Please send us a message if you want to get involved.

Berkshire Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/huntsabs/

We kicked off with the opening meet of the Surrey Union; with many sabs in attendance they used a trail-layer though the hounds showed very little interest. We then took a trip to the New Forest Beagles who also used a drag in our presence. The following week we had a great day against our old enemies, the Sandhurst & Aldershot Beagles, at Polhampton Farm. Their special guest, Ian Roberts of the Wealden Minkhounds, unwittingly gave us the meet so it was just a matter of turning up and watching them run back to their hound van!

We returned to the Surrey Union the following week and once again enjoyed the spectacle of a grown man spraying the countryside with "fox urine". A week later we had our best day of the season against the Wilts & Infantry at Gore Cross. When we found them they were hunting hard across Lavington Down. Sabs immediately engaged them with voice and horn, whereupon the panicking huntsman gathered them up and high-tailed it back to the meet. We suspect this sab is the reason they cancelled their licensed National Trust meet a few weeks later.

In mid-January we were back at the Union. Very little piss was sprayed as the huntsman's horse became stuck in deep bog around 1PM. Sabs worked with hunt personnel to free the extremely distressed animal and, wisely, the hunt decided to call it a day.

Away from the killing fields, we coordinated a successful campaign to get the Sandhurst & Aldershot Beagles hunt ball cancelled. With horrifying covert footage of them killing five hares doing the rounds, no sane business would want to be associated with them.

In March we sabbed a rare Tuesday meet of the Palmer Marlborough Beagles at Temple Farm. Again, we arrived in the nick of time to rate hounds off a hare and, again, hunt staff couldn't pack up quick enough. The following Saturday we finished the season on a high with a great hit on a joint meet of the Four Shires Bassets and the Old Berkeley Beagles. Along with other groups, we faced down intimidation from masked thugs to ensure a kill-free day.

This summer we are out sett-surveying and hope to join other groups to sab those elusive mink hunts!



Community policing at the Surrey Union Hunt

Bristol Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/bristolhuntsaboteurs

Bristol Hunt Sabs were back out in the fields straight after Christmas with a visit to the Vale of White Horse Hunt who, despite being on our doorstep, don't get enough of our attention. That is going to change.



Our first hit in January was an amazing day with the Ledbury South where we held their hounds for 45 minutes and subsequently packed up the hunt. No better feeling. The following week saw us at the Curre & Llangibby where they packed up by 2.45 after having their day well and truly spoilt by large groups of sabs.

We decided to return to the Ledbury South to see them with just 6 riders out. An uneventful day for them, a great day for wildlife.

We had more great days sabbing the Curre and worked hard with other groups to truly stop them in their tracks. Together we stopped them digging out and aided multiple foxes to safety. We even managed to pay a sneaky trip down south to our old friends at the Tedworth and sabs helped foxes to safety just at the right moments.

Our frequent visits to the Curre of course meant that, eventually, they hit boiling point and tried everything to stop us getting near them including having someone spray us with chemicals! We're a tough bunch and we stuck it out and even went to Somerset the following week to sab them again at a triple meet. We had a great day and got the goods.

We stopped the Leadon Vale Bassets from hunting for hours on end whilst they sat twiddling their thumbs. They eventually gave us the slip only to be found and sent home again by Severn Vale Sabs.

The end of the season saw us visit the Ledbury who were having a joint meet with the Cotswold and also a mass sab of the Royal Artillery. Being in large numbers at both meets meant we could do the business on both occasions.

We will spend the summer fundraising, spreading awareness and trying our best to track down those elusive mink hunts. When cubbing starts again in August, we'll be waiting...

Cirencester Illegal Hunt Watch

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



With the main fox hunting season over, it's been time to lick our wounds and count the costs! Since last August we have had over 50 outings, travelled 4,000 miles and spent over £1,000 on petrol. Our trusty Honda CRV has had quite a few knocks and repairs this year but survived the season.

Our main hunts again have been the Duke of Beaufort, VWH and Cotswold. Intel has been increasing this year with more people contacting us with information about the hunts. They are more aware of the lies of 'trail hunting' and more vocal about hound trespass on their property and injured hound incidents on roads. We have even had reports of one of our hunts chasing a fox over a live airfield!

The National Distrust has done a brilliant job of highlighting these issues and girding us all into attending demos at NT properties throughout our areas. We have made a point of attending all NT licensed days for our hunts watching them very carefully to make sure the terrier men don't go on NT land and foxes are not hunted there. Working closely with Three Counties Hunt Sabs we are documenting all found blocked badger setts on hunt days. The stats are alarming with multiple setts found each time. The hunts continue to be in denial when challenged over this and find it very easy to lie even to the camera. The police have shown support towards our incidents this year and even turned up on the day to look at blocked setts and then speak to the hunt. The joint Master of the Beaufort Hunt had to attend the police station on one occasion. Oh dear – how inconvenient. Throughout the summer we will be continuing sett surveying in our areas in preparation for the imminent 2018 badger cull.

Thanks to all our supporters and donators!

Devon County Hunt Sabs

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

The second half of the season saw us turn our attention to the Eggesford Hunt. In January we stopped their terriermen interfering with two badger setts in one day. At the first sett they left one of their terriers below ground. At the second sett they'd blocked all the holes by the time we got there and were about to start digging. The terrier was already underground and latched on to the fox. We stood our ground and were rewarded with the sight of a magnificent fox bolting from the dug-out sett once the terriermen had scarpered. This set the tone for the rest of the season as the Eggesford continued to attempt dig-outs on every occasion we sabbed them. At a meet near Winkleigh we prevented four dig-outs in one day! Huntsman Jason Marles was so frustrated he lashed out at one of our sabs with his riding crop and threatened to bring two hounds and twenty guns with him next time "to kill foxes the legal way". In fact, Marles hunted foxes blatantly all season, even blowing the kill at the closing meet when they sadly killed at least three foxes and trespassed on a nature reserve they'd been banned from. There were foxes popping out from everywhere that day. Not at all suspicious, right?

Our sabs also disrupted a fight between several of the Eggesford's terriers during a meet near Ashreigney. The terriers were covered in each others' blood and it doesn't bear thinking about what would have happened if sabs hadn't intervened. We sabbed together with SDAR, Kernow and Somerset groups on several occasions, including shutting down the Britannia Beagles at their prestigious Lyneham meet, and sabbing the closing meets of both the West Somerset Vale and Fourburrow Hunts.

Finally, having already sabbed the Modbury Harriers a couple of times, including on a joint hit with SDAR and others, we paid them a return visit for their closing meet near Newton Ferrers. Sabs had just called hounds off a fox when six terriermen attacked, robbing two sabs of their belongings and running over one of the sabs' legs with their quad bike while he was lying prone on the ground. Despite several welcome demos by Devon Against Illegal Hunting to draw attention to police inaction, we continue to face a mixture of apathy and overt bias from Devon & Cornwall's finest, who only ever offer to deal with things in "slow time", even when crimes are being committed right in front of their eyes. Nevertheless, we have four ongoing police investigations into hunts for illegal hunting, badger sett interference, robbery and assault.





East Kent Hunt Sabs

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

Firstly, true to form, Kent Police have refused to act on Ashford Valley Tickham hunt supporters blocking public roads after a long campaign by us to see justice done (www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZxVJlhA_tc8), and now they have decided to take no action against the same hunt over blatant illegal hunting (www.youtube.com/watch?v=vTbuPqZn0p0), as well as taking no action over a sab getting her ribs broken in an attack at the East Kent with West Street hunt by their terrier men. Just goes to show: there's no justice - there's just us!

Anyhow, 2018 started in style when we discovered that the EKwWS hunt had cancelled their traditional NYD public meet in Wingham after a lively demonstration last year!

We concentrated on the two remaining Kent foxhound packs, who are still blatantly hunting foxes, as well as the hard-to-find beagle packs, and much hardcore sabbing was needed...good practice for all the new sabs though! As always, it was great to see so many foxes live to fight another day. The pressure is starting to show again: our hunts have been swapping meets to avoid sabs, which shows how desperate they are to keep their activities from the public eye!

At the end of February we had a memorable day out with the new West Kent Sabs group where the huntsman of the EKwWS broke his arm (!), we then travelled on to the Old Surrey & Burstow hunt ball at East Grinstead for a bit of a shout up!

Snow and ice kept the hunts at bay for a couple of weeks, but we finally caught up with the elusive Blean Beagles hare hunt again towards the end of season, who as always, packed up without a word on our arrival...job done.

Our final eventful day's sabbing saw us travel with our good friends West Kent Sabs, and many other groups, over 100 miles to Wiltshire to sab the military's own fox hound pack - the Royal Artillery Hunt. We suffered vehicle damage during the day, but will hopefully soon be up and running again!

So, a good season: we saw no confirmed kills, both foxhound packs had huntsmen out of action with injuries, the violence was mostly of the threat variety and our numbers in Kent have nearly doubled!

Onwards and upwards!

Fife & Central Scotland Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/FifeHuntSabs/

At the end of last season, sabs targeted the Berwickshire Hunt following a series of tip offs. This was the first time this hunt had ever been sabbed.

Sab groups from all over Scotland started this season by beating the Berwickshire hunt to their first cubbing meet at Ecclaw Hill, it took them more than a few minutes to work out how we beat them there. They kicked off at 7am and picked up on a fox right away, but luckily pre-spraying prevented hounds from catching up with him/her. Huntsman Ryan Mania was furious that we had spoiled his day. After a mouthful of abuse he attempted to lose sabs but we kept up all day with no kills - a fantastic result!



Unfortunately for our wildlife, cubbing was only the start. We visited the Berwickshire Hunt on their opening meet at Manderston House. A very unhappy terrierman told us to "make ourselves scarce" as they had called the police. We didn't leave as we were not the ones breaking the law. Pumped with passion and a legal right to roam, we proceeded to stop them from hunting. During the day a frustrated member of the hunt racially abused a sab thinking it would stop them from coming back out, it only made her more determined!

Our season was unfortunately not kill free. While sabs were in attendance, huntsman Ryan Mania and his hounds caught up with a fox and ripped it apart, we were seconds too late but managed to grab the fox from the hounds and attempted to get the body out of the area to be examined by a vet. Two terriermen ran after a sab and assaulted him till they got the body of the fox, another two sabs made a brave second attempt to get the body back but were unsuccessful. We are more determined than ever to bring this hunt to justice and will be waiting for them in the fields.

Scottish groups are getting bigger and people from all walks of life are ready to stop the hunts from murdering wildlife. With this ever increasing support, we can see the general public is on our side and the hunts of Scotland are worried that our movement is gathering momentum.

We will never back down.

Grampian Hunt Sabs

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

The last half of the hunt season has been full of incident, with the hunters really upping their violence in response to our effective sabbing.

Teaming up with our awesome friends from Fife and Central Scotland sabs, Glasgow sabs and even Sheffield sabs, we are becoming a real force in the fields at stopping hunts killing and breaking the law. With the Scottish government looking for a total ban we can only sit and watch this summer to see if they will push through on their promises...maybe next season will be our last if its completely banned.

The Fife Foxhounds lost all composure by the end of the season with the hunt continually breaking the law and the same old story of Fife police refusing to get involved. Even when the hunt had been drink-driving they failed to check a single driver. We bet if that complaint had been made against us then the police would have stopped every sab vehicle in the vicinity

The last meet of the season for the Scottish hunts ended early due to bad weather and sabs were left to celebrate a very successful year in the pub and with the hunt still at the kennels. It's been a tough year and sabs have been helped by the awful weather which has kept hunts from hunting for quite a bit of the season. Many Scottish sabs attended the March for Foxes, it was great to see hundreds of people marching for foxes...just imagine if they all came out sabbing ! If you want to get involved or give us info on Scottish hunts then get in touch through our Facebook page.

Lastly from all at Grampian Hunt Sabs, we want to remember Mike Hill, Tom Worby and Anna Campbell for all they have done for the animals. Never forgotten.

Greater South London Hunt Sabs

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

2018 started with a New Year's Day visit to the ever-vile Crawley and Horsham, who seemed to be upsetting local landowners and being told to 'Get orf moi land'. Rattled, their supporters then tried to block in sab vehicles and start a fight, with the Sussex cops doing their usual chocolate teapot act.

It was almost a relief to return to the rather more civilised Old Surrey and Burstow, before rounding up the month with a dramatic day on the Bolebroke Beagles, whose multiple attempts to slip out of the kennels unnoticed were thwarted by some diligent scouting. The scout car followed the hound van some 30 miles to the meet, but, unfortunately, the beagles got their first kill of the day just as the main group of sabs arrived. Sabs stuck to the huntsman all day, despite some appalling conditions, but were unable to prevent a second kill late in the afternoon. Kent Police attended twice, but wouldn't leave their vehicles because it was muddy!

The Southdown and Eridge drew our attention for most of the rest of the season. Whilst the new huntsman is far calmer than his predecessor, their terriermen are up to their usual tricks, so there is still some work to do here.

The main season finished with a lively visit to the Royal Artillery on Salisbury Plain and we can now settle into the summertime fun of locating the local mink pack and fundraising.

As usual we have had the pleasure of sabbing alongside many other groups, notably South Coast, South Downs, West Sussex, West and East Kent, Guildford and the multitude on Salisbury Plain!



Guildford & North Downs Hunt Sabs

The 2017/18 season was very successful for Guildford and North Downs Sabs. It saw us grow so rapidly (we had over 70 people out with us) that we had to get another Landrover (thanks to everybody who gave so generously to this appeal). This second vehicle also enabled us to help other groups in the south east when they had transport problems.

We were out over 70 times with some notable sabs; the huntsman of the Surrey Union Harry Beeby managed to get his horse stuck in a bog in January and sabs helped to extract it which gained international publicity. This, together with his tendency to lose his hounds, seemed to be enough to get him sacked at the end of the season.

Other notable days include a December hit on the Bolebroke Beagles when one of our sabs dressed up as Father Christmas (they didn't see the joke) and quickly packing up the Four Shire Bassets in a blizzard despite being outnumbered by local terrier thugs.

Lots of other good sabbing against the Surrey Union, Old Surrey and Burstow, Hampshire, Crawley and Horsham, South Downs and Chiddingfold foxhunts, with lots of foxes saved. The group is looking very good and healthy with lots of keen new people and 2018/19 season will hopefully see our ever-growing group making life even harder for hunts in the south east!

Kernow Hunt Sabs

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

It's been a productive season for Kernow with several new recruits joining and being trained up. The Cornish hunts are continuing as normal - blatantly hunting illegally - but we've stopped them on many occasions from going after foxes and deer. When out and about we are meeting ever greater numbers of angry locals, fed up with the hunt's blatant disregard for their property with hounds loose all over their land and gardens. This is leading to more tip offs, complaints and locals monitoring and reporting in their own areas. We have a team that is able to regularly watch East Cornwall while the other team is out on different hunts. We have also had adventures over the border with Devon County Hunt Sabs and welcomed their help here in Cornwall.

Our fundraiser is doing an amazing job and has now run several very successful online auctions. We also had fox and badger stalls at the Cornwall Vegan Festival which did well for fundraising and getting people interested in helping. We are confident that a new badger cull zone is being added to Cornwall this year so we are currently in the process of surveying and checking the boundaries, and trying to get more people involved.

Lincoln Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/lincolnhuntsaboteurs
Lincolnhuntsaboteurs@gmail.com



We are very happy to be featured in Howl for the first time! The beginning of 2018 saw us half way through our first season and out with several groups to visit the Fitzwilliam Hunt.

Throughout the season we spent quite a bit of time at the Meynell and South Staffs Hunt with Nottingham and Liverpool which was quite frustrating as the terriermen have become more and more aggressive.

We paid a visit to the Belvoir Hunt who have a total disregard for the law and we had to intervene as hounds were on top of a fox hiding under some debris.

We were really happy to be able to visit our local hunt the South Wold twice towards the end of the season. Hunts in Lincolnshire have been left alone for far too long, this was obvious as they were completely confused when we first turned up and didn't know how to react. We look forward to ruining their season later in the year.

With the badger cull likely to be extended to Derbyshire, we will be out sett surveying thoughout the summer.

We are a new group and have been overwhelmed by the support we have received so far from the public and from all the sab groups we've worked alongside. If you are interested in getting involved send us a message.

Melbourne (Australia) Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/MelbourneHuntSabs/

Melbourne Hunt Saboteurs have kicked off the opening season hunt with a bang and a splash of BLACK! SAB BLACK.

We paid a a very overdue visit to Oaklands Hunt Club in Melbourne. So overdue that this was actually the first time in the hunt club's history that their opening meet had been sabbed. The saboteurs headed into the home grounds of the hunt and immediately got on the horn to announce the arrival of Hunt Saboteurs in Melbourne, Australia. Now if you could have only seen the face of the bumpkins and hunters when the horn was blown, could saboteurs actually be here in Melbourne ? YES!

After some aggressive confrontation with the measly middle-manager of the grounds, we took up position while the hunt and their bewildered bumpkins attempted to push and intimidate us. To our surprise and the hunt's dismay the local police arrived and were understanding of our cause. A brief meeting with the hunt owner, police and saboteurs took place where the hunt's direct flouting of the law was pointed out. With a move on request from the police, sabs unveiled the HSA flag and promptly told the hunt that "we will see you in the fields in ten minutes". More horn blowing followed with the hunt then using their children in an attempt to stop photos being taken.....caring adults they really are.

We regrouped and drove off to catch the hunt out in the fields. There then followed multiple attempts to intimidate us, but the hunt quickly learned that we would not buckle. As we drove off to the next vantage point it became clear we were off the grounds the police had asked us to leave, so we were clear of any trespass grief. As the hunt (if we could call a handful of riders on opening weekend a hunt) came into sight a fox ran for its life. With only a metres gap from the hounds we used the gizmo to full effect along with voice calls. The look on the redcoat's faces when their hounds abandoned a live fox and came running to the gizmo was a beautiful thing called karma. We took control of the hounds for a brief moment, allowing the fox to escape to safety. A second fox also made a dash for it and was seen to safety by sabs.



Now, we almost forgot to mention that we had the complete pleasure of meeting up with a UK sab who came out with us. Poor bugger's first Australian sab and the hunt tried to ride him down as we ran in to save a fox. Yes, the hunts here are as brutal and careless as in the UK. Thankfully, our UK comrade survived and the hunt and rider were treated to a very stern and colourful reminder from Australian saboteurs of just what would occur if they tried that again.



Norfolk & Suffolk Hunt Sabs

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

For the first time in Norfolk & Suffolk Sabs' history we have managed to sab all five hunts in our area (the Waveney Harriers, Easton Harriers, Dunston Harriers, North Norfolk Harriers and the West Norfolk Foxhounds) during the same season. Both the North Norfolk Harriers and the West Norfolk Foxhounds have not had a visit from sabs for more than a decade, so they were more than a little bit surprised by our visit.

We have still found plenty of time to visit our old favourites though and it is clear that these hunts don't want us turning up as they are going to extraordinary lengths to stop us finding them. One hunt has been changing the time it starts hunting and another hunt appears to be changing its day. They cannot avoid detection for long though, as we always find them in the end. What they don't seem to realise is that by all the messing about with changing start times and days, their loyal supporters are getting fed up as they don't get notified about where and when to attend.

Norfolk & Suffolk Sabs have been overwhelmed this season with the amount of support we have received from the public. We could not do half of what we do without such support. The support comes in many forms, be it financial, meet information or simply just building a snowman at the hunt kennels (see photo).

Following the retirement of Suffolk Police's Wildlife Officer, for the first time in 15 years we seem to have a more robust style of policing that sees officers actually interested in investigating illegal hunting.

We ended the season on a real high which saw both N&S Sabs and Suffolk Police hot on the tails of the hunters constantly throughout the day, meaning it was not possible for the hunt to let the hounds flush, let alone hunt. Long may it continue! We just hope that next season we can build on what we have achieved this season.



Westerby Bassets commence the walk of shame

Northants Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/NorthantsHuntSaboteurs
zorro@northantshsa.org.uk
Donate: www.paypal.me/ENABS

2018 started for us along with numerous other sab groups at Wansford for the Fitzwilliam's NYD meet, there was also a protest organised by outraged locals. After the usual pomp and circumstance the hunt rode around a couple of fields and then called it a day; a nice reprieve for both sabs and foxes.

In the second half of the season we paid visits to the Oakley, the Fitzwilliam, the Belvoir and the Fernie hunts, most we believe were kill-free apart from a hare killed by the Fitzwilliam in February. We also gave our support to the monitors of Grafton Hunt Watch, where thankfully sabs were on hand to assist after a traffic collision caused by a hunt rider dangerously crossing the A5 which resulted in a motorist being taken to hospital by ambulance.

We also gatecrashed a meet of the Westerby Bassets, who insisted they were just "hound exercising". They went for a stroll round the village of Thornby (closely followed by us!) and then back to the meet for a picnic.

Our last sab of the season was a trip down for the joint meet of the Four Shires Bassets and the Old Berkeley Beagles, a successful day with no hunting taking place.

It's been a pleasure to have new group Hertfordshire Hunt Saboteurs along for the ride with us - not least because they always seem to have an endless supply of vegan sosmix rolls!

Sadly, our Landy didn't fare too well at the end of the season and we need to make some expensive repairs, donations are gratefully received and can be made via the PayPal link above.

North Cambs Hunt Sabs

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

The 2017/2018 fox hunting season for North Cambs produced a myriad of situations, some that have been triumphant, others that were certainly surprising.

First and foremost, our relentless campaign against the Fitzwilliam-Milton Hunt, with pals Beds and Bucks, meant that a hunt steeped in tradition were forced to change their hunting days, for the first time that we were aware of. Whilst hunting midweek meant that they were out of sight to us for the latter part of the season, some sabs were still able to monitor and report back a noticeable lack of support.



The Fitz have become increasingly agitated by our persistent presence this season and have resorted to the usual: riding their horses at us, blocking us in, telling us to get jobs, throwing us over fences, running us down with quads and - our particular favourite - getting blocked in by multiple vehicles, having our windows decked in, and then being chased at some ridiculous speed. We almost got a free torch out of it but sadly it had to be handed in as evidence.

As a group, we've doubled in size, and with both experienced old hands and eager new sabs. We've also seen support increase, from disgruntled locals who have had enough of the hunt, to online supporters who are keen to help where they can. Letters from local councils and wildlife groups have been sent to the Fitzwilliam Hunt to articulate displeasure at their lack of regard for anyone and everything, and even the police have been borderline helpful in the pursuit of charges against the supporting thugs and hunt scum in particular.

We can't help but feel victorious at the verdict passed of George Adams, former huntsman of the Fitz, being charged of hunting illegally under the Hunting Act. This gives us yet more focus and cause to be doing what we're doing, and we're looking forward to stopping yet more illegal hunting next season.

The season never stops for us, as we'll be out sabbing the mink hounds, sett surveying, and getting involved once again with the cull. A huge thanks to Beds and Bucks for their continued support this season - we certainly make a great team. Thanks also to all those we've sabbed with this season - whilst it's never 'fun,' working with others who are just as passionate certainly lifts our spirits.

Northern Ireland Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/Hunt Saboteurs NI
huntsabni@gmail.com

The season ended in a bang for many reasons. Hunters showed their true colours and their frustration at being sabbed all season spilled over on the final meet. They came prepared and sabs were attacked with hammers and were threatened by guns as well, but these attack's dont deter us. If they are spending their time trying to harm us that means more wildlife being free from the scum.

We have had a very successful season and many foxes have been saved; we hope that next season our numbers will be greater and that will allow us to hit multiple hunts at the same time. To all sabs who will be working to save wildlife and other animals over the summer months, we wish you all the best of luck. Stay safe.



Dangerous tools at the North Down Foxhounds

North East London Hunt Sabs

nelsabs@riseup.net

We started the season in our 'new' vehicle as our much loved van was stolen at the end of the last season. For financial reasons we downsized to a seven seater which used to be enough, but not any more. We have had an amazing boost in numbers since people from the Chicken Save movement joined us. This meant that we have had to use a private car as well as the NELS vehicle to get extra people into the field.

This season we focused our attention mostly on the Puckeridge Hunt, usually joining forces with Suffolk and Essex Sabs, South Cambridge Sabs and Cambridge Sabs, with our extra numbers jumping into Norfolk's blue van.

In the last couple of years the Puckeridge Hunt were good at hiding away from sabs, but not any more as we managed to stay with them every time we visited. We prevented several dig-outs, stopped a few chases, controlled their hounds better than the huntsman and even hit them once mid-week. We don't think there was a kill this season while we were there.

We also saw a surprising change of tone from Suffolk police when we visited hunts in that area. Last season we were served with dispersal orders as soon as we arrived. This season, thanks to public pressure criticising their obvious bias, Suffolk police actually did their job and policed the hunts.

Now we focus on fundraising.

North Wales Hunt Sabs

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



Face off: lone sab stares down hunt quad riders

Hi all, our season is finally over. The second half saw us out every week, including midweek when possible, mostly in North Wales and Cheshire. The impact we've had on the Flint and Denbigh Hunt in North Wales is there for all the see; our presence has caused them to try and hide from us as they often change their meets at the last minute and run over the border into Cheshire to join the Cheshire Forest hunt. Well, that's one less hunt taking place and, with plenty of sabs and monitors in Cheshire, it's not the best place to go hiding! The Flint and Denbigh have become quite an embarrassment to themselves, check out our videos online and try not to laugh at their terrier men!

The Cheshire hunts have also become very frustrated with our presence, particularly Cheshire Forest huntsman Andrew German who has thrown quite a few tantrums. The season fizzled out due to bad weather causing meets to be cancelled, not that we are complaining.

We'd also like to mention the conviction of the Dwyryd Hunt master David Thomas and terrier man Jordan Houlsten who both received prison sentences for badger baiting. We took particular satisfaction from this as Houlsten in particular is someone we've had on our radar for a while. Badger baiting is a problem in North Wales that we are working on behind the scenes. We have a busy summer planned as we continue to fight the persecution of wildlife. Until next time: peace to you all!

Nottingham Hunt Sabs

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



Unsurprisingly 2018 started with three trips in succession to the Meynell and South Staffs Hunt. Their terriermen are getting seriously frustrated due to pressure from sabs and this culminated in them breaking a sab's nose. Legal proceedings continue regarding this assault and, as usual, it hasn't deterred us; we continued to focus on this increasingly beseiged hunt for the rest of the season. We'd like to thank all their former followers who have been in contact regarding the hunt's increasingly perilous financial position. Their blatant law-breaking is alienating even those who were formerly on their side.

We also squeezed in visits to the Quorn (bottled it and cancelled their Saturday meet), the Belvoir (never heard of the Hunting Act!) and the South Notts (blink and you'd miss 'em).

Following some great research by Lincoln Sabs we paid a couple of visits to the Southwold Hunt at the end of the season. They've not seen sabs for a few years and were clearly delighted! With the new Lincoln group going from strength to strength they can expect far greater scrutiny from now on. The season ended, as always, with our traditional trip north for the final Saturday of the Middleton Hunt in North Yorkshire. It's always great to meet up with so many other groups and a lovely time was had by all.

Summer will see us surveying Derbyshire in preparation for a possible roll-out of the badger cull, sabbing mink hunts and doing stalls at various local events. No rest for the wicked!

Get in touch folks. It's a blast!



Sheffield Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/Sheffieldsaboteurs
Sheffieldhuntsaboteurs@riseup.net
Instagram: Sheffieldhuntsaboteurs

At time of writing we are concentrating all our energies on the upcoming Badger Cull and the end of the season seems a long time ago. We are sett surveying whenever we can - enduring the brambles and never-ending mud is our life now.

Our group is probably the strongest it has been in many years, we have some great new sabs who have energised us jaded old buggers no end! We have gone from strength to strength and, although coping with constant vehicle troubles has been stressful, we have managed and still don't hate Land Rovers (most the time).

We couldn't have got through the second half of the season without regular financial support from our amazing followers who are also great at arguing with scummers on our FB page.

One of the hunts we have concentrated on is the Middleton, notorious for being convicted of illegal hunting, keeping 16 fox cubs at their kennels and employing a "boorish, offensive and distasteful" huntsman in Charles Carter (a York Magistrate's description). Despite the notoriety, Lord Middleton has decided, in his infinite wisdom, to employ stewards to protect his hunt's illegal activities! Sab groups from across the region teamed up at their final Saturday meet to show Lord Middleton that he is wasting his money...we will discover next season whether he intends to continue wasting it.

South Cambridgeshire Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/Southcambshuntsabs
schuntsabs@riseup.net
Instagram: Scambshuntsabs

It's been a busy and successful season, focusing on hunts to the south of the Cambridgeshire area and continuing to work with other local groups. The case of the fox killed by the Fitzwilliam on NYD 2016 finally went to court in April after long delays, with the huntsman being found guilty of illegal hunting. A good result that sets a precedent for future cases.

Our sabs also gave evidence against a well-known violent hunt thug, leading to another conviction. The penalty could have been higher but still a result, and stops the hunt from feeling that they are untouchable! We had issues with our vehicle after being rammed intentionally by Oakley hunt supporters and we are awaiting another court case for this. Thanks to our awesome supporters we got the vehicle back on the road in no time.

We are enjoying a bit of a break now but not for long as fundraising and preparation for the badger cull and next season will need to begin soon. If you see us at a stall, festival or fundraiser near you, come and say hello; it's always great to have supporters on board both in the field and out.



South Wales Hunt Sabs

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



The second half of the season has seen us calling on the Ledbury South, the Curre & Llangibby, the Ross Harriers, the Cotswold, the Ledbury, the Leadon Vale Bassets, the Tedworth, the Dart Vale & South Poole Harriers, the Modbury Harriers and the Royal Artillery Hunt.

We've had some exceptional weather to contend with alongside the usual thuggishness. Fortunately, we're hardy creatures with good thermals. Highlights include thwarting a dig out by the Curre & Llangibby - we see you terrier 'men' and we know what you're up to...fixing fences it ain't! A less dramatic but more comedic highlight was watching the West Somerset, (who were hosting the Curre & Llangibby) declare their day "a mess, a bloody mess" - those pesky sabs! How we laughed.

We travelled to support our friends in South Devon after the Dart Vale & South Poole Harriers seriously injured some of their group. An attack on one is an attack on all. The Modbury Harriers ended up feeling the benefits of some good quality sab solidarity.

We ended the season with a load of other sab groups and the Royal Artillery Hunt on Salisbury Plain. The team work was precise - almost military! - every time the hunt turned a corner, they were greeted by the beautiful sight of hunt saboteurs. Potato-head shaped supporters spent the day quite beside themselves, driving at us and trying to intimidate people. "Epic fail" as the young people say.

We've worked mostly with Bath, Bristol and Severn Vale, quality individuals one and all. We've also worked with friends from further afield in Devon, Somerset and Dorset - always a pleasure!

Our crew is now preparing for this year's badger cull. Thank you to all our generous supporters. Your time and money keep us out and about and we are always grateful.

South Coast Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/SCoastHuntSabs/
southcosthuntsabs@gmail.com
Donate: paypal.me/SouthCoastHuntSabs

Since the last report the 'peasantry' of South Coast Hunt Sabs have been spreading the joy of sabbing to the hunting community in the south east. Teaming up with local groups we have ensured that both the Old Surrey & Burstow and the Crawley & Horsham are sabbed each week. When it's possible to locate the highly secretive South Down & Eridge and East Sussex & Romney Marsh (both of whose recent violent activities are not looking so smart now) we do them as well. We even managed to locate the Bolebroke Beagles one week and shut them down in minutes. Alongside the odd shoot we have found things have been busy but good for the wildlife.

At the end of season we took a few trips down to the West Country to help out groups down there whose hunting nutters carry onto the very end of the season (while ours throw in the towel mid-March).

We also attended a lively demo at the Old Surrey & Burstow hunt ball, where careful use of a megaphone really ruined their event.

We had welcome visitor from Melbourne Hunt Sabs who was with us for two weeks. Although a number of hunts were snowed off we managed to show him some sabbing and send him home with a taste for malted vinegar which apparently they don't have down under. Take a look at their Facebook page as the Australian hunting season is just starting.

The numbers in our group have taken a dip as we train up sabs who then go off to new locales to sab with other group for various reasons so we are in real need of new sabs to bolster our numbers. Vegan cakes on offer each week at the end of every sab!

So, if you want to save the lives of hunted animals in the South East please get in contact.





Southampton Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/SouthamptonSabs
sotonhs@outlook.com
Donate: www.paypal.me/SouthamptonHS

We started the season with new recruits keen to get out and join us in putting a stop to the illegal hunting of our wildlife. We joined friends from South Coast, Brighton, Croydon, Guildford, Beds & Bucks, North Downs, Bristol, Bath, South Wales and a host of monitors to sab the usual suspects including the South Down & Eridge, the Crawley & Horsham, the Old Surrey Burstow & West Kent, the Hursley Hambledon and the Tedworth Hunt. All groups worked well together and provided a good grounding for new sabs. Travelling long distances by road and on foot it is safe to say this was a busy first half of the season. The second half saw us teaming up with Weymouth Animal Rights, South West Sabs and monitors in the know to pay weekly visits to hunts in Dorset and Somerset. These hunts cover a large area and are frequently out hunting during the week. They kill often and do it blatantly. They have no regard for life - be it wildlife or human - and are determined to continue their bloodthirsty ways no matter what.

We sabbed the Cattistock, the South Dorset, the Portman and the Seavington. Each week we worked closely with other sab groups to save lives using voice calls, horn calls, gizmos and key positioning of vehicles to keep the hunts in our sights and on the move.The terrain can be difficult and with some of these hunts accessing MOD land it was often a long day. It's a dirty job but someone has to do it. These hunts have shown their true colours this season as with all seasons before. They are violent, regularly assaulting sabs, including females. They've stolen equipment, damaged vehicles and been threatening throughout. Whilst they are hunting, we'll be sabbing. We won't quit.

For the end of the season we joined groups from far and wide for the closing meet of the Royal Artillery Hunt. The day was a sabbing success from start to finish. Great teamwork from all groups put paid to any attempts at a kill.

Huge thanks to all who have worked with us and supported us.

In solidarity

Southampton Sabs

Three Counties Hunt Sabs

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



It has been a very busy season for us covering the badger cull, wildlife persecution and sabbing hunts. Some 3C sabs have been out at night against poachers and those harming badger setts.

We have made some grisly discoveries but also saved lives. Early morning patrols and stake-outs have caught a few sett-blockers and the hapless Will Haines (terrierman of the North Cotswold) trying to bolt a fox from an artificial earth. Post-hunt checks of areas have led to greater knowledge of areas.

Packs sabbed this season have included (along with numerous other groups) the North Cotswold, the Ledbury, the CVFH, the Heythrop, the Beaufort, the VWH the Cotswold, a couple of outings with the Dummer Beagles, the Croome and a couple of "away" days in other parts of the country.

Last year one of the hunts we had been sabbing for some years, the South Herefordshire, was put out of action by an undercover investigation at the kennels -this is now a live case. This year the Ledbury have entered a partnership with what is left of that hunt and blatantly hunt foxes and block badger setts in SHH country. A number of groups have been sabbing them across both Ledbury and SHH countries. With the increased roll out of the badger cull, we will spend the summer sett surveying across several different zones. This knowledge will also be put to good effect when the hunting season begins again.

West Midlands Hunt Sabs

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

Last August we held a demonstration outside the kennels of the Atherstone Hunt to protest their hound racing event. Three hunt members made false allegations to Leicestershire Police regarding this demonstration.

On Wednesday 18th April Cathy Scott was found not guilty of three counts of causing harassment, alarm or distress under Section 4 and 5 of the Public Order Act at Loughbourgh Magistrates Court. Three senior members of the Atherstone Hunt - Huntsman and Joint-master Mike Lane, Joint-master Mark Halford and the hunt's only employee, Oliver Hope, had made allegations claiming Scott had sworn, shouted at and threatened them.She was found not guilty after video footage completely disproved their allegations. The footage showed a very calm, quiet and low key demonstration outside the hunts kennels.



In summing up, the magistrates said the three hunt members where not credible witnesses, their evidence had contradicted their original statements and the video footage. Oliver Hope's evidence was undermined by audio from the video footage.

Lane, Halford and Hope have all now been reported for perverting the course of justice. They made very serious accusations that could have resulted in an innocent person being sent to prison.

The Atherstone Hunt are close to financial collapse due to the constant exposure they have had from us. If Scott had been found guilty all three members of the Atherstone Hunt could have applied for restraining orders effectively banning Scott from protesting against the Atherstone Hunt. Our message to the Atherstone Hunt is this: we are not going anywhere

However, serious questions now need to be asked about Leicestershire Police and why they allowed three members of the Atherstone Hunt to make allegations without providing any proper corroborative evidence to support them.

West Sussex Hunt Sabs

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

Firstly, a huge thank you to all our supporters for their very kind donations during the last season. Also our grateful thanks to all the sab groups that came over to make illegal fox hunting for the Crawley & Horsham very difficult, if not impossible. We have established some very reliable support from members of the public who are against the killing of our wildlife. Through their vigilance and dedication we received some excellent tip-offs which enabled us to monitor most of last season's meets.

The hunting season kicked off with the usual meet in Knepp Castle. The Knepp Estate rigorously deny allowing anything other than 'trail hunting' on their land. However, the C&H make little to no effort to hunt within the law and they do hunt on a lot of the Knepp land!

During the meets there would often be up to four quad bikes overloaded with masked-up terrier men. They drove at speed up busy roads and lanes, often on the wrong side of the road, or at hunt sabs/monitors. We have for a few years lobbied the police to do something about the illegal misuse of quad bikes by the hunt, and we intend to carry on until something positive is done.



During the season we had some close encounters with foxes that were being hunted. One fox crossed the road in front of the whipper-in who could do nothing with us there watching. It wasn't all success though, and we had the heartbreak of knowing when they had killed. The Crawley & Horsham often hunt in woods in the pitch black, illegal hunting? We think so.

We have a busy summer ahead with other campaigns - give us a call if want to get involved



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

Nicole Kissane #20651-111
MCC San Diego, Metropolitan Correctional Center, 808 Union Street, San Diego, CA 92101, USA.
In early 2016 Nicole Kissane signed non-cooperating plea agreements in which she pled guilty to Conspiracy to Violate the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act. Nicole was accused of releasing thousands of animals from fur farms, and causing damage to associated businesses in 2013. Nicole was sentenced to 21 months in January 2017.

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.

BACK IN THE DAY...



At the venerable age of 55, the HSA is by far the world's oldest direct action organisation. Other groups have come and gone, or grown so bloated that they have lost sight of their original aims. In contrast, the HSA has stayed true to its cause of direct action against all bloodsports. Our history is unique, inspiring and definitely worth celebrating. So, with summer finally here, let's take a trip down memory lane and recall the early '90s campaign against the Ytene Mink Hunt.

Tales From The Riverbank

Like many mink hunts, the Ytene were originally an otter-hunting pack. When the otter gained protected status in 1978, the Dorset-based Courtenay Tracy Otterhounds changed their name to "Ytene" and claimed they would hunt mink instead. (Hunters would pull a similar stunt years later when, in February 2005, fox and hare packs supposedly became "trail" hunts overnight).

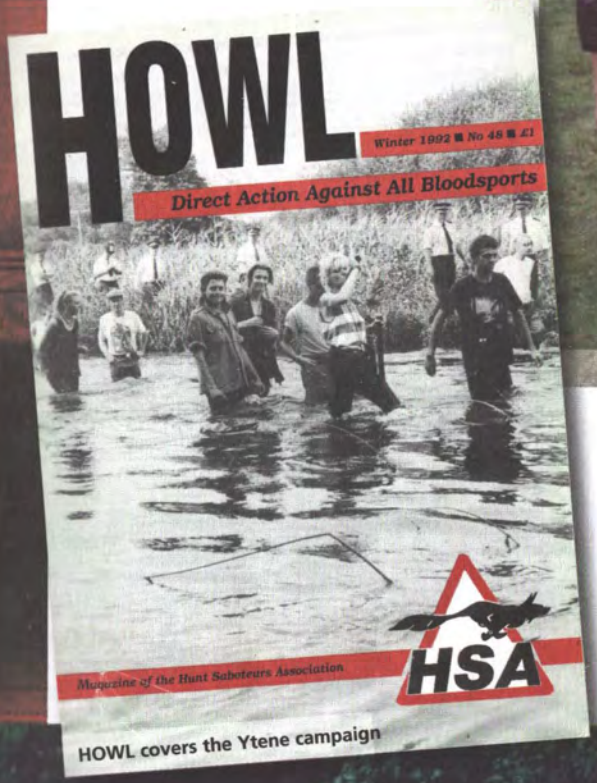
Mink hunts have always operated at the rougher end of the hunting market and, in the early '90s, there was no pack rougher than the Ytene. Epitomised by their fearsome huntsman, the 6'5", black-bearded Tony Smart, the pack quickly became a magnet for aggressive terrier lads from across the south. Hunt masters Rose Whitcombe and Bob Tucker also revelled in their pack's hard reputation and were amongst the first to deploy "agent of the landowner" tactics against anyone opposed to them.

"...in the early '90s, there was no pack rougher than the Ytene. Epitomised by their fearsome huntsman, the 6'5", black-bearded Tony Smart, the pack quickly became a magnet for aggressive terrier lads from across the south."

Hunt saboteurs, of course, have never shied away from a challenge and by 1991 the sporadic sabbing of previous summers had evolved into an organised campaign. Brave and determined sabs disrupted almost every meet throughout May. Sometimes hunting was abandoned but, more often, sabs had to take to the river to mask the water-bourne scent of mink or protect a den. Sabs quickly learnt that staying mid-stream was also the best way to avoid the Plod, whose commitment to law and order did not extend to getting their feet wet!

By June the hunt had abandoned their fixture card and took to meeting at random times. The sab response was to stake out the kennels and use motorbikes - which could not be blocked in - to tail the hound van.

This tactic, together with several kennel blockades, ruined the "sport" right through till August when meets were obtained again.



HOWL covers the Ytene campaign


Tony Smart illustrates his talent for peaceful negotiation

Sabs found themselves back on the riverbank, dodging heavies and police, as they continued to save mink through to the end of the season. The 1992 season was another hard-won success with the hunt being sabbed on 24 occasions, including most Saturday meets. The Ytene responded by further escalating their violence: catapults were fired at sabs and tractors rammed sab vans off the road. The police, when not taking tea with the hunt, busied themselves by arresting the victims of these serious crimes. Undeterred, sabs carried on.

By 1993, the Ytene had become, if anything, an even more aggressive outfit, with many psychotic hunt thugs simply there to "batter the antis." Sabs from across the country met this challenge head-on by travelling to Dorset to support their local comrades whenever they could.


Tony Smart blows for home


Stand-off at a dig out

At one memorable meet a dig-out had to be abandoned when the Ytene digging team's spades ended up at the bottom of the River Frome. On another inspiring occasion, hunt thugs were moving in to attack outnumbered locals when Bolton, Liverpool and Oxford sabs suddenly swarmed over the horizon. With numbers now even, the cowardly hunters withdrew and the pack headed home. ▷



Summer '18: Dove Valley mink hunters not mink hunting

That Was Then, This Is Now

In recent years the Ytene have reverted to their old otter-hunting name (hmm, wonder why? - Ed.) but in all other respects they are a shadow of their former selves. When sabs last caught up with them, a few years back, they responded by having a picnic and then meekly driving back to their kennels.

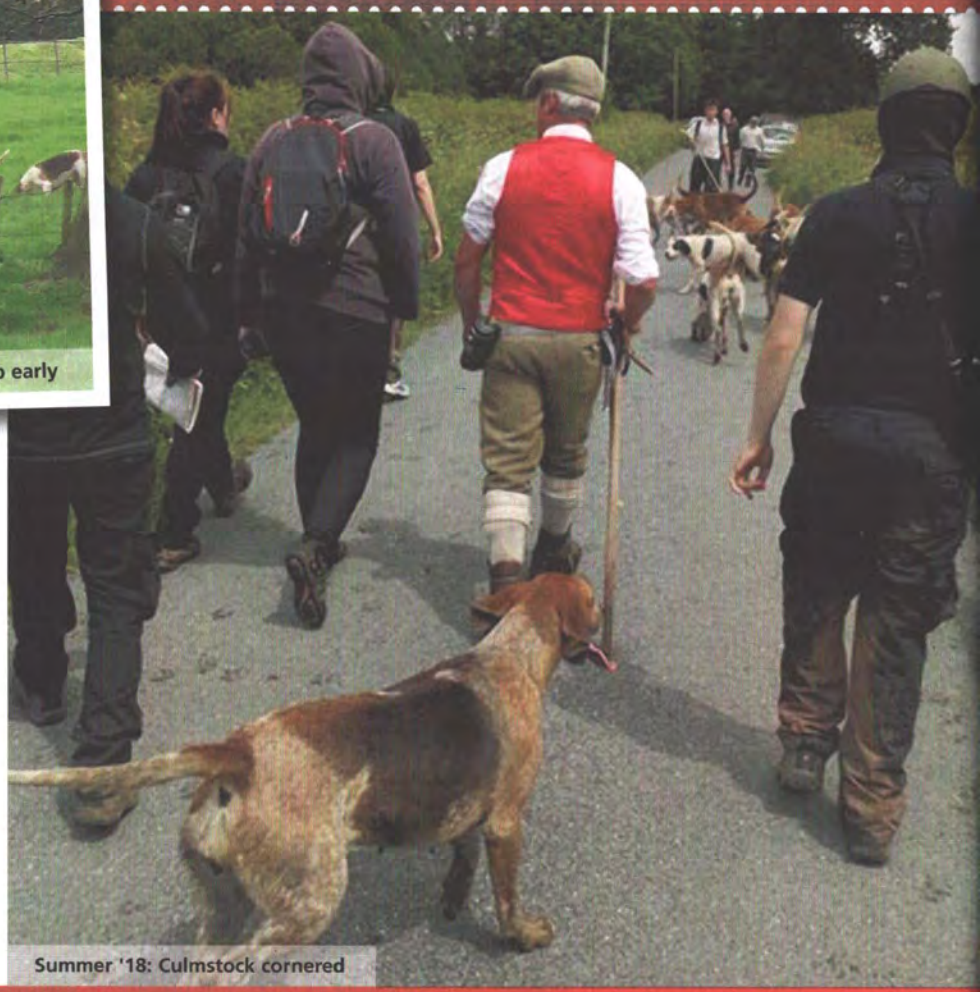
"...they are a shadow of their former selves. When sabs last caught up with them, a few years back, they responded by having a picnic and then meekly driving back to their kennels..."



Doing what they do best: the Northants MH pack up early

At the time of writing - June 2018 - there have already been several hits on minkhunts. The Northants MH have been sabbed on two consecutive Saturdays and a Sunday, the Dove Valley MH have been hit twice and the Culmstock MH once. Like the Ytene, these packs were once formidable opponents; these days their ageing supporters simply head back to the meet at the first sign of sabs.

It's been a long battle so far and we certainly haven't finished off the mink hunters yet...but we're getting there.



Summer '18: Culmstock cornered

Save us some dosh if you're moving!

If you move house please email Membership@huntsabs.org.uk

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 Chris Kneath (Old Man Chris)
23rd November 1946 - 12th February 2018

Brighton Hunt Sabs are sorry to report the death of one of our long-term members.
Chris Kneath, known to us as Old Man Chris, died over the weekend of 10th-11th February.

Chris had been involved with Brighton sabs since the 90's, helping to get the group back on its feet after a bit of a lull. He was a regular out sabbing, sometimes driving, but more often as a very good navigator. Over the years, he was invaluable in helping us to keep a variety of clapped-out old motors on the road for far longer that could reasonably be expected of them. He was a regular at street stalls in the off season, helping to raise much needed money to keep us out there, where it counts, in the field.

Chris was also a stalwart of the live export demos at Shoreham and the successful campaign to close Shamrock Monkey Farm. During both he was consistent and unflinching in his support of those arrested or detained. Having been a political prisoner himself, Chris maintained that prisoner support was the strong backbone of a vibrant movement. He spent many hours over the years writing hundreds of letters to political prisoners from all over the world, helping to make their days inside a little bit lighter, and reminding them they were not alone.

Chris believed strongly in the saying, "human freedom, animal rights - one struggle, one fight." As such he was a staunch anti fascist, especially active in his younger years of the 80's.

Although he was Brighton born and bred (enough of a rarity to be commented on), Chris spent time in both London ('70's) and Bristol ('80's) before returning here. He worked as a labourer and carpenter, and as a driver and roadie for bands, but also spent a number of years as the cook at Brighton Unemployed Centre and was instrumental in it being a fully vegan kitchen decades before this was more widely accepted. Brighton seems smaller without him.

In recent times, Chris would still turn up to help raise funds for the sab group, despite having lost half a leg a few years back, due to an infection. He made sure to keep up to date with the latest sab news and snuck twenty quid into the collecting tin at every single fundraising event because he acted on his belief in direct action even when not out in the field. He always had a story or reminiscence from his long involvement in activism to illustrate a point or suggest ideas for action and to inform newer people of the history around them.

Chris spent many years at the Public House bookshop in Brighton and at Brighton Peace Centre, he also worked at Brighton Urban Free Festivals on the Level. He drove buses and did a variety of other jobs working for a while in the construction of Brighton Marina.

In Bristol we know he drove bands and reggae sound systems for a number of years and was active in a miner's support group during the great strike of 1984/5, building direct links with miners and their families in South Wales.

In London he worked at a number of radical bookshops (at a time when they were raided and arrests made as part of the Persons Unknown conspiracy trial) and he had earlier been safe-housed by a group connected with Peace News while he was on the run from the army. He also later helped to move Peace News office equipment from London to Nottingham when they relocated by canal boat.



Chris was a founder member of the Cowley Club and regularly attended the venue and supported it in many ways. Almost the last piece of post Chris received was the loan stock certificate acknowledging the £100 he had handed over the counter at the cafe in cash to help with building works. His final piece of unopened post was a copy of HOWL. Active and informed until the end.

Chris was a good man, an activist of many years, but most of all he was our friend...and we miss him.

Chris' ashes were scattered on Whitehawk Hill overlooking Brighton and at the Marina, a spot he returned to often.


HSA TIP-OFF
HOTLINE
If you have any information on hunting, shooting or animal cruelty of any description please ring our 100% confidential hotline:
07443 148 426
www.huntsabs.org.uk