The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association Spring 2019 (Issue 119) £2 (free to members)

HOWL

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

Furtive Fell Packs

Harrier Pack sabotage

French Stag Hunt sab

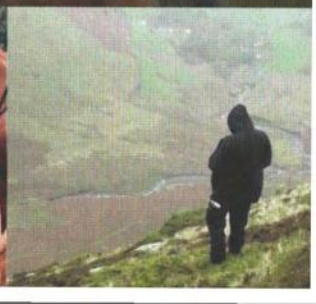
Fitz Fit-up Fails

Badger Cull

Group News









LETTER FROM THE CHAIR:

As 2018 draws to a close we have experienced one of the worst Boxing Day violence to sabs and deaths of the hunted animal for many a year. While the police wander around looking for drones they are totally ignoring real rural crimes happening week on week, and with most hunts not even making a pretence of laying a drag this causes righteous outrage.

So, when I hear of calls for more funding and numbers for the police I simply have to laugh. Before the ban, when the police coffers were full, they spent their money and resources on harassing sabs. As soon as the ban came into force those same resources suddenly disappeared. You have to ask yourself, "Ban? What ban?"

So, what do we do apart from keep sabbing and saving lives? We need a strengthened ban which makes it even harder to ignore the truth and the police need to be held to account. The HSA is working on all three fronts and is the only organisation doing so. No-one else dares to challenge police inaction. You know this as you have joined the HSA, but when you meet your anti-hunt friends please ask them who they give their money to and why. Sabs are the only ones out there saving lives and pushing for a real ban. With no staff to pay all your money goes to helping animals. Please promote us when you can, by word of mouth and through social media.

2019 will be no easier for sabs across the country and, with three months of the hunting season to go, expect to see more reports of sabs being attacked and their vehicles being damaged or stolen outright (which recently happened to Sheffield sabs). It has always been this way and it will not deter us as an organisation or the local groups from getting out into the fields to save lives. The harder they attack us, the more it hardens our resolve to fight back.

Hunters fail to realise that while they hunt for fun, we sab because it is a calling, a passion. We do not sab because we want to, we sab because we are dedicated to protecting our wildlife as a moral imperative.

So, a belated Happy New Year to you all. Thank you for your continued support which helps us keep our local groups in the field during the hunting seasons, during the badger cull and out on the moors (and elsewhere) against shooting. We could not do it without your help and support.

If anyone is interested in standing for the HSA committee, please submit your application in writing to info@huntsabs.org.uk, during the month of March with the names of two members of the HSA to propose and second your application.

HSA Chair



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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.

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



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

MIKE HILL & TOM WORBY

Killed

9th February 1991 & 3rd April 1993 respectively whilst lawfully trying to prevent hunts from killing our wildlife.

YOU WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN



EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first ever forty-page edition of HOWL - the magazine of the country's fastest-growing and most effective anti-hunt organisation. As usual, HOWL is packed with exclusive news from the frontline and is written by those who are out in the fields sabotaging hunts week in, week out.

For many sabs the precious "off season" disappeared in 2013 when the hated badger cull began. This summer was no different, and sabs fought the cull cage by bloody cage. Our article *Cage Fighters* demonstrates how this sustained and committed direct action has driven down the government's kill targets - an incredible achievement!

HOWL is also very proud to present two articles written by active sab groups. Lancashire sabs share their expertise with the notorious fell packs of Lakeland; while Norfolk/Suffolk discuss the unique challenges of sabbing mounted hare-hunting. Both groups overcome countless odds to save lives every week.

We are also pleased to feature two articles on the under-reported bloodsport of stag hunting. The first is an inspiring account of international action to sabotage a French stag hunt; the second, written by veteran sab Joe Hashman, highlights the cynical cruelty of the Quantocks Stag Hounds. Equally inspiring is the second part of our *Back In The Day* series...a reminder of the determination and bravery of those sabs that went before us.

Away from the killing fields, the big news has been the Fitzwilliam Hunt's injunction against local hunt sabs. One of those directly involved has written a powerful account of how they refused to be intimidated by the hunt and their wealthy backers. Making absolutely no news whatsoever is Tim Bonner's much-vaunted campaign to "expose the individuals involved" in hunt sabotage. This initiative has sunk even faster than his embarrassing 2016 attempt to get face masks banned. Keep up the great work Tim!



Jealous hunter looks on as sab gets love from the New Forest Beagles

More seriously, sabs across the country have detected a dangerous new mood out there. With all hope of repeal dead, hunters are trying ever harder to kill our wildlife and have even less hesitation in attacking those of us that stop them.

Stay safe.

Ed

TAKING THE MORAL HIGH GROUND

Lancashire Hunt Sabs explain how the fell packs work - and how to stop them

There are six traditional fell packs in the Lake District – the Blencathra Foxhounds, the Coniston Foxhounds, the Ullswater Foxhounds, the Melbreak Foxhounds, the Eskdale & Ennerdale Foxhounds, and the North Lonsdale Foxhounds.

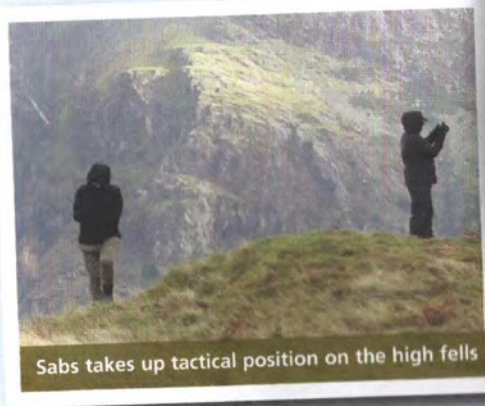
Fox Hunting In The Lakeland Fells

Hunting is carried out on foot, with the huntsman and spotters being on the higher parts of the fells, and whips operating lower down to prevent hounds from going onto roads and to push them back into the hunting area. Supporters will also climb fells as well as lining roads in their vehicles. Generally speaking, a huntsman will cast his hounds below into valleys and onto fellsides so that the spectators get to see the chase and kill. Hunts have favourite 'amphitheatres' - natural geographical formations - in which they like to perform for their spectators.

Hounds are sent into crags and gills to flush out foxes, while spotters holloa to draw attention to a fleeing fox and alert the ghoulish audience to the ensuing chase. Terriermen are usually present in some form, the fell packs are welcoming to outsiders who want to bring in terriers to 'have a go' when a fox has gone to ground. Foxes are usually flushed out and bolted to continue the chase, or simply into the waiting pack of hounds. On occasion, several foxes can be killed by a fell pack in a day. As with lowland hunts, fell hunts will release bagged foxes and young foxes that have been raised in captivity.

Sabbing the Fell Packs

The Lakeland environment can be both beautiful and dangerous and, like any good hill walker, knowledge of the fells and weather is part of the essential skill set. For many years Cumbria Hunt Sabs were exceptionally effective against fell hunting - before and after the ban. The newly-formed Lancaster Hunt Sabs (now Lancashire) forged a close working relationship with Cumbria sabs in 2011 and rapidly learnt what sabbing tactics worked in the fells. Alongside the traditional techniques, there are unique skills which are effective for sabbing in mountain areas. These include entering known areas early in the morning and taking up positions which command excellent views of the hunt's favoured hunting ground.



Sabs takes up tactical position on the high fells

This has proved extraordinarily effective, particularly with the availability of excellent cameras. This has extended to the use of drones, though the weather can limit their effectiveness.

Due to the number of tourists and walkers in the area, we can exploit the opportunity to appear to be members of the public. It is not unusual for sabs to hit the fell packs in several different guises simultaneously: dressed as fell walkers in bright outdoor gear, camouflaged on the fell sides in ghillie suits and overt sabbing in black.



Something to hide? The Blencathra get all shy when sabs turn up

Many of the hunts are now deeply paranoid and creep about the fells, in an attempt to remain unseen. This has had the effect of keeping them 'out of sight' and therefore depriving their supporters of witnessing the 'entertainment' of live hunting, resulting in a significant drop in roadside support.

Using small covert groups to effectively surround the hunting 'arena' and push the huntsman and hounds towards the sabs on the lower ground means that the hunt remains in the spotlight of multiple cameras. We try to establish ourselves mid-fell, neither too high nor too low, as this tends to be the location where most hunting takes place.



A fell pack disturbs the peace of the hills

"Due to the number of tourists and walkers in the area, we can exploit the opportunity to appear to be members of the public. It is not unusual for sabs to hit the fell packs in several different guises simultaneously: dressed as fell walkers in bright outdoor gear, camouflaged on the fell sides in ghillie suits and overt sabbing in black."

This positioning enables us to make rapid descents if necessary, as the fell huntsman can move from fell to fell with the aid of a quad bike, and his hounds may travel some distance away from him and the sabs. Blencathra huntsman Barry Todhunter, for example, has admitted on camera that his hounds can be "four or five miles away" from him on a hunting day.

National Dis-Trust

Lancashire sabs engage with members of the public who are visiting the Lake District to inform them of exactly what it is they are witnessing. This has been combined with a campaign to prevent the fell packs from using public land (the National Dis-Trust campaign was born in the Lake District) resulting in the fell packs refusing to apply for NT licences this 2018-19 season, and therefore greatly limiting their legal access to historical hunting areas.

Although the fell packs continue to hunt illegally, they are a shadow of their former selves, with a couple on the brink of collapse.

We will assist with this process as much as we can.



Sabs take control of the pack on the valley floor

Barry Todhunter (left) with all his mates

THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS

Norfolk & Suffolk Hunt Sabs explain how to sab hare hunting with harriers



Any sab groups unlucky enough to have both fox and harrier packs on their patch will know that not all sabbing is the same. Whilst most sab groups in the UK probably deal exclusively with fox packs, the opposite is true for Norfolk & Suffolk Sabs as we have the Dunston Harriers, the Easton Harriers and the Waveney Harriers on our patch.

Here in East Anglia hares live in greater numbers than they do in many parts of the country. The downside of this, of course, is that it leads to hare shoots, hare coursing and hare hunting being very popular in our part of the world. Brown hares are sadly becoming increasingly endangered and it is more important than ever to stop the hare hunters in their tracks.

Hares are beautiful, fast and elusive creatures. They can reach speeds of up to 45 mph and so keeping up to sab a hare hunt on foot can prove a difficult task. We have learnt that it is crucially important to always try to stay ahead of the hounds. If you are behind them when they give chase, you are less likely to succeed in intervening. It is for this reason that, depending on the number of sabs we have out, we divide ourselves into groups of car sabs and foot sabs. Those out on foot can take action in the immediate vicinity but, if a long chase takes place, it is easier for the car sabs to get into a position where they can intervene. As a result of this fast pace, we have found that using multiple vehicles to relay sabs is a good tactic to stay ahead of the pack.



What it's all about: a beautiful hare runs free

Hares shelter in "forms" which are shallow depressions in the ground. To give themselves some added protection these forms can often be found in amongst arable crops such as beet. As hounds are cast into fields of beet and, depending on the time year, it can be a complete guessing game as to whether hares are hidden up in the beet or not and how many hares there are on any one field. It is important to stay one step ahead of the hunters and to survey the topography as quickly as possible to ascertain what the risks are on any given field.



"Yit, yit !"... sabs disrupt the draw

As hounds pick up the scent they will start to speak; sometimes they lose the scent altogether and can be seen casting back in almost a circular motion as they attempt to pick it up again. When they do go into full cry, they usually go off in a line with the lead hound way out in front. It is at this point that every single second counts. As with all sabbing, if we are not able to stop the hounds completely then we aim to slow them as much as we can to give the hare more time to escape. Harriers are bred for their stamina and are used to running at speed, for long distances. Thankfully, sometimes the hare just simply outruns the hounds. Other times the hare makes a wrong decision and



Gary Wingar, hare killer

runs towards the hounds instead of away from them. Sometimes the terrified hare leaves it to the very last minute before making a dash for it, so late that it is killed almost immediately: this is called a "chop". For the hunters and their supporters there is no real sport in a chop, as what they want to see is a long chase.

On a typical day's sabbing with a harrier pack we sadly witness many hare chases taking place. There is certainly never any time to rest on your laurels, as hare hunting is a lot faster-paced than fox hunting. Our group is lucky to have an excellent wildlife photographer who supports us, and the presence of his camera alone often stops the hunters in their tracks. Sadly, it is not possible to save every hare and over the last two or three years we have witnessed some particularly horrific hare kills at the hands of the Easton Harriers. On 13/02/16 at Sutton one of our brave sabs managed to get the hare from the hounds but sadly it died in his arms.



One we couldn't save



Hounds prefer the company of vegans

Probably our most notorious sabbing experience was at a cubbing meet on 08/10/16 at Tannington when the hounds killed and the Master of the hunt attempted to conceal the hare's body inside her jacket. They later claimed that it was a rabbit.

Thankfully, we do manage to save many more hares than are killed. The more sabs we have out, the more hares we can save. If you are not already active in the fields then please consider getting involved. The hares really do need more hunt sabs.



You can't cover up your crimes



Sabs race in to intercept the pack

INTERNATIONAL ACTION: FRENCH STAG HUNT SABBED



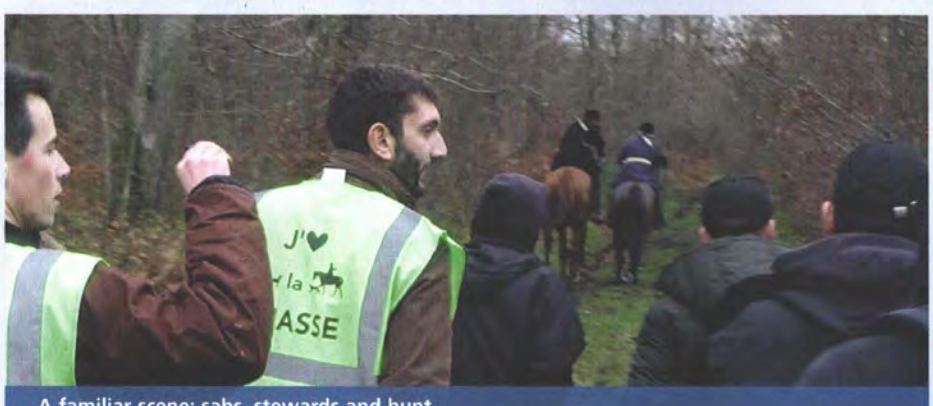
The International HSA team joined sabs from Picardie and Chantilly AVA (Abolition Venerie Aujourd Hui) on Saturday 8th December 2018 on the notorious Equipage de la Futaie des Amis stag hunt in the Foret de Compiegne.

The forest is 180 km² of rugged terrain, with steep slopes rising to 130 metres from the valley floor. It is criss-crossed by bridleways, with distinctive white marker posts at the crossroads, but road access is poor.

Despite disruption on the French motorways by Gilet Jaune protestors, the team arrived just after the hunt set off and, after parking up in a village on the northern edge of the forest, were taken by French sabs to the southern edge, some 10km away. Within minutes the first riders, including the Master, were spotted and sabs entered the woods.

Over a hundred stewards, in their fetching *'J'Aime la Chasse'* gilets attempted, unsuccessfully, to keep sabs away from the hunters, with the usual silly tactics of walking in the way and trying to engage in meaningless conversation. This first foray turned out to be a ruse and the sabs and their French companions quickly realised that the hounds were not in that area of the forest. They returned to the road but almost immediately got a phone call saying the hounds had been spotted nearby. As they re-entered the woods, the distinctive baying of the French hounds soon drew the sabs to their target and the real action began. Two hinds passed close by sabs, with hounds in full cry behind them, but gizmos pulled the hounds off and the hinds made good their escape. Sabs kept up with the hounds, who soon went into cry again, but once more the gizmo proved effective.

The hunters and the stewards then became increasingly aggressive, with one of the huntsmen riding his horse into an AVA activist. The rider looked totally bemused when a sab took the reins to stop him, eventually using his riding crop to force the sab to let go. Realising they were up against some experienced opposition, the hunters went whinging off to the cops, who managed to grab a couple of sabs and give them a lecture on ground rules for the day!



A familiar scene: sabs, stewards and hunt

Unfortunately, this caused a short delay and sabs lost sight of the hunt. Stag hunts move very fast and reports soon came in that the hunt was on the northern edge of the forest, over 10km away. It was a long footslog for the sabs to get back to a road for a pick up, and the team got splintered as they were picked up by AVA's cars to begin trying to verify the sighting. Part of the problem is that the hounds can be a long way from the huntsman, and the riders get very scattered, so reports of a hunter in one part of the forest is not necessarily a good indication of the location of the hounds.

Luckily, some of the International team and their French hosts quickly located the hounds crossing a road towards the northern side of the forest and contacted the rest of the sabs with the location of the hunt. The hunters' day was obviously being ruined and they attacked and injured several sabs and AVA activists, but the bulk of the group had now caught up, braving increasing hostility from the stewards to get a good position downslope from the HSA team and AVA who were now positioned on the Mont St Pierre.

The Master was desperately trying to regain control of the pack from the team higher up the slope, but only had two hounds with him when he came out onto the track where the other sabs were waiting. Two sabs followed him but were eventually overwhelmed by stewards and had to divert off the track and secrete themselves in the woods higher up the slope. This turned out to be a lucky move

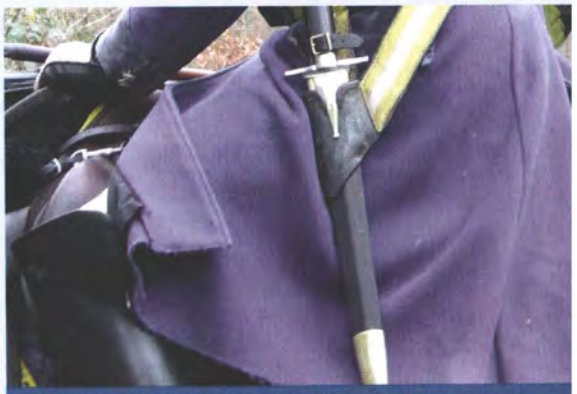
"The Master was desperately trying to regain control of the pack from the team higher up the slope, but only had two hounds with him when he came out onto the track..."

as two gizmos in tandem kept the hounds split all over the Mont and off the trail of the deer.

At this point, the heavy mob of the French Police arrived, and the first team of sabs were escorted from the woods by two riot vans of armed police! Fortunately, they managed to phone the other team further along the Mont, who took up their vacated position, where the Master was still desperately trying to gather.

One of the AVA activists joined the sabs. He sustained a serious chest injury when he was ridden down, but refused to get hospital treatment until the end of the day! The third sab team, which was trying to get to the Mont from the south, also encountered some heavy-handed policing, and it was decided that the sab team had to withdraw. The team coming off the Mont met the large group of AVA on the road and passed on the exact location of the hunt and their injured companion before hightailing it back to the cars.

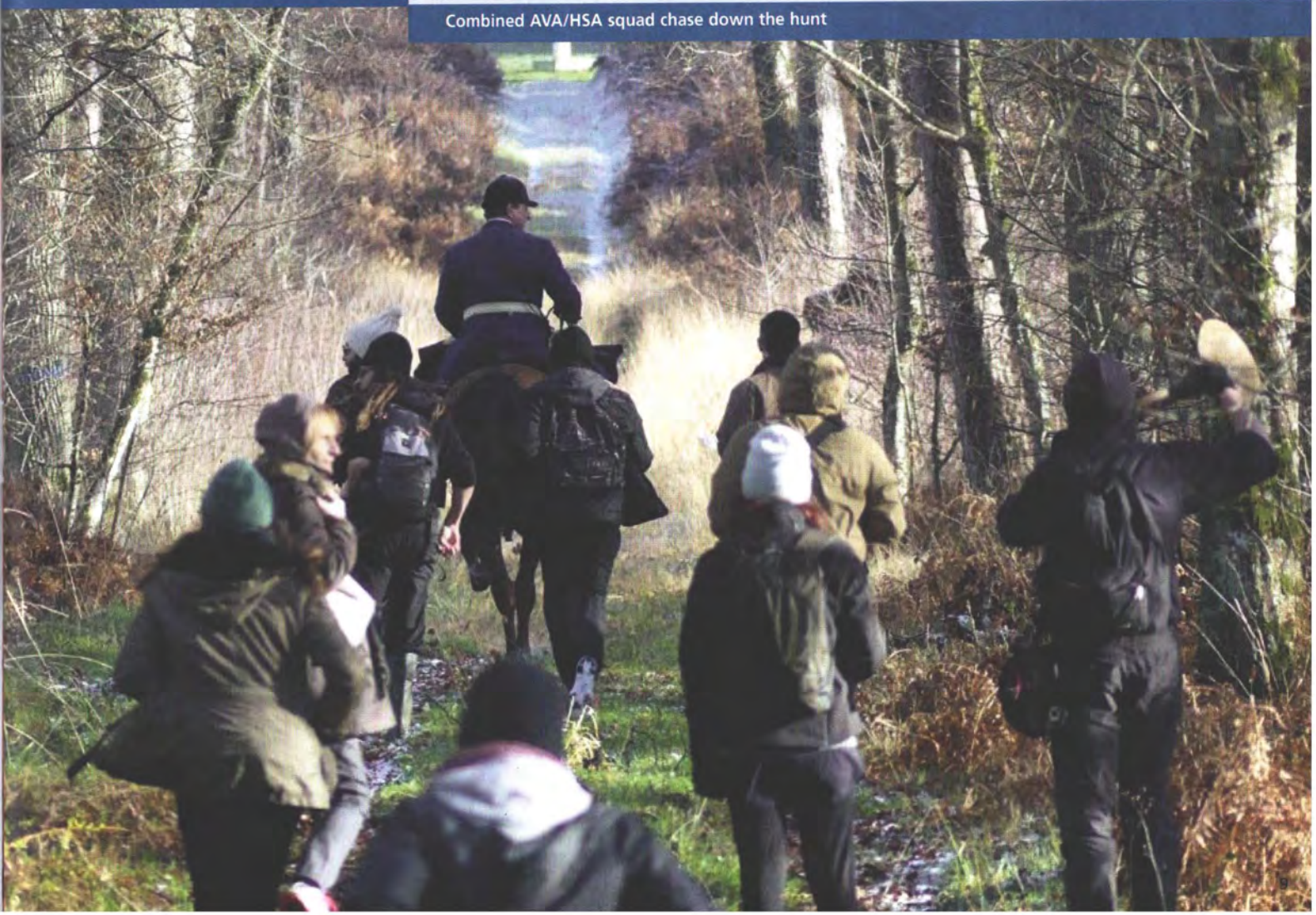
The French Police were waiting in force, with one group of sabs under armed guard, and the other group frog-marched out of the forest a few minutes later! All the sabs had their details taken by the police but were then allowed to go.



Daggers: an "acceptable" way to kill the stag

After a very fraught journey home, with the Gilet Jaune protests having cranked up during the day and the motorway back to the coast being shut, the sabs were delighted to hear from AVA that the day had finished without a kill and another hunt in the area had cancelled because of the presence of sabs in the area. Result!

Combined AVA/HSA squad chase down the hunt



sabgroupnews



Bath Hunt Sabs

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It's been a busy time for sabs, as we have had both the cruel badger cull and the disgusting 'cubbing' season (where the hunts kill young foxes) to deal with.

We took on the challenge to cover a new cull zone this year and went out day and night with multiple teams to protect the badgers in our zone. We found shocking sights; among them a dead calf dumped by a footpath, blocked badger setts and cruel traps left for innocent wildlife. We managed to keep the pressure on the hunts by sabbing their early morning cubbing meets. It was an exhausting time for us, but we are now even stronger as a group, with our navigational skills honed by months of moving across the countryside at all times and in all weathers. We have grown, with new members joining us all the time. This main season we have worked closely with Bristol in sabbing the Tedworth and Mendip Farmers' on their opening meets, as well as the Avon Vale, the North Cotswold, the Ledbury South & the Berkeley - and there'll be plenty more to come as the season goes on! It's not just the hunted animals who suffer at the hands of the hunt - we have seen hounds in a terrible condition and horses being abused by their riders. We continue to expose the cruelty hunts inflict on ALL animals.

Thanks to all the fine groups we have worked with so far this season and to our supporters for keeping us in the fields protecting wildlife. Please get in touch if you'd like to help out and follow us on our Facebook page to find out our latest news.


Bath sabs take control of the Avon Vale pack


Old Berkeley Beagles: all dressed up but nowhere to go

Beds and Bucks Hunt Sabs

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It's been a crazy first half of the 2018/19 season and not one any of us will forget. We successfully minimized the horrendous killing in our zone of the badger cull and targeted the cubbing of our local hunts. As usual, we paid special attention to the Oakley and the Fitzwilliam with our regular comrades North Cambs Hunt Sabs and continued this into the main season.

The Fitz took the extraordinary decision to try and take us through the courts (see article page 26 - Ed.), whereas the Oakley are now switching their hunt days in an effort to avoid being sabbed but we still find them and its taking its toll on the attendances of both hunts. We are saving lives every week: the current record for this season is five foxes in one day! Constant sab attention really has a big effect.

We've also hit Tim Bonner's home hunt (the Puckeridge), the North Bucks Beagles, the Old Berkeley Beagles and the Cambridge with Enfield Chase on a day when the Horse and Hound photographer was there (for some reason we didn't make it into that publication!). This activity, of course, costs money and we've had some great support from our local Lush and the public: our trusty sab wagon (Boris) now rides better than ever thanks to those donations. Speaking of donations, one very special one was for an advanced aerial unit which we are putting to good use when conditions allow.

We hope to secure another conviction, this time against the huntsman and whipper-in of the Thurlow. This goes to court early in the new year and, by the time you read this, we'll have had our day in court. The simple fact is we're growing and getting stronger, public support for all sab groups is increasing and the hunts are up against the wall. We're winning and it's only a matter of time.

Berkshire Hunt Sabs

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Facebook.com/huntsabs
Twitter.com/SabsBerkshire

As usual, Berkshire sabs have helped our mates North Downs and Guilford at the Surrey Union this season. We've also had a good run at the beagle packs. This began with our traditional festive visit to the New Forest Beagles, whose huntsman had adorned his hat with tinsel. Our appearance seemed to dampen the Christmas cheer and they glumly sloped back to the meet. Boxing Day saw us at the Palmer Marlborough – on this showpiece day they mustered an impressive ten supporters. We then hit the Old Berkeley Beagles twice and the Palmer Marlborough again. But our best day so far was a fantastic double-header: we hit an early Palmer Marlborough meet and then raced off to stop Sandhurst & Aldershot at Home Farm, Stratfield Saye. Both these packs like to keep a low a profile, so they can't have been happy that our hit report - which featured cruelty to hounds - was read by over half a million people! Another joint meet, between the Eton College and Christchurch & Farley Hill Beagles, was wrecked the following week. We are looking forward to the rest of the season.



Palmer Marlborough Beagles hound cruelty appalled half a million people

Brighton Hunt Sabs

Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
brightonhuntsaboteurs@riseup.net

As ever, we have had as busy a start to the fox hunting season. The misty early mornings of cubbing meets are always a shock to the system but the knowledge that we are stopping them killing keeps us going. We've had some great new recruits this season and several times during cubbing we had more sabs out than there were members of the hunt, which was nice. In November there was the strange news that Jane Goring of the famous whipping incident was killed falling off her horse, bringing that all back into the papers again.



Brighton sabs did all they could to save this fox

We have spent a lot of money on maintaining our group Land Rover this season and were helped out with a big grant from the HAS - thanks! The HSA tip-off line has also been providing us with lots of valuable information on our local hunts. Keep the info coming please.

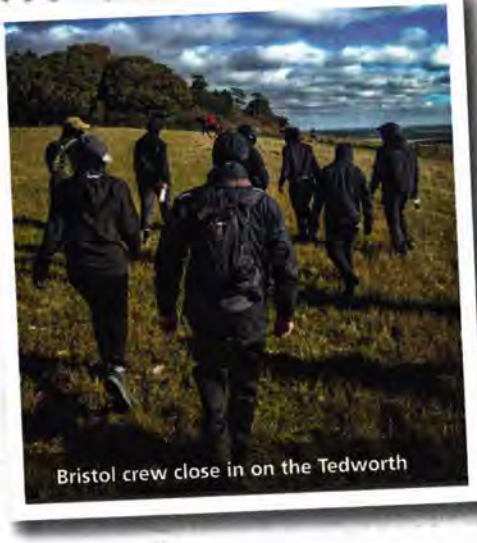
We sabotaged some eventful opening meets, we know we're doing well when the hunts complain about us following them around all day. On Boxing Day some people organised a last-minute demonstration in Lewes to oppose the hunt parading up the high street. The hunt responded in their typical thuggish fashion, ripping signs out of people's hands: it doesn't take much to show them up as the horrible people that they are. That demonstration was covered by national press too. Sadly, at a Crawley and Horsham meet before the New Year they killed a fox in someone's garden, we were just too late to stop them. One of our sabs got the body but the police refused to stop the hunt and only started investigating the kill once we started publicising it. We're not hopeful that the police will do anything, but we'll still be there stopping them killing next time.

If you would like to join us send us a message.

Bristol Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/bristolhuntsaboteurs

It's been a busy first half of 2018/2019 season for us! With sabs active in the Somerset & Wiltshire badger culls zones, we also started sabbing cub hunts earlier than usual due to the weather, at the end of August. The Cotswold Vale Farmers' Hunt, Berkeley Hunt, and a few other local hunts who haven't seen sabs in many years. The Avon Vale, Duke of Beaufort's and Mendip Farmers' Hunt also received our attention, the latter two with numerous mid-week visits.



Bristol crew close in on the Tedworth

We started the main season with visits to three opening meets in as many Saturdays; the Tedworth, Mendip Farmers' & the 'Ledbury South' - all good days. They were followed by an Avon Vale joint meet with the Vine & Craven. After the North Cotswold killed a fox in front of one of our sabs during a mid-week visit, we returned the following Saturday in bigger numbers.

We've returned to the hunts we focused on during cubbing several times, with foxes saved at many meets, as well as joining up with our old pals from South Wales to do a foot meet of the Curre & Llangibby FH.

We finished 2018 with visits to a couple of hare-hunting packs. First up was Boxing Day with a Wiltshire & Infantry Beagles meet, where they spent the day in their vehicles trying to get away from us, followed by a New Year's Eve visit to the RAC Beagles, who didn't leave the meet due to our presence. We then ran into a fox hunt down the road - the VWH - to finish off the year.

A great start to the season, with more sabs out and more hunts sabbed than ever before. Thanks to our supporters for keeping us in the field and to the groups we've worked alongside: Bath, South Wales, Three Counties and Welsh Borders.

Cirencester Illegal Hunt Watch

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

So, the badger cull has ended in Gloucestershire where we made our presence known, sometimes going out day and night during cubbing. We were grateful for help from Bristol, Severn Vale and visiting sabs this year. We would not have saved so many badgers without them. Of course, it goes without saying that Gloucester Badger Office and Three Counties Hunt Sabs were there for us all 24/7. We are also grateful for support from Wildlife Crime Officers who have visited blocked and damaged setts and landowners during the cull. We still need more boots on the ground as the cull continues in the original Gloucester Zone where they are shooting until end of January. It's shocking -badger kill numbers so far are over 30,000! We will never give up until they stop this cull and continue to protect and unblock setts around the hunts daily.



Entitled: the Beaufort Hunt create chaos all over the road

We have monitored the Beaufort, VWH and Cotswold Hunts. We have added the Old Berks Hunt to our list this year and have paid them several visits working alongside 'National Dis-Trust' who have led successful campaigns against hunting on NT land up and down the country resulting in cancelled dates and hunts being banned from NT land. We have joined their demos and one of our monitors filmed the Old Berks hounds killing a fox on NT land. The NT is in denial and keeps claiming the hunts are 'trail hunting'! The hunt trespass round-up for Trust land during the 2018/19 season can be seen here: tinyurl.com/yad6eu7h.

In our last report we mentioned that we have had successful meetings with Gloucester Police & Wildlife Crime – recently they have monitored hunts with boots on the ground, helicopters, drones and police quads.

Please get in touch if you want to join us and thanks to all our supporters so far.

Happy New Year and stay safe!

Devon County Hunt Sabs

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

With most of Devon now covered by cull zones, there is effectively a season on badgers here to mirror the season on foxes that follows it. Fortunately, we have an effective and dedicated team to deal with both.

We thank everyone who helped protect our badgers: those out pacing the fields day and night, those sat guarding gates, those who came to this heavily-culled county, the badger patrollers, supporters, suppliers of food and everything else, and all those got in touch with information because they could not let neighbours wipe out their badgers with impunity.

Devon & Cornwall Police expended vast resources this year providing the local NFU chair with what looked very much like a private security force, escorting shooters in and out and handing out exclusion orders to anyone they bumped into. The police drone, which would make a good tool for keeping an eye on fox hunts if they could be bothered, was spotted so many times you'd think we were at Gatwick Airport.

In autumn a great deal of time was spent with the Eggesford, who keep giving us every reason for a return visit. Sabs who visit us mention how blatant the hunts are with their illegal activities in Devon, and this gang is a perfect example. On 15 December a sab was assaulted by three members of the Eggesford and had to be airlifted to hospital. Our sab is recovering well but huntsman Jason Marles has so far been allowed to continue his activities, killing a fox in front of us on Boxing Day. Public outrage is beginning to build though and come New Year's Day they were not even able to hunt.

Other packs sabbed so far this season include the Britannia Beagles, Dart Vale, South Devon, Taw Vale Beagles and Silverton. Huge thanks to all our friends and supporters!

The grim reality behind Boxing Day pageantry: Eggesford Hunt 26/12/18



Dorset Hunt Sabs

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

We are in the middle of the hunting season and as busy as ever hunting those hunters! We have been paying lots of visits to the Blackmore & Sparkford Vale Hunt and in the last two sabs alone we have seen seven foxes away to safety!

We are finding the riders becoming increasingly aggressive and there have been several incidents including a sab's hat being torn from her head and hunters using their horses as weapons. The riders are manoeuvring their horses to block sabs' way and literally riding over the top of them which is incredibly dangerous! There was a hit-and-run incident with a quad who collided with and damaged the front of our vehicle, all caught on film and ongoing at present. A sab was shoved from behind and required hospital treatment, Somerset police have yet to respond to our report on this. We had a camcorder stolen by a terrier thug and this matter is also ongoing with the police, but we are confident charges will be brought against him.



Running free: Dorset Hunt Sabs saved this beautiful fox

We were just in time to stop a dig-out in December when we arrived to find a terrier thug with the hounds all around him and a very active badger hole either side of him! Chuck in the usual verbal abuse, threat and vile language and it is safe to say our presence is not pleasing them!

We are also busy checking vulnerable badger setts and are glad to see at least some of our Dorset badgers have survived the cull. We would like to wish everyone a happy and kill free New Year and hope that 2019 brings an end to the badger cull and the hunting ban is strengthened ... A sab can dream right?



East/West Kent Sabs pose for the best group shot ever

East Kent Hunt Sabs

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kenthuntsabs.wordpress.com
Donate: paypal.me/EASTKENTHSA

East Kent sabs have been as busy as usual this season, and with West Kent Sabs also active, we have many more boots on the ground, as well as a second vehicle, sabbing hunts not just at the weekends, but also mid-week.

We have sabbed the two foxhound packs across Kent. The East Kent with West Street FH have kept us busy - constantly swapping meets to avoid us and even going out at different times of day (blamed on "weather conditions"!). This chaotic approach has led to fewer riders, and some bad-tempered behaviour from the hunt staff. The terrier men are especially upset these days, and sometimes outnumber riders, meaning that this hunt is no more than a glorified "fox destruction club," However, we have stopped any kills when present. We also persuaded them to withdraw from meeting in public on Boxing Day and New Year's Day - an incredible victory!

The Ashford Valley Tickham Hunt are the same - meets swapped, hunting times changed, but otherwise, its pre-ban hunting all the way, with sabs intervening to rate hounds off foxes and physically preventing dig out. This hunt had some miserable days rider-wise: they are now calling Saturdays "drag hunts" and halving the hunting "cap" to increase numbers - tragic! We have stopped the Bolebroke Beagles even leaving the kennels on some days or packing them up mid-hunt on others. The Blean Beagles were wonderfully shut down on Boxing Day and had ditched their traditional public meet!

Our new drone has been seriously useful this season for keeping an eye on the hunt, terrier men and support. A couple of shoots have also been shut down, and we are more than ready for the second part of the season.

Things got ugly on Boxing Day, when the hunt's frustrations boiled over at the two demos we arranged. Threats were thrown from drunken East Kent supporters as they left the kennels, and these were put into action when sabs were attacked, leaving one hospitalised with serious facial injuries. A hunt member was arrested on suspicion of GBH, and police are trying to identify others involved.

The Ashford Valley Tickham supporters were no better behaved. It wasn't long before the beer-sodden thugs kicked off - many assaults happened, and even the band who were playing were attacked, with the two police officers being completely overwhelmed. Again, we are assisting the police in identifying the attackers, and this won't stop our demos. Onwards and upwards!

East Yorkshire Coast Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/East-Yorkshire-Coast-Hunt-Sabs-1426555787466531/

Our first collective effort was the Staintondale's Boxing Day Meet in December 2017. There were five of us, crammed in to one small car. The hunt were gratifyingly surprised to see that the extremely brave woman they mockingly referred to as 'Billy-no-mates' - who had been following them singlehandedly for years - finally had some company.

We are kept very busy because we are the only group in a large geographical area which includes much of North & East Yorkshire. The countryside is also incredibly varied with beaches, cliffs, farmland, moors & woodland, so we have had to learn to be very adaptable very quickly. There is also a depressingly large number of hunts in the region.

Following a slow start, we have gone from strength-to-strength and we have been joined by some amazing new members. We are out almost every weekend and a couple of days each week, sabbing hunts, checking setts and protecting our wildlife in a variety of ways.

As we are such a new group, we have had to raise funds quite quickly, so we've had stalls at a few vegan festivals, we've also held a talk and we're currently planning future events. Our supporters are very generous and we're so grateful for all their donations and encouragement – we couldn't do any of this without them.



Staintondale terrierman just can't shake EYC sabs



Sadist: Fife terrierman taunts sabs with dead fox

Fife & Central Scotland Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/FifeHuntSabs/

This season has seen an influx of new members, allowing us to split up and target numerous hunts at one time. However, our focus this year has predominantly been with the Fife Hunt and most weekends have been spent protecting the Fife countryside foxes. Usually we were joined by Grampian sabs who are always a great asset, allowing more ground to be covered and helping us to keep up with the hunt. Although mostly successful in sabbing the hunt, they did manage to kill at Kippo Farm and Lindores. On both occasions we were sadly unable to retrieve the fox's body and were openly taunted by the terrier man.

With tension mounting between the hunt and saboteurs, it was only a matter of time before the verbal abuse became more aggressive. On occasion sabs have been shoved around. One sab was grabbed by the collar to prevent him from retrieving the dead body of a fox. No one was injured, but it's worthy of comment as we find that Fife are very hesitant to engage in physical altercations with sabs and tend to keep their abuse verbal. We take this as an indication of their growing frustration at our repeated interventions in their disgusting blood sports. They are clearly short of country: having met at Kippo Farm four times and had three kennel meets already this season. In another desperate attempt to deter us, they hired private investigators who photographed us when we were out sabbing. Either way, things are not looking good for the hunt.

Other than saving the foxes, this year Sab Camp had a particularly big turn out and was enjoyed by everyone. The group held a Q & A at Edinburgh University, encouraging students to take action. Additionally, a screening of Fantastic Mr Fox helped raise funds for our group, allowing us to purchase radios and top up our citronella supplies.

Finally, we would like to thank all our online support for sharing our content.



Hunters hired private detectives to investigate these suspicious characters

Grampian Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/GrampianHuntSabs/

A few newbies have joined this season and learnt a lot from more experienced sabs. It's great to see so many new faces alongside the old as we have seen how the sheer number of sabs can affect a hunt; back in December we had so many sabs positioned around one of their favourite hunting spots that they just packed up and went home defeated! We only hope that one day this will be a reality for every single week.

Grampian sabs have spent every Saturday they could afford to in Fife, joining up with Fife & Central Hunt Sabs and Glasgow Hunt Sabs. We have noticed that the terrier man, Adam Galpin, has become more aggressive towards sabs, and taking more time out of his sad schedule to find out more about each individual sab and intimidate us with this new found "knowledge". They even hired private investigators to follow sabs miles across the field, but again their intimidation wore off after one of them was witnessed face-planting the ground. I guess "townie" sabs are more equipped to the country than these "real" countrymen, eh...

There has been a suspected bagged fox recently. We find it interesting how many times a fox has "magically" appeared not long after the terrier man has been skulking around a woodland by himself. Unfortunately, two foxes have been killed so far this season and the bodies have not been retrieved, but not for lack of trying. We have multiple reasons to believe they were illegally hunting but not enough evidence. The hunt are desperate to keep us away from the body of the fox which leaves us wondering if the post mortem evidence would prove their illegal hunting. But we also wouldn't want them to use the body as one of their sick trophies.

Hertfordshire Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/HerefordshireHuntSabs/

Members of Hertfordshire Sabs spent time in both Devon and Dorset cull zones for several weeks in September and October alongside sab groups there, helping in the fight against the insane slaughter of our precious badgers.

We have as sabbed weekly with Northants Sabs, predominately the Cottesmore hunt who have called out the hired heavies most weeks. We have faced several assaults once more, but we shall not allow thugs to intimidate us - not when it means risking the lives of innocent wildlife.

If you go down to the woods today...



We headed a campaign alongside National Dis-trust against the Trinity Foot & South Herts Beagles hunting hares on Ashridge Estate (National Trust land) ...following our sustained objections which culminated in a large protest at Ashridge, the NT withdrew the licences. During the protest we met several supporters some of whom have been recruited as Hertfordshire Hunt Saboteurs...so we are growing in numbers as we still have several wishing to join. Ashridge Estate even closed their doors to the public on Christmas Eve as we were planning a candlelit vigil to remember the deer who have been slaughtered on their land - in the name of "conservation".

When not actively sabbing we have traversed the local countryside, discovering man's continued persecution of anything living- finding traps and snares and ensuring they are no longer fit for purpose. We shall continue in the same vein, fighting the injustice and abuse of all animals, until the blood junkies and their pastime have been consigned to the annals of history.

We continue to fund raise for our vehicle; firstly, through our animal-themed homemade jewellery and, more recently, our new HHS tee shirts. We are almost there and hope to soon have a vehicle which will enhance our group and make us a more effective Sab group alongside Northants.

Guildford & North Downs Hunt Sabs

The righteous army that is Guilford & North Downs Hunt Saboteurs



We have been joined by the newly-formed Reading group and we regularly fill three landies every week. We have mainly concentrated on the Surrey Union, but have also sabbed the Chiddingfold, Crawley & Horsham, Burstow and Hampshire hunts.

We have been very successful at campaigning, filming quads illegally on National Trust land, we unfortunately lost one fox at the Surrey Union at Peaslake but the resulting national publicity and outcry forced the National Trust to cancel all the licenses for the hunt, a major success for our group.

Our new Reading recruits have quickly learned the ropes, helping foxes to safety and standing up well to violent hunts like the Crawley & Horsham.

Kernow Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/kernowsabs/



No escape: Kernow sab calls in the location of the Fourburrow Hunt

September and October were a very busy time for the Kernow team with a huge new badger cull zone added to our existing already massive zone. We had help from some very dedicated new people and more local intelligence was received than in previous years.

We also got some cubbing tip-offs and managed to sab some meets which is usually difficult during the cull. We were then straight into hunt season and have managed to get extra teams out repeatedly in the week in addition to regular Saturdays and most weeks have seen teams out on two hunts. Our new recruits have been amazing and we're hoping to get more trained up during the rest of the season. Tip-offs and information from the public have been increasing and many more people have been expressing their disgust at hunting.

We are pretty sure that more areas will be brought in for badger culling in 2019 so the team will also be working hard at sett surveying and recruiting for this.

Lincoln Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/lincolnhuntsaboteurs
www.lincolnhuntsaboteurs@gmail.com
Donate: www.ko-fi.com/lincolnhuntsaboteurs

Since the last edition of HOWL we've been very busy; fundraising, building our group up and of course sabbing.

September and October saw us concentrating on the badger cull, we had sabs working in two of the zones. Once the cull finished, we managed to squeeze a morning's cubbing in too.

November saw the start of the main hunt season and we're pleased to say we've been active in preventing a lot of illegal hunting. Along with our good friends at Nottingham sabs we've visited the Meynell, the Belvoir, the Quorn, the Blankney and, in a show of solidarity to West Mids, we took a trip to the Atherstone. We've also enjoyed working with Liverpool sabs again this season and, along with sabs from Hertfordshire and Northants, we had a very successful day at the Cottesmore.

We've been trying to get out to some midweek hunts too, including a few to the Quorn, one to the Blankney, and we were delighted to be a part of the first midweek hit on the Belvoir for nearly twenty years!

We had another benefit gig in September which was a really successful night and gave us the opportunity to purchase some body cameras...we've got another lined up for February! We had a stall at the Lincoln Christmas vegan festival which was also a great success.



Lincoln sabs keep the hunt under very close surveillance!

Melbourne Hunt Sabs (Australia)

www.facebook.com/MelbourneHuntSabs/
Donate:www.gofundme.com/5c6loso

Well, with the year winding up and our season over, Melbourne Hunt Saboteurs focused on its outreach and education arm.

This sees us in attendance at many festivals. Our most enjoyed being World Vegan Day, Melbourne where the sabs are always well received.



No pasaran! Sabs stand their ground against fascist scum

This year we had a few local fash attend and try to intimidate us. The sabs stood their ground and escorted the fash out of the arena. We are fiercely anti-fascist and will never give them an inch.

We are looking forward to Download Festival 2019 and a few more vegan festivals before our season begins in 2019. We always are grateful for any donations to keep us in the field: 2018 season saw us cover over 10,000km in our car!

Deadline for next Howl Group News submissions is 1st May 2019. Please email 300 words or less to howl@huntsabs.org.uk

Please try to include at least one photo of something vaguely interesting - preferably sabbing!



Lancashire Hunt Sabs

lancasterhuntsabs@hotmail.com
Donate: paypal.me/lancashiresabs

Lancashire Sabs have continued to head to the Cumbrian fells where we use a range of strategies to sab the foot and mounted packs. With sabs frequently climbing the fells before the break of daylight to get into position, we can unequivocally confirm that NO trails are being laid.

This season started with the Melbreak FH trespassing on Forestry Commission land where we caught them getting into position, with pairs of chained terriers, about to dig out. If sabs hadn't got there, the Melbreak would have fulfilled their blood-lust without question. It is becoming very apparent that our presence is having a huge effect on the Melbreak with support jumping ship and scurrying off to those other well-known fox killers, the Blencathra FH.

In early November, Lancashire sabs caught the usually camera-shy Blencathra FH behaving rather oddly. It didn't take long for us to work out what was happening and capture it all on film. The huntsman and his lackeys were putting on a show for the visiting Melbreak followers and our sab car was soon surrounded, and sabs were assaulted in order to prevent us gathering evidence. However, we still captured the life-and-death chase of a fox before it managed to escape. Again, if we hadn't been there, the fox would have been killed outright. We have also paid visits to the Cumberland Foxhounds at their Lake District National Park meets and have helped Cheshire Sabs and CABS spoil the fun of the Cheshire Hounds. Recently, we have welcomed the support of Cheshire Sabs up on the Cumbrian fells.

Our sabs have been working hard to raise awareness of the activity known as "trail-hunting". The number of people who believe that hunting is banned and no longer takes place is astounding. Educating the public is a high priority for us and with the increased number of people reporting incidents and wanting to support us, it is evident that it is working.

Once again, thank you to everyone who has supported us! We couldn't do it without you.

(See their great article on page 4 - Ed.)



Lancashire sab takes up commanding position on the high fells

Norfolk & Suffolk Hunt Sabs

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

Every season we at Norfolk & Suffolk Sabs attempt to beat our record of the number of meets we have attended the previous season. This season we are well on the way to beating that record. Weekday meets are often difficult due to work commitments but this season some of us have taken days off work in order to be out there in the killing fields.

We have split our time evenly between the Easton Harriers and the Waveney Harriers and it is plain to see that both hunts are severely struggling. The Waveney Harriers have bought in a new Chairman in the form of Lord Hugh Somerleyton in order to sort out their "hunt politics" (i.e. internal squabbling). We are not convinced that he has achieved much though as the old diehard riders (and some supporters) have ditched the Waveney, leaving their numbers severely depleted.



"Look at what you've done!" Sab confronts dead-eyed hare killers

The Easton appear to be in an even worse state than the Waveney, as sadly, we have witnessed two particularly horrific kills at the hands of the Easton Harriers this season. The first was a Chinese Water Deer that was killed by a lone hound which suffered a prolonged death. The second was a young leveret that was killed on a weekday meet. We had sabs right up with the hounds but when the pack split, devastatingly it was not possible to save the leveret.

Thankfully, we have managed to save many, many lives and we must be doing something right as the Easton are going out earlier and earlier in order to avoid us. Sometimes we don't have many sabs out, but a few individuals can make one heck of a difference to the wildlife. Stay safe everyone.

(See their inspiring article on page 6 - Ed.)

Northants Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/northantshuntsaboteurs
zorro@northantshsa.org.uk
www.paypal.me/ENABS

This season we have continued to work closely and effectively with Hertfordshire Hunt Sabs, and have been grateful for their continuous support. To date we have been successful in several ways.

We started the season by supporting the work of the Grafton Hunt monitors, who are truly worth their weight in gold. However most of the season has been spent targeting the Cottesmore hunt.

Through the generosity of the general public and our tireless fundraising, we have been able to maintain our infamous Land Rover. Lately we have also been able to fund a second vehicle which was kindly donated to us a couple of weeks ago.

We have had record-breaking numbers of people wanting to join us this year. Reflective of the mood of the general public who are frustrated that hunts are continuing to break the law. Therefore, we have spent the season training and aiding new sabs to be effective in the field. This has enabled us to split into two or three groups which has aided us to be more successful in sabbing the Cottesmore.

We know we were having an impact on this hunt when the levels of violence and intimidation increased. However, we have dealt with this in a calm and measured way, ensuring our safety at the same time.

We would especially like to thank our supporters for their continuous backing and loyalty which has been brilliant.



Black block: Northants sabs in all their finery



Red mist: Fitz staff blame each other as hound dies on the road

North Cambs Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/northcambssabs
northcambshuntsabs@gmail.com
Donate: ko-fi.com/westyorkshirehuntsaboteurs

A roundup of our autumn/winter 2018 season, from a new recruit:

"I have been asked to write this from the perspective of a new sab. I started in September 2018 with North Cambs. Needless to say, I was nervous about what to expect. It has been a steep learning curve from day one, but also fantastic to be part of a group of likeminded, passionate people. The camaraderie is superb.

My overall feeling after the first day was "Shit, I am unfit!' but also elation at preventing the death of any foxes. It recalled the quote from Oscar Wilde "the unspeakable in full pursuit of the uneatable" I only agree with the first bit though! I think a more up to date description would be c*nts on hunts?

When I joined it was the cubbing season which, I must admit, I was unaware of and found particularly disgusting. We continue to hassle the Fitzwilliam, Oakley, Puckeridge and Fernie hunts on a weekly basis and they seem to get more aggrieved each time we appear. Our group has expanded which has enabled us to get another vehicle and disrupt their illegal activities more effectively. This is also helped by the regular assistance of Beds & Bucks Sabs. We have a great working relationship.

I found that there was an overwhelming feeling of aggression and violence from the hunt supporters or 'scum', as I learnt they are affectionately called! This includes verbal insults, blocking us in with vehicles and smashing windows with hammers! Generally, they gave me the impression of being pathetic hired thugs. There was plenty of violence from the riders too – being ridden at, kicked and whipped in the face to name but a few things.

By far the lowest point for me so far was when a hound was needlessly killed on the A14 from a total lack of control and zero compassion from the Fitz hunt. It went viral quickly. The hunt's behaviour only served to increase the hatred from our online supporters and the general public."

(See article on the Fitzwilliam injunction on page 26 - Ed.)

Nottingham Hunt Sabs

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huntsabs@hotmail.com

After a busy summer, autumn was no let up as we leapt straight into action with the badger cull and cubbing. We had a presence in two different cull zones whilst other members of the group stayed more local to sab cub hunts.

We all reconvened as main season approached to hit the Belvoir for their final cubbing Saturday and their opening meet the following week, both in the company of the redoubtable Lincoln sabs.

A trip to the Meynell followed the week after before the opportunity of a rare Quorn Saturday presented itself in mid-November. Lucky for them they'd bottled it and met on the Friday instead but less lucky for the shoot who happened to be at the same meet! We ruined their fun for a couple of hours before heading north to the Belvoir who had just second horsed when we arrived. Upset at missing the Quorn, we quickly mobilised a small group for the Monday and, boy, were they delighted to see us!

We received a rare tip-off about the elusive Blankney hunt in Lincolnshire at the end of November so thought it would be rude not to pay them a visit as they didn't see us at all last season. The sight of sabs sent them slinking off back to their meet leaving us time to hot foot it over to the Belvoir who were in full cry upon our arrival, but sabs stepped in neatly and took control of a very unhappy huntsman's pack.

Further successful trips to the Meynell, Belvoir, Quorn and Blankney followed in December.

During all of this we've also had some vehicle issues. Many, many thanks to our generous supporters, and the HSA, which has enabled us to buy two new vehicles that will hopefully last us for many years. Also, a special mention to members of the group who have used their own vehicles to get us through this challenging period.

If you hunt or shoot we'll see you in a field somewhere soon.....

Notts Pied Piper gathers up the Blankney hounds





Classy: pool cue-wielding North Staffs supporters attack sabs in pub carpark

Sheffield Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/SevernValeSabs/

Sheff spent the summer gearing up for the Badger Cull coming to Derbyshire, we pressured Chatsworth not to get involved, recruited lots of folk and got into sett-surveying. At the last moment, we dashed to Staffordshire as the cull didn't come to Derbyshire for 2018.

Staffordshire was long, sad and frustrating; lots of challenges but also new friends, successes and new skills learned. We did ok in the zone with the largest cull targets, saved lives and pissed off a fair few badger killers. We massively thank those who homed us in Staffs, those who drove, worked with us, gave us info and even donated food.

We started the season with the great news that the Badsworth & Bramham Moor and the York & Ainsty South are trialling a merger! They say due them having no country, no money and sab trespass. We take at least some of the credit!

The Barlow have recently had attention as their kennels are only fifteen minutes from Sheff. They haven't been sabbed much over the last few years, and they are not liking the change! They meet on Tuesdays and Fridays, so a few coordinated days off and we can easily check up on them. When we turn up, they tend to make a show of laying a trail. Best quote of the year has come from one of their followers who, when questioned about what they were doing, was filmed saying "Trail, what trail?" It's on our FB page if you want a laugh.

Recently, our group vehicle was stolen and burnt out in a nearby wood. We extend a big thanks to all the other groups who have been fitting us in their vehicles and to everyone who has donated! Funds are gathering and hopefully soon we'll be able to get a new, better vehicle but in the meantime, we're not letting this stop us! Roll on 2019, there's plenty to do and we're raring to go!

Severn Vale Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/SevernValeSabs/

We had a busy Summer and Autumn, surveying new zones in preparation for the badger cull and then taking direct action to fight it across three different zones. Sadly, we can't save all the badgers, but we have included a picture of one we did save, a young badger found captured in a cage. She would have been brutally shot with a shotgun that day if she hadn't been released. We'd like to once again thank the HSA and Stop The Cull for their support this year and our fellow sab groups who we have worked with.



Direct action saved this beautiful badger

Unfortunately, our group has been beset with injury this season as three members have broken bones and torn ligaments! This has greatly limited our sabbing capabilities, but we have just started disrupting hunts again, beginning with very successful visits to the Palmer Marlborough Beagles and a joint meet of the Eton College and Christchurch & Farley Hill Beagles.



Yes, sir: police receive their orders for the day

South Coast Hunt Sabs

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

We've had a very busy season so far, out every weekend and joining forces to do as many mid-weeks as possible. We have been making inroads with the ESRM Hunt; this bunch were historically notorious for their violence towards sabs. Well, from their puppy walking to their cubbing and beyond we've been able to disrupt them despite their best avoidance efforts. This hunt are looking weary now. We were due in court for the private prosecution against Jane Goring, who ended up banned from the East Sussex but, alas, she came to a hunter's sticky end.

Our group were able to have a strong presence in our cull zone and felt we made a positive difference for the badgers as well as returning to sab the cub hunts.

The start of the main season has brought new and passionate sabs who are an integral part of South Coast now. We've not been without Landrover issues, this doesn't deter us and means we do other Sussex hunts with mates from the other groups. We've sabbed the Southdown & Eridge, Old Surrey & Burstow and Crawley & Horsham. The latter showing much aggression and blatantly illegally hunt with not even the pretence of a trail. Unfortunately, a fox was recently killed by them in someone's garden whilst we were present. The residents are fox lovers, regularly feeding them and were truly heartbroken. Let's hope justice will prevail.

Do get in touch if you want to join us in the field or want to support the cause by organising protests or fundraising.

South London Wildlife Group (Croydon, Kingston, Brixton and Hook Hunt Sabs)

Our old adversaries, the Old Surrey, Burstow and West Kent FH, seem to be in deep trouble. The new Kennel Huntsman has not been seen and one of the Masters started the season lamely trying to act as Huntsman. This seems to have been too much for him, and the Burstow have all but disappeared from Saturdays. With the Burstow in hiding, our attention has turned to the Southdown and Eridge and the Crawley and Horsham.



Creepy: Romney Marsh gimp targets female sabs

The Master of the SDE says he welcomes sabs 'monitoring' his hunt as they are genuinely trail-laying (honest, guv) and that he doesn't want any trouble with sabs. The behaviour of the terrier boys tells a very different story.

No such mixed messages on the C and H where we have witnessed blatant hunting and experienced increasing levels of aggression. On Boxing Day sabs successfully rated hounds that were just yards behind a fox, but, sadly, on the final meet of 2018, the hounds killed a fox in a garden in Dragon's Green.

Needless to say, all these hunts and others will continue to get our attention in 2019. A massive thank you to all the wonderful sabs from South Coast, South Downs, West Sussex and Guildford with whom it has been our pleasure to sab this season.

Southampton Hunt Sabs

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Donate: www.paypal.me/SouthamptonHS

It's been a very busy season for us since the summer when we learned that Hampshire may be a new zone for the Badger Cull. Sabs began sett-surveying areas likely to be included but thankfully no licence was granted. So, we made our way to Dorset to help cover the huge area there that has become killing fields for our beloved badgers.

The hunting season saw us return to sabbing in Dorset and Somerset. These hunts are notorious for their killing and blatant flouting of the law. They hunt several times a week and have an entourage of paid hunt staff and hired violent thugs to protect their murderous ways.



Southampton sabs have it covered

We have paid regular visits to the Portman Hunt who kill openly and often; the South Dorset Hunt with their dig-outs by the road side and violent thugs who think nothing of assaulting any sab that moves; the Cattistock Hunt with their paid staff on quads complete with pre-rehearsed scripts, high-viz jackets and radios who rev their engines to try and prevent sabs from hearing any noise that would locate the hunt, and their employees who 'tail' each sab vehicle for the day. No expense is spared with them except maybe on a whipper-in with any hound control!

We've also hit the Blackmore & Sparkford Vale Hunt, who maraud wherever they choose, no life is safe from these barbarians be it animal or human; and the Seavington Hunt who are so immersed in killing that you don't just get the hunt, you get every local from the village, 4X4's upon 4X4's of masked-up hunt support and terrier men with previous criminal convictions on a hunt that have been prosecuted for illegal hunting.

This season has seen several assaults on sabs, and theft and criminal damage to our vehicles and equipment. We will not be deterred, and we will be back week on week. Thanks to all our supporters, to those who have donated to keep us out there saving lives, and to all the groups and monitors we have worked with past and present.

Always hunting the hunters.



Another victim of the North Cotswold Hunt's Boxing Day meet

Three Counties Hunt Sabs

network23.org/3CHuntSabs
facebook.com/3CHuntSabs
vimeo.com/threecountiessabs
PayPal.me/threecountiessabs

The first half of this season has certainly been busy, from filming kills and blatant fox chases by the North Cotswold, Cotswold Vale Farmers' and Old Berkshire to preventing dig-outs by the North Cotswold, Worcestershire and Heythrop hunts.

The Croome & West Warwickshire and the CVFH both started blocking badger setts, but with sett-checkers out before and during meets we unblock them prior to the hunt arriving. Others like the Ledbury, Heythrop and North Cotswold are blocking far less than they ever have before due to our work on exposing the practice and reporting incidents to the police.

The CVFH and North Cots are both currently being investigated by the police for fox kills and assaults on sabs, hunt supporters are being tracked down for criminal damage on a sab's car out with the Worcestershire.

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust are looking into CVFH trespass on a nature reserve during their opening meet, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust looking at the North Cots illegal hunting on one of their reserves (chasing a fox to a nearby artificial earth and being prevented from flushing him out by sabs). Malvern Hills Trust wardens monitor the Ledbury Hunt meets now due to fantastic work by the independent 'Fox Hunt Off Malvern Hills'. Cleeve Common Trust, on the other hand, are making libellous statements against sabs.

At time of writing the badger cull continues in the original West Gloucestershire zone. A Vice reporter came out with us, finding cages, a mix of extinct and active setts and chasing off shooters.

Big shout out to our friends in CIHW, West Gloucestershire Sabs who it is a pleasure to work with and to Bristol and Bath Sabs for their solidarity and support when kills and assaults happen. We couldn't do what we do without our amazing supporters online, on the streets and in the fields.

Thank you all.

North Wales Hunt Sabs

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North Wales sabs: always one step ahead of the hunt

We've had a brilliant start to this season, with the badger cull, cub hunting, hunting season and some trips to the RSPB fox cull. We managed to attend more cub hunting meets than ever before. We practically stopped the Flint & Denbigh Hunt from cub hunting. Our success has not gone unnoticed, particularly by North Wales Police. Twice during cubbing they used armed response units to pull our vehicle. And at 5am police would be guarding the hunt kennels driveway. The police continued to harass us which has resulted in two of our sabs being charged on ridiculous jumped-up charges, whilst ignoring numerous assaults on sabs by the hunt. The aim of the illegal Flint & Denbigh Hunt and North Wales Police is to stop us from peacefully protesting this barbaric blood sport.

This season we've saved many a fox and deer, we're reported illegal hunting and violence to the police, but they ignore our calls. We'll be in court at the end of January and to quote a certain NWP officer "It will all come out in the wash". We will not be oppressed by corrupt police or courts. We've been on the Flint & Denbigh almost every week and been joined by numerous other groups, due to our intervention we've yet to witness a kill at the F&D this season.

Other hunts we've hit are the Eryri (Snowdonia) Hunt on Boxing Day where they trespassed on National Trust land in Beddgelert. We still await a response from the NT. We don't think the Eryri are used to sabs as they openly admitted to illegally killing foxes, but we're sure they'll soon get used to us. We ended the year with a trip to the Cheshire Forest FH where a Cheshire sab was violently whipped by the huntsman; again, we will not hold our breath on that one. A massive thank you for all your support!

South Wales Hunt Sabs

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Vale of Clettwr terrierman smashes those stereotypes...

So far this season we've visited the Curre & Llangibby, Caerphilly & District, Tredegar Farmers, Ystrad Taf Fechan, South Pembrokeshire and the Banwen Miners hunts. We've been inspired by the amazing amount of information we are receiving from people who are sick and tired of the hunts terrorising wildlife. More and more people are wanting to develop skills and learn how to stop these criminal gangs of hunters. Over the Christmas season we've seen large crowds gathering to protest against hunting and being pushed, shoved and threatened with violence for simply standing with placards.

We've endured biblical weather conditions, walked miles in wet boots but always end the day knowing that we have done our very best to ensure the safety of wildlife. We've witnessed hunts trespassing on Woodland Trust and Natural Resources Wales land whilst in pursuit of a fox. We always arrive early and have never yet seen a trail being laid.

In general, we are noticing smaller and smaller numbers of field riders and also increasing numbers of meets where supporters are required to 'ring the masters/kennels' which we believe is indicative of them losing landowners' permission.

As well as thanking all the people who have messaged us with information, we'd also like to thank those who have been supporting us financially – we are so grateful!

West Sussex Hunt Sabs

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As I write we are hours away from 2019, fourteen years on from a hunting ban that is not working. We found the Crawley & Horsham Fox Hunt out cubbing at the beginning of August and we were out as much as we could be, covering two or three meets a week until the end of October. It was evident that although the hunts now call this "hound exercise", it was in fact still full-on training of hounds to kill fox cubs. The police would not attend any meets when asked and replied that "The Crawley & Horsham hunt are trail hunting". How many fox cubs were killed during these months is anyone's guess.

The season started with the usual Opening Meet on Saturday 3rd November at Knepp Castle. The Burrell family, who own the Knepp Estate, are adamant they do not allow illegal hunting on their land, yet they continue to allow illegal hunting on their land. The Crawley & Horsham hunt are now brazenly illegally hunting, and it becomes more and more obvious to all; Sussex & Surrey police have no intention of stopping them. We have suffered verbal abuse, assault, and vehicle damage, all of which we have come to expect from the Crawley & Horsham. Whatever they do, however they try, they will not weaken our determination and commitment to protect wildlife. We know we are not always successful, and on Saturday 29th December we were all devastated when the Crawley & Horsham killed a young fox in a private garden, just yards away from us all. This fox will not have died in vain and has served to strengthen our resolve to do even more to stop the savage and barbaric killing of wildlife. Thank you to all our supporters for your kind donations which help to keep us out in the fields.


What a waste: dozens of victims from just one shoot

Weymouth Animal Rights

FB/Twitter: Weymouth Animal Rights
weymouthanimalrights@protonmail.com
www.weymouthanimalrights.com

After being a thorn in Will Bryer's side for most of the bloodthirsty Cattistock Hunts 'cubbing' the main season began in earnest.

Having hardly had time to draw breath from a full-on badger cull and Camp Badger West Dorset, we were into a busy cubbing season and then full swing: we decided to turn our attention to the South Dorset Hunt.

With new huntsman Tobias Coles (Juggers) now in charge, it became very apparent he didn't like us and, well, we didn't like him! Trying to avoid our cameras, he spent a lot of time hiding from us...and the paying-for-the-privilege 'Dribblers', who have become fewer and fewer, to the point that the 'c*untrymen' outnumber the support!



Terrified horse is weaponised against WAR sabs

With the usual hired-in 'knuckle draggers' getting more violent as the weeks go by, we have had a growing number of riders and hunt staff, riding at sabs and pushing them around. Hunt membership secretary Kate Sutherland is getting more out of control at every meet, raising her whip, using her horse as a weapon and blocking our way. Foot sabs are also being blocked on footpaths by the c*untrymen and knuckle draggers as well as being pushed around and physically assaulted. Where are Dorset Police when they are called out for a sab getting a beating? If you know where they are then please let us know!

We are again working with very dedicated Dorset groups: Dorset Against Blood Sports, Wildlife Witness and North Dorset Hunt Sabs sabbing the Portman, who have been given a license to 'trail hunt' on National Trust land where we have held demos working with National Dis-Trust at Kingston Lacy House.

It's great to have Southampton sabs back with us again and help from South West Sabs. Looking forward to getting the new bigger Landy on the road so we can take even more sabs out.

Stay Safe and FSU.

HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

ALL GROUPS, MEMBERS AND ACTIVE HUNT SABOTEURS ARE INVITED TO THE HSA AGM!

See back cover for date, time and venue.

Last year, we had 25 groups represented at our AGM and hope to have an even bigger turn out this year! It's a great opportunity to hear about the work of the HSA, network with fellow activists and catch up with old friends.



This year we are reinstating the HSA horn-blowing competition, so bring your horn along. The competition will be judged by a panel of experts (think the X- Factor, but more glamorous).

We will also be treated to a talk by long-time sab Aubrey Thomas, have a vegan buffet and, almost certainly, end up in the pub...

A tale to tell: Aubrey has been bothering beaglers and other hunters for over 40 years



CAGE FIGHTERS

BATTLING THE BADGER CULL 2018

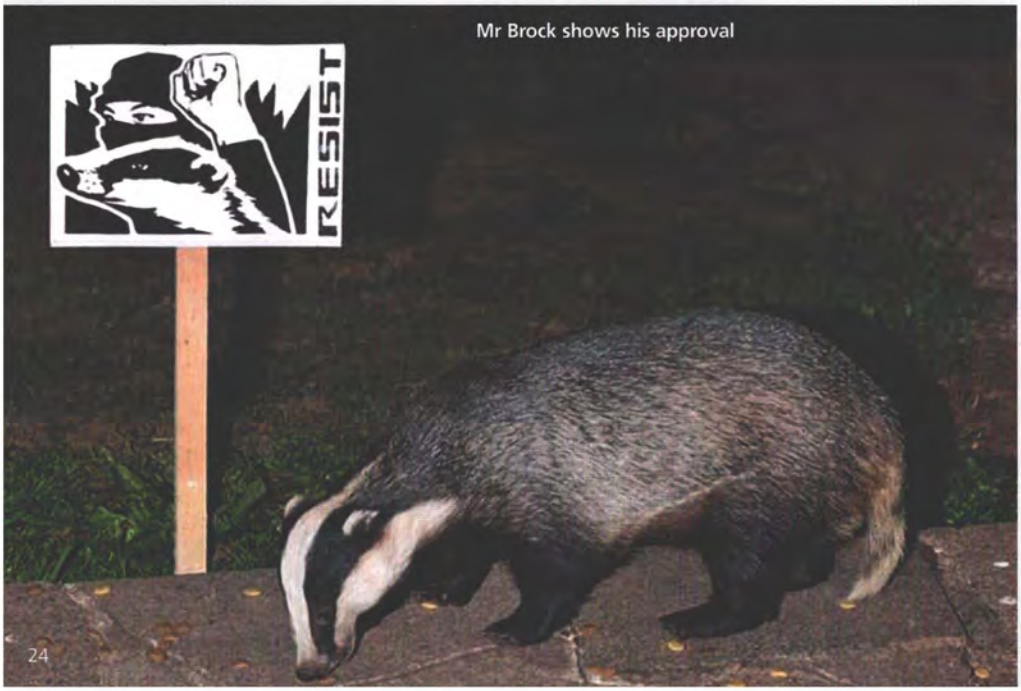
In 2018 the badger cull was rolled out to another 11 cull zones, 32 in total across the UK, and the government and NFU aimed to kill over 40,000 badgers. New zones sprung up in Staffordshire and Cumbria with further zones in Cornwall, Devon (8 in total!), Somerset and Dorset.

In these zones badgers are trapped in cages and shot, or even more controversially, encouraged in groups to piles of peanuts in the middle of a field where shooters fire at them with high powered rifles. The cull lasts for at least 6 weeks and each zone has a minimum and maximum number of badgers they can kill. Staffordshire for example, a new cull zone in 2018 and one of the largest, had minimum kill figures of 1,180 and a maximum figure of 3,184 badgers.

Sab groups from across the UK continued to be involved in fighting this hideous cull. Some groups were working on their own doorstep whilst others were willing to travel, hundreds of miles, if necessary, to help where the need was greatest. Sabs in the south west faced the biggest challenge with multiple new and existing cull zones to cover in Devon and Cornwall particularly. Sab groups from further afield travelled there to support the locals. More resources were targeted at the new zones where kill figures were highest but older zones weren't neglected.



Taking the bait...literally!



Mr Brock shows his approval

The HSA has always supported affiliated sab groups to help them fight the cull. Since it started in 2013, we have given tens of thousands of pounds to groups to help with their fuel costs, and this continued in 2018. We have also supplied groups with high-end thermal imaging and night vision equipment. This enables them to find and track shooters at night and then stop them killing.

In December, the Government announced the results of 2018's badger cull. Sadly, the 2018 total is 32,601 and set to rise with supplementary culling by free-shooting, ongoing in the two original zones of West Somerset and Gloucestershire until the end of January.

"The HSA has always supported affiliated sab groups to help them fight the cull. Since it started in 2013, we have given tens of thousands of pounds to groups to help with their fuel costs, and this continued in 2018. We have also supplied groups with high-end thermal imaging and night vision equipment."

At this point, the total number of badgers killed since this badger cull policy was implemented in 2013 is a shocking 66,985.

It's hard to read these figures and see any positives, until you look a little closer at the figures and the history of the culls. When the badger culls started in 2013, Gloucestershire was trying to kill at least 9.32 badgers per km2, in Somerset it was 8.1 badgers per km2. If they'd carried on at these levels, they would have been aiming to kill 45,578 badgers minimum in just the 10 new zones in 2018. As it was, they set the level at 2.69 badgers per km2 meaning their minimum target was 15,182.

This isn't due to a sudden reduction in the number of badgers per square km, it's due to persistent disruption from saboteurs and anti-cull activists. The cull companies, Natural England and DEFRA have had to revise their target figures down or risk repeatedly missing their minimum targets. Moving the goalposts to paint a picture of success rather than the blatant failure the culls have been.

Art installation titled *"Fuck The Fucking Cull"*





Sabs shine a spotlight on cruelty

As the hunting season draws to a close hunt sabs will be re-checking setts and surveying new areas in preparation for any potential roll out.

Please get involved.

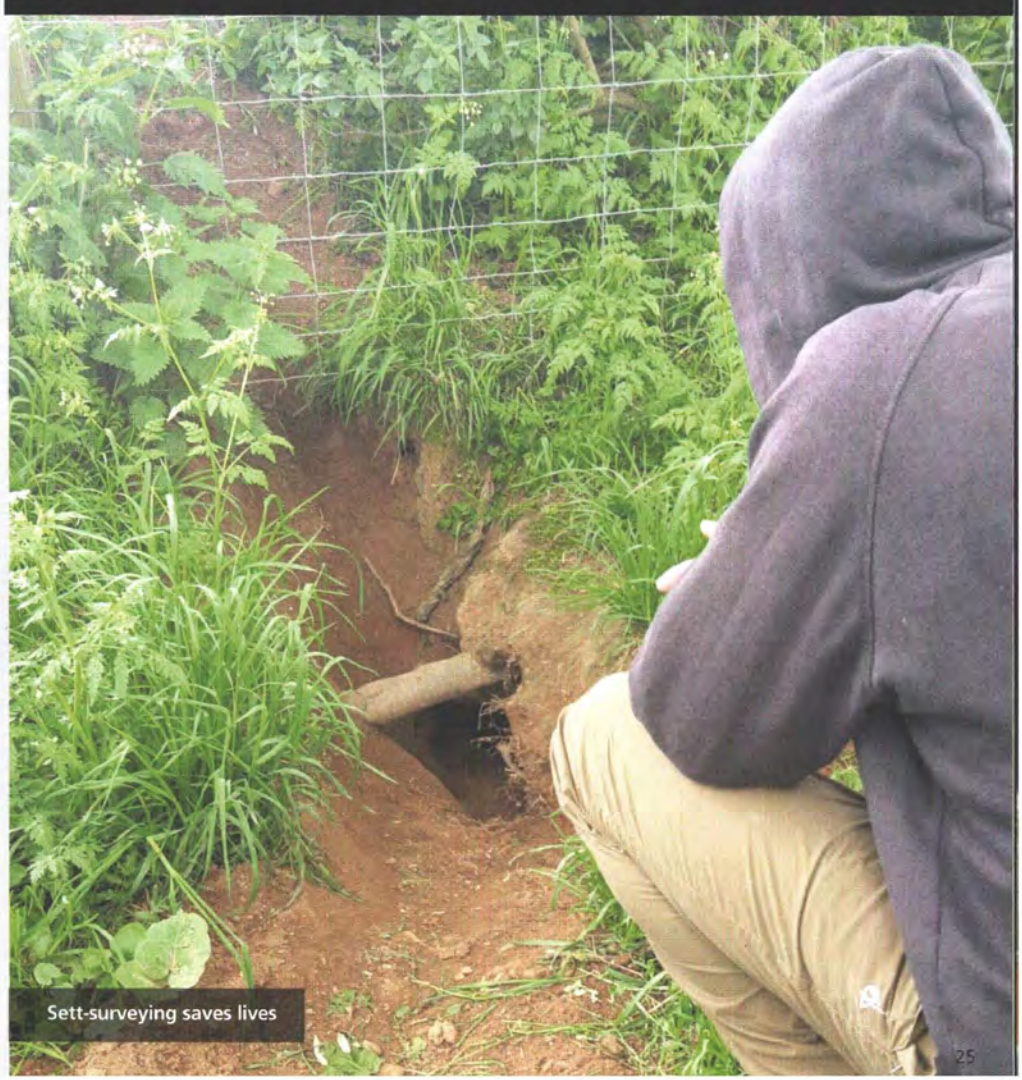
Direct Action Saves Lives!

To get involved and for more information:

www.huntsabs.org.uk/index.php/get-involved/contacts

www.innocentbadger.com/

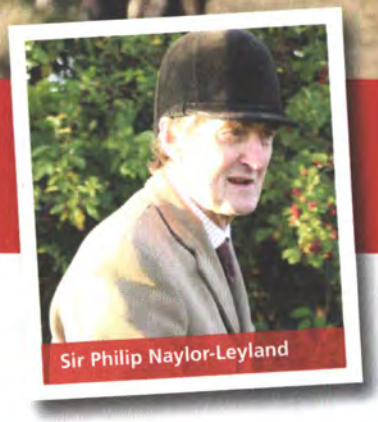
www.badgeractionnetwork.org.uk/



Sett-surveying saves lives

FITZ FIT-UP FAILS

One of the sabs named in the Fitzwilliam injunction gives the inside story on how it was beaten


Sir Philip Naylor-Leyland

As hunt sabs our primary goal is always to save the lives of hunted animals and disrupt the hunting process as effectively as possible. Of course, the hunts themselves will try all sorts of tricks to evade our attentions. These can vary from just heading off at speed in the hope of outrunning us to much more organised and premeditated tactics, including use of the courts.

Injunctions

Civil Injunctions are nothing new in the world of hunt sabotage. Prior to the ban there were several taken out by hunts to try to minimise disruption by saboteurs. In 2009, the Crawley & Horsham Hunt - supported by the Countryside Alliance - attempted to bring about an injunction against West Sussex Wildlife Protection. This endeavour ended in complete disaster for the wildlife abusers and cost the CA over £120,000 when it was proved they were hunting illegally!

Fast forward almost ten years and it was the turn of the Fitzwilliam Hunt to bring similar proceedings against a group of known saboteurs who had been disrupting their hunting over the last couple of seasons. The sabs involved were primarily members of North Cambs Hunt Sabs and Beds & Bucks Hunt Sabs with a few from other local groups. Included in their number were those who had provided evidence in the successful prosecution of the Fitzwilliam's previous huntsman, George Adams, after they killed a fox on New Year's Day 2016.

There were several aspects to the claims from the hunt which included trespass, harassment, assault and a wider-reaching claim against "persons unknown". The Fitzwilliam are a private pack (or pirate pack as the MFHA like to call them) and are owned by Sir Philip Naylor-Leyland, a man of considerable wealth (roughly £180m!) who owns a large estate in the Peterborough area as well as the ancestral seat back in Wales. They were clearly hoping that their financial clout would intimidate us into not contesting the injunction and therefore buy impunity from sab scrutiny. They were wrong.

To say they underestimated our resolve would be a huge understatement. Those named quickly got together and


Shaun Parish, Fitz whip plays the tough guy



Another victim of the Fitzwilliam Hunt

formed a plan. A legal team was assembled, and a Crowd Justice funding page launched to raise sufficient funds to take the matter to the High Court. In a little over three days over £12,000 was pledged to our cause, a sure sign that the British public were overwhelmingly supportive and not prepared to see some jumped-up toff buy his way out of trouble, so he and his mates can hunt without pesky sabs being around.

It was clear the hunt had been planning their injunction for some time. Their initial claim was over 200 pages long and contained signed witness statements from masters, hunt staff, riders and stewards. There was video evidence, maps and more - though some of this would come back to bite them on their proverbial arse!

Clearly, this was a serious business and a united front had to be shown. All those named were clear in their goals but also very wary of the implications should the decision go against us. Having court costs awarded to the other side could mean the seizure of assets in order to pay those costs: our houses were at risk and we could all have faced financial ruin. This was indeed the main gambit from the hunt: they hoped it would be enough to scare us off.

Leading up to the hearing we submitted our statements in response to the claims made by the hunt. We secured the services of the well-respected Ashley Underwood QC to speak on our behalf in court and together we broke down their supposed evidence.

Our Day In Court

On 1st November 2018 we got our day in High Court where the skeleton arguments were heard. During this hearing it became clear that much of their evidence was questionable at best and a downright fabrication at worst. Our QC delivered a concise and damning breakdown of the hunt's claims along with the complete destruction of the legality of their hunting methods and their "Victorian attitude" towards land ownership. The fact that we had already secured a conviction against this hunt clearly went in our favour. (The Fitzwilliam claim the Bird of Prey Exemption in the Hunting Act, yet also say they follow trails. This is, of course, nonsense and just another attempt to muddy the waters enough for any prosecution to fail).

"In a little over three days over £12,000 was pledged to our cause, a sure sign that the British public were overwhelmingy supportive and not prepared to see some jumped-up toff buy his way out of trouble, so he and his mates can hunt without pesky sabs being around."

The Verdict

After the trial the judge, Mr Justice Freedman, indicated he would take time to consider his verdict which would be delivered on the 16th November. We could only wait with fingers crossed. The key points of the interim decision were:

1. There was evidence of repeated trespass by seven of the sabs and 'persons unknown' - an injunction was ordered until a full trial. This would only apply to land owned by the hunt - there would be no injunction in place if the Fitzwilliam left their own land. ▷



The Fitz bird is trained to hunt non-existent trails



Fitz hired thugs failed to impress Justice Freeman

2. He found insufficient evidence against another seven sabs and lifted an injunction granted earlier against them. He also found that there was no justified claim for a harassment injunction.

3. He refused to order sabs not to touch hunt animals. *"If animals are permitted to roam, members of the public ought to be able to touch them (without harming them) if they are coming into their own space".*

4. On violence against sabs: *"The two defendants did not commit an assault, and they seem to have been pushed. I shall assume that the better of the argument in respect of assaults and criminal damage are that they were caused by the hunt".* Once again, the hunt's claims were completely trashed, and their statements considered less than truthful.

5. On whether the Fitzwilliam commits Hunting Act offences he noted: *"(The defendant's barrister) has made out a persuasive argument that the hunting is illegal. (The hunt's barrister) was not able to say much in response about detailed arguments".*

A Desperate Offer

However, this wasn't the end of proceedings. In late November our legal representative was contacted by the Fitzwilliam's legal team with an offer. This amounted to dropping those named from the injunction, with no claims made to costs, if we signed an agreement not to trespass on the claimant's land. They would still be pursuing an injunction against persons unknown. This may not seem to be a particularly good deal but let's consider the context.

Firstly, it was clear that the Fitzwilliam were keen to avoid a full trial against those named on the injunction. The legitimacy of their evidence and their hunting methods had been called into question by Freedman, along with the behaviour of their so-called stewards. Secondly, their claims for harassment, "trespass against goods" (i.e. the hounds!) and the laughable claims of assault were all denied by the judge. Freedman also noted that assaults did appear to have been carried out by the hunt staff and this could be followed up by the victims should they wish, causing further embarrassment for the hunt. Thirdly, there would be no claims for costs. It was estimated that the hunt had spent in excess of £120,000 in bringing the injunction. That's enough to make even the wealthiest hunt think again about taking out similar action. With all of this in mind you must ask yourself, did they get value for money?

Not really.

All they ended up with was a short list of people who can't trespass but who can still use public rights of way and open access land within their estate. That's hardly a huge achievement given the level of investment. Their actual hunt country is in the region of 384,000 acres, but they only actually own 4% of that. While they are pushing ahead with the "persons unknown" part of the injunction it is still a civil action and not something the police can get involved with. Sure, if you break the injunction the claimants can serve you and a judge could send you to prison for contempt of court; however, for that to happen the claimants must know who you are. If previous persons unknown injunctions are anything to go by, they are almost impossible to enforce.

Still Getting Sabbed

The Fitzwilliam are still getting sabbed. Ultimately nothing has changed: if they continue to hunt, we'll continue to sab them. In fact, I'm writing this after hitting one of their midweek meets. We saved five foxes today, and Naylor-Leyland looked none too happy. The simple fact is that, no matter how much money he throws at this, we aren't going away. The Fitzwilliam, the Countryside Alliance and their supporters can try and spin it anyway they want, but ultimately, we came out of this experience a whole lot better than they did.

We'll be seeing the Fitz again very soon.



The Fitzwilliam Hunt: still getting sabbed



THE TIMMY

The coveted Tim Bonner 'Timmy' awarded for the most shite excuse for illegal hunting

Unsurprisingly, HOWL has been inundated with nominations for this issue's Timmy - the Tim Bonner Award for the most ridiculous excuse for illegal hunting. Sadly, there can only be one winner.

For once, The Timmy judging panel have deferred to an even higher authority - Mr Justice Freeman - who adjudicated in the Fitzwilliam Hunt's recent injunction. Justice Freeman was understandably confused by the Fitz's claim to lay trails and then hunt them with a bird of prey, finding that the sab's solicitor had *"made out a persuasive argument that the hunting is illegal"*. For the sheer effrontery of taking their laughable nonsense to the High Court, this issue's Timmy is awarded to the Fitzwilliam Hunt.



Seems legit: Fitz whip investigates a pre-laid trail

This issue's runners-up are the Sandhurst & Aldershot Beagles. On being asked recently where their trail was, a leading supporter replied, *"Trail? It's up my arse!"*

The judging panel explained their decision: *"Having carefully studied the video, we don't believe the trail was literally laid up the arse of the supporter. Rather, we feel he may have employed this phrase as a rhetorical device to demonstrate his contempt for the whole idea of trail-laying. For this disarming honesty we award a runners-up Timmy to the Sandhurst & Aldershot Beagles."*

Please send your nominations (including photos) for next issue's Timmy to: howl@huntsabs.org.uk



Sandhurst & Aldershot Beagles: lots of arses, but where's the trail?

HOUNDS OFF
THE QUANTOCK STAGS



Joes Hashman, founder of *Hounds Off* on the reality of stag hunting

At first sight it was obviously a dead-stag-running. Although he looked big and strong with a majestic set of antlers, he also looked tired. There was a heaviness to his desperate gait and fear in his face.

This was a classic Autumn Stag, an alpha male who had spent the last month fighting rivals and mating. During that time, he'd have hardly eaten. The last thing he needed was to be harassed and harried by people on foot and horseback, with quad bikes, four-wheel drive vehicles and dogs. Alas, this was to be his final nightmare.

Many people think that stag hunting was banned when the Hunting Act (2004) made chasing and killing most wild mammals with dogs illegal. But it hasn't quite worked out like that. Deer hunters in the West Country made changes which enabled them to reinvent their bloodsport, exploit loopholes and circumvent the law.

The Quantock Stag Hounds go out Mondays and Thursdays from late-August until April. On 25 October 2018 they started at a place called Sixty Acres, Crowcombe Heathfield, beneath the towering Quantock Hills. It's a remote stretch of country ten miles north of Taunton, comprising woodlands, small fields and steep stream-fed valleys.

At just after 11am we were parked on a wide, grassy, main road verge, looking out for signs of the hunt. Wherever it was safe to stop, and frequently where it wasn't, supporters of the Quantock Stag Hounds had pulled up too, chatting, eating sandwiches, drinking from flasks, kicking their heels, watching, waiting. Stag hunting is frequently slow at the beginning and patience is required.

In pre-Hunting Act days a few select hounds, the best and most experienced, would be employed by the Huntsman to separate the stag from his herd and get him running alone. Only then would the full pack be released and that's when, for those who like such things, it really got exciting.

On that October day we documented a variation on this. Instead of using a few hounds to get their quarry up and out into the open, they used people to manoeuvre the stag through woods and commons then work him out of cover and into a pastoral amphitheatre. At this point he provided a magnetic focus in the landscape for umpteen sets of binoculars and beady eyes all scanning and peering, bloodthirstily pinpointing his progress from laybyes and gateways wherever a view could be had.

The hunted stag cut a lonely and tragic figure as he broke the brow and came galloping into sight. He wanted to cross the main road, to get to the hills, but was turned by followers and traffic. We trained our cameras on him as he jumped a hedge and ran across the bright green arable. His mouth was open, gasping, tongue lolling, coat already dark with sweat. Once he had disappeared into some woods our mission was to keep up and, if possible, film his end.

Thanks to a combination of luck and judgement we were there or thereabouts another hour later when the beaten stag was on his last legs and running short. He lay down in cover beneath a tree and used his antlers to parry the two hounds which had brought him to bay. They repeatedly lept forward, barking, then jumped back again. Some of our team jostled on the ground for position and in the melee we used our vehicle to gain vantage for another cameraman to hone in from the roof. He was filming when the stag broke bay just as a hunter on foot raised a shotgun at point blank range. Five minutes later the stag had been taken, loaded in the back of a landrover and carted off to a private woodland clearing to be hacked into trophies and ejaculated over.

Our film caused shockwaves.

You can watch it here:
https://vimeo.com/297835163

Breaking bay; just before the kill shot (Huntsman circled with gun, left) the stag (circled, second right) makes a final bid to escape his tormentors. Two hounds are locked on, there is nowhere to hide.



"Many people think that stag hunting was banned when the Hunting Act (2004) made chasing and killing most wild mammals with dogs illegal. But it hasn't quite worked out like that. Deer hunters in the West Country made changes which enabled them to reinvent their bloodsport, exploit loopholes and circumvent the law."

The Quantock Stag Hounds used to silence opposition through intimidation and corruption. But times have changed.

They've lost huntable country, their influence has been challenged, individuals and communities are beginning to stand up. We got involved because locals asked us for help.

Our tactics are simple; in partnership with Somerset Wildlife Crime and individuals, groups and organisations who want to work with us, we're shining a light on modern-day staghunting.



It's good to talk. For instance, on numerous occasions when deer have been pursued into the woods at a place called Cockercombe we've alerted Forestry Commission workers who have literally got into their four-wheel drives, found the Huntsman with his hounds and removed them. Technically, staghunting has been banned on Commission land since 1997 but it hasn't always been enforced. We're changing that.

Likewise, with the National Trust. We raised the question of enforcement at their 2018 AGM and were assured that staghunting remains forbidden, but with the caveat that it's hard to patrol vast and remote boundaries which are not marked on the landscape as they are on a map.

We reminded those present that their ban was based on science they commissioned (The Bateson Report) that concluded the cruelty inflicted by hunting deer with hounds goes far beyond anything that happens in nature.

Raising awareness, documenting wildlife crimes, engaging stakeholders and empowering locals all take time and resources.

Monitoring the Quantocks every week is a physical and emotional roller-coaster, judging difficult, dangerous situations quickly and with hard heads. We have to campaign creatively. But after thirteen years of staghunters flicking the V's at the Hunting Act and common decency, we're answering the call.

© Joe Hashman Founder: www.houndsoff.co.uk



Roadside demonstrations at Silk Mills Roundabout on the edge of Taunton during morning rush hour on hunting days have caused a huge stir. We've reached tens of thousands, way beyond our usual social media bubbles and got people talking in schools, workplaces and homes.

BACK IN THE DAY...

Are you having problems with

Hunt Saboteurs?

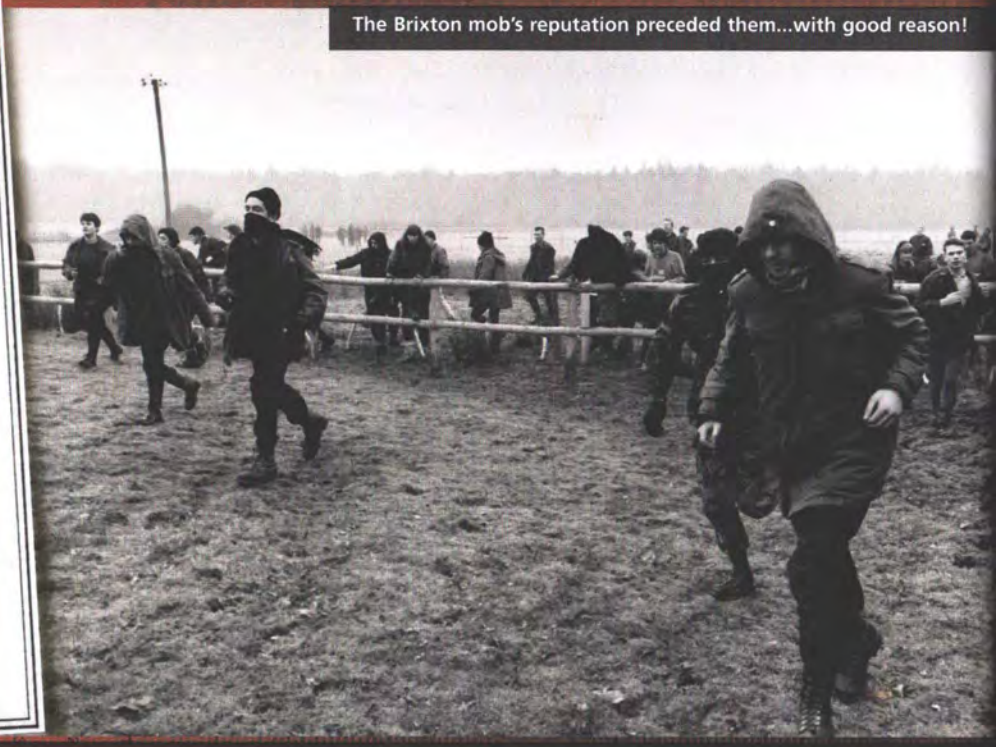
If so, contact

Estate Management Services

Established and accredited specialists in dealing with saboteurs at various grouse moors, woodland shoots, the Northumberland Beagling Festival and Hunts around the country.

For information pack and further details, please telephone, fax or write to us at

Estate Management Services
PO Box 5, Barnsley, South Yorkshire
Tel: 0226 390130. Fax: 0226 382313



The Brixton mob's reputation preceded them...with good reason!

In HOWL 118 we saw how the Surrey Union used compliant police, violent ambushes and even East End gangsters to try to deter the dedicated sabs that attended almost every meet. Our sab takes up their story as the 1990s dawned and the hunt became even more desperate...

The Surrey Union Hunt (Part 2)

In the early 1990s, the Surrey Union Hunt had dabbled in hiring thugs to thwart the active and effective groups who sabbed the hunt week in, week out. When that didn't go so well, they took up the offer of Estate Management Services (EMS) who were one of several shady companies offering to 'deal with' sabs at that time. This outfit paid moonlighting soldiers, including Irish Guards, to push sabs around in the field and gather evidence for a possible injunction (Where have we heard that before? - Ed.). It was difficult to keep your mind on sabbing when some aggressive squaddie was trying to punch you in the ear at every opportunity; but we were all a bit younger and fitter then and if you kept on the move they were less of a problem.

"One hundred stewards, including the brownshirts with guard dogs, were swamped by over two hundred sabs (again) and hunting was abandoned at the request of police due to fighting taking place over a wide area of Surrey!"

After about three months of the squaddies getting nowhere (apart from in trouble with their superiors), the Union decided to get a 'professional' firm in and we met the brown-shirted mob that were Countrywatch security.



Countrywatch 'brown-shirts' security

Things started off badly for them when the police got the hump at being usurped as the hunt's private stewards and there was concern from the regular police hunt squad about where it would all lead.



Irish Kev faces off the entire Surrey Union 'unofficial' security operation single-handed!

Where it led was weekly clashes between sabs and 'stewards' in which hunting seemed to be forgotten. The hounds were used as decoys to draw sabs into pre-planned confrontations with Countrywatch security bolstered by local inbreds with yellow SU armbands. The hunt's love affair with security ended at a foggy meet in Newdigate where the Countryside Alliance's spokesman, Brian Toon, was in attendance with TV cameras and tame police. One hundred stewards, including the brownshirts with guard dogs, were swamped by over two hundred sabs (again) and hunting was abandoned at the request of police due to fighting taking place over a wide area of Surrey! In the following media reports, balaclavas, cudgels, metal piping and snooker cues confiscated from the stewards were put alongside the tins of anti-mate and home-made whips of the sabs and made to look as if it had all come from our side.



Sabs take a well-earned breather

Thanks to the Union's proximity to London and with continual sab pressure, the media were a regular feature of a day's sabbing. From the BBC news, to current affairs fillers, to MTV profiles, to undercover investigations and documentaries, Brixton/South London and North Downs sabs featured in them all, much to the disgust of the hunt. We had a string of professional photographers out for prolonged periods including one local royal paparazzi who had to step back after his security clearance got messed with by Special Branch and royal protection officers. Other photographers went on to win world press photo awards, but all the time we kept chipping away with regular sabbing, albeit in good numbers. Hardly any foxes were killed when we were out.



Surrey Police request the hunt pack up

Unfortunately, sab success at stopping hunts and upsetting influential people meant that we became a major focus for the 1994 Criminal Justice Act (CJA) with its infamous section 68 & 69 Aggravated Trespass provisions. The Surrey groups travelled far and wide to support other sabs who were getting targeted by overzealous cops and courts in ▷



Huntsman Mark Sprake arrested to prevent a breach of the peace, following his refusal to abandon a dig-out which sabs were preventing



Sabs, hunt security and Surrey Police all rolling around in a hedgerow as chaos ensues

▷ what seemed to be trial areas for the act, especially in Essex, Kent and Sussex. Surrey, for some reason, didn't seem that keen on using the act and it only got wheeled out when the hunt made such a pain of themselves with the Chief Constable and local MPs that they had to be seen to be doing something. Much of the Surrey Union country is what we would now call public access, so there was a question over how 'trespass' and land ownership worked there. We also didn't hang around to talk to the police to find out.

This didn't always endear us to them - not that we cared - but it did allow us to get our job done.

Surviving the CJA and seeing a Labour Government in 1997, there was real hope that hunting would finally be banned but it was another eight years of sabbing, assaults and arrests before that happened (at least on paper) and we all know what is happening fifteen years on. The hunters are still as arrogant as they ever were, and the police and media as biased, but sabs can now point the spotlight on the hunt's behaviour by filming it and publishing on social media without pro-hunt biased editorial input. This, and the public reaction to it, is what might see the end of the Surrey Union Hunt. In the meantime, they'll still be getting sabbed whenever they sneak out.


Countrywatch 'brown-shirts' security


Brixton mob: Serious sabs for serious times

TIP-OFF HOTLINE

07443 148 426



Please save it into your phone now!

In May this year, the HSA launched a tip-off hotline for people to get in touch, in complete confidence, with information about hunting, shooting and related animal cruelty. So far, the tip-off line has been a great success. If you have called in, thank you! Lots of information is coming through and it is literally helping to save lives.

It is a sad reality that we cannot be everywhere and at present sabs cannot get to every hunt or shoot which is frustrating, but all information is valuable and very much appreciated.

When someone calls the hotline, we ask for as much information as possible (don't worry if you don't know the full details, every snippet helps) such as times and locations. For those members of the public calling in a hunt that they have encountered we may ask for a description of what has been witnessed (vehicle registrations, for example, can be extremely useful). We can also give advice and reassurance to callers who have been distressed by what they have seen.

With mobile phones and dash cams, a growing number of people are also obtaining footage of hunts and passing it on to us which can become vital evidence.

If you can't get through to us straight away, please try us again or leave a message. Every genuine enquiry is dealt with and the sheer volume of calls and messages shows there is a great deal of public opposition to bloodsports.

Please note we also provide an anonymous email tip-off service which you can find on our website or go straight to:
www.huntsabs.org.uk/index.php/get-involved/tip-us-off

Obituaries

The Sad Loss of Rhian Eluned Thomas



Rhian died peacefully on the 7th of December aged 49 in a hospice with her husband, mother, sister and long term friend by her side. She died from an aggressive lung cancer that spread quickly throughout her body.

Rhian was a trained Qigong teacher and believed that everything around us and within us is energy and when the physical body dies the energy goes back to the universe, back to nature. With this belief she never once feared death.

Rhian dedicated her life to animal liberation.

She was a regular hunt saboteur in the 80's and 90's mainly in Manchester and Dorset. Rhian was also a committed ALF activist. She liberated beagles, chickens, rabbits, rats and guinea pigs from a life of terror, torture and abuse.

She served a prison sentence for ALF criminal damage charges relating to the infamous Manchester Conspiracy trial. Rhian was a tireless campaigner from doing stalls to live exports, circus and vivisection demos.

Being Welsh and a Welsh speaker she was often called upon to appear on Welsh telly and radio to talk about topics such as live exports exports and hunting.

Rhian also worked at many animal sanctuary's as well as a short spell at the Vegan Society and for many years at a workers co-operative whole food shop.

Rhian was also a talented artist who had many successful exhibitions.

One of her favourite pastimes was walking always with some of the many rescue dogs that she shared her life with over the years.

Rhian was beautiful inside and out, had an infectious smile and was quick to laugh.

She lived a principled, ethical and inspirational life and is missed by so many.





Obituary: Karen Fletcher

It is with the heaviest heart that I have to announce the death of long-time Norhants hunt sab and best of friends Karen Fletcher who died in December.

Karen worked undercover for a number of years providing information that, I believe, ultimately led to the hunting ban in 2004. She also provided information that helped bring in the ban on fur farming.

Karen was revealed as anti-hunt when she intervened to save a hunted fox while at work undercover. She was sacked immediately and escorted from the site. Despite this, she had already provided more than enough information to encourage MPs to vote to ban hunting. Now she was free to join Northants sabs in the field where she showed herself to be dedicated and utterly fearless. She was the bravest person I have ever known and never considered the consequences to herself for any animal rights action.

Later, she infiltrated a circus and managed to free a bear which was ultimately released back into the wild. Today the world Is a far sadder place without Karen in it. She will be missed by all who knew her especially her beloved animals.

(Much of what she did could not have been made public during her life for fear of imprisonment).

Clive Richardson

Northants Hunt Saboteurs

SUPPORT ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS

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

Walter Edmund Bond, #37096-013
USP Marion CMU, PO Box 1000, Marion IL 62959, USA.
Walter Bond is serving a total of 12 years for his actions as the ALF Lone Wolf.
www.SupportWalter.org
Birthday:16th April

Joseph Dibee #812133
Multnomah County Detention Center, 11540 NE Inverness Drive, Portland, OR 97220, USA.
Joseph Dibee was arrested in August 2018. He is facing several charges, including conspiracy to commit arson, related to actions claimed by the Earth Liberation Front and Animal Liberation Front between 1996 and 2001. Joseph has pleaded not guilty.

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.



PLEASE JOIN THE HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION

Why should I join?

The HSA is the country's fastest-growing and most effective anti-hunt organisation. We are 100% volunteer-run so much more of your subscription goes directly to saving hunted animals.

What do I get?

You will receive HOWL magazine three times a year - it's packed with essential news and articles that you can't read anywhere else. You receive exclusive mail shots throughout the year, keeping you up-to-date with campaign news from the front line. You also get a new member's pack and have the right to attend our AGM.





Still need convincing?

Tim Bonner of the Countryside Alliance recently described hunt sabs as the "primary concern" for most hunts!

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
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

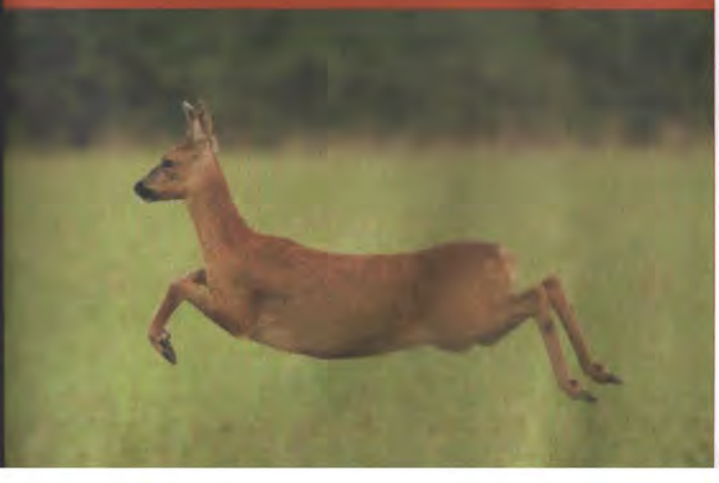
Veggies Animal Rights Calendar
www.veggies.org.uk/arc

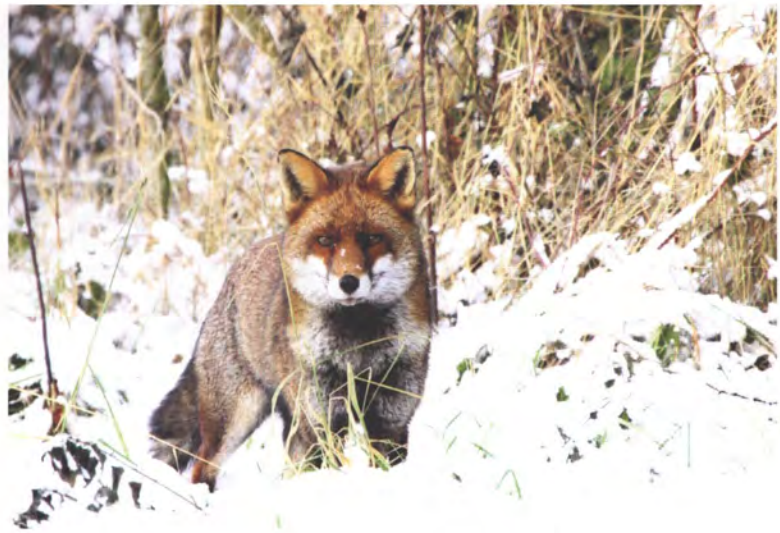
save us some dosh if you're moving!

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.....

HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION

HSA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

15th June from 1pm

Jacksons Lane
269a Archway Road
Highgate
London N6 5AA

www.jacksonslane.org.uk

HSA Treasurer Aubrey Thomas will give a talk on his experiences sabbing before and after the hunting ban.

All members
and active sabs welcome



It's back - the annual HSA horn-blowing contest!
Winning sab gets a new horn for their group!

www.huntsabs.org.uk