The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association Spring 2020 (Issue 122) £2 (free to members)

HOWL

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

Exclusive Sea Shepherd Interview

The Atherstone Hunt Fold

Game Bird Liberations

Return of Irish Sabs

How the HSA Works

Back in the Day

Group News













LETTER FROM THE CHAIR:

Another year over and if you are a hunted animal little has changed. The hunting ban is not being enforced and hunts do not even bother to pretend to lay a trail even when the police are in attendance. I write this from personal experience, but you will see the same reported by sab groups this magazine and on Facebook. A sad situation which is unlikely to change following the election results and, of course, under this government the illogical Badger Cull will go on.

So, we must persevere and ensure that hunts do not have it easy as many are on the verge of financial collapse. When I started sabbing many moons ago, a hunt would regularly have over 150 riders on a Saturday, now even Boxing Day meets are lucky to garner 50 riders; we are winning, and hunts are closing...

This Boxing Day and New Year's Day, the highlight of the hunting calendar, hunt saboteur groups were the only national organisation active against hunting alongside many local peopled demonstrating. The usual violence was seen with people being attacked by hunt supporters just for daring to demonstrate and one hunt stalwart trying to smash in the windows of Sheffield Hunts Sab's vehicle with a dead fox. Even the Countryside Alliance was moved to vaguely condemn this action! The police, as usual, took no action against any of this violence which is so common from hunters. Sabs are not surprised and carry on with a shrug of our shoulders.

This all may seem like doom and gloom, but it is not: hunts are closing and numbers attending are reducing. This is the end game for hunting with hounds, a death by a thousand hunt sabs. On top of this, the increasing pressure on shooting is something to be encouraged. The HSA is the only national animal rights organisation dedicated to fighting hunting in all its forms.

We could not do this without your continued support and donations. Please also do one more thing for the HSA and sabs everywhere: promote us on social media and tell your friends and family about us and ask them to support us. We need that support to make sure our wildlife continues to be protected and hunts continue to close.

I will leave you with a suitable quote from Dr. Seuss:



www.huntsabs.org.uk
find us on:

Hunt Saboteurs Association
BM HSA, London WC1N 3XX Tel. 0845 2501291
info@huntsabs.org.uk www.huntsabs.org.uk
Howl e-mail: howl@huntsabs.org.uk
Confidential Tip-Off Hotline: 07443 148 426

The Hunt Saboteurs Association has been in existence for over 57 years, and is dedicated to saving the lives of hunted animals directly. Prior to the Hunting Act of 2004, hunt saboteurs used non-violent direct action (nvda) to prevent the horrific deaths of thousands of hunted animals every year. Post hunt ban the primary tool of hunt sabotage has switched from the hunting horn to the video camera, as saboteurs monitor hunts with the aim of capturing their illegal activities on film. This in turn can immediately save lives on the day, and can lead to police action against the hunt concerned. Our range of pre-ban nvda tactics remain in active service, and saboteurs will continue to use them should they be deemed the best way forward on the day for the hunted animal at risk.

The HSA committee is made up of a maximum of 12 voting members, supported by as many non-voting members as is deemed necessary. As a member of the HSA your contribution is vital – thank you.

Editor Ed Howl
Contributors All groups who sent group news in.
Photos www.stacywoolhousephotography.weebly.com, www.richardbowlerwildlifephotography.com HSA Archive, Sab groups everywhere - Ta folks!
Distribution HSA
Big taverymuch to: all HSA members and anyone who we've pilfered stuff off and forgotten to credit.

INSIDE HOWL 122

The HSA
A unique organisation....4
The Rise and Fall of the Atherstone
West mids sabs tell all....6
Dead and Buried
Three counties sabs grim find....8
Group News....9
Exclusive Sea Shepherd interview
Captain Paul Watson speaks to Howl....23
2019: Year of the Pheasant
Game bird industry in crisis....26
Scottish Sab Training Camp III:
Biggest and best to date....28
Support Animal Rights Prisoners....29
Meet your Committee:
The Design Officer....30
The Right Herbert Award....31
Back In The Day:
Fell week '88....32
Obituary: Rosemary....34
Poem....35
Return of the Irish Hunt Sabs:
A fresh new group saving lives....36
Useful Contacts....38

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

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

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



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 another edition of HOWL, the magazine of the country's leading anti-hunt organisation. We stop hunting through direct action and, in this edition, you can read how West Midlands Hunt Sabs have just finished off two hunts. Their dedication in the face of harassment, police bias and serious violence is an inspiration to us all.

Another inspiration is Captain Paul Watson, founder of Sea Shepherd. There has always been an affinity between our two organisations and so HOWL is delighted to feature a wide-ranging interview with the man himself. From sabbing duck shoots aged 11 to taking on the Japanese whaling fleet, Captain Watson has always understood the power of direct action.

Our Chair has also written a timely article about the structure of the HSA. Most campaign groups use their supporters to fund their (frequently office-bound) staff. The HSA completely subverts this model: we are volunteer-run and exist to support our affiliated groups financially, logistically and in any other ways we can. I'm very proud to have been a member for thirty years.

See you at the AGM,

Ed Howl



Hounds love Irish sabs



THE HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION: A UNIQUE ORGANISATION

The Chair explains the structure of the HSA and how it works to support sab groups and sabbing

Direct Action Wins

As readers of HOWL will know, the HSA is a unique organisation. We are the oldest direct-action organisation in the world. The few others out there have watered down their direct action to a few publicity stunts a year, whereas the HSA has stuck with our philosophy that sustained, focussed direct action actually achieves results. We see proof of this by the closing of hunts every year, some citing the pressure they have been placed under by hunt sabs, others sulkily blaming road building, improving the hunting experience in their area (?) or their mum telling them to stop being cruel (ok, I made the last one up).

The HSA as a national - and international - organisation, of which hopefully you are a member, is a not-for-profit business. Its committee consists of a maximum of 12 elected members who do all the work of the organisation, although non-voting committee members can be co-opted to assist. The editor of this fine magazine is one such person and as you can see does a grand job *(I couldn't agree more - Ed)* for no money and little praise. No payment, apart from expenses, goes to committee members and all their work is voluntary.

Alston Hare Week: a major campaign funded by the HSA



Our uniqueness lies in our group structure. We have around 50 local sab groups affiliated to the HSA. These groups are run totally independently from the national organisation but to be affiliated there are a few simple rules:

- a group must comprise of 3 or more people
- a named contact
- the group must agree to our anti-racist policy
- the group must sabotage hunts

The last may seem obvious but it ensures that animal lives are saved and not just video recordings made of an animal's death. We are there to prevent an animal dying; anything else we can do to harm hunting (like providing bad publicity) is a bonus which we, of course, exploit to the full.

Grants for Groups

We also have some rules about giving grants to groups. This is to protect your membership and donation money and ensure it is used wisely. Any affiliated group can make a grant request and each year this is by far the biggest expenditure the HSA has. Not paying wages for staff allows us to do this.The rules are as follows:

- groups must show proof of sabbing activity
- groups need to have been affiliated for at least 12 months
- groups must have a bank account



HOWL magazine: proudly published since 1973

These rules need some explanation. We look for proof of activity from Facebook reports, Group News submitted to HOWL, but also the personal knowledge of the committee. Most committee members are active sabs so we often know the group, will have sabbed with them or know people who have. This is great governance; it ensures money is going to solid groups and that money is being used as intended.

We have the 12-month rule because, unfortunately, some new groups fail in their first season, or are created due to an existing group splitting after internal disputes. Part of running a group is being prepared to actively fund raise. The HSA cannot pay for all groups' expenses and we always ask groups to plan for expected costs such as MOT and insurance of vehicles.

Grant requests are for those unexpected costs such as sudden repair bills, or the need to finally get a new group vehicle. If we gave new groups thousands of pounds to set up, we would lose a considerable amount of that money and would not be able to support our existing and stable groups.

The need for a bank account also shows a level of stability in the group, allows us to meet financial regulations and, if needed, be audited on where our money goes. This protects the HSA from accusations of financial fraud, money laundering etc. and protects the local group similarly.

Supporting Sab Groups

We support our local groups by supplying them with free Gizmos, subsidised hunting horns and merchandise to aid their own fund raising. We promote all our groups on social media which also assists their fund-raising efforts.

Our structure is unique in the animal rights movement and perhaps outside it. The closest equivalent is ironically the Masters of Foxhounds Association, except they do not hand out grants to hunts who are struggling with their local sabs!

"Our structure is unique in the animal rights movement and perhaps outside it. The closest equivalent is ironically the Masters of Foxhounds Association, except they do not hand out grants to hunts who are struggling with their local sabs!"

We are, in effect, the insurance policy that local groups have in the event of financial problems; but, also, a source of information and support. In addition, we run big campaigns on set-piece events like beagling festivals and the Inglorious Twelfth.

Nobody Does It Better

So, next time someone tells you they donate to the League Against (some) Cruel Sports, PETA, Greenpeace etc., please remind them their money will disappear into a never-ending well of office costs and staff salaries. Donations to your local sab group keeps them saving lives, and donations or membership of the HSA enables us to support those groups, keeping them in existence for the vital work they do.

Hunting would not be in the media week on week if it wasn't for hunts sabs; which means we are in effect doing the job of the salaried organisations, as well as saving the lives of animals. I can say with a clear conscience that without Hunt Saboteurs hunting would not be the high profile, political hot potato it is today. To quote from James Bond, 'Nobody does it better....'



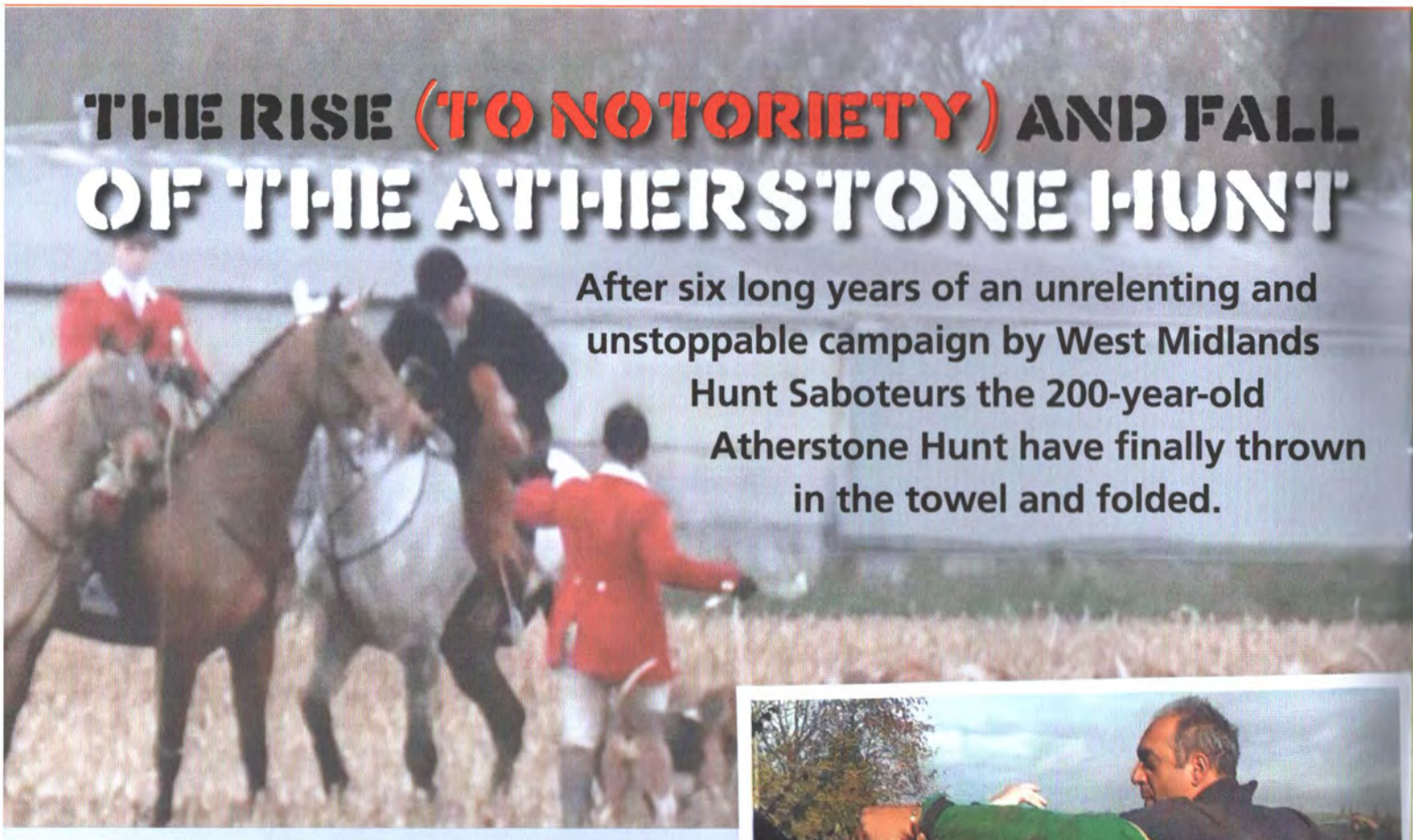
No kills today: a good crew at the Beaufort Hunt, 1996



Sabbing in the 1980s: crusties vs cruelty

This structure has stood the test of time since the inception of the HSA in 1963, helping us weather financial and legal storms over those years. More importantly, it shows the strength of our movement, built on self-determination and local organising. If the HSA stopped today, the local group structure could continue without us at least in the short term, until a second national supporting group was organised.

THE RISE (TO NOTORIETY) AND FALL OF THE ATHERSTONE HUNT



After six long years of an unrelenting and unstoppable campaign by West Midlands Hunt Saboteurs the 200-year-old Atherstone Hunt have finally thrown in the towel and folded.



Wild haymakers from Farmer Palmer

The Atherstone was one of a few local hunts we sabbed during the 2013/2014 season. The following season however we decided to focus completely on the Atherstone. We have faced harassment, extreme provocation and regular violence from those associated with the hunt. We've received death threats, had our tyres slashed, cars burnt out and have been hospitalized. We have also faced a hostile campaign of harassment from Leicestershire Police who have actively sabotaged investigations against the Atherstone whilst constantly seeking to prosecute members of our group. As a result, we have exposed links between local fox hunts and the officers dealing with hunting within Leicestershire Police.

Atherstone Hunt In Numbers

We persevered and never backed down. Despite the regular violence we faced our campaign has always remained non-violent. Over the last six years we have sabbed almost every single meet of the Atherstone Hunt. As a result of our campaign they made a loss of over £13,000. They lost over 235 acres of farmland to hunt on. They have over 20 convictions, cautions and community resolutions for violence including against one of their ex-directors. We have documented them killing 5 foxes. They got through 5 huntsmen in those six years, had 8 whippers-in and 3 terriermen. The number of riders attending hunt meets dropped to below ten.

We decided early on to make it a very public campaign with certain people in the group becoming spokespeople and the public face of the campaign. This allowed us to show the human side of hunt sabs and win the hearts and minds of people in the local area. At their worst the Atherstone were in the national press every other month for their hunting and violence and became one of the most notorious hunts in the country.



Twisted firestarters attack sab's car

Unearthing The Facts

Our investigation into blocked badger setts led us to filming their terrier-man blocking in a badger sett the morning of their Boxing Day meet. The huntsman took the hounds over the same sett hours later. This resulted in the terrier-man becoming so paranoid about hidden cameras that he eventually left the hunt. The final straw was the camera he found at the hunt kennels. He was not replaced. The absence of a terrier-man was noticeable immediately, the number of foxes seen being chased by the hunt dropped considerably and the ones we did see were





Sabs fought a multifaceted campaign

now able to escape down badger setts as they were no longer being blocked. This shows just how important terrier-men are to fox hunts and just how much they are relied upon.

We exposed all businesses that supported them. We held demonstrations at their biggest events of the year and at all their fundraising events.

"Persistent Sab presence has led to a dramatic drop in subscribers"

- James Sharland former Atherstone Hunt joint-master



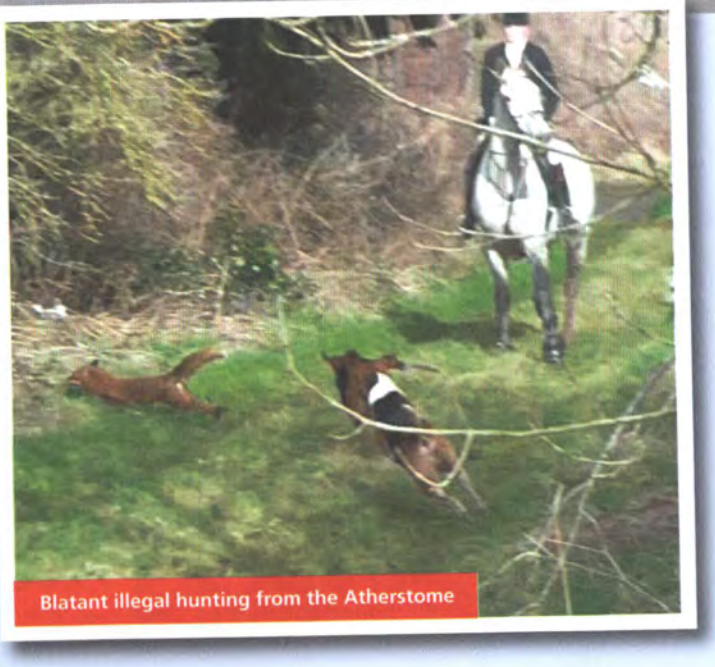
We disrupted every hunt speech to the point that the huntsman would often take the hounds and leave before the joint master giving the speech had finished! We went into their heartlands handing out leaflets and flyers, we held information stalls and built up a network of informants.

Intelligence-Led Sabbing

We mapped out the entire Atherstone hunt country. We knew the locations of all the badger setts, the locations of all the artificial earths and, in most cases, where the fox was likely to run from and the course it would take. This intelligence-based sabbing allowed us to save the lives of many more foxes. At the hunt's worst we would be seeing and saving at least one fox every meet. We knew everything there was to know about the hunt down to the smallest bit of inter-hunt gossip.

During their last two seasons we forced them to abandon cub hunting completely. Not only did these mean hundreds of lives were saved it also meant the hounds were not properly trained to hunt or kill foxes.

For six years the Atherstone Hunt have been completely sabotaged and as a result they have now folded. Since they ceased hunting the neighbouring Quorn Hunt have already been trialling using their hunt country on Saturdays.


Blatant illegal hunting from the Atherstome

It was inevitable that when the Atherstone folded their country would be taken over by another hunt, but it will now be hunted much less than it used to be.

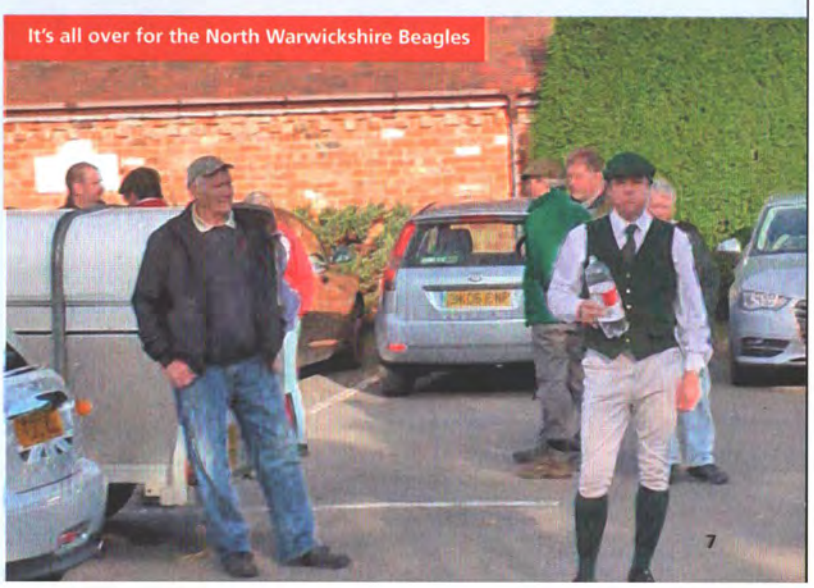
Bonus! The Demise of the North Warwickshire Beagles

During the final few years of the Atherstone Hunt when we were well and truly on top of them, we decided to focus on the North Warwickshire Beagles who shared kennels with them.

The impact on them was more immediate than on the Atherstone, they packed up immediately whenever we turned up which meant we regularly stopped them from hunting. They even tore up their meet card and started again in the hope of getting rid of us. In the end they too have now folded, their hunt country being taken over by the Oakley Foot Beagles.

Ultimately the Hunting Act needs to be strengthened, however we are not waiting around for politicians to change the law or corrupt police forces to enforce it. Bloodsports are cruel and barbaric and have no place in the 21st century. It is good to see other sab groups taking on their local hunts, together we will shut them down one by one until hunting is consigned to history.

Thanks to everyone who supported us throughout our campaign, West Midlands Hunt Saboteurs.


It's all over for the North Warwickshire Beagles

DEAD AND BURIED

Three Counties Sabs unearth further disturbing evidence of hunts targeting badgers



Going equipped: hunt scum with spade, terrier and underground location device

On Wednesday 6th November 2019 the Worcestershire Hunt marked a fox to ground in an active badger sett while West Midlands and Three Counties Sabs were out with the hunt.

The sett had been blocked earlier that morning, but a fox had found their way in. The entrances were unblocked, and Three Counties Sabs returned to check on how active the sett was and film evidence of this on 8th November. Upon arrival, an area of unsettled earth was found, partially hidden by branches and leaves and so sabs checked for any signs of a dig-out... it was a sett entrance completely covered over to look like a mound of earth and, on unblocking it, we found a badger who had been shot in the head and who had bite marks on her rear end. Not only is this sett targeted by the hunt, it is in an area likely to become a badger cull zone, potentially this year.



Baited, blasted and buried: their cruelty knows no bounds

We have already done several seasons of work against the blocking of badger setts by hunts which has led to hunts largely giving up on the practice within Gloucestershire. They are also far more wary of digging-out setts on days when sabs are out. It certainly doesn't stop the killing though and we need to keep up the pressure on them, through early-morning patrols before known hunt meets, use of trail cameras and reporting of damaged or obstructed setts.

Especially in areas which may be signed up for the badger cull in the future, where there is a need to highlight wildlife crimes which affect badgers even more urgently, the checking of setts (before, during and after hunt meets) is extremely important. Sett checkers in Gloucestershire have come across fires blazing on top of sett entrances, diesel being poured down entrances and even badger baiters... and have managed to prevent further damage and death in these cases.

We have learned a huge amount over the years from experienced sabs and monitors, but it has not been common practice for groups to unblock setts and record data on interference with them. We would urge anyone who is able to sett survey and check on setts in their local areas to do so - if you don't know where they are, they can't be protected.

Contact your local sab /monitor group and check setts around hunt meets, when out walking and if the cull comes to your area.

Unblocked and monitored setts save lives!



Badger's home destroyed by the "guardians of the countryside"

We have recently published guidelines on our standard practices regarding setts on our Facebook page and our website: network23.org/3CHuntSabs to complement our sett-blocking data and article 'Hunts vs Badgers'.

We are always willing to give advice if needed: 07891 639803.

sabgroupnews



Less than ideal conditions for the Royal Artillery Hunt

Bath Hunt Sabs

https://www.facebook.com/bathhuntsabs
Email: bathhuntsabs@yahoo.co.uk
Inst: @bath_hunt_sabs
Website: bathhunts@wordpress.com
PayPal: bathhuntsabs@yahoo.co.uk
Kofi: http://lo-fi.com.bathsabs
Bank: 08:92:99 - 65622067

After months of full-time work against the badger cull, and now the cubbing season and mink hunting seasons are over, Bath sabs have decided to spread the love a bit and sab more varieties of animal killing. We wouldn't want anyone feeling neglected.

So, with that in mind, and new sabs raring to go, we've been looking into our local shoots. We had a very successful day at one and we have others in the works. Because it's not our usual we have people working on research and pre-checking areas to ensure everything is tightly planned. With groups who can't sab but can walk we are arranging separate pre-beating walks, which we expect to be good for recruitment as it's completely non-confrontational. We look forward to some more shoot sabs soon.

That said we aren't abandoning the more well-known kinds of hunting and have had numerous days out with sabs from Bristol, South Wales, Mendips and Severn Vale. We've visited the Courtenay Tracey Minkhounds, Mendip Farmers, Ross Harriers, Severn Vale Beagles, Tedworth, Cotswold Vale, Monmouth, Ledbury and the Curre & Llangibby.

On Boxing Day we went for two military associated hunts with the Wiltshire & Infantry Beagles and the Royal Artillery Fox Hunt. We had two vehicles out and still had to turn down sabs, but we are still saving for a second Landy so hopefully we won't be oversubscribed for long.



Beds & Bucks Hunt Sabs

https://www.facebook.com/Bedsandbuckssabs/
https://twitter.com/BedsBucksSabs
Email: bedsandbuckshuntsabs@riseup.net

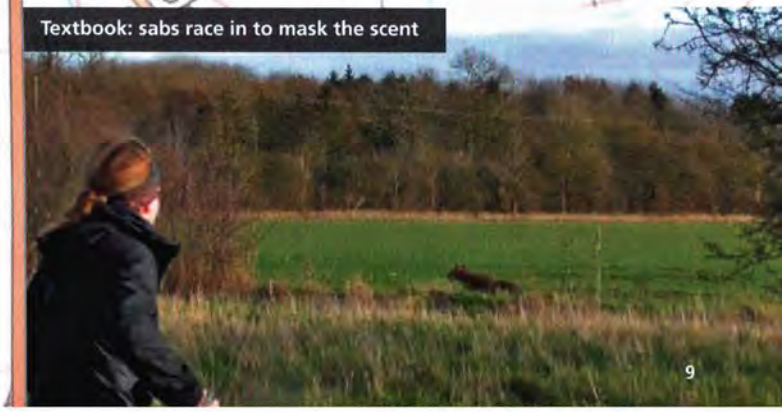
We had a small team fighting the badger cull down in Wiltshire and while we know we couldn't save them all we certainly had a considerable effect. Just ask the local shooters!

The first half of the hunting season has also been very successful. Although we've joined our comrades North Cambs *(now known as Peterborough- Ed)* on occasion hitting the Fernie our focus will always be the Oakley. The new huntsman Simon "Shaky" Hand thinks he's a bit special, but we've certainly taken him down a peg or two and made hunting extremely difficult. He can probably now see why Calamity Jack left!

We've been a constant thorn in their side, and they seem to have lost a lot of hunt country this year if the meets are anything to go by. They rarely seem to leave home ground close to the kennels. This is great news to us although it can get boring sabbing over the same country all the time, but their field size is well down already and we hope to be adding some more (and hopefully final) nails in their collective coffins. We will not let up until they are finished.

We had a great weekend in Lush Milton Keynes and have to say a huge thanks to all the staff for treating us so well and raising so much money for our cause. That money kept our vehicles on the road for another season!

Once again, our numbers are growing with the introduction of new sabs and our constant training means our more seasoned ones are now running small teams of their own. We are developing a great team ethic and blueprint for effective sabbing. The future for us is bright…not so much for the hunters.



Textbook: sabs race in to mask the scent

Berkshire Hunt Sabs

https://www.facebook.com/huntsabs/

At the start of the 2019/20 hunt season Berkshire Hunt Sabs got straight to work in against the badger cull in our nearest zone and worked with other groups to minimise the impact of the cull. Its highly likely that the cull will be extended to Berkshire this year, so we are preparing for this.

As usual we have focused on our beagling campaign and have an efficient, flexible team which can often cover more than one hunt in a day. We have put a stop to illegal hunts of the (deep breath ...) Wilts & infantry Beagles, Palmer Marlborough Beagles, Warwickshire Beagles, Trinity Foot Beagles, Clinkard Beagles, Royal Agricultural College Beagles, New Forest Beagles, and the Christchurch & Farley Hill Beagles.

We have also been over to join groups on the Surrey Union Hunt on a few occasions. We've teamed up nicely with groups such as Severn Vale, Guildford, North Downs and Bristol as well as Surrey Hunt Monitors. We also attended a couple of well received fundraising events and have some exclusive merchandise planned. We continue to plan for the rest of the season ahead to help cover costs for equipment and fuel for the second half of the season.

Overall, we have had a very successful season so far. We have not seen any kills and been on the receiving end of only minimal violence from the hunts.

While not much surprises us when it comes to the utterances of hunt members it was particularly shocking to hear the comments of the Wilts & Infantry when they saw a black member of our team: *"Looks like you are importing sabs now"*.



Two for one: sabs shut down a joint beagle meet



South Down & Eridge head back to the meet

Brighton Hunt Sabs

brightonhuntsaboteurs@riseup.net
www.facebook.com/BrightonHunt Saboteurs/

We've been very busy so far this season. Back in September several of our sabs got out to various cull zones to stop the murdering of badgers which sadly is now happening all over the country. At the same time some of us were cracking on with sabotaging the start of the fox hunting season in the South East.

Unusually we've had quite a few arrests this season, one memorable moment was playing the gizmo outside Tonbridge police station whilst waiting for our mates to be released. Constable Rimmer came storming out demanding we show him some respect as we enquired why it is that so many people do seem to dislike the police... They did release the arrestees half an hour later though.

Boxing Day was an eventful affair for us in Battle with the local bumpkins throwing their weight around. It was all covered in the local paper and generated lots of bad publicity for the hunt.

Meanwhile the huntsman of the Southdown & Eridge Hunt was in the paper complaining that he was being forced to comply with the laws around closing the road and parading up Lewes High Street on Boxing Day. There's a great group of people putting pressure on the council to push them to enforce those laws. They also organised a well-attended Boxing Day demo in Lewes; hank you to everyone that came along.

We've managed to get out to lots of mid-week hunts so far and hope to carry on with that for the rest of the season. We always need more people though, if you're interested in getting involved get in touch.

Bristol Hunt Sabs

bristolhuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk
www.facebook.com/BristolHunt Saboteurs

Our season began at the end of August, with a visit to the Curre & Llangibby, whilst some of our group were in action against the badger cull in the new Avon zone.

Throughout the rest of cubbing we sabbed the Cotswold Vale Farmers' Hunt, the Tedworth, an evening meet of the Avon Vale, and the Mendip Farmers several times, as well as a couple of successful midweek hits at the Berkeley Hunt. We went to two opening meets; the Ross Harriers in October and the Mendip Farmers' at the start of November.

We've since had a couple of return visits to the Cotswold Vale Farmers', as well as one each to the Ledbury Hunt, Curre & Llangibby and the Monmouthshire Hunt.



Sabs supervise the packing up of the RAC Beagles!

Three of our local beagle packs have also received our attention so far this season; the Wiltshire & Infantry Beagles twice (including their Boxing Day meet), the Severn Vale Beagles and the RAC Beagles. All packed up when they realised they had sabs for company!

We've welcomed several new sabs into the fold and held a successful training session, with more planned throughout the rest of the season. Thanks to all the groups we've worked with and to those who have supported us throughout 2019 - we couldn't do it without you!

Cheshire Hunt Sabs

cheshirehuntsabs@gmail.com
https://ko-fi.com/cheshiresabs


Hounds gets some much-needed TLC from Cheshire sabs

We had only just drawn breath and rested from the long nights and early mornings of badger cull and cubbing when the main hunting season began.

Cheshire is a large county, flat (which the runners are very grateful for!) unfortunately it is home to three fox hunts and a very elusive beagle pack, so rarely a day goes by without at least one or more of them being out. This makes things very busy for Cheshire sabs, as there is nearly always a decision to be made as to which hunt is going to get the most attention that day. We are fortunate, however, as there are several independent local groups that we co-operate with and many locals are anti-hunt, so we do receive plenty of tip offs. Despite the difficulties we have made big steps forward already this season, with each of the hunts becoming increasingly desperate to try to stop us. All the hunts now employ "security" for their meets who assault sabs, block roads and attempt to prevent sabs access to public footpaths.

The Boxing Day meet had multiple assaults on both sabs and members of the public before they had even set off. This has been offset with not only a rise in our numbers, but also continued support from other sab groups and independent groups.

Our recently acquired, HSA-funded Land Cruiser is at the forefront of the action, dropping off and picking up sabs where they are needed, supported by the ever-increasing fleet of privately owned vehicles. The influx of new sabs has also brought with it a host of new skills and abilities, both front line – on a good day we can field three drones at once, or the Sab Arrows as they like to be called (more on that next time), right through to supporting roles creating flyers, posters, banners and material for the Facebook page.

Cirencester Illegal Hunt Watch

cihwatch@gmail.com
FB:/CIHWatch/
https://paypal.me/cihwatch


Beaufort snapper takes a tumble

The badger cull has been expanded to an 'unimaginable scale' with up to 64,000 animals predicted to be killed this Autumn taking the total killed to an estimated 130,000. We were out saving badgers as usual and were thankful for the help of a new group 'Stroud Against the Badger Cull' and as always Gloucester Badger Office and 'Gloucester Against Badger Shooting'. Sadly, badgers can still be shot in the Gloucester Supplementary Zone until the end of January. We are now in the middle of the main hunting season sabbing Duke of Beaufort, Vale of White Horse and Cotswold Hunt - getting out three times a week.

Our supporters are increasing and more information about the hunts is forthcoming. The hunts continue to kill foxes blatantly and lie about their trails that they have laid. We now have 'Hi-Viz' minders and cars that follow us all day, which seems to be the norm with most hunts now. We like to show them where the Artificial Earths are and where the terrier men have blocked badger setts – they prefer to look the other way!

Terrier men have been caught digging out badger setts and even firing a gun into one which is still in the hands of the police since last February! One individual was found guilty of theft from a backpack and we had another tyre-slashing incident on our vehicle recently that got reported on the front page of local paper. Hunt supporters, staff and landowners have thrown their weight around but fortunately for us so far only minor assaults have needed reporting. The police have attended and taken incidents seriously.

We have had stalls at Vegan Fairs where we are attempting to raise awareness of the truth behind 'trail hunting'. There are still many people who think hunting is banned and they don't kill foxes anymore! We know they do. Thanks to all our supporters!

Derby Hunt Sabs

facebook.com/derbyhuntsaboteurs/
twitter.com/derby_sabs
instagram.com/derbyhuntsabs/
derby_sabs@outlook.com
paypal.me/DerbySabs

We have spent the last two years preparing for the Derbyshire Badger Cull, which fortunately didn't happen. Therefore, we spent our time during the cull in Cheshire and Staffordshire.

We have spent some time this season in North Wales. This means we have paid visit to former High Peak Huntsman, Nigel "the Radiator Killer" Cox, where he is standing in at the Flint & Denbigh.

Derby and North Wales Hunt Sabs have been mutually supportive, helping each other with various legal issues in previous seasons and attending each other's court cases. After it was revealed that North Wales Police were running an anti-hunt protestor operation - Operation Yarder - we did some digging and found Derbyshire Constabulary have something similar, Operation Trek. The police admit throughout the operation they have had telephone calls and written communication with hunt staff. At the start of the season Derbyshire Rural Crime Team posted on social media they had a meeting with all the hunts in Derbyshire.


Try looking over your shoulder



"Egghound": Devon County sabs get all arty

Devon County Hunt Sabs

Call 07717473305
m.me/devoncountyhuntsaboteurs
devoncountysabs@riseup.net
https://devoncountysabs.wordpress.com/
https://twitter.com/devoncountysabs
https://www.facebook.com/devoncountyhuntsaboteurs/

As ever, Autumn was extremely busy for our sabs. We covered a range of the zones in Devon that are involved in badger culling (literally the whole county with exception of a small area!) with teams out day and night ensuring many badgers lived to see another day. Big shout out to Underground Badger Syndicate for all your help, you were amazing!!!

The hunting season kicked off with a visit to the Torrington Farmers. Horrendous weather conditions meant they packed up early and at least one fox was seen to safety. The Lamerton have been visited twice so far, both times blatant illegal hunting has been witnessed but thanks to quick acting sabs foxes have been saved.

Much time has been spent focusing on the Eggesford Hunt. The ever-delightful huntsman Jason Marles is the most arrogant man we have ever met and is brazenly hunting foxes in front of us week in week out. After assaulting a female sab last year and unbelievably getting away with it when he appealed the original court decision which found him guilty, he seems to be making it his mission to try and demoralise us. Low points have been dealing with the aftermath of kills and with ever increasing aggressive riders and car support, but it will not deter us.

East/West Kent Hunt Sabs

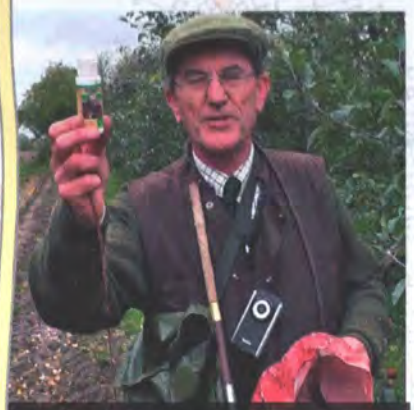
Facebook-https://www.facebook.com/east.sabs/
donations-https://www.paypal.me/EASTKENTHSA
twitter-https://twitter.com/hunt_sabs
website-https://kenthuntsabs.wordpress.com/

With our two groups still going strong with some new members, we were out kennel watching early morning for cubbing every week, and at the start of September, found the EAST KENT with WEST STREET FH (EKwWS) out, and very unhappy to see us! So started a successful season, with both Kent foxhound packs closely watched at every turn-they responded to this by swapping meets & times, or even cancelling Saturdays-both hunts now pack up so early when we are about, that we call them the "2'o clock club!"

The ASHFORD VALLEY TICKHAM (AVT) hunt are our other target, and are also sick of our constant attention-and with the recent talk of amalgamation, dwindling support, and the hunts lack of proper Masters-things are starting to look grim in the SE for the hunters...

The hare hunters also had our attention: we visited the Bolebroke Beagles on more than one occasion, with the Blean Beagles almost gone underground now to avoid us.

An early watch on the AVT resulted in a supporter smashing one of our vehicle's back windscreen with a hammer (a man has been arrested since), but sadly the CPS have decided not to charge two supporters of the EKwWS hunt for hospitalising one of our sabs last Boxing Day, even with it on camera, as they claimed "self-defence"! We also captured an appalling incident with our trusty drone camera, when the East Sussex & Romney Marsh hunt hounds caught and beheaded a fox, which made it into the national media. Horrifically, the Blean Beagles were also filmed killing a hare in the same area just weeks later... police enquiries are ongoing.



Bolebroke Beagles "trail layer" with some unicorn piss

So, onto Boxing Day, and we managed to get decent demos at both hunt meets and can state that hunt support numbers were down again. Finishing the year, both foxhound packs got new year visits (much to their horror) on NYE and even NY's day!

Selfish Staintondale FH block a coastguard station



East Yorkshire Coast Hunt Sabs

FB: East Yorkshire Coast Hunt Sabs

The 2019 sabbing season has been incredibly busy for EYCHS - so far, we have sabbed the Staintondale, Derwent, Middleton and Holderness hunts.

We really must say thank you to our wonderful supporters & the fantastic HSA whose generous donations have allowed us to purchase both a new vehicle and a drone. The vehicle is much bigger and can carry more sabs, which means that we can be even more effective. The drone will hopefully allow us to locate the hunts and monitor their activities in more remote spots.

One of the more disturbing recent developments has been the realisation that one of the masked-up hunt supporters, who repeatedly and deliberately targets and tries (unsuccessfully) to intimidate the smallest female sabs, is James Willoughby, son of Lord Middleton. The fact Mr Willoughby is a solicitor makes his behaviour so much worse.

One of the positive aspects to the season so far is seeing the hunts being thrown off private property by the angry landowners and we hope to see this increase in the future!



Glasgow sabs capture the disgusting reality of "terrier work"

Glasgow Hunt Sabs

FB: Glasgow Hunt sabs
Email: glasgowhuntsabs@riseup.net
PayPal: paypal.me/GlsgwHuntSabs

The 2019 season saw in a new master for our local pack, the Lanarkshire & Renfrewshire Foxhounds, in the form of Tom Haddock from Mid Antrim. With him came an influx of new support and field, but thankfully the novelty must have worn off as L&R's mounted following dwindled back down to a measly four or five most Saturdays - a steady decline since starting to sab them regularly a few years back.

Hunt violence is far less prevalent in Scotland than it is south of the border. That said, the new hunt lot gave a couple of ours a bit of a kicking during cubbing and have since damaged cars. We hope to keep things at a simmer for as long as possible, but it's also not an altogether bad sign that we get under their skin.

We work closely with the other two sab groups in Scotland, Fife & Central Hunt Sabs and Grampian Hunt Sabs, but our locals are hours apart and other far flung hunts aren't getting touched at all. We want to rectify this and have begun to make efforts to set up other groups in other areas, with the aim of training up newbies to be able to grow a sab presence in their areas.

Through the summer months, we focused on outreach and fundraising. We travelled over Scotland to talk about sabbing and have set up a dedicated fundraising/education team to organise. It's important to us to be inclusive - and if you're sound and in it for the foxes, then there's a place for you, even if health or disability means you can't get out into the field.

If you'd like to get involved in Scotland, get in touch so we can continue protecting wildlife. As always, thanks to our supporters and stay safe, sabs.

Grampian Hunt Sabs

grampianhuntsabs@yahoo.co.uk

It's been a bit of a strange start to the season for Grampian Hunt Sabs to say the least. Our main haunt Fife Foxhounds were going cubbing on Friday afternoons rather than their usual Saturday mornings, presumably to avoid sab attention. Due to the distance from us, and with us having full time jobs we couldn't sab them during this time, but we did travel down south to help our pals with the Lanarkshire & Renfrewshire (L&R) hunt instead. After cubbing was over, Fife Foxhounds reverted to their usual Saturday hunting. We even managed to sab them mid-week (Wednesday), which shocked them so much that the following week they broke tradition AGAIN and went hunting on Tuesday and Friday! We can feel their desperation in trying to avoid sabs so we will be keeping up the pressure.

Adam Galpin, Fife Foxhounds terrierman, has taken a new approach this season of calling the police on us for causing him fear and alarm. He is so fearful and alarmed that he approaches sabs and our cars alone at every opportunity to walk around us sticking a camera in our faces. Not to mention the time when he was caught squatting behind a hedge to covertly film four female sabs - what a creep!



The L & R can't shake Grampian sabs

We've even managed to squeeze in a trip to sab the Berwickshire Hunt this season which was an eventful but successful day. They can expect to see us more often as we feel they've been a bit neglected lately...

Guilford & North Downs Hunt Sabs

FB: @northdowns.huntsabs

We've had a good start to the first half of the season. We have been out 46 times mainly concentrating on our old enemy the Surrey Union Foxhunt who we successfully hit 24 times often working with Reading Sabs and Surrey Hunt Monitors.

The hunt is starting to buckle under this constant pressure with the number of riders dramatically down often less than 15 including the hunt staff. They have tried hiding their horse boxes, changing days, meets and times to avoid us usually without success. The Union have reacted predictably with laughable attempts to do us for harassment and the usual rise in minor aggravation, with the whipper in Russell Ingram filmed letting down the tyre on one of our cars , sabs being ridden at and whipped and looney supporters driving at us and trying to pick fights. They have lost land, the National Trust have not issued any more licences for tthis season (though they have trespassed a few times) and the Loseley Estate (a wedding and event venue) have stopped them using their land after a short campaign after stopping a cubhunt there .

The Union have carried on being instruments of chaos in the countryside worrying livestock and invading people's gardens with complete arrogance.

On a trip to the Crawley & Horsham the biased Sussex police lifted one of landies saying it was uninsured when it was. The cops have all but admitted that they acted illegally and returned the £150 fee and when we did a fundraiser to pay the fine we raised £750 in less than 48 hrs, in light of this we hope that that the police won't act in this way again .

We look forward to the rest of the season and our campaign against the Surrey Union now two landies are back on the road and the group continues to grow.

There Is No Authority But Yourself





Multitasking: it's not easy hunting fox cubs AND filming those pesky sabs

Herefordshire Hunt Sabs

Ko-fi.com/herefordshirehuntsabs
herefordshirehuntsabs@gmail.com

We spent the summer sett surveying an expected new cull zone straddling the Herefordshire /Worcestershire border only to be thrown a massive curve ball when licences were published. The new zone covers the west of Herefordshire, an area we weren't familiar with at all. It was a very challenging few weeks, but with help from old friends we did our best and one happy result was the formation of new group Glamorgan Anti Bloodsports who we are now working alongside sabbing hunts this season. Every black cloud...

We made time to sab a couple of cubbing meets during the cull, both times hitting the North Herefordshire Hunt. Once the cull was over, it was straight into the main hunting season – and the beginning of two months of rain in biblical proportions, which has made sabbing tough, but a positive has been that sometimes hunts have cancelled, gone out on foot, or with a smaller or non- existent field.

We hit the Clifton on Teme for their opening meet. Since then we have hit the North Herefordshire Hunt repeatedly, as well as paying a visit to the Cotswold Vale Farmers Hunt, along with Bristol Hunt Sabs and Welsh Border Sabs. One of our sabs spent a few hours one weekday keeping an eye on the Ledbury, catching the hounds marking to ground at a badger sett in a wood where they have no permission to be. We rounded off the first half of the season with a well-attended protest at the Clifton on Teme's Boxing Day meet. We're ruffling feathers and saving foxes lives and we are here to stay. Drop us an email if you would like to join us in the field or help in any other way.

Hertfordshire Hunt Sabs

https://ko-fi.com/A3372I1A

Since late August we have been working closely with Northants Hunt Sabs in our continuing campaign against the criminal Cottesmore. Several of our sabs worked themselves to exhaustion during September and October in splitting their time between the Devon & Dorset cull zone and cub hunting matters in Leicestershire.

We have been successful in bringing charges against several of the hunts "stewards" with the same chaps being bailed away from all hunt meets in Leicestershire and Rutland. The victims and witnesses of these assaults have received some attempts of witness intimidation in the form of dead foxes being left at workplaces, cars vandalised, malicious phone calls and the targeting of one sab's child at school by the children of a hunt supporter. These are the sort criminal characters we are dealing with.

Average field attendance for a Saturday is lower than last season so we are paying more visits to them during the week also. Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust have told this hunt they must not trespass into several large areas owned by them. The Forestry Commission have only licenced the hunt for six areas which is down from nine last season. We have also been approached by many farmers raising their concerns with us over trespassing by the hunt. Another increasing trend for this hunt is meeting at the roadside.

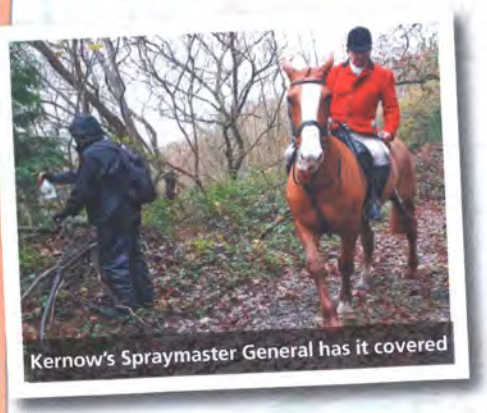
The new recruits who joined us could not have come at a better time. It's extremely encouraging to see members of the public stepping forward to help us in the fight against animal cruelty. As a result of our expansion we are on the prowl for a second 4X4 and a big thank you to the HSA for the financial assistance with that. Going into 2020 we are where we hoped to be. The Cottesmore have not had a single kill while we have been with them so far this season. Our group is getting stronger. The war is there to be won.



Cottesmore rider extends the traditional rural welcome

Kernow Hunt Sabs

FB: facebook.com/kernowsabs/
Email and Paypal: kernowhuntsabs@riseup.net
Webshop: kernowsabsmerch.weebly.com
FB: facebook.com/cornwallagainstthebadgerculls/
Email: cabc@live.co.uk



Kernow's Spraymaster General has it covered

The autumn saw some of the Kernow team, together with Cornwall Against the Badger Cull, run off their feet saving badgers in yet another year of corrupt and unscientific culling. A new zone of 1022sq km was added to the two already massive zones with the cull lasting seven weeks. This year though saw a massive increase in response and help from the general public, some joining the cull teams, some becoming pixies themselves and many more reporting sightings.

Since the main hunt season started the team has been managing to get out usually a couple of times a week. We discovered after visiting Cury Hunt that their new huntsman, Adrian Quick, had left during the summer (allegedly due to some disagreement) and that Four Burrow Hunt's whipper in had taken over temporarily. With their field down to a handful of riders we're wondering how long they can last. East Cornwall Hunt has had visits from our monitors on several occasions, their support also seeing a decline.

The team have mostly though been visiting Four Burrow Hunt who seem to have increased their disrespect for people's private land, blatantly illegally hunting where they have no permission, even through private nature reserves and estates. Huntswoman Nikki Hancock is still displaying her total incompetence at hound control with a split pack and strays on every outing.

We've had some new members join us and fundraising is going well with our festive auction and new merchandise website.



Distressed horse is weaponised against Lancashire sab

Lancashire Hunt Sabs

lancsabs@hotmail.co.uk

Lancashire sabs continue to visit the Blencathra FH, who have gone out of their way to avoid us – changing days, meet places, times, vehicles etc – with hunt members attempting to run us off the road on several occasions and making threats. However, we intend to keep sabbing this hunt until it folds. Earlier in the season we visited the Flint & Denbigh Hunt, the Cheshire Hounds and the Wynnstay, joining other sab groups. We have also visited the Ullswater FH at their United Utilities meets in the Haweswater area, on both occasions limiting the huntsman to small areas of land.

Boxing Day saw the annual Blencathra parade being joined by a good number of local protesters, thanks to the newly formed Cumbria AAF, who we are working with. We were able to position ourselves at the right place whilst the hunt were being laughed at in the town centre, so that when they did their Boxing Day hunt, sabs were already 'standing point' near the notorious 'Porter's Parlour' - a huge area of artificial earths created by the hunt many years ago, which is still in use. We were able to put an early end to proceedings by intervening when a fox was bolted (or released) in the area.

Following our long-running campaign, this year the National Trust made the decision not to licence any of the fell packs in the Lake District, particularly as many of the hunts trespassed and killed on NT land last year after THEY refused to apply for licences. We fully support the National Trust in any actions they take against the hunts. We are also campaigning for a full hunting ban on land owned and managed by Lake District National Park Authority.

Lincoln Hunt Sabs

https://m.facebook.com/lincolnhuntsaboteurs/
www.twitter.com@LSaboteurs
https://www.instagram.com/lincolnhuntsaboteurs/?hl=en
http://www.ko-fi.com/lincssabs

Since the last HOWL we've been very busy indeed, we had sabs out in two of the cull zones where we feel we made a decent impact and hopefully contributed to some badgers surviving the insidious slaughter.

We've continued working with our friends from Nottingham, sabotaging cubbing meets of; The Quorn, Blankney, Meynell and South Wold.

We had a stall at a local music festival (equinox- big up to them for having us!) which for a couple of our sabs was meant to be a weekend off. That said, we're never truly off the clock and we just so happened to get a tip that the South Wold were meeting a few miles away from the festival; needless to say we felt it would be rude not to go and let them know we were about.



Sabs close in on the East Lincs Bassets!

Now that the season is in full swing, we've enjoyed visiting the Belvoir and Quorn several times, on one occasion getting to work with the West Mids crew, which was a pleasure. We've also been up to support Sheffield sabs with their court demonstration while Mark Davis, of the Barlow, was on trial for assaulting sabs and then the following week we got to enjoy sabbing them, sabs outnumbering their riders including the hunt staff.

A high point was finding the highly illusive East Lincs Bassets, who had made the mistake of meeting in the same village as the Brocklesby.

If you live locally and want to get involved please do get in touch, we'd love to hear from you.If you have any information on local hunts or shoots drop us a message, all tip offs will be treated with the strictest confidence.

Liverpool Hunt Sabs

https://www.facebook.com/LiverpoolHuntSabs/

With setts to protect in Cheshire West this year as well as our previously targeted setts in Cheshire East we had our work cut out even more on the badger cull this year. With teamwork, determination, commitment and tenacity from everyone in our group we were able to provide nightly protection for our badgers – it's often hard to judge effectiveness with badger cull sabotage however with shooters seemingly driven out of our patch and badgers running around our setts on the last night it seems like we made a big difference.

We hit the ground running as we headed straight into fox hunt sabbing season, teaming up with our good comrades Manchester sabs most weeks we've had good days' sabbing in Cheshire on the Wynnstay and Cheshire Foxhounds, the Meynell – recently convicted again for fox hunting. We've had a trip up to Cumbria to help out the Lancaster Sabs on the Ullswater - and we've also been helping out the fantastic recently formed group Staffordshire Hunt Sabs on the North Staffs, a hunt which after years of being untouched are not enjoying the new found attention. A big thanks to all the people who enable us to get out in the field every week!

North Staffs huntsman threatens to "batter" sabs. Good luck with that.




Heroic sabs try to shield fox

Nottingham Hunt Sabs

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

Our season started with some very early morning visits to the Quorn who started cubbing in late August. The badger cull kicked off in early September and throughout September and October we had teams in two cull zones as well as a home team disrupting cubbing meets of the Quorn, Belvoir, Meynell, Southwold, South Notts and Blankney hunts.

We all came back together in early November and hit the Belvoir on the opening two Saturdays of their main season. We then got a very rare Brocklesby meet in North Lincolnshire but even more excitingly whilst looking for them we stumbled upon the east Lincs Bassetts who were out hunting hares. We stopped them before they'd even started and had a fun afternoon chasing them back to their kennels. Although we'd assumed our season would take its usual pattern of focusing on the Belvoir and Meynell we heard that the Quorn were planning to hunt Saturdays in the old Atherstone country. We couldn't allow this to go unchallenged, so we spent the next few weeks over there keeping an eye on them. It quickly became apparent that this is a vanity project by Quorn senior master Joss Hanbury who clearly wanted to play at being huntsman before he's too old. Turns out he's terrible, with no idea how to hunt hounds or show the paying subscribers a good day out.

Despite all this we managed regular midweeks at the Quorn where their professional huntsman Ollie Finnigan is a different matter entirely, hunting illegally until darkness falls and doesn't care who knows it. Sadly, despite our best efforts, they killed at a meet in early December and were roundly condemned in the national media. Such incidents are heart breaking for the sabs concerned but only make us more determined.

As Christmas approached, we consistently found ourselves massively oversubscribed and may need to invest in a third vehicle if it continues.



Nordic noir: Manchester sabs at the Swedish Hunt Sab Bootcamp

Manchester Hunt Sabs

join.manchesterhuntsabs@gmail.com
Facebook: facebook.com/ManchesterHuntSabs
Twitter: twitter.com/manchuntsabs
Instagram: instagram.com/manchesterhuntsabs
Merch: manchesterhuntsabs.bigcartel.com
Donate: ko-fi.com/manchesterhuntsabs

We've had a busy season so far, from putting our new 4x4 to the test, boosting our numbers with some new sabs, and welcoming some ex-Brighton sabs to the group.

Some of us took a trip over to Sweden with a member of YAHL to join the Sweden Hunt Sabs bootcamp and learn about sabbing over there and share some of our skills and knowledge. This was a great experience for those involved and we look forward to seeing our Swedish friends again soon.

We have been mainly focusing our efforts on the North Staffs, Meynell, Cheshire Hounds, and the Wynnstay this season alongside our good friends in Liverpool, Staffordshire, and Cheshire Sabs we're clearly seeing our efforts pay off as their numbers decline!

There are some ideas brewing for the second half of the season, so watch this space.

Melbourne Hunt Sabs (Australia)

https://www.amazon.com.au/hz/wishlist/ls/AI6B8ARWT8UM?ref_=wl_share

As we approach our quiet time of the year (for fox hunting) we sadly turn our attention to a 'legal' fox culling/trapping program. This program was using soft jaw leg traps. After a chat with a few locals, we were informed that a few years back the council tried this, and a neighbour's pet cat was killed in a trap. This saw our team visit the site multiple times over the two-week period of the cull.

World Vegan Day saw us back in attendance again, always good to be there. Our support is growing as is the respect for the fox and hatred of the hunt.

We have an Amazon Wishlist should anyone feel festive and wish to keep us in the field with new equipment.



"Do Not Interfere With Trapping Equipment" .... oh, ok then

Mendip Hunt Sabs

Tip-Off Line: 07493 363134
Email: mendiphuntsabs@gmail.com
https://mendiphuntsabs.wordpress.com
Twitter: https://twitter.com/mendiphuntsabs
Instagram: @mendiphuntsabs



Seeing red: Mendip huntsman fumes as sabs take control of the pack

It's been a busy time for MHS, as the badger cull ended, and autumn heralded the return of most hunting. We did everything we could to stop the deaths of innocent badgers in our cull zones. We're keeping an eye on our setts and many are still thriving, however we're painfully aware that thousands of others are now empty and lifeless.

It was a pleasure to have sabs from Hunt Saboteurs Sweden and Underground Badger Syndicate out with us on several occasions, and thanks to Bristol, Bath and South Wales Sabs for joining us for some mass hits on our main target, the Mendip Farmers Hunt. Notably, their opening meet was totally ruined when 30 sabs showed up!

There has been a massive escalation in violence and aggression from the MFH, who's brought-in thugs have repeatedly damaged our vehicle and attacked our sabs. Evidently, they are becoming desperate, as we have so far attended most of their twice-weekly meets. We will not back down, despite all the hassle from the hunt and their sketchy support. We have aided countless foxes away from their hounds and exposed the reality of hunting in Somerset, with the MFH proving how violent, arrogant and unpleasant hunters truly are.

We've made visits to other hunts, including the VWH, Berkeley, Severn Vale Beagles and Weston & Banwell Harriers, alongside many other fantastic sab groups. Tragically, during our hit of the WBH opening meet the hunt killed a fox despite our best efforts to stop the hounds. We recovered the body and it was clear the fox had suffered an agonizing death. They will not be forgotten as we continue to fight in their memory for all our wildlife. We extend solidarity to all sabs who have witnessed kills or experienced violence from hunts this season. Stay strong and keep on sabbing!

Norfolk & Suffolk Hunt Sabs

ns.sabs@yahoo.co.uk
www.facebook.com/norfolksuffolk.huntsaboteurs
https://ko-fi.com/norfolksuffolkhuntsaboteurs

For Norfolk & Suffolk Sabs the 2019/2020 season has so far been one of extreme highs and extreme lows. It was confirmed to us in mid-October that the Easton Harrier Hunt (who over the years we have seen kill many hares) were disbanding and were converting over to bloodhounds. We could not quite believe it at first. We keep a close eye on their activities. The hunt has now changed names to the Hamilton Bloodhounds. They have an open Facebook page (which is worth checking out) where they advertise their meets in advance (the fact that other hunts do not do this only shows they have something to hide). The Hamilton Bloodhounds are still in the early stages of training the hounds but as the pictures show on their page, the signs are promising. One thing for sure is that hares are not being killed week in and week out, like they once were.

The other hunts in our area have obviously become a bit twitchy as they know that we will now be looking further afield. At the start of the season we pretty much focused exclusively on the Waveney Harriers. The Waveney have been pulling out the stops to avoid us turning up, but we have done a pretty good job of keeping on top of them.

We have also visited other hunts including the Suffolk Hunt, Dunston Harriers and North Norfolk Harriers. Attending these hunts has however resulted in us being on the receiving end of violence. One of our sabs has been attacked twice in the last few weeks. On the second occasion, he was ridden down resulting in five broken ribs and an air ambulance being sent out by the emergency services. Needless to say, we won't ever be put off.



Air ambulance scrambled to treat another victim of hunt violence

Deadline for next Howl Group News submissions is 1st May 2020. 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!



Northants Hunt Sabs

www.paypal.me/ENABS

This season we have continued with our quest to stop the Cottesmore Hunt from murdering foxes. Our efforts have been multi-faceted and have included traditional tactics as well as targeting the hunt in other ways.

Reducing hunting ground can be very effective and we have achieved this by undertaking various campaigns to landowners who don't want to be associated with hunting. In addition, we have had a successful Boxing Day protest with a rise in number of anti-hunt support joining us to voice their opposition in Oakham. The local press were very interested in our protest and covered the story.

This increase in our support is growing weekly. We are leafleting around the local area and as a result we receive regular tip offs regarding all aspects of the hunt.

A further successful strategy has been to expose people who host the hunt meets via our Facebook campaign *"Meet the Meet Host"*. This has uncovered a range of meet hosts including barristers, bankers, local Tory Councillors and the current High Sheriff of Leicestershire, amongst others closely involved with the Hunt. This has prompted the public to protest by writing to express their concerns to local councils or to employees. It also exposes the powerful links and networks that help to cover up the criminality behind hunting. As a result of our exposures we have evidence of hosts deciding to give up their meet or change the meet to the road verges to avoid exposure. This in turn helps to chip away at the hunt's control.

We will continue to work closely with our allies, Hertfordshire Hunt sabs and WildAct to complete our campaigns for this season. Thank you so much to the people who have backed and supported us so far this season.



Cottesmore cornered at Boxing Day protest

Peterborough Hunt Sabs

peterboroughhuntsabs@gmail.com
ko-fi.com/PBsabs


A terrible start to 2020 for the Westerby Bassets

Hitting 2020 running with a fresh new name, Peterborough Hunt Sabs (formerly North Cambs) have at the time of writing, sabbed the Fernie Hunt sixteen times so far this season (up to New Year's Day).

They've tried a few tricks to keep us away, from calling the police (disinterested), hiring safety officers/bouncers (disaffected) and even bringing in previous season's rejects like "crazy scaffolder guy" (dishevelled). Nothing has really worked for them so far, if only they'd go for the obvious solution: just stop hunting wildlife. In addition to hitting the Fernie so often we're worried they'd be disappointed if we didn't show up, we've had a master removed from the Pytchley (Mark Ferguson was sacked after cracking one of our sab's head open with his whip), had a 100% record of the Fitzwilliam Hunt cancelling their meets when we arrive and even managed a hit on the elusive Westerby Bassets, arriving just in time to stand in between the pack and an escaping hare.

In our last update, we were ready to return to the courtroom to give evidence in the expected appeal of a hunting act conviction for the huntsman of the Thurlow Hunt. In the end, however, Chris Amatt simply accepted the hunting charge against him as part of a plea bargain on a second offence. The Thurlow remain a convicted hunt and that counts as a win for us.

As we look past the busy Christmas and New Year period, where sabs seem to work double shifts, at last we are halfway through the hunting season. The regular mud baths at the weekends may be good for the skin – but this seems to be one of the most tiring seasons so far!

North Wales Hunt Sabs

northwaleshuntsabs@yahoo.com



North Wales and friends bring chaos to the bastard Barlow

Since last report we've been busy in the Cheshire cull zone also hitting cub hunts before the season started in full. We've been joined every week by Derby sabs and had visits from Cheshire, Shropshire and Lancashire hunt sabs.

With Jeremy Reed quitting the Flint & Denbigh hunt, Sean Beeston was expected to take over as huntsman but due to medical reasons this didn't happen, and Nigel Cox has stepped in for the season. We've had a very mixed response from the Flint & Denbigh Hunt this season. One week they'll blatantly hunt and the next week they seem very paranoid by our presence. Sometimes the hunt supporters and terrier men will be aggressive and then the next totally steer clear of us.

We've managed to save numerous foxes by taking control of the pack but unfortunately, we fear the hunt have killed at least twice possibly more, but on all occasions in was in thick overgrowth we couldn't get through to retrieve the bodies. The new first whip is a bit naughty; he likes to use his horse as a weapon, blocking roads and riding at sabs. The police have kept their distance so far following our exposure of Operation Yarder. A few officers are still under investigation for bias towards the hunt. We've also hit hunts in Cheshire, the Cheshire Hounds and Wynnstay Hunt who've bother employed "Safety Officers". Boxing Day we were with the Cheshire Hounds in what was an eventful day. Thanks for all your support!

Reading Hunt Sabs

Readinghuntsabs@protonmail.com



Reading Hunt Sabs spread the love

In summer 2019 Reading Hunt Saboteurs became affiliated to the HSA, just less than a year after the group was formed by dedicated animal right activists from Reading. Since our formation we have been splitting our time between assisting other groups, gaining valuable experience from Guildford & North Downs Hunt Sabs, and gathering intel on our more local hunts. We have only been able to do this with the support of the public, who are keen to tell us when and where hunts are taking place in their area. Alongside this we have been sett surveying - and some of our sabs also travelled up north to assist with sabotaging grouse shoots in August last year.

More recently we have supported local protests organised by groups such as Action Against Foxhunting. Building intel and relationships is a huge part of establishing an effective sab group and we cannot thank our supporters and partner groups enough for helping us evolve over the past 14 months.

When we are not out in the woods and fields, we are fundraising in order to purchase our own vehicle and equipment, which will make us more efficient at sabbing. One of our sabs has also designed our new logo, allowing us to raise funds through branded merchandise. Once we have a vehicle and some communications equipment it will be much easier for us to be out there saving animals, so any help towards this goal is greatly appreciated.



Black bloc overwhelms the Barlow Hunt

Sheffield Hunt Sabs

sheffieldhuntsaboteurs@riseup.net

The season started off brilliantly when, after months of expecting the cull in Derbyshire, Defra announced to our surprise (and some very pissed off farmers) that it wasn't going ahead. A huge thank you to everyone who got involved with the campaign and helped it succeed, especially the Derbyshire locals.

Finding ourselves in the deep end elsewhere, the cull was tough going (as one sab described it 'walking around fields all day with your worst thoughts') but we are confident we were effective, while sabs at home were out every week sabbing cub hunts.

We are continuing to sab the York & Ainsty South/Badsworth & Bramham Moor (who merged last season when the Badsworth nearly folded) on a regular basis, as well as the Barlow midweek. Things intensified in December when we witnessed a fox being torn to shreds by the Barlow Hunt, along with sabs from West Yorkshire. A few weeks later, the usual Boxing Day hangers-on repeatedly slammed a dead fox into our vehicle at a Badsworth meet. It can't have been comfortable for the hunts when both videos hit the national press and attracted an eye watering number of views! Awareness raised on this scale will in time contribute to the end of hunting for good.

Meanwhile, various legal cases ensue. Mark Davies of the Barlow Hunt is due to attend court for a second time after assaulting sabs last Boxing day. We are happy to report that Locals Against The Barlow Hunt are taking matters into their own hands and organising demonstrations outside court as well as for NYD. Our ramming case against the Grove & Rufford is still underway and we remain hopeful about the outcome. Finally, we've been joined by a handful of skilled, enthusiastic new members who have got stuck in!

Severn Vale Hunt Sabs

severnvalesabs@gmail.com

We started our season sabbing the Tory government's barbaric badger extermination programme. There was no rest between our time in the fields as the angry public not only informed on the shooters but on the cub-killing Berkeley Hunt. We turned up, they ran away, further lives were saved.

The end of the cull saw us return to our usual targets: hare hunts. Across southern England a pattern was experienced: hunt spots sabs, hunt runs back to meet, hunt goes home. Our namesakes the Severn Vale Beagles, the Wiltshire & Infantry, RAC and Palmer Marlborough's joint meet with the Clinkard Meon Valley Beagles stuck to the form. The Trinity Foot & South Herts, whose huntsman is deeply involved with the recently convicted Kimblewick Hunt, broke the mould by gormlessly walking up and down the same field for 2 hours while we watched them. Weirdos. We even found time to bump into the Royal Artillery fox hunt and ruin their day.



Wilts & Infantry Beagles pack up with military precision

One of our crew was headline news on Christmas eve on ITV Westcountry, speaking in protest over the Berkeley Hunt being allowed by South Gloucestershire Council to meet in Thornbury.

Our thanks to our comrades from Berkshire, Bristol and Bath and other sab groups and special thanks to the outraged members of the public who inform us of illegal hunt meets via the HSA hotline and other means. We need you and our persecuted wildlife needs us all.



Should have gone to Specsavers!

South Devon Animal Rights

FB: South Devon Animal Rights

As a sign of the pressure that hunts are feeling, two more have merged in south Devon - the Dart Vale & South Pool Harriers with the Modbury Harriers. Historically, the Haldon merged with the Dart Vale to become the Dart Vale & Haldon Harriers, later merging with the South Pool to become the Dart Vale & South Pool Harriers. Under huntsman Gilmore Lewis they hunted fox on Tuesdays and Saturdays and hare on alternate Thursdays. Following Gilmore's retirement, the new (later disgraced with two convictions for illegal hunting) huntsman Andrew Phillis dropped hare hunting, simply hunting fox on Tuesdays and Saturdays. His successor Emlyn Jones disgraced himself by donning a face mask and riding down a sab while his terrierman beat another sab unconscious after which Emlyn skulked off to hunt the Isle of Wight FH.

Although there are other harrier packs in Devon, this merger means there is now one where there were four - hunting just two days a week. Downhill all the way, it seems.

Last summer was busy and expensive for us: sett surveying, fundraising and giving our Land-Rover a make -over. Newly equipped with bodycams and better 2-way radios, in September we started sabbing cubbing meets on Dartmoor between going on "Wounded Badger Patrol".

Although concentrating on the South Devon Hunt, we've also sabbed the Dartmoor, Spooners & West Dartmoor, Dart Vale, South Pool & Modbury Harriers and Eggesford. Contrary to the unsubstantiated claims of Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, illegal hunting abounds in Devon. Giving credit where credit is due, we acknowledge that, with a few notable exceptions, under the current leadership of huntsman Robert Medcalf, the South Devon Hunt have been unusually courteous.

South Coast Hunt Sabs

southcoasthuntsabs@gmail.com
PayPal.me/SouthCoastHuntSabs

Since last time we pretty much ran ourselves into the ground between sabbing the Badger Cull in a new zone where we attracted much police attention and travelling the 3 hours home to sab cub hunts. Our saving grace was having the use of a comrade's home which was for most of us the first year without camping.



The Battle of Battle: brave South Coast sabs stand up to Boxing Day thugs

We've heard that the pressure is being felt by our local hunt ESRM, they are leaning on a neighbouring hunt S&E for help. The first Boxing Day Demo we organised at Battle hasn't helped this failing hunt either, the bumpkin behaviour highlighted to locals how outdated and un-evolved the bloodthirsty imbeciles are. We have also received an influx of enquiries from potential new sabs and people enquiring about what we do.

We've been out in the elements on all terrains from marshland to up on the South Downs mainly sabbing ESRM and S&E but also the OSBWK and C&H. We are aware that kills do occur more readily without our presence but unfortunately some of our sabs were witness to a fox kill by the ESRM (which is under police investigation) and a hare kill by the Bolbroke Beagles.

We are having an impact with our commitment to midweek sabbing and the hunts have to keep changing their times and meets at the last minute to avoid Sabs. We thank our generous supporters for their help as our Landy has had to have expensive repairs.

We are a friendly group and always welcome new sabs. Southcoast Hunt Sabs remain small but mighty.

South Wales Hunt Sabs

FB: South Wales Hunt Saboteurs
southwaleshuntsabs@gmail.com



Uh-oh: Gelligaer Farmers run in to trouble

After seeing out the cull in one of the new zones this year, working with a great crew (special thanks to our landlord) and doing our best to save as many lives as possible, we turned our attention to foxes.

First off – we heard the joyous news that the Tredegar Farmers Hunt have folded, so we took them off our to-do list for the season. We also notice that the Banwen Miners have been somewhat missing in action this year – not out at all some weeks (the huntsman preferring to support another local hunt), other weeks they have just been out for a ride without hounds and throughout the season they have had no publicity for their meets and only the same small handful of riders when they have gone out. Unexpectedly, we have also been contacted by some disgruntled local landowners who say they hunt have been sniffing around for access to new land as they don't have enough to see out the season – desperate times! We spent a lot of time with the Banwen last season, to good effect it seems.

In other news, over the first half of the season, we've been out with the Ystrad Taf Fechan and the Gelligaer Farmers and working with friends from other groups, we've been to the Curre & Llangibby, the Monmouthshire and the Mendip Farmers. All hunting foxes, and all well deserving of the attention they receive from sabs.

We'd like the thank all our supporters, with a special thanks for the help with the landy repair costs at the start of the season and the kind folks who donated a batch of radios. Diolch yn fawr.

Three Counties Sabs

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

At the time of writing it's the end of 2019 and we've attended 65 hunt meets since cubhunting began in late August. We've intervened in chases, prevented kills, found blocked badger setts, evidenced kills and hunt trespass, saved hunt hounds from main roads (including in the dark when hunts have carried on hunting after sunset) and intervened to stop dig-outs. The Ledbury, Worcestershire, Croome & West Warwickshire, Cotswold Vale, Cotswold, VWH, North Cotswold, Berkeley and Duke of Beaufort's Hunts and the Radley College Beagles have all had visits from us. We have also been busy since June fighting the badger cull in Gloucestershire.


One that got away

After hounds marked to ground at a badger sett in a potential future Worcestershire cull zone, we found a badger who had been shot in the head and stuffed back into an entrance and totally covered up. This has forced West Mercia Police to take wildlife crime allegations more seriously in the area. We are also putting more pressure on a few landowners who are well aware that they have illegal activities on their land. We're still writing articles, are helping new local groups to set up and are thinking of future projects to work on - keep the info coming in about the hunts and other wildlife crime, we've been inundated with support and tip-offs and we couldn't do it without you all!


Hunt stewards: definitely not pretty in pink

West Midlands Hunt Sabs

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/WestMidsHuntSabs
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/c/westmidlandshuntsaboteurs
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/westmidshuntsabs
Twitter: https://twitter.com/WestMidsSabs
Phone: 07767620767
Email: westmidlandhuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk
Website: https://network23.org/westmidshuntsabs/

We hit the ground running this season with our six-year campaign against the Atherstone Hunt ending with their collapse. A statement on their Facebook page stated they wouldn't be hunting again this season and would look at a possible amalgamation in the future. Since then the neighbouring Quorn Hunt have started hunting the Atherstone's old territory on Saturdays with Quorn senior joint-master Joss Hanbury struggling to control the hounds.

A knock-on effect of the Atherstones collapse was the demise of the North Warwickshire Beagles who they shared kennels with and who we had been increasingly focusing on over the past few seasons. The remaining members joined the Oakley Foot Beagles who have now taken over their territory

We sabbed the opening meets of the Warwickshire, the Worcestershire Hunt and the Croome & West Warwickshire Hunts. We have also sabbed the Grafton Hunt, the Warwickshire Beagles and the Quorn Hunt. Our campaign to stop the Warwickshire Hunt hunting on National Trust land came to a successful conclusion with their licence being revoked for this season.

Our successes have not gone unnoticed by the hunting community. One of our sabs had hunt people visit her home where they slashed the tyres and smashed the windows of our sab vehicle. The Worcestershire Hunt seem to have had enough of us already as they smashed the windscreen of our other vehicle and threatened to ram it off the road with farm machinery.

West Yorkshire Hunt Sabs

https://www.facebook.com/WestYorksHuntSabs/

It's fair to say the start of the 19/20 season has been eventful for us - since the beginning of cubbing, we've been out week after week sabbing, efficiently disrupting illegal hunting. We've been lucky enough to welcome some amazing new members to our group this season and have enjoyed growing together as a team in the field. This growth has enabled us to attend more midweek meets, which is often when you see the true face of hunting. We also had a strong presence in a cull zone, helping resist the government authorised extermination of badgers, and sabbed cubbing meets during this time, occasionally managing both a local hunt and one in a cull zone in the same day.

Perhaps unsurprisingly our increasing effectiveness has drawn more violence, with the newly amalgamated York & Ainsty South/Badsworth & Bramham Moor bringing out masked supporters with illegal weapons, and our old favourite from the Middleton assaulting the smallest sabs he can find. The Middleton are now on their 3rd set of security in as many seasons, although this time round they're branded as "Safety Officers". So far from the drunken assaults we've seen by them, they aren't very safe. The Barlow have recently attracted more of our attention as they hunted and killed a fox in front of us in December, which made national press, and they shall be sure to be seeing more of us. The Badsworth & Bramham Moor/York & Ainsty South also managed to make it into the media twice in a week, once for support attacking Sheffield's vehicle with a dead fox on Boxing Day, and then again for killing a kitten. We go into the New Year with high hopes and will continue sabbing until hunting is consigned to the history books. FOR THE WILD!


Barlow brutality: courageous sabs fought to save this fox



Hunt violence in Sussex

West Sussex Hunt Sabs

w.sussexhuntsabs@gmail.com
Facebook.com/West Sussex Hunt Sabs
Twitter@westsussexhuntsabs
https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/westsussex-huntmonitors
https://gogetfunding.com/west-sussex-hunt-sabs/

"In the early 80s the Worthing Hunt Saboteurs were already an experienced group often not having enough room in the van that would be hired each week" (taken from our Facebook story).

We are still going strong with some of the original members, but we are now West Sussex Hunt Sabs and Monitors. As I write, we are about to celebrate the New Year and enter another decade. Blimey, '2020'! sounds like science fiction, yet the reality is we feel we are still in the dark ages with all the savage wildlife killing that is still going on. For over 40 years our group have been out in the fields protecting wildlife. We celebrated when the hunting ban came into force, and yet we are still witnessing foxes being hunted and ripped apart by hounds.

From early August 2019 we were out up to three times a week for what is the 'cub hunting' season, this is always a very hard time. It's not just getting up at ridiculous o'clock that's difficult; it's knowing the young hounds are being trained to kill fox cubs ready for the main season. The Opening Meet in November for the Crawley & Horsham took place at Knepp Castle as usual, yet they didn't hunt on any Knepp land. Knepp Estate maintain they only allow 'trail hunting' on their land, is this an indication they C&H are not 'trail hunting'? We have also just been informed by Sussex Police that a complaint, along with video evidence of illegal hunting gathered by members of our group, has been NFA'd (again). Thank you to our supporters for the kind donations that keep us in the field, and to all the groups who have helped us protect our wildlife.

Weymouth Animal Rights

weymouthanimalrights@protonmail.com
Twitter Weymouth Animal Rights @Weymouthanimalrights
www.weymouthanimalrights.co.uk
https://gogetfunding.com/fuel-and-equipment/

It's been an incredibly busy few months here at WAR what with the general election and our campaign against the South Dorset Hunt landlord and Tory MP Richard Drax along with making the public aware of the lie that is trail hunting. We have been out sabbing at every opportunity concentrating on the South Dorset Hunt and turning up when they least expect us! Our efforts haven't been in vain and we have watched this hunt dwindle from a field of sixty riders to just fifteen on a Saturday and even as few as six on a mid-week sab! We will continue hitting this hunt as hard as we can for the foreseeable future and will not be intimidated by the ever-increasing number of hired thugs that now seem to outnumber the whole hunt!

We have also been very active with our fundraising and have attended local vegan fayres and doing quite well on our 'Juggers' Christmas Cards. Thanks to the SD for providing us with our fuel money for the next few weeks!

Along with Action Against Fox Hunting we hosted the Boxing Day demo in Blandford where a sizable number of locals made it very clear that they did not want the Portman Hunt attending this festive meet in the town anymore. We have also joined up with North Dorset Hunt Sabs on a number of occasions to sab both the SD and the Portman, with both hunts now starting to feel the pinch of being continually hit as the fields and their hunting grounds are getting smaller and smaller! Job done!

Let's hope the New Year is just as successful for us and all the sabs groups across the country. FSU

WAR sabs keep the hunt on the run!







SEA SHEPHERD

HUNT SABS OF THE HIGH SEAS

In this exclusive HOWL interview Sea Shepherd founder Captain Paul Watson reflects on over forty years of uncompromising direct action in defence of the oceans. All photos © Sea Shepherd

HOWL: You were a founder member of Greenpeace. Why did you break away and form Sea Shepherd?

Captain Paul Watson: Greenpeace continues to deny that I am a co-founder, but the documentation and history is clear. I do admit I find it amusing that this accusation comes primarily from people who were not even born at the time. Many of my fellow co-founders also left Greenpeace to join Sea Shepherd including the first President of Greenpeace, the late Robert Hunter. The difference between Greenpeace and Sea Shepherd are:

1. Greenpeace protests. Sea Shepherd intervenes.
2. Sea Shepherd has no problem in destroying equipment used to illegally take life.
3. Sea Shepherd never compromises.
4. Sea Shepherd does not spend money to raise money, we spend donations on ships and campaigns.
5. Sea Shepherd ships are 100% vegan; Greenpeace ships serve meat and fish.
6. Sea Shepherd has 13 ships on a 12 million Euro annual budget, Greenpeace has three ships on a 400 million annual budget. Sea Shepherd embraces animal rights, Greenpeace does not.
7. Sea Shepherd has never lost a crewmember or had a crewmember suffer any major injuries, Greenpeace has lost people on campaigns and many crewmembers have been injured.



Blood on the ice: sabbing the Canadian seal hunt, 1983

HOWL: Many HOWL readers will be familiar with your recent voyages to Antarctica; tell us about some early Sea Shepherd victories.

Captain Paul Watson: In 1979 and 1980, we shut down the operations of all pirate whaling operations in the Atlantic by sinking the notorious whaler Sierra and the Spanish whalers Isba I and Isba II. We forced the pirate whaler Cape Fisher to retire and assisted the South Africans to arrest and sink the pirate whalers Susan and Theresa. In 1986, we sank half the Icelandic whaling fleet, in 1992, we sank the Norwegian whaler Nybraena and the Norwegian whaler Senet in 1994. We helped shut down the market for harp seal products in Europe and we ended the slaughter of dolphins in Iki Island, Japan in 1982. There have been many more successes on numerous issues.

HOWL: What single Sea Shepherd action are you most proud of?

Captain Paul Watson: All of them, even the campaigns that failed because I'm proud of the effort, the passion and the courage of our volunteers. What I am most proud of is that Sea Shepherd began as an organization and is now a global movement.

HOWL: Sea Shepherd has grown into a global force, without any dilution of its uncompromising direct-action ethos. How has this been achieved?

Captain Paul Watson: By strict adherence to our principles of no compromise and by controlling the use of our logos and name. We have successfully fought off attempts to water down our activities. We run Sea Shepherd like we run our ships: with a disciplined chain of command. We do not allow lawyers, accountants, fund raisers and others to change what we have always been and will always be – no nonsense and no compromising and we never surrender to fearful situations and threats.

HOWL: You were a hunt sab from an early age; tell us about some of your experiences.

Captain Paul Watson: I participated in anti-fox hunting sabs in and around Houston, Scotland in the mid 1980's *(that would have been the Lanarkshire & Renfrewshire Hunt - Ed)*. However, I started out hunt sabbing as a boy of 11 in 1962 by walking traplines in Canada, freeing animals and destroying the traps. We used to fly eagle-shaped kites in duck hunting areas to keep the ducks away from the hunters and we would go into the woods during deer hunting season with trumpets and other loud noise-making devices. Another thing we did was to get a hunting license and to go into the woods with a shotgun and shoot blanks into the air every 10 minutes to scare away animals. The great part of doing this was that they could not arrest or stop us for hunter harassment because we had licenses to hunt!

HOWL: As hunt sabs, we are often labelled as "terrorists" or "domestic extremists" - what insults have been thrown at you over the years?



Sea Shepherd's record speaks for itself

Captain Paul Watson: The usual – eco-terrorist, pirates, extremists, etc. I always respond to the accusation of terrorism by replying that I have never worked for Monsanto. We responded to the accusation of being pirates by adapting the Jolly Roger as a logo. "If you call us pirates, arrggh, we will be pirates" and the kids especially love that. Pirates cut through red tape and get shit done. If no one is insulting you, you're not doing much. We measure our success by the number of enemies, insults and death threats we get. *(Sabs are doing pretty well too then - Ed)*.

High seas hunt sabs: Sea Shepherd close in on the catcher ship



HOWL: Many hunt sabs have volunteered as Sea Shepherd crew and it's an ambition for many more. What qualities do you look for in your volunteers?

Captain Paul Watson: We have had many Hunt Sab volunteers going all the way back to 1979 and many Sea Shepherd crew, including myself, have participated in Hunt Sab activities. We look for three virtues. Passion, courage and imagination. We also look for people with skills in navigation, engineering, vegan cooking, medical, communications and small boat handling. Ideally the three most important virtues coupled with a practical skill, but we always have room for unskilled people we can train to be good crewmembers.

HOWL: Like hunt sabs, Sea Shepherd crew are regularly in life-threatening situations. What advice do you give to activists who are just starting out?

Captain Paul Watson: Always be cautious. Try to always operate non-violently within the boundaries of the law and practicality. I call our approach "aggressive non-violence" and we have never caused nor sustained any injuries to anyone in 42 years. If, however, there is no choice but to break a law to save a life remember these tips:

Two of Iceland's whalers scuttled by Sea Shepherd



1. No one talks, everyone walks.
2. No one signs, everything's fine.
3. Make sure you always work with people you trust 100%.

HOWL: What's your view on the current focus on plastic straws? An important issue or a distraction from the real problems facing our oceans?

Captain Paul Watson: We are opposed to the use of plastic and consider it to be a major threat to life in the sea, be that from plastic bags, fishing gear, bottles or straws. Micro-plastics are the most serious threats and that includes the billions of particles from automobile tyres that end up in the sea. 30 billion plastic straws in a marine eco-system is a real issue. But it's not one product over another, it is all these products combined. There is no need to use a plastic straw. Why is it called a straw? Because a hundred years ago, straws were made from straw. Other alternatives are bamboo, steel, paper, hemp and numerous other materials. There is no excuse to use a plastic straw.



"I will not move for you." Sea Shepherd prevents refuelling of the Nisshin Maru factory ship

However, just not using plastic straws does not mean that you are contributing to the solution to the problem. We must not use single use plastic in any form for any reason. I'm not sure how the plastic straw debate came into being *(I think it was the TV show Blue Planet - Ed)* but it's like calling yourself a vegan because you don't eat lamb, but you eat every other kind of meat.

HOWL: How do you stay positive in the face of the overwhelming threats to our oceans?

Captain Paul Watson: Way back in 1973, I served as a medic for the American Indian Movement (AIM) during the occupation of Wounded Knee in South Dakota. We were outnumbered 20 to one by U.S. Federal agents shooting at us. They killed two and wounded 46 and I went to AIM leader Russell Means and asked him why we were there when we were outnumbered and could not possibly win. His answer has stayed with me ever since. He said, "We're not here because we are concerned about the odds against us. We're not concerned about winning or losing. We're here because this is the right place to be, the right thing to do and the right time to do it. Hoka Hey (A good day to die!) what we do today will define the future." Therefore, I don't dwell on what may be, I work on what I can do today to bring about a better future through the collective actions of an international movement. Will we win? We better if we wish to survive as a species and, if we lose, I take consolation in the fact that we can only destroy ourselves and, yes, we are destroying other species but, when we are gone, the planet will recover and go on without us. There have been five major extinction events prior to the Anthropocene (the 6th Extinction) and in every case it took between 18 and 20 million years for a full recovery so what do I see? I see a beautiful planet with a vibrant eco-system some 20 million years from now and 20 million years is a blink in time for this planet.

HOWL: What are Sea Shepherd's priorities for 2020 and beyond?

Captain Paul Watson: Our priority is to search out and shut down poaching operations. Our priority is to defend and protect life and biodiversity in the sea. We strive to solve a seemingly impossible situation by constantly searching for an impossible solution and history has taught us that impossible solutions can be realized. Consider Nelson Mandela. In 1970 the very idea that Mandela would one day be President of South Africa was unthinkable and thus impossible and yet it happened. I do know one thing for certain and it is this; if the Ocean dies, we all die. And the Ocean is dying and making sure that does not happen should be the priority for all of humanity.

HOWL: Captain Watson, thank you for talking to HOWL!

2019: YEAR OF THE PHEASANT



Leading independent expert Alan Partridge (no, not that one) reports on a difficult year for the shooting industry.

Throughout 2019 the "game" shooting industry has repeatedly been brought to the nation's attention: dumped birds in pits, game farm conditions abroad, Eurotunnel involvement as a transporter of live birds, a Google Map of game farms and the liberation of tens of thousands of pheasants and partridges from farms.

Official figures this year suggest 50 million birds being released for shooting. It's such a huge number that it's difficult to know where to start with trying to slow down and stop such a huge industry, or to even understand it. Animal Liberation Front activists have clearly studied the problem this year and attacked the weakest point: the game farms.

Breeding and Rearing

Game farms can broadly be split into two categories: breeding and rearing. Rearing operations can be huge with tens of thousands of birds being brought in at a day old from all over the UK & abroad; they are sold on to any number of businesses or can be for just a single local shoot.





It's not unusual to find game farms that have no breeding stock who are advertising chicks for sale from different ages. The smaller farms ones are frequently one man and his dog/wife/son operations.

The breeding farms can then be subdivided into two groups: those using raised cages and those using breeding pens, satellite images usually indicate which.

Animal Liberation

The first liberation of around 1,000 birds was from the Colquite Estate in Devon. Within a couple of weeks, a second liberation was reported at Chilmark Common in Wiltshire with around 5,000 breeding birds being liberated from the pens. The timing of this liberation meant that very few eggs would have been laid by any birds on this site, with pheasants having a specific laying season being between March and early July. During the entire season a hen would be expected to lay about 30 eggs and from those just over 20 chicks would be expected to hatch.

So, the 5,000 birds freed in the second liberation would have gone on to produce around 100,000 chicks.

Some months later the game farmer was chatting to a sab during a mink hunt and told them: *"It's the animal liberation people that really bother me, I'm losing £8,000 a week this year because of them."*

Social media video footage of the liberation was shared far and wide. Amongst the comments from the shooting community along the lines of *"Well done, the birds will all die now"* (not sure what they thought was going to happen to otherwise?) were a number of observations of the bird's flying behaviour - they had been brailed. The brail is an elastic band fitted over the wing of the birds but is only supposed to be used on birds with open-topped pens according to the code of practice for the welfare of game birds.

"It's the animal liberation people that really bother me, I'm losing £8,000 a week this year because of them."

An even larger breeder using pens was hit the following month at Mildenhall, Suffolk. The method of liberating them seemingly straightforward: activists appeared to remove a panel from the side of the pen, go into the pen and herd the birds out, then replace the panel on the pen. In this case there was a perimeter fence which the birds were herded out of, with feed put down heavily in the surrounding woods.

And so, the Year of the Pheasant continued, with liberations across the UK and abroad.

Shooting Themselves In The Foot

The Countryside Alliance, incensed with the assault on their beloved sport, uncharacteristically broke cover and showed exactly how rattled they were. They emailed every CA member to ask them to report a single post on Facebook that was a direct link to the map. This tactic worked...for us! The Facebook post was pulled but within days another post went up telling people NOT to look at a specific website. The number of views on the map obviously rocketed and at the time of writing stands at an incredible 48,000 views!



What a miserable life: typical pheasant breeding cages

It's worth pointing out that these birds stand only a very small chance of surviving in the wild, but that, unfortunately, is the case for all pheasants; on February 1st when the shooting season ends only about 16% of birds are left. The food and water are frequently turned off at this point and the remaining birds will be decimated by winter, starvation, disease and predators.

It's also worth remembering that many of the press reports were factually incorrect, the birds released from breeding farms are unlikely to ever have been shot at and so it's not true to say, "They would have been shot otherwise". They would most likely spend their entire short lives in pens and never once would have known any life beyond it if it wasn't for the liberations.

Coming Home To Roost

Unlike other "livestock", say chickens, releasing the birds has a huge knock on effect: shoots line up orders with game farms many months before shooting starts, pheasant suppliers some years don't have enough stock so any shortage of breeding stock creates shortages for shoots.

Ultimately, if shoots don't have birds then they have no reason to undertake "predator control" of foxes, birds of prey, badgers, stoat, squirrels, corvids etc and they may well go out of business.

British wildlife has been under attack from the shooting industry and its "gamekeepers" for hundreds of years...but it looks like the tables are turning and the birds are finally coming home to roost.

Industrial-scale cruelty: row upon row of partridge breeding cages



SCOTTISH HUNT SAB TRAINING CAMP III

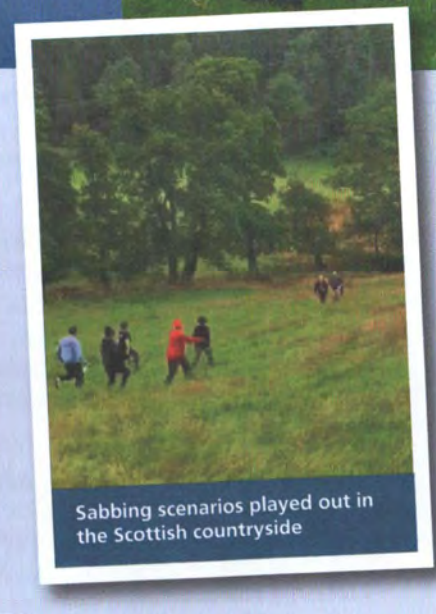
Summer 2019 saw the third and biggest Hunt Sab Training Camp to date.



Two experienced foxes direct the training

The venue was in the Central Belt of Scotland hosted by the friends of sabs in perfect countryside for both camping and training.

These camps are designed to train new sabs and educate even the most seasoned sab with new ideas and tactics to make us better in the field and hopefully thwart hunts from killing. The event is held over three days starting on a Friday and going into the Sunday. The Friday is about the set up and socialising. With sabs arriving from all over the UK they are greeted by familiar and new faces and then helped to set up camp in the fields next to woodland. Once we had all set up it was time for a good old vegan BBQ and drinks. While everyone is enjoying the downtime, the organisers set up the groups that work over the weekend.



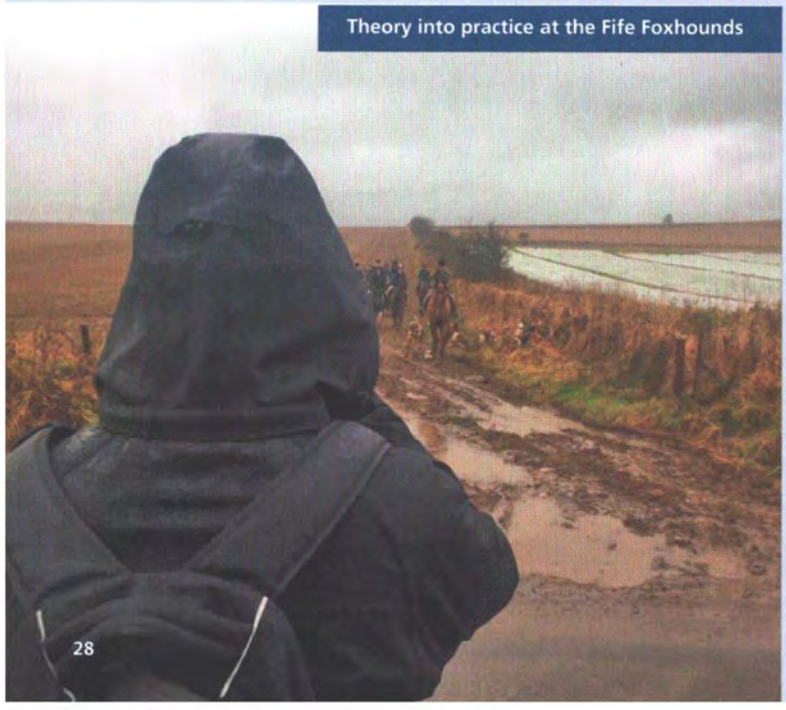
Sabbing scenarios played out in the Scottish countryside

We had some fun group names this year with the *'Revolutionary Snails'*, *'Straight Outta Balcarres'* (the Fife Hunt's favourite meet), *'Average Orienteers'*, *'Galpin's Ladies'* (overly excitable terrierman) and *'Uhhhhh'*.

"Groups were taught about whips, horns, spraying, and gizmos and why we use each tool and how to legally and safely use them."

The Saturday is an early start and the day we get down to business. Breakfast is kicked off with training in the tools of being a sab: sabs are split into groups and then mentored by experienced sabs in tool use and then mock scenarios involving those tools. The groups were taught about whips, horns, spraying, and gizmos and why we use each tool and how to legally and safely use them. Other training was done on voice calls and their importance in the field.

The next part was sending off mixed groups with O.S. maps and getting them to locate certain checkpoints and teaching them how to use maps and what the symbols mean. Each team covers the same distance, but different checkpoints and the fastest team wins a prize. Sadly, one of the teams ended up very late and a few miles off course - but a good example of why it is so important to be able to navigate in the field! To make sure everyone was progressing well they all had to take fun selfies at the checkpoints which made for good laugh for the organisers back at base receiving ridiculous photos every few minutes.



Theory into practice at the Fife Foxhounds

After lunch it was time for some role play scenarios where sabs had to spot and then figure out what to do in certain situations such as digouts. With a team of actors at the ready and each group being told to stand and wait for something to happen, the sound of the 'gone to ground' horn call from over the hill alerted sabs to get over there at once where they encountered a mock digout and had to intervene. This is always a favourite exercise as people really get into the role of either sab or terrierman. Groups were rated on how well they did in each scenario.

After a long day of training and learning in the rain - a good practise for sabbing in itself! - it was time for another big social. With a vegan BBQ and lots of drink the day came to an end. Each activity came together well with the sabs learning lots of vital lessons on how to be effective in the fields.

Day two kicked off earlier with the plan for all sabs to put their first day of theory into practice with live exercises throughout the countryside. The training moved away from camp and deep into the Scottish countryside with the rolling hills and deep woodland surrounding us giving us the privacy to run through the training.

How and when to use the gizmo was the first training of the day with groups being taken to a secret location where again our amazing fox and hounds actors played out a live scenario in which the sabs had to remember to react correctly to the different situations presented to them.

Examples of this included a 'fox' being chased towards them and one being chased on the other side of a woodland or road.

Other exercises included how to sab if you are within a woodland and what to do if you find yourself between the fox and hounds. The end of a hard two days finished off with stories from the history of sabbing and how we go forward.

We also told the stories of those sabs who have been killed and badly injured by hunters and gave time to remember them and what we fight for.

Empowering new sabs to know what to do in the field can give sabs the edge when it matters, training them to be efficient at saving lives and being empowered to take the right action safely at the right time.

New sabs left camp feeling both inspired and prepared, ready to take it to the hunt in the coming season.

Love & Liberation Grampian Sabs



This is not a drill: real-world sabbing at the L & R



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.

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.

MEET YOUR COMMITTEE: THE DESIGN OFFICER



In keeping with its grassroots direct-action ethos, the HSA is run by a volunteer committee of twelve people. In this series we meet some of those involved.

How did you get involved in sabbing and animal rights?

I went vegetarian at thirteen, by fifteen I was actively campaigning with Animal Aid. This was the early eighties so veganism was tough! I always knew that our mistreatment of other animals was wrong, I felt the pull of equality and was compelled to act, there seemed a million issues to tackle and it was hard to know where to start. At sixteen I really thought we could just pick one off at a time, until the abuse ended! I did a lot of fur campaigning in London in the nineties where we closed about 90% of fur shops. I got involved with London Boots Action and early SHAC, saw Regal Rabbits, Shamrock Monkey Farm, Hillgrove Cat Farm and New Church Guinea Pigs all close down, I could see how effective direct action was and I wanted more.

Do you remember your first sab? What happened?

I met an incredible man who took me sabbing about 16 years ago - my first time out was cubbing. It was ridiculously early and cold, but I remember the close relationships of sabs, their passion and commitment. It was scary and exhilarating but I was hooked, particularly as the hunt had a bad day!.



Tell us about the role of HSA Design Officer.

My involvement in committee was by accident really, they needed someone to design Howl magazine and I was happy to help. After a couple of meetings I was pressed, in the nicest way, into joining committee, Then I set about improving the brand and merchandise, some items were being sold for less than they cost us, so a radical shake up was needed. Nothing at all was digital, logos etc all on paper and very disorganised. I re-drew all the logos, tweaking where necessary and created loads of variants in digital format. I re-designed all the flyers and other material. Created strong branding with the strap line 'join*donate*sab' to communicate the various ways supporters can help.

Part of the fundraising I do is running stalls for the HSA at national events, ensuring sabbing is firmly in people's minds. Meeting the public and sabs helps me to learn how we are perceived and what we can do better. I met and helped develop one of our biggest donors, Mark Constantine from Lush Cosmetics. Maintaining contact and working with Lush to create their most successful campaign ever. It created donations for the HSA never before seen! Shops nationwide got involved and generated loads of good press, sabs continue to enjoy a close relationship with Lush.

I've created many campaigns, the badger cull branding, new hare logo and I source and manage all items of merchandise, design all our clothing and ensure everything is branded effectively.

What's the best thing about the role?

Sitting on committee means I help to shape the organisation, support sabs and at times make some tougher decisions, as part of an amazing unpaid team. Being in the field is vital but being part of a fair, open and consistent committee is extremely rewarding. That's my favourite part.... the downside is probably spending way too much time on HSA business or packing groups stall boxes at 2 in the morning!!



The Nick Herbert "Right Herbert" Award

Running alongside the Timmy, HOWL presents the Right Herbert Award to mark the return of Nicholas Le Quesne Herbert MP, CBE to the Countryside Alliance. Herbert hunted the Newmarket Beagles back in 1980s and then became Press Officer of the British Field Sports Society (the old and more honest name for the CA!).

The award is given to any public body who is made to look a Right Herbert by their local hunt. This issue's deserved winner is the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) who issue licenses to the Blencathra Foxhounds.

According to the LDNPA licence, quad bikes should not be driven on National Park land. When the Blencathra were filmed doing exactly that, and reported to the National Park Authority, the response was that the quads were in fact "emergency vehicles" and the terrier boxes front and back contained "emergency equipment."

This outing must have been a particularly dangerous affair as the Blencathra had two quads present and were so determined to respond to any "emergency" that they were willing to break road traffic legislation.

Well done to LDNPA – a set of Right Herberts!

Lake District National Park

The fourth emergency service, and definitely not a terrierman's quad bike



BACK IN THE DAY...

FELL WEEK '88



Sabs call to the pack from the moral high ground

Ed Howl looks back on the week of ups and downs that got him into sabbing. All photos: Iain Brown

I'd only been sabbing a few times when Leeds sabs started talking about a 'Fell Week'. I didn't really know what was involved but, as a keen young sab, I knew I wanted to be part of it. In the planning meetings that followed, I learnt that the Lake District has six packs of foxhounds who hunt on foot.

An experienced Cumbrian sab advised us to forget the word 'fell'; this was 'mountain' hunting and stopping it would not be easy.

Easter was identified as the best time for a week of action. This was a prestigious time for the fell hunters, their ranks swollen by visitors whose home packs had finished for the season. We knew we'd need big numbers too: the previous Easter, Tyneside sabs had been viciously beaten by thugs from the Ullswater FH.

With supplies bought, we headed out to Cumbria to meet up with sabs from all over the country. Our rendezvous point was Cockley Beck, Leeds

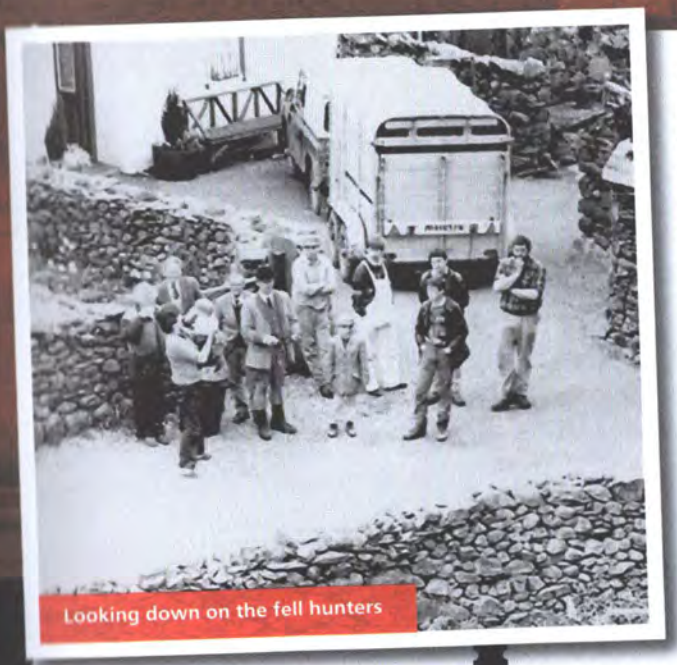
University's Mountaineering Club hut in the western Lakes, somehow appropriated for our purposes. Leeds got there early, and we bagged a decent upstairs room, but any hope of comfort was quickly abandoned as more and more sab groups arrived. The place was soon ridiculously overcrowded, the air heavy with the smell of citonella, cider and damp dreadlocks. That evening locals gave a tactics talk and left us under no illusions about the dangers we faced: the terrain would be craggy, rough and potentially lethal, the hunt support about the same.

The plan was to hit the Eskdale & Ennerdale FH who were meeting in Langdale the following morning. The locals knew the day's draw, so most sabs would climb the fell before the hunt had even set off. A smaller group of fast sabs would attempt to intercept the pack as they made their way up the fell. The only downside to this plan was that it involved a 5am start, but I awoke to a hive of activity with busy sab caterers dishing out coffee and Sosmix burgers. It was clear that nobody would be going up the fell without a decent breakfast and I reflected that these anarchists and crusties were a lot more organised than they looked.

From the minute we hit the fells our tactics worked like a dream. I was with the fast group and broke into holloas as we climbed the fellside and drew parallel with the distant pack.



Sabs mob up before hitting the fells



Looking down on the fell hunters

The rarely-sabbed hounds were very responsive and came bounding over. Just as huntsman William Porter was putting his hands on his hips in the classic "bloody antis" position, sab horn calls erupted from the ridgeline far above. The whole pack screamed up the fell towards their new masters, Norwich HSA. We arrived on the ridge just in time to see them being hunted on into the next valley. The E & E's day just got worse from there; and when their supporters resorted to pelting us with rocks, we took it as a kind of compliment.

The following morning, we awoke to find the fells blanketed in thick fog. A convoy of sab vans descended on the E & E's kennels whilst others watched roads leading to the meet. There was absolutely no movement: fog, sabs or a combination of the two had dissuaded the hunt from venturing out.

Wednesday saw the premier fell pack - the Blencathra - at the Borrowdale Hotel on the shores of Derwent Water. New huntsman Barry Todhunter was parading hounds in front of a large throng of supporters. He might have had less swagger about him if he'd known that two of the keenest supporters were actually sabs, sent in to find out the all-important draw. Without this information we might climb the wrong fell and be left stranded miles from the action.

Our moles quickly obtained the route: the hunt would be going up Brown Dodd and then along to Watendlath.

It wasn't long before the pack were seen fanning out across the vast fell and sab horns opened up from all sides. Total chaos ensued with hounds deserting their huntsman and running eagerly from one sab group to another. Todhunter spent the next hour trying to regain his pack but eventually returned to the meet, having spectacularly failed to live up to the promise of his surname.

The Blencathra were back at the Borrowdale Hotel the next morning. This time the meet was infiltrated by two Scottish sabs dressed as hikers, one of whom had to conceal a long dreadlock down the back of his cagoule. However, the police had finally got their act together and blocked our vehicles as the hound van moved off down the valley.

This meant we never got to grips with them and they dug out and killed the only fox of the week.

There were no meets for Friday, however we did receive a deputation from Leeds University who had heard some very unusual reports about their latest mountaineering booking. Thankfully, they didn't inspect the hut's septic tank which was by now struggling under the pressure of accommodating one hundred and thirty vegans.

We decided to hit two packs on the last day. Yet another early start saw sab vans staking out the kennels of both the Coniston and Ullswater FH, with further units on the Kirkstone Pass roughly between the two. The Coniston unboxed on the pass and were immediately engaged by Tyneside and Sunderland sabs who scattered the pack all over the fell. Inexplicably, the Ullswater's huntsman, who had unboxed a fair way off at Brothers Water, led his pack onto the same fell and into the chaos. With the two packs hopelessly mixed it was another outstanding day for the local fox population!

Unfortunately, this excitement was missed by Leeds sabs as we found ourselves on the snowy summit of Helvelynn, having badly misjudged the Ullswater's route. Our long trudge back down took us past their kennels and, by the time we got there, the hunt had been abandoned, the hounds were back, and Fell Week 1988 was over.

Postscript: Almost thirty years on from these events, in February 2017, I bumped into the Blencathra FH while on a winter hike up Skiddaw. They were a sorry sight. Todhunter was still carrying the horn, but his red coat was long gone, replaced by a green jacket to blend into the surroundings. He was accompanied by just five supporters.

We haven't finished off the fell hunters yet, but we're getting there.

Rest and relaxation: a spot of football on the Friday



Obituary



I got to know Rosemary as she fought against hunting in the field against one of the most violent hunts at the time, the Old Surrey, Burstow & West Kent, often alone. She lived in the hunt's local area, close to the kennels, next to land actively hunted and amongst hunt supporters. Despite their efforts Rosemary would not be intimidated.

I remember in the weeks after the catastrophic assault on Steve Christmas, Rosemary, aided at times by Barry from Essex, was out watching for the hunts resumption of cub hunting, regardless of the obvious high risk and tension.

Not long after the Hunting Act became law Rosemary moved away, eventually ending up in South Wales. I lost touch with her save for some communication around her efforts to rehome and rescue animals. She moved to the Isle of Sheppey before eventually settling in South Wales.

When I heard several years later that she was terminally ill I called not knowing what to expect or what to say. "Hi Rob!" she answered brightly, "How are you?". Rosemary was upbeat, determined, in good humour, talking about her animals and as usual tough as nails. I then called regularly, she always seemed in control but inevitably would have been going through mental and physical torment.

Two months or so before she died, Rosemary called and asked if I would become one of two executors of her will. We travelled to see her and Rosemary was clear and determined to ensure all that she had accumulated in her hard-working life would go to help those most oppressed.

Rosemary had already arranged the rehoming of her own animals including her sheep, horses, birds with the help of Many Tears and the Retreat Animal Rescue.

She did not want a funeral or ceremony, just a pre-arranged cardboard coffin and burial next to her beloved horses Sinbad and Duchess at a beautiful site at Penrith Woodland Burial Ground. Her dog Dorothy passed on in December 2016 and she has also joined Rosemary in Penrith.

I cannot tell you much about the rest of Rosemary's life save that she was self employed and successful. But she will be remembered as a strong, tough, compassionate woman. She fought to the end without any compromise of her vegan principles. And if we ever think of the legacy we leave, further to any good deeds and memories, please read the list below of all those that she has helped with gifts after her death. Could there be any better way to leave your mark on the planet?

New Life Parrot Rescue
Retreat Animal Rescue
The Folly Wildlife Rescue Trust
The Animal Sanctuary UK
Spanish Stray Dogs UK
Hugletts Wood Farm
Hunt Saboteurs Association
Many Tears Animal Rescue
Dr Hadwen Trust
Hillside Animal Sanctuary
Catatstrophes Cat Rescue
Animal Aid
Animals at Risk Shelter
Friend Animal Rescue
CALF
Pigeon Recovery
Animal SOS Sri Lanka
Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group
Sea Shepherd UK
Kent Action Against Live Exports
Next Chapter Animal Rescue
Animal Equality
New Hope Animal Rescue



Football Boots Rob

Kill the Cull

Fran, the HSA's poet in residence turns their literary fire on the hated badger cull

Another year of culling and the death toll's rising,
Their target sixty-four thousand,
How demoralising!

More zones licensed and others extended,
DEFRA refutes science that's been recommended.

Blaming wildlife for the outbreaks of "livestock" diseases,
To eradicate a much-loved protected species.

Farmers ignoring measures of biosecurity,
Ridiculing badgers,
Accepting no responsibility.

If you just take a walk through some of the infected sites
It becomes all apparent
No more wondering why.

Slurry covered tracks and carcasses left festering
In the same fields as the grass that the herd are ingesting.

Shooting enthusiasts paid for what they enjoy,
Government backed murder,
Creates jobs for the boys.

But there were people out fighting for the badger's existence,
Protecting their setts with direct resistance,
Confronting shooters and flattening cage traps,
Out round the clock until the cull had elapsed.

Hundreds of thousands died since it began,
But there's a simple solution,
If you go vegan.

Boycott the meat and dairy industries,
And they won't have the argument of controlling disease.

Is it even really about disease management?
Or just a sinister NFU ploy for land development?
Or because badgers might eat some of their crop?
Whatever their real reason it has to stop.



THE RETURN OF THE IRISH HUNT SABS

In 2019, Irish hunt saboteurs have announced their return.

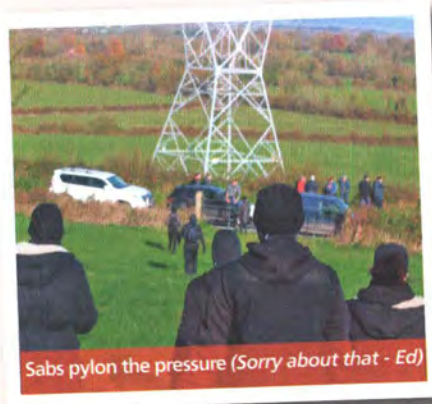
Upon writing these words, hunting aristocracy such as the Galway Blazers and Scarteen Black & Tans have been sabbed without kills. Grallagh Harriers and East Galway "well to do" hunts have been sabbed. By the time this article is published, we will have been out every week sabbing a variety of hunts throughout the country.

Victims Of Hunting

Foxes, hares, pheasants, deer and mink are the common legal prey of hunters in Ireland. Protected birds of prey, pine marten and otters have been targeted by game keepers and hunters in the past. The hunting of fox cubs is very popular, and we estimate that all hunts in Ireland are taking part in this (at the time of writing only Galway-based cub hunts were sabbed). Hunting deer with hounds was made illegal a few years back yet one hunt, the Ward Union Hunt has found a loophole in this ban (they raise their own deer and hunt them on their own private lands). Badgers and their sett are protected; however, this does not faze many farmers and hunters who openly admitted to murdering them. The cull of badgers has supposedly ceased here (it is Ireland's culling of badgers which inspired the UK government to start culling them also) yet we have seen no absolute document to confirm this.

Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

Hunt Saboteurs Ireland is opposed to all forms of hunting, whether it is driven pheasant shoots, mounted fox hunts or local deer shoots we will attempt to stop them. The hunting season for foxes are from January 1st – December 31st, regardless of what "season" each hunt plans, they can kill foxes year-round! Generally, they plan their season in line with the UK, cubbing from August and starting full season from late October to mid-March.



Sabs pylon the pressure *(Sorry about that - Ed)*

Hunt sabotage has gone on for many years in Ireland, some sabs dating back to the late 70's. However, what we have brought to it in 2019 is a professionalism and national organising we felt was required to get the job done on a grand scale.



Sab solidarity

Other groups such as the Irish Council Against Blood Sports (ICABS) and the National Animal Rights Association (NARA) are also ramping up the pressure on the hunts and hare coursing clubs in Ireland with their petitions, government pressure tactics and protests. To be successful, we feel this variety of tactics is very important.

Sabbing in Ireland is different to our UK comrades, as hunting is legal here *(You'd be surprised - Ed)*. The use of terrier boys is fully in unison with the hunt and they are not shy about it. We generally get a "fox numbers control" excuse when the hunt attempt to converse with us, but we keep dialogue to a minimum. There is an image to be upheld here, many hunts donating large sums of money to local charities and even animal welfare organisations! Some hunts



Being hunting "royalty" doesn't stop you getting sabbed

have got no problem telling us how many foxes they intend to kill, sometimes going as far as to send us images of this being done.

There are over 130 registered hunting packs in Ireland, for a population of just over five million this is colossal. Recent statistics released by Statista (see our Facebook from 1st November 2019) state that for every 1000 people in Ireland, 72.8 of them are hunters. This ranks Ireland as the highest hunting percentage in Europe. This is ridiculous in a wealthy western country where we know for a fact most of the hunters are doing it for "sporting" reasons.

Tactics Talk

In Ireland we use the same tactics that have been made famous worldwide from the UK. We use the gizmo, horn, whip and citronella combination to take the hounds out of the picture. We have a good mixture of trained folk who learned the tactics in England and fresh folks with no experience but a lot of passion and energy.

As hunting is culturally engrained in the countryside the hunt will have permission to cross vast open fields, the "stone walls" of Ireland being ideal in this way for the hunt to pass the land at speed. They will be paying off all these landowners, therefore giving the landowner a monetary reason to attempt to remove sabs. The old fashioned *"Where is your land boundary, I can't see it?"* trick works wonders here (if any pro-hunt landowner is reading this, we are just terrible with directions!).

However, we have come across some landowners who oppose the hunt's use of their lands, often ignoring "no hunting" signs on forestry and allowing the hounds enter from a side entrance. There is a silent majority in Ireland who oppose hunting, whom either doesn't realize this barbarism is going on or don't know how to do something about it. The hunt is most active and popular in the countryside, they would never dream of attempting to garner support in progressive built up areas.

Up For The Fight

The challenge of opposing the hunt in Ireland is large, but we are up to the task. At the time of writing our two strongholds are the west and south west, two traditional rural parts of Ireland with a massive emphasis on hunting. We are looking for more volunteers and more locally based folks to get the ball rolling in their areas. We cannot always be everywhere, but we will assist anyone who wants to spearhead a saboteur community in their area.

As a final note what we will not do is relent, ever. Hunt Saboteurs Ireland are here to stay, so long as you are hunting, we will be sabbing. We are not so the "ban hunting" wing of the movement; we are the "we will stop you either way" wing. We will not ask a capitalist state system to do the hard yards as they never will, we are capable of doing it ourselves. We have young sabs ready to go for the next 70 years...see you in the field.

Hunt Saboteurs Ireland

huntsabsireland@riseup.net
www.facebook.com/huntsabsireland/
https://ko-fi.com/huntsabsireland



Hunt Sabs Ireland: here to stay

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 -

USEFUL CONTACTS

Most of the groups below can also be found on Facebook and Twitter

Accidental Activist
www.morethanjustbadgers.net

Action Against Foxhunting
www.actionagainstfoxhunting.org/

Animal Justice Project
www.animaljusticeproject.com

Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group (ALF SG)
www.alfsg.org.uk
PO Box 1107, Northampton, NN7 9BT

Animal Welfare Information Service
PO Box 8, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 0JL
www.acigawis.org.uk
acig@btinternet.com (publishers of Outfoxed Take Two and Outfoxed Again)

The Campaign to Ban Trophy Hunting
www.facebook.com/bantrophyhuntingcampaign

Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade (CAFT) www.caft.org.uk

Fox Project
www.foxproject.org.uk

Hare Preservation Trust
www.hare-preservation-trust.com

Hunt Investigation Team
www.huntinvestigationteam.org

Hounds Off
www.houndsoff.org.uk

Moorland Monitors
www.facebook.com/MoorlandMonitors/

National Fox Welfare Society
www.nfws.org.uk

Stop Hunting on the Nation's Land
https://www.facebook.com/Stop-Hunting-on-the-Nations-Land-110530057004500/

POWA (Protect Our Wild Animals)
www.powa.org.uk

Sea Shepherd
www.seashepherd.org.uk

SPEAK Campaigns
www.speakcampaigns.org

Stop the Cull
www.innocentbadger.com

Vegan Prisoner Support Group
www.vpsg.org

Vegan Society
www.vegansociety.com

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

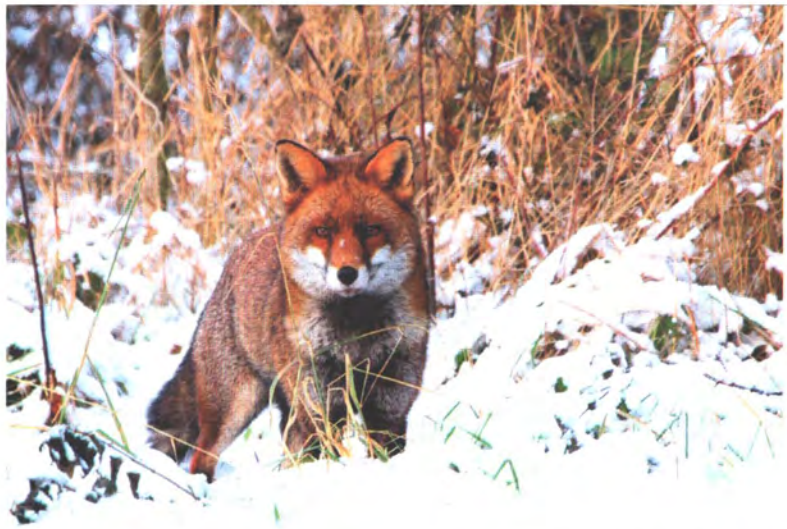
Save us some dosh, if you're moving!

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 2020

Saturday 13th June
from 12:00pm

Reading International Solidarity Centre (RISC)

35-39 London Street, Reading RG1 4PS

Bar! Speakers! Vegan Victuals!
Horn blowing! Whip cracking!

All members
and active sabs welcome



Including the annual HSA horn-blowing contest!
Winning sab gets a new horn for their group!

www.huntsabs.org.uk