The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association Autumn 2020 (Issue 124) £2 (free to members)

HOWL

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

If you go down to the woods today...

East Anglian Mink Hunt Sabs

Single Minded Focus

Melbourne Sabs















LETTER FROM THE CHAIR:

While other anti-hunt groups went into cold storage and have yet to emerge during these viral times, sabs have been very active using their daily walking allowance to find snares and Larsen traps and, more recently, sabbing the Inglorious 12th grouse shooting in the South Pennines to great effect, and mass shooter disapproval.

As the Covid-19 restrictions get removed the unfortunate result is that hunts are now appearing in the early morning for cub hunting. There is no reason to do this if they are just trail hunting, so sabs are, as usual, tracking them down and preventing them killing as you will see in this issue's extensive and inspiring Group News. Alongside this, sabs will be opposing the badger cull and - due to a leak of information - we have the exact times of the cull which makes planning easier.

Along with other organisations we have just released our very own official HSA mask to allow your meet any Covid-19 restrictions, so please go to our web site (https://www.huntsabs.org.uk/) and get yourself one so you can show support for sabs wherever you go.

People have a strange idea about hunt sab groups and hunt sabotage. I was recently engaged by a vocal member of the burgeoning Vegan movement who had been rejected by his local hunt sab group. He would not tell me the reasons, but I could guess it was his aggressive know-it-all attitude, but his major complaint seemed to be that we had the temerity to allow non-Vegans to sab. The HSA has never claimed to be a vegan organisation, nor are we a social club, although most long term sabs see the links and the absurdity of spending a day risking your life and then returning to eat an animal quickly become apparent. Most quickly become vegan. The hidden problem from this person's complaint was that we do not accept everyone who wants to go sabbing. Hunt sabs groups become tightly knitted groups who emotionally and physically support activists other through the danger of a day on the hunt. You have to be able to trust those next to you not only to be good sabs but also to have your back whenever a bumpkin goes 'postal' or an aggressive copper demands your colleague's names under the threat of arrest. It's not hunts who destroy hunt sab groups, its personal disputes and I could see why, with just a few conversations, this person was rejected, he would have been a disruptive element in the group with the potential to even destroy its culture.

The HSA as an organisation also does not accept all groups who call themselves sabs. To be affiliated to us, they have to meet strict guidelines; the main one being that the group has to act to prevent an animal from dying. Monitoring is not enough. Our Australian colleagues have been hard at work under their own country's lockdown producing a very effective animated video to show the horrors of hunting down-under. It should be out by the time you read this so check out Melbourne's Hunt Sabs Facebook page to view it. They are also being joined by the newly formed Sydney Hunt Sabs and it's wonderful to see hunt sabotage being exported across the globe. We just need some American comrades to pick up the gauntlet and tackle their evil hunting and shooting culture.



photo: www.stacywoolhousephotography.weebly.com

The HSA does all of this on 3.2% of the budget when compared to our nearest anti-hunt rival organisation. We are able to do this as we have no staff, no offices and are run by dedicated people who do it because it is the right thing to do. Other organisations spend around two thirds of the money they receive on salaries alone. The staff employed by them are 'professional charity workers' and then spend the majority of time on raising money to pay these salaries, not on campaigning and so the cycle continues. Many of them will move from charity to charity and have no real passion for ending hunting. This is why they have so much more income and because they send more time publicising themselves to get more legacies, while actually achieving very little. The HSA is not going to change and move our focus away from real campaigning which actually saves lives, but we do need money. You can help beyond your membership by publicising all the HSA and sabs groups do through you own social media pages, wearing our merch and explaining to people why your support hunt sabs.

Finally, if you can, please leave us a legacy in your will (details at the back of this magazine). A hidden fact is that most animal welfare charities income can be over 50% from legacies. Although the income we receive from them at the moment is less than 5% of our income it is important to us. If you feel you can do this it would be appreciated and put to the work we do, not for just another plush carpet in a faceless office building somewhere.
To end, I realised recently that I have been Chair of the HSA for over a decade, which is a great privilege, and I thank you all for putting such trust in me and my fellow committee members to run what is to my mind the greatest animal rights organisation in the world. Please help us become even better.

Join - Donate - Sab

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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
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Distribution	HSA
Big taverymuch to:	all HSA members and anyone who we've pilfered stuff off and forgotten to credit.

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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.

EDITORIAL

Welcome to another edition of HOWL, the magazine of the country's leading anti-hunt organisation.

These have been worrying times for everyone. Back in May, one of my many worries was that there would be nothing to put in the next edition.

As you will see in the following pages, I couldn't have been more wrong.

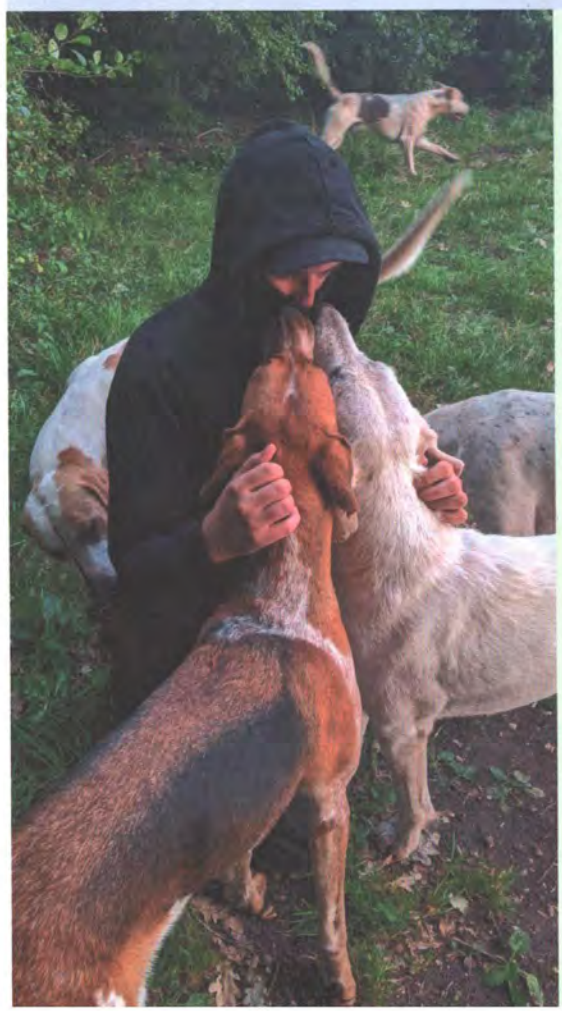
Hunt sabs have been as active as ever, whilst maintaining Covid security - as you'd expect from the movement that pioneered mask-wearing thirty years ago! We've hit out traditional summer targets - grouse shooters and mink hunters - whenever they've raised their ugly heads, and sabs have been using their daily exercise to clear up our countryside, prepare for the badger cull and hit early cubbing.

Thank you, as always, to all contributors, especially our friends from Munster sabs and Melbourne sabs: an inspirational reminder that we are part of a truly global movement.

The HSA exists to support sabs in the field so please, share this magazine, buy our fantastic masks, and keep rating vegan munch on Abillionveg!

For direct action against all bloodsports,

Ed Howl



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

Please ensure your voice is heard: send Group News, articles, photos and any other items of interest to howl@huntsabs.org.uk to arrive no later than 1st January 2021.

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

IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE WOODS TODAY...

When Hertfordshire Hunt Saboteurs stepped out of the Landy after sabbing the Cambridge & Enfield Chace at Hatfield House on March 14th, you could be excused for thinking that the crew would be having a well-earned rest before cubbing in Autumn. No such luck, for strictly speaking, sabbing season is never over.

This is partly due to the disgrace which is the game-bird industry and all the cruelty which it entails. Imagine the traditional English picture postcard scene: countrymen donning tweeds scoffing over a brace of pheasants.

The truth is these birds are intensively reared in battery cages, industrial hatcheries, crowded sheds, and outdoor pens. Aged 18 weeks, pheasants, and partridges are released to be shot for 'sport'. Up to £3000 is paid for just one day's shooting with a mass production of 50 million birds.

"Blood thirsty shooters claim that shooting aids conservation. This, of course, is a ludicrous claim with a range of mammals and many birds, particularly corvids, falling prey to trapping throughout the shooting cycle."



Inspecting an illegally set Fenn trap

Half will die before 'shooting season' begins having been hit by vehicles, or from predation or starvation. Most shot are not consumed for food - some are wounded and not retrieved, others are buried in pits.

Figures from the shooting industry itself shows it costs more to rear and release a bird than the carcass would be sold for, demonstrating that the activity is indeed about manufacturing a feathered target rather than food production. The gun lobby claims that 'shooting benefits the economy'.



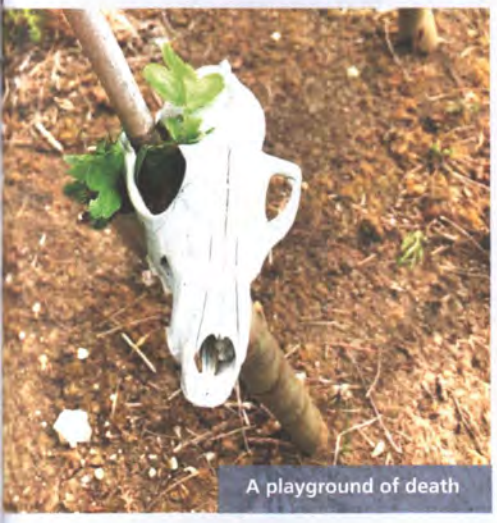
Saving corvids during Covid!

Blood thirsty shooters claim that shooting aids conservation. This, of course, is a ludicrous claim with a range of mammals and many birds, particularly corvids, falling prey to trapping throughout the shooting cycle.

Hertfordshire Hunt Sabs took full use of their daily exercise allowance and whilst abiding by social distancing guidelines began 'The Great Countryside Clean Up'. It goes a little something like this. Select a

woodland area to take a stroll within making sure to discreetly venture beyond the 'Private Keep Out' signage.

As sabs, we're all too familiar with straying from the public footpath, so this well-practiced skill can be put to excellent use. There is a reason the landowner wants you to keep out



A playground of death

and it has nothing whatsoever to do with 'conservation management underway' as further signage may lead you to believe. Look out for a hosepipe along the ground and follow it as it will be sure to lead you to a water tank by the pheasant pen.

Once you find the pen, walk the perimeter fence and surrounding area and you will likely find, as we did on countless occasions, many traps within a playground of death.

Larsen traps contain separate compartment for a 'decoy' bird which is regarded by others in the forbidden territory as an intruder. Territory-holding birds attempt to drive it away getting caught in the process. The gamekeeper will come and 'dispatch' caught birds. That is, unless Pixies get to them first as they did throughout the summer, releasing crows, magpies, and squirrels from Larsens that will never be used again. Apparently, they make unique tree ornaments that wouldn't look out of place in the Tate Modern. Pixies are rather creative, you know!

Snares are a simple, anchored noose that will trap the animal by its neck, limbs or abdomen. They are often positioned around the pen strategically close to the electric fence. Snares do not discriminate between species and the caught animal will die a slow and agonising death. The snared have been known to gnaw off a limb in an attempt to escape. We came across over 60 snares in one visit. Remains of a rotted carcass is not uncommon to find in a snare, which are supposed to be checked every 24 hours. We have found decayed corpses which clearly have been unchecked for weeks.

Fenn traps or copycat designs like Springer MK4, can often be found under a pile of logs in a wooden box. They tend to be well hidden but now you know where to look; be sure not to leave any stone unturned on your travels. We found a Fenn trap with its safety catch still on – oh, the joy when you see the gamekeeper has effectively sabbed himself!!



Satanic rites at the local shoot

Look out for the rabbit 'drop boxes' (we found several positioned around the perimeter of the woods). These are literally a metal box that have been dug just below ground level that an animal will simply drop into. Imagine falling into an inescapable dark cell and staying there until you die.

Check out trees for automated squirrel traps. At £200 a go these are very expensive, so you are unlikely to find many. Use your walks to include badger sett surveying looking out for artificial earths too. Pass on your intel. Additionally, we have found many abandoned pens, with no sign of relocation in the area. This can only be a good sign for the animals and an indication of the negative effect the virus is having upon the industry.

Nevertheless, our work continues. Larger chicks are now, (end of July) outside in outdoor enclosures. We found chicks kept in these areas in appalling conditions surrounded by the corpses of others, ready to be shot in the approaching months. We would rather they are given a chance at survival in the wild, then the other certain demise. We are sure the birds would agree.

Hertfordshire Hunt Saboteurs cannot encourage you enough to go off the beaten track when you go for your daily exercise. The horrors that lay within your woodlands - sometimes only a mile or so from your home – need attending to!

If not us, who?

If not now, when?

It appears that the devil walks amongst us. However, so do hunt saboteurs. Particularly in Hertfordshire.

Onwards!!



The detectorists have been busy!



SABBING MINK HUNTS IN EAST ANGLIA

by Eastern Counties Hunt Sabs (a coalition of groups in the region)



Paul Smith admires his own tattoo (well, someone has to!)

This year, for the second season running, we have been lucky enough to sab the Eastern Counties Minkhounds (ECMH). This elusive bunch have a long and dirty history of killing river wildlife in the east. Like most 'mink hunts', they have their origins in otter hunting. The Eastern Counties Otterhounds (ECOH) formed in 1910, an amalgamation of several different otter hunts, covering Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire, and Hertfordshire.

In 1977, with otter numbers declining, the pack disbanded and reformed as the Eastern Counties Hunt. They hunted coypu and, occasionally, mink. The 'American mink' (*Neovison vison*), is labelled as an 'invasive' species in the UK. We won't get into a debate about the merits (or limits) of invasion biology, but it is important to note that this species was introduced and released by fur farmers decades before the ALF began their campaigns against the fur trade.

As with most invasive species, the mink were occupying a niche that had been left behind by another species - in this case otters, whose numbers had decreased thanks to pesticide pollution, habitat destruction and, of course, hunting.

Reintroductions of otters are likely to be the most effective way to control mink populations. At the very least, an article published in 2004 suggests that otters will force mink away from rivers and onto the land. We're also not convinced that taking a pack of hounds up and down riverbanks, digging out with spades and trudging through the water is the best way to conserve anything.

Heading back to the meet



But enough of this sensible talk of conservation, a cloak which the ECMH use – along with their bright red hobbit costumes – to cover up their real activity, killing wildlife for 'sport'. This blurring of conservation and murder goes back decades. Mike Huskisson, in *Outfoxed Take Two*, quotes the master of the ECOH in 1976 bleating that 'Otter hunters in particular have been conservationists for longer than most can remember', but in the same letter invites supporters to 'help me to kill a few more otters this season', to 'show sport every day we go out'.

Fast forward to 1997 and not much changed, with the ECMH forming. Although mink hunts are generally hard to find, in 1999 50 sabs stopped a meet in Woodham Mortimer, with a police helicopter attending. Another helicopter was brought out in 2004 when sabs hit a meet at Ditchingham, Norfolk. On this occasion several sabs were arrested. When we sabbed them in Cavendish back in 2014, they were still a sizeable hunt (around 20 followers present, and a medium-sized pack). Rumours are that in the intervening years they have lost a lot of support due to a small core wishing to hunt otters, which proved a step too far for some who left in distaste. Strange, but it seems that even some hunters have moral compasses!

Not all of them, though, as the ECMH just about continue to function. It seems they now favour the waterways of Essex with known otter populations. It's clear why: the huntsman even sports a vulgar tattoo of an otter wearing hunting attire. Concerned members of the public contacted the tip-off line with information on their whereabouts last year, including intel that they are banned from several meets for killing litters of otter kits.

With their dwindling support mink hunts are harder to spot in the field, compared to mounted hunts who have large numbers of riders giving them away. When we sabbed them back in 2019, the huntsman did give us a helping hand though, by sporting a brightly coloured outfit with matching waistcoat, tie and socks. He wouldn't have looked out of place in a garden gnome collection!

We sabbed two meets that year, easily outnumbering them. At the first meet, they retreated to their vehicles, driving up a dirt road in an attempt to avoid us following their white transit van, but it soon dawned on them that it

Eastern Counties member indicates the number of supporters they attract





Less conspicuous dress in 2020!

"Concerned members of the public contacted the tip-off line with information on their whereabouts last year, including intel that they are banned from several meets for killing litters of otter kits.."

was a dead end, and they would have to drive out the way they came in, with sabs following behind making sure they drove back to their kennels.

With Covid-19 lockdown restrictions in place this spring, their hunting season has thankfully been shortened. Thanks again to members of the public calling the tip-off line, this hunt were caught by sabs attempting to hunt otters in the same location as last year. Their faces were certainly a picture of disappointment when they saw us approaching.

We struck lucky the following week and received another tip-off that they were again hunting along an Essex waterway. Excuses of hound exercise were given, but when we questioned them, we spotted one foot follower with a spade in his hand, indicating their intentions to dig out any retreating mink/otter they might find. They packed up swiftly with us escorting them back to their vehicles.

We want to thank whoever the people are who sent in information about this hunt. Without that we'd have been unable to stop them.

We also owe thanks to the HSA's Research Officer, who helped us dig up some information on the ECMH.

Finally, from the few of us who wrote this article, a big thank you to all the sabs who've joined us on the riverbanks of Essex.



Packing up early yet again, 2019

The huntsman (less brightly dressed this year), soon scrambled in a hurry through riverbank vegetation to evade us, with the whipper-in doing the same, losing his footing and almost falling in the river.

No white transit van this time, they rounded up the hounds and used a land rover to pile five hounds in the back of it, on an extremely hot day.

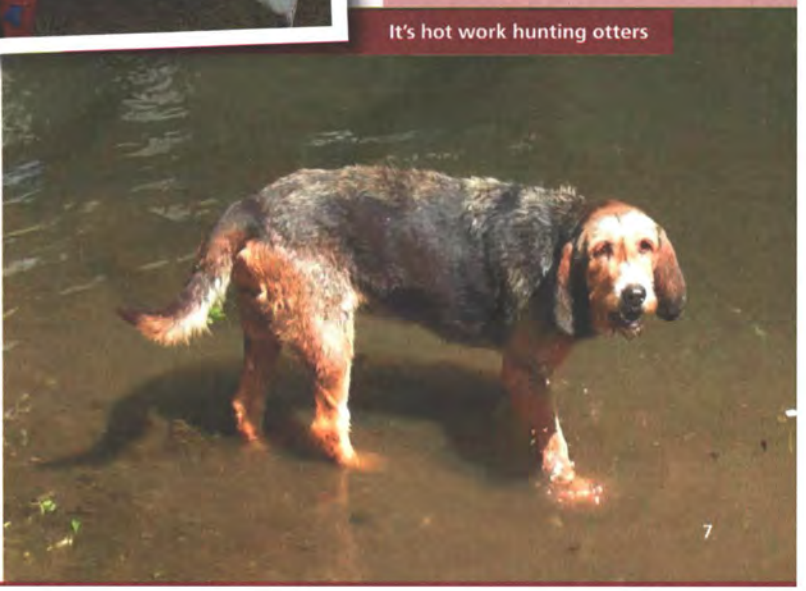


Abandoned garden gnome, 2019

EASTERN COUNTIES MINKHOUNDS FACT FILE



- **Active since:** 1997 (earlier as Eastern Counties Otterhounds)
- **Kennelled at:** Washbrook, Suffolk (previously kennels of the Sproughton Foot Beagles, now home to ECMH, Stour Valley Beagles and de Burgh and North Essex Bassets). ECMH were previously kennelled with the Trinity Foot Beagles
- **Areas covered:** These days mostly River Roding, Essex, but historically rivers across Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk Cambridgeshire, and parts of Hertfordshire



It's hot work hunting otters

THE TIMMY

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



Yes, it's back! The Timmy - the Tim Bonner Award for the most ridiculous excuse for illegal hunting - has returned due to overwhelming popular demand (well, one email). Remember, to be awarded a Timmy, hunts can't just rely on the usual excuse of trail hunting, they have to come up with something truly preposterous.

Previous winners have included the mink hunt who were "just dealing with nettles" and the beagle pack who were simply "training hares to run in circles." You get the idea.

This issue's winners - the Warwickshire Hunt – were nominated by West Mids Hunt Sabs.

At a mid-week meet back in January, they hunted a fox through the middle of Hornton village, at school closing time. When horrified parents and children noticed hounds with blood on their faces and flesh in their mouths it looked, for all the world, like that they had killed a fox. But no... the hunt explained it was simply that the hounds were covered in "red mud from the ferrous soil in Hornton." So that's ok then.



That bloody ferrous soil again

For being a set of cynical, lying bastards and turning the whole village of Hornton against them, we award this issue's Timmy to the Warwickshire Hunt.

STOP PRESS! The villagers of Hornton have successfully applied for an exclusion zone to prevent the Warwickshire Hunt rampaging through their village!

SUPPORT HUNT SABS FROM THE SAFETY OF YOUR TABLE!

WITH abillionveg

WE GET PAID FOR YOUR FOOD REVIEWS & YOU'VE RAISED £3000 AS OF OCTOBER 2020!!

The Hunt Saboteurs Association are pleased to announce that we have partnered with the abillionveg app (www.abillionveg.com/) to not only promote vegan food and restaurants across the world, but also to raise funds for hunt sabotage.

You can help us raises funds by following these simple steps.

1. Download the abillionvegapp onto your Smartphone
2. Setup a login
3. Start to review any and all Vegan food you buy or meals your purchase, you will need to photograph them. Note: you do not need to be Vegan to do this but the food needs to be.
4. As soon as you reach 10 reviews, you can through the app make a $10 donation to the HSA.

So for each 10 reviews you make and donate to the HSA we will receive $10, around £8 at present currency rates. It's as simple as that to help boost the funds of the HSA and help us support hunt sab groups.

So what's the catch?

There isn't one. The app is financed by external funders wishing to promote vegan food and animal rights groups. We are one of very few UK based organisations so have the potential of reaching out to new supporters as well as raising funds.

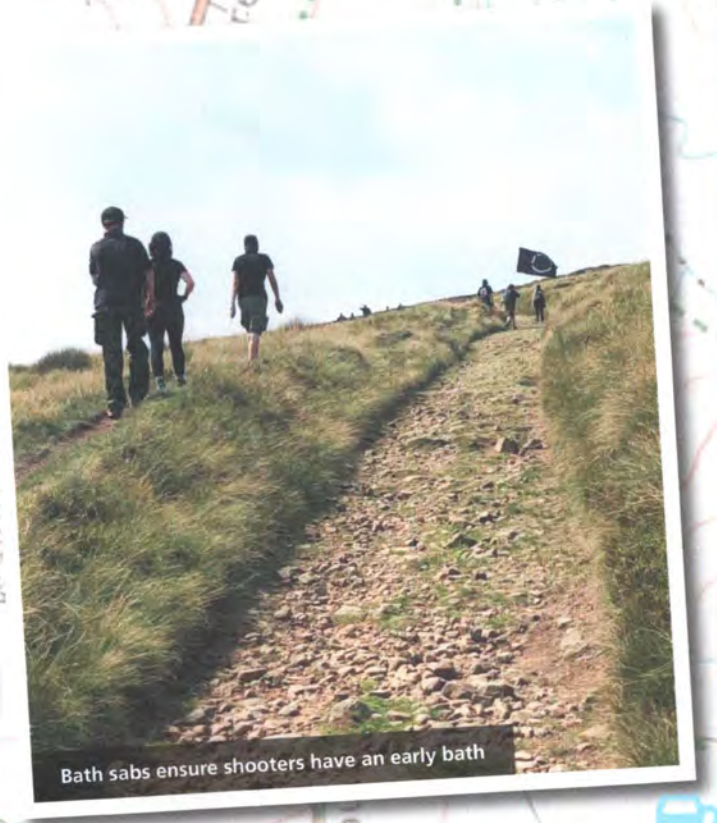
The possibilities are endless: if all our supporters reviewed just a few products each month we could raise a lot of money to fund our work. All it takes is a little bit of time by each person and at present our supporters have already made over 1000 reviews.

So, if you want to help Hunt Sabs from the comfort of your kitchen, please download the app and get reviewing today...



sabgroupnews




Bath sabs ensure shooters have an early bath

Bath Hunt Sabs

bathhuntsabs@yahoo.co.uk

Find us on

The last few months we have been busy preparing for the badger cull - with our sabs spread out in different zones sett surveying and gathering intel. So it was a bit of a change of scene getting together and venturing up North to meet with multiple HSA groups for a mass sab of the inGlorious 12th - which saw two small shoots packed up and a lot of pastries consumed. It was a beautiful sight to see the 100 plus sabs across the moorland.

As well as that we have been busy working on both landies and fundraising - with a stall at Bath Vegan Fair.

During lockdown our 'Sab fit' Facebook group got more active, and we are hosting some skills and tactics sessions soon - so we are gearing up for the upcoming hunt season, with an evening with the Avon Vale and an early morning with the Tedworth.

Beds & Bucks Hunt Sabs

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ko-fi.com/bedsbuckshuntsabs

Find us on

The Covid pandemic meant a big change for everyone and brought a premature end to the hunting season, although for our local hunt (the Oakley) this just saved them from more embarrassment. They are in quite a pathetic state right now and we look forward to engaging with them come the new season.

Our summers would normally be used for fund raising and preparation for the new season, however lockdown meant much of this was curtailed. Thanks to our army of local supporters we were still able to keep wildlife safe, dealing with many reports of traps and snares and stopping shooting where it occurred, much to the annoyance of those doing the killing.

Like many other groups we took a road trip for the annual "Inglorious 12th" sab and the effectiveness of our previous endeavours was clear to see as grouse shooters avoided the moors but we managed to find one small shoot and quickly shut it down. Thanks once again to the HSA for their organisation and support of the operation. It's great to see so many sabs from around the country and catch up with old friends.


Rambo is alive and well and living in rural Buckinghamshire



Palmer Marlborough maltreat their hounds

Berkshire Hunt Sabs

huntsabs@riseup.net
Find us on

The lockdown months have given us time to get our head office decorated and more organised and we undertook a stocktake of stall stuff, merch and equipment. Now we know we have two retractable flag poles and three rolls of camouflage netting...

We have been collating all useful data on our regular hunts including hunt meets into a map system that will have a few useful applications for future sabwork. This needed updating again with the great news about the Palmer Marlborough Beagles and how that effects different hunt country. Intel has brought us other bits of news on some hunts that we visit.

In our daily exercise we continued to survey vulnerable badger setts in our area to prepare for when the badger cull comes to Berkshire. At the time of writing, the Badger Cull is about to start and, although Berkshire is not officially a part of it this year, we will be helping sabs in other zones.

Bristol Hunt Sabs

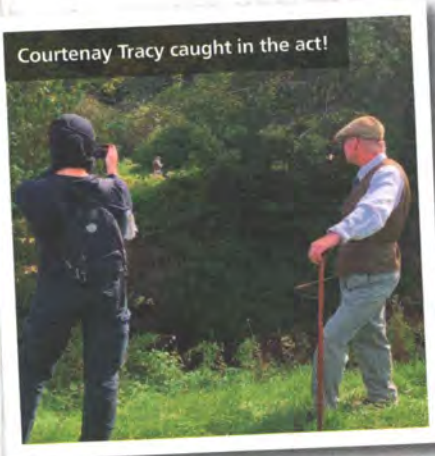
bristolhuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk
Find us on

Coronavirus put a halt to a lot of our summer plans: mink/otter hunt sabotage, meeting new sabs & fundraising events, so this Summer seemed a bit quieter than recent ones...

In August we travelled north for the 'Glorious Twelfth' - the start of the grouse shooting season, joining other sabs to shut down a small walk-up grouse shoot.

We started the 2020/21 season with a visit to an early morning cub hunting meet of the Tedworth Hunt on 31st August. It was very uneventful, the hunt simply riding around tank tracks and a few fields before packing up instead of any actual hunting due to our presence. We followed this up with a visit to the VWH the week after.

September 12th was a particularly good day for us. In the morning we successfully sabbed a Cotswold Vale Farmers' cubbing meet in Gloucestershire, and in the afternoon, we stopped the Courtenay Tracy Hounds hunting along Wellow Brook in Midford, just south of Bath. At least we got one mink/otter hunt in this summer!



Courtenay Tracy caught in the act!

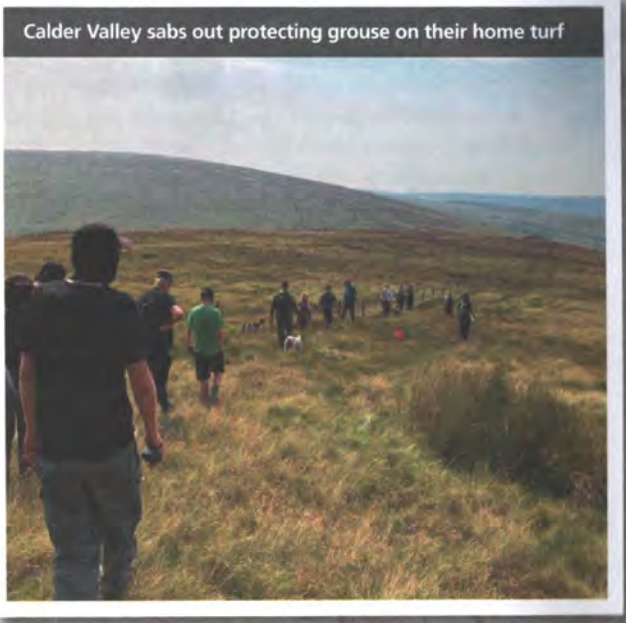
At the time of writing sabs are active against the badger cull and waiting to see what the hunts will do next, with further restrictions to gatherings coming into effect due to the Coronavirus. But then again, they think they are above the law, so we doubt that this will stop them...

Calder Valley Hunt Sabs

caldervalleysabs@gmail.com
Find us on

We are a new group set up by likeminded and experienced sabs with over 20 years in the field between us. We are happy to say that we are now fully affiliated to the Hunt Saboteurs Association and align ourselves with their goals to disrupt hunting in all its forms across the country. As a group we also identify with the HSA's long-standing connections to the Anti-Fascist Network. In the few months we've been assembled we have been successfully fundraising for a new vehicle and insurance to help us get out into the field in the upcoming season and we were instrumental to the mass sab that took place on the moors above the Calder Valley for the Inglorious Twelfth, using our detailed knowledge of the area to locate the shooters.

We have also undertaken some trap work in the local area, rescuing magpies with the help of a local bird rescue. In total, six magpies were rescued, with most set to be released back into the wild. If any HOWL readers are in the area and want to join us in the fight against wildlife persecution or have any tips offs concerning traps or hunting activity, please email us. Find us on Facebook and Instagram to follow our antics in what we hope will be a successful first year for Calder Valley Sabs! For the wild!



Calder Valley sabs out protecting grouse on their home turf

Cheshire Hunt Sabs

cheshirehuntsabs@gmail.com
Find us on



The flag flies high: Cheshire sabs head on to the moors

Someone once said, "May you live in interesting times" and this year has certainly fulfilled that particular blessing or curse as the hunting season ended and lockdown began.

This saw wildlife killers out in force, doubtless thinking that people staying home would allow them to indulge their sick activities unseen. However, we used our permitted daily exercise the best way we could. Some of us had strolls on our nearest grouse moors, encountering huge numbers of traps and snares, many sited on both public and badger paths, and by setts. Elsewhere we dealt with several incidents of deliberate damage to and dig outs of setts which were reported and monitored.

As restrictions eased, we joined our fellow sab groups for the Inglorious Twelfth, then we were back out sett surveying, socially distant style, and preparing for the imminent cull in Cheshire. Like last year we have sabs covering two zones on opposite sides of the county under separate cull contractors.

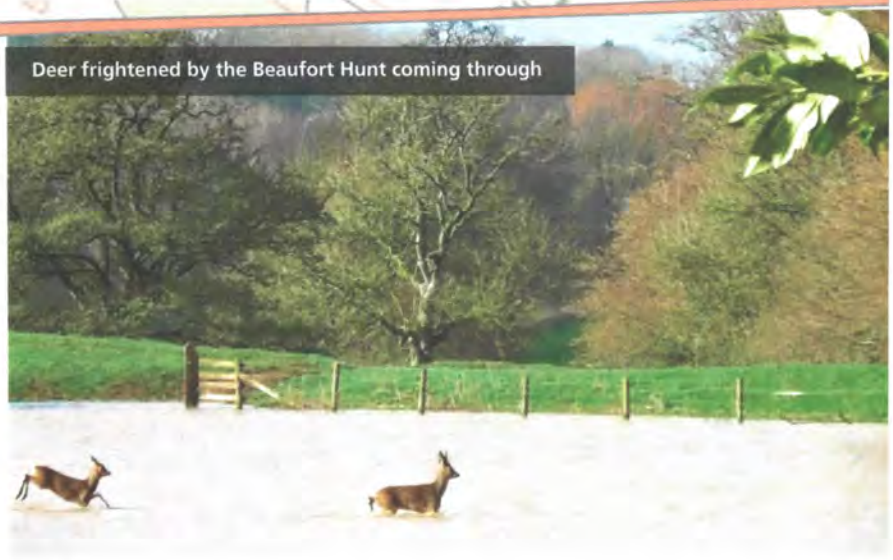
It's been interesting times for the Cheshire hunts too, with two of the three hunts seeing new huntsmen at their kennels. Steven and Lucinda Ashworth have replaced Jake Oppenheim and Tom Cranage as huntsman and whipper in at the Cheshire Hunt, and Tom Wright replacing the retired Cheshire Forest huntsman Andrew 'Skeletor' German.

As ever, we will be working alongside our fellow anti-hunting groups in Cheshire and we're watching all three hunts very closely, especially the Forest as they followed a real man-made trail last season, allowing monitors to watch without trouble, so we will be giving them plenty of attention at the merest hint of a return to the bad old days.

So, interesting times still to come for Cheshire Hunt sabs as the cubbing season gets underway

Cirencester Illegal Hunt Watch

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Find us on



Deer frightened by the Beaufort Hunt coming through

We have been busy all summer checking known badger setts for activity and finding new ones.
We have been working with local badger groups and Gloucester Badger Office preparing for the cull now in its eighth year. Despite claims of an exit strategy from the cull, DEFRA has planned a significant expansion of badger culling in 11 new areas making 54 areas in total! This is an eradication programme and could result in 64,000 badgers being killed in 2020!

Over summer we get calls to help with various wildlife and animal rescues. A juvenile badger caught in netting was successfully released back into its sett.
We were also called out to help rescue a terrier that had gone down a badger sett which resulted in us protecting the sett from the local hunt terrier man who turned up with a spade to dig it out! Not on our watch and luckily the dog turned up a week later at home unharmed!

Just as some wildlife has been enjoying respite from the hunters during Covid-19, it's all started up again. Cub hunting has already begun, so we are out protecting foxes early morning and during evening meets. The Beaufort have a new 1st whip who is up on a hunting charge from his last job – not a good start!

It will be interesting to see how our minders are going to be adhering to social distancing rules, bearing in mind sports gatherings currently are to be no more than 30 with 10K fines for exceeding! No doubt they will find ways of getting round this.

As always, we need more boots on the ground – so if you think you can help please contact us. Meanwhile stay safe everyone and thank you to all our supporters.



Hacked off: OSBWK supporter not pleased to see sabs at their "hunt hack"

Croydon Hunt Sabs

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Find us on

Needless to say, the Covid hysteria has had a major impact on our summer. Most of our usual summer fundraising was curtailed by social distancing, but we managed to get our second vehicle repaired and through its MOT at considerable expense, nonetheless. Weeks of stakeouts produced no trace of the local mink hunts, despite extensive use of the drone allowing us to cover far greater distances than we could have achieved on foot.

We were really happy to contribute a team to the awesome turnout of sabs on the Inglorious 12th, although the five-and-a-half-hour trek home through some quite lively weather and traffic left us a bit frayed!

Diligent scouting over the last two weeks, along with our (socially distanced) friends from South Coast and South Downs, has led us to two Old Surrey & Burstow 'hunt hacks' and an ESRM hound exercise. Funny, but they didn't seem at all pleased to see us...

Derby Hunt Sabs

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Find us on

During lockdown more people were taking their daily exercise in the countryside enjoying the outdoors. We received a large amount of tip offs about traps and snares around Derbyshire and the Peak District. On many occasions when we went to investigate, we found already damaged or removed traps.

Recently there have been a few sightings around Derbyshire of the Goodnature A18, which is horrible killing device. These use a steel piston to crush a squirrel's head. The top is baited with food and is triggered when squirrel put the head in. They are powered by CO2 and automatically reset, allowing 18 squirrels to be killed.

Our primary focus recently has been preparing for the Derbyshire badger cull. We have spent a vast amount of time sett surveying a chunk of Derbyshire, so that we can protect badgers during the cull. While sett surveying in Derbyshire we found a sett that we had not known about before. Unfortunately, it had been dug out. From above you could into the chambers and parts had started to collapse. It is illegal to interfere with a badger sett, however the badger cull is fuelling wildlife crime.



"Everyone is welcome to join us and have some fun". Except sabs

We teamed up with other groups from around the country to sab Inglorious 12th where wealthy shooters blast birds out of the sky for fun. We were up and about early morning, with spotters out in various locations. There were reports of shots heard near the Widdop reservoir. Sabs soon located the shoot on Walshaw Estate. With the sheer number of sabs, they packed up immediately and began the 8km walk across moors back to their vehicles.

At the beginning of the cubbing season, North East Derbyshire MP, Lew Rowley was spotted visiting the Barlow Hunt's Kennels.

Devon County Hunt Sabs

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Find us on

Summer for our sabs has been spent checking on setts in the two Devon supplementary cull zones and finding numerous traps and snares on shooting estates across the county. A low point was finding a dead hedgehog inside a Fenn trap very close to a pheasant pen.

In the last month we have also been keeping an eye on our local hunts. We effectively sabbed the first cubbing meet of the Dartmoor Hunt, seeing two foxes to safety. The following week we caught up with our old friends at the Eggesford Hunt where, again, we helped foxes run free to live another day. Neither hunt made any attempt to cover up the fact they were illegally hunting.

As we approach autumn our team will be busy sabbing the badger cull in different areas across Devon to save as many lives as possible. With 15 zones here now, we have our work cut out but will do our best.

A poor start: Dartmoor FH have their first cubbing meet trashed by Devon County



East/West Kent Hunt Sabs

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Find us on



Desperate hound control measures at the ESRM!

With the Covid crisis in place, it wasn't the usual summer for Kent Hunt Sabs! All our planned stalls at Vegan festivals and other fundraisers were cancelled, and the outlook seemed pretty bleak, but we sold some merch online and have ended up with our vehicles/drones and other equipment ready for the cubbing season. Some welding and rear end work has set old Bessie the Land Rover up for some serious off-road action!

Our ongoing work to expose pro-hunt corruption within certain sections of the Kent County Councils is still very much alive - seemingly the hunt's "parades" over the years have been paid for unknowingly by the tax payer, whilst most Health & Safety issues have been conveniently "overlooked"...but no longer. We will leave no stone unturned until either these obscene displays are banned, or become too expensive for the hunts to continue to have them and we plan even BIGGER demos whenever the hunts try to show their faces in public!

Big news on the hunting grapevine is that the Kent fox hunts are pretty much broke, and a new relationship has been forced upon the EAST SUSSEX & ROMNEY MARSH and ASHFORD VALLEY TICKHAM hunts, where they seem to be now sharing kennels to save money...and have already discovered that this means more hunt sabs in one place too! On Sat 22nd of August, sabs prevented hound vans that left the kennels from hunting twice in one morning, and the hunters must be really wondering how on earth they are going to foil us.....but given that we have eyes and ears literally everywhere (and an upsurge new member enquiries), it should be an interesting season once more!

East Yorkshire Coast Hunt Sabs

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Find us on

As lockdown measures relax the group have taken the opportunity to go exploring the wildly romantic North Yorkshire Moors around Goathland. Our interest was piqued in May after reading about the unlawful killing of a goshawk and the subsequent suspension of three people who worked for an estate owned by the Queen's Duchy of Lancaster.

Birds of prey are targeted by gamekeepers in their so-called protection of ground nesting birds such as grouse on shooting estates. The number is on the rise of raptors that have been illegally trapped, shot of poisoned and North Yorkshire is a particularly bad area for these extremely rare and protected birds of prey. We were happy to find numerous notices telling the public to be aware of wildlife crime around the moors.



Rescuing birds is something to crow about

We have revisited the area recently to keep an eye on the organised shoots and found a few other victims of the snares and traps that they use to control weasels and stoats due to their predation of game birds. Corvids (members of the crow family) are also persecuted. Many fall prey to gamekeepers often trapped in legal traps under illegal conditions.

A few we have managed to rescue and rehabilitate so they can go on to lead lives either in the wild or in a sanctuary if they could not be returned there due to their injuries.

Moving forward we are planning for 'cubbing' season. With dwindling funds, we have had to be very imaginative in raising funds to keep our vehicle roadworthy. Thank goodness for modern technology, imagination, hard work and creative skills of our dedicated volunteers we have run numerous competitions and auctions and our lovely merchandise have ensured that we can keep going.

Edinburgh Hunt Sabs

Find us on

In preparation for the 2020/2021 hunting season, our group decided to have a rebrand - Fife and Central Scotland Hunt Sabs have become Edinburgh Hunt Sabs! We feel like this more accurately reflects our group membership, but despite the name-change, we plan to hit the same hunts as before. We also hope this will help to 'put us on the map', make it easier to fundraise with [upcoming] merch, and make it easier to recruit new members from in and around the city.

Our group is also in the process of getting better kit than ever before. Thanks to donations from our page supporters, as well as a local cafe (Black Rabbit) raising hundreds of pounds for us, we are looking into getting all sorts of gadgets and gear to make us even more effective for the upcoming season. Although direct action is the single most effective thing you can do to save a life, animal abuse needs to be tackled from all angles. This is why we've also been pestering our local MSPs to take a stand against raptor persecution and why a number of us have contacted the Scottish Environment Minister to ask why the Scottish Government are once again dragging their heels and have yet to implement the licensing scheme to protect against mass culling of mountain hares.

After a few months of being more sedentary than usual, we're now mentally and physically preparing for the perils of the unforgiving Scottish countryside. We are also on the look-out for new drivers; though we have managed to grow our group numbers over the last few years, our sab to vehicle ratio is a bit off.



Hunt runs to the hills when faced with Edinburgh sabs

Glasgow Hunt Sabs

glasgowhuntsabs@riseup.net

Find us on



The summer months for us were knocked off kilter as Covid cancelled many of our plans. Glasgow had an exciting line-up of stalls and fund-raising events mapped out, which all had to be put on hold. Not to worry though, our newly appointed 'merch team' have been doing a grand job of selling our first ever group clothing online- selling out in less than a week! The second batch has already been printed and collected, so give us a shout if you didn't manage to get your mitts on it the first time.

A summer of firsts, we also got our very own first group vehicle! We're eager to get stuck into the new season with our new toy - particularly as last season ended with our lovely local hunt, the Lanarkshire & Renfrewshire FH, vandalising and writing off our personal cars. We want to say another massive thank you to the HSA for making this possible, for allocating funding and for support to us. A massive thank you also needs to go to Debbie Loe, an activist who left money to the HSA in her will - half of which was given to us and we couldn't be more grateful. Debbie continues to fight the good fight even after she's gone, and for that we have affectionately named our first car after her.

Like many other groups, here at Glasgow we have been standing loudly and proudly behind our Antifa affiliation. The last several months has seen some needed attention on the Black Lives Matter movement, and the importance of intersectionality within activism. We believe all oppression is linked, if you can have a conversation about systemic animal abuse, such as fox hunting, then you should also be willing to have a conversation about systemic racism.

Herefordshire Hunt Sabs

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Find us on

As I write, we already know that Herefordshire will be one of eleven areas to have a new badger cull zone starting in September. This is as well as the second-year zone in the west of the county and the original zone, now a Supplementary zone where culling started in June. For six weeks in September badger killing will be taking place across the county and we will be out in the fields doing our utmost to save badgers' lives. Get in touch if you would like to join us.

During lockdown we made good use of our 'daily exercise' sett surveying and this has continued as lockdown has eased. The recurring theme of sett surveying this summer has been the appalling suffering of sheep in the extreme heat. We found several dead and left to rot amongst the rest of their flock (reported to Trading Standards) and others lying on their sides, bloated and unable to stand (reported to the relevant farmers).

We found various small rodent traps and spent one afternoon checking artificial earths in North Ledbury Hunt country as we learn that Ryan Woodfine, North Herefordshire huntsman will be hunting their hounds this season. Fortunately, all were in the same state of disrepair as when we last checked them, but we will continue to monitor them.

We have had two events cancelled this summer due to Covid-19 and will be moving all our fundraising online for the foreseeable future. Big thanks to everyone who has supported us with some very generous donations over the summer, enabling us to get our vehicle mechanically sound ready for the cull and sabbing.

In these difficult, pandemic times we would like to wish all our supporters the very best health.


The hole truth: Herefordshire sabs expose one of hunting's dirtiest secrets

Hertfordshire Hunt Sabs

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Joining forces with our comrades, Northants Hunt Sabs, we continued the campaign against the Cottesmore Hunt. Sabbing every Saturday and increasingly showing face at their midweeks we've successfully saved lives, much to their annoyance.


Spread your wings, help is on the way

Sept 2019 saw two assaults against a Northants Sab and one against our sab by a hunt thug. The incidents took place on public footpaths in Leicestershire with sabs close to illegal cub hunting. Incredibly, yet unsurprisingly, the assailant walked free due to 'appalling case management by the CPS' who laid blame on Leicestershire Constabulary! The blatant corruption continues. End of 2020 season we successfully sabbed the Pytchley, Thurlow and Cambridgeshire Hunt with Enfield Chase. Even the slashing of our tyre mid-sab didn't deter us. Hunt thugs were not charged with the damage caused. Summer months have also been busy. Making use of our Covid-restricted exercise time out in the woodlands, sett -surveying duties have been fruitful (*see their great article – Ed*).

Frustratingly, we've experienced a series of problems with our Landy. After three futile visits to different garages we collected the beast last week from an epic garage who has finally got the job done! With Turbo and a multitude of other defects dealt with Hertfordshire's Landy now appears fit for the start of the season.

Indeed, she was put to the test on Saturday travelling once more to Leicestershire to sab Cottesmore Hunt cubbing. Arriving at Ashwell kennels at 5.30 am along with Northants, a horse box and hunters were seen arriving. We can only conclude, however, that due to observing two sab landys in attendance they decided against their illegal hunting. Great start!

Kernow Hunt Sabs

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Find us on

Despite all the current craziness the Kernow team still managed to fight for wildlife. From 1st June North Cornwall started its supplementary culling licence so some team members managed to take their daily exercise in the right places to find cages. Whilst out and about the odd fox and Fenn trap was noted.

As soon as lockdown eased, we got back out sett surveying in preparation for the 2020 cull starting. We were convinced we would have a new zone to deal with on top of the vast areas currently signed up, however the leaked gov document thankfully showed we weren't on the new zone list. It's disgusting that any new zones should be added given the alleged move towards cattle vaccination.


Kernow have had an absolutely smashing summer!

We have been hearing rumours that some of our hunts are struggling financially, with the loss of some donors, and of course with their various summer events not taking place which usually provides a good chunk of their income. We can only hope that the current situation continues to deplete them and that maybe their supporters will have taken this bizarre time to re-evaluate their priorities and sparked some compassion.

With the cull starting now the team will be out nonstop helping to save badgers and respond to any cubbing tip offs. It's uncertain what the next few months will bring, whether further restrictions will curb hunting again, but whatever happens Kernow will be ready.


Grumbling grouse shooters head off the moors

Lancashire Hunt Sabs

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Find us on

Lancashire sabs have spent the lockdown period preparing for the forthcoming hunting season and have been receiving a lot of information about the fell packs and their disgusting activities. We are currently in the process of getting a new vehicle.

In August, we joined with sabs from all over the country on the so-called 'Glorious' 12th, disrupting one of the few shoots that was out on that day in West Yorkshire. We have also continued to monitor our local grouse moors, and some of our sabs have been regularly sett-surveying in the cull zones.

Liverpool Hunt Sabs

Find us on

This summer has been quieter than usual, but we've still been out and about protecting wildlife. We joined groups from across the country on the first day of the grouse shooting season and with around 100 sabs helped shut down a small shoot on the Walshaw estate in the Calder Valley.

We've also been out and about checking setts in our badger cull area in Cheshire and are pleased to see many of them still very active - the best confirmation we can get that last year's hard work was effective and worthwhile. This will spur us on for this year's cull: though we're annoyed it's going ahead when so many things have been cancelled and despite announcements of it being phased out, we are ready as ever to get stuck in.

We've also been voicing our support for the Black Lives Matter movement and using the extra time we've had this summer to have some group discussions re-affirming our core values of being anti-racist, anti-sexist, and against all forms of oppression. We have discussed how we can ensure these values are at the heart of everything we do, and reflected in how we work together, to make our great team even stronger as we get ready for this next season of collaborating to sabotage the mindless annihilation of wildlife.

We've also taken the opportunity of a quieter period to produce some new merchandise and re-launch our online shop – grab yourself something nice here: https://liverpoolsabs.bigcartel.com/


Inglorious Twelfth: spotters out on the moors

Manchester Hunt Sabs

join.manchesterhuntsabs@gmail.com
Donate: ko-fi.com/manchesterhuntsabs
Find us on

Due to COVID19 it has been a quiet summer for Manchester Sabs. We used the time to get our vehicle repaired ready for the upcoming season, fitted a new radio and antenna to better help us communicate with sabs out in the field, and even got around to fixing the air conditioning – no more sweaty faces in the back seats!

Once lockdown eased a bit, we were able to get out and about in our Badger Cull zone to check on some setts we looked after last year and to make note of new ones. As the cull keeps rolling out to new zones each year it is important that local people get involved in the opposition. If you are based around Manchester/Cheshire and want to help, get in touch and we will put you to good use!

Another side effect of the COVID lockdown was all of our fundraising events for the summer being cancelled, but luckily we have some amazing supporters who donated items for us to sell online which has helped with our fuel fund for this season. We were also pleased to be able to attend the rescheduled Northern Vegan Fair in August – it was nice to not be the only ones masked up for a change!

August also saw the start of the Grouse Shooting season with the "Glorious 12th".As always, we were out on the moors with many other groups to shut down any shoots we found. We located a shoot on the infamous Walshaw Estate and escorted them back to their vehicles. Their day was well and truly ruined. Job done!



Grouse-eye view of Inglorious Twelfth!



Still waters run deep: the mighty Mendips Hunt Sabs!

Mendip Hunt Sabs

Tip-Off Line: 07493 363134
mendiphuntsabs@gmail.com
https://mendiphuntsabs.wordpress.com
Find us on

We didn't let lockdown stop us from socially distanced badger sett checking during the summer and we have managed to complete tons of sett surveying in preparation for this year's badger cull, which we believe will be coming to the Mendips area.

In July our group shared a stand at Bath Vegan Fair in July with our friends at Bath Sabs, which was great for raising awareness of hunting and the cull. We also showed solidarity with our trans and non-binary friends and attended a peaceful trans rights protest in Bristol.

In August we were busy preparing for the start of the hideous 'cubbing' season where the hunts sneak out ridiculously early to hunt young foxes. They do this to train their new hounds. It is horrific and unspeakably cruel.

We had a test run of our vehicle and equipment at a mass sab of the "Inglorious Twelfth" organised by the HSA on 12th August in Yorkshire. It was a successful day with at least two shoots shut down by a vast number of sab groups, who worked together to save innocent birds from being shot from the sky for 'sport'.

The struggling Mendip Farmers Hunt set up a fundraising front group called 'Mendip Fun Rides' and organised a ride for the 16th August. We thought it would be a great opportunity to educate the attendees that their entrance fee was funding illegal hunting and held a demonstration outside. The organisers called the police on us but, as protesting is not a crime, they were happy to let us carry on!

Cubbing and the cull are now imminent, and our focus will be on trying to save as many innocent lives as possible. Thank you to all of our supporters, we absolutely couldn't do what we do without you.

North Wales Hunt Sabs

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Donate:https://ko-fi.com/nwsabs
Find us on

For obvious reasons, the summer months have been quieter than usual for us. With lockdown regulations we've not been able to carry out as much surveying for the badger cull as we'd have liked. Fortunately, some of our sabs live over the Welsh English border so some sett surveying has taken place. We've also had to take out extensive repairs on our main sab vehicle over the summer.

Our first big outing was the so-called "Glorious 12th" when we joined up with over 100 sabs from all over the country. A tip off came through that a shoot had been spotted at the infamous Walshaw Estate, we headed up, found the shoot who immediately packed up and escorted them back to their vehicle, at which point they got rather angry at having their big day ruined.



Crazed Covid-denier argues with a responsible citizen

So far, it's been quiet in North Wales regarding cub hunting, but that didn't stop us travelling to the Barlow Hunt to help our good friends Derby hunt sabs. True to form, once the Barlow realised we were onto them they immediately packed up and reverted to false allegations and name calling lead by joint master and former Police Superintendent Joan Williams.

We've also had to usually back and forth with North Wales police who we've proven to have lied to the police professional standards department, more to come on that we are sure. As we write we are preparing for the badger cull and we our ready to spring into action as soon as our local hunts venture out for a spot of fox cub killing.

Norfolk & Suffolk Hunt Sabs

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Find us on

The summer months are usually the time when our group's fundraising is done but with no vegan fairs or stalls taking place, we had to find another way to keep ourselves entertained. In the latter part of the Summer, we have actually been pretty busy and covered a fair few mile.

For two successive weekends in July we joined up with other local groups to sab the Eastern Counties Mink Hounds at meets in Essex. Mink Hounds are usually elusive and are not keen to receive attention. Sabs just turning up en masse was enough to see them running for home.

We also joined up with many sab groups and made the trip north for the Inglorious 12th. For the biggest day in the grouse shooting calendar, the moors were eerily quiet. However, after some scouting, one small party of shooters were found up above Widdop Reservoir. The shooters were promptly escorted back to the road.



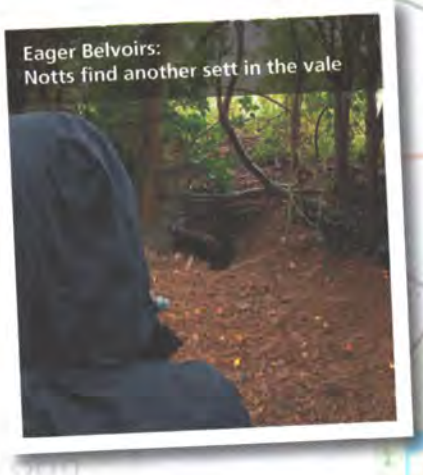
Socially distanced demo against the Waveney Harriers

Like us sabs, the hunters often spend the summer months fundraising. During July and August. our local hunt, the Waveney Harriers, have organised four "Pleasure Rides" and we have been present at all of them to advise the public what the hunt really gets up to. At the second event, the hunt appeared keen to point out that they were raising funds for the East Anglian Air Ambulance and The Farming Community Network. We know that some money at least has been sent to the East Anglian Air Ambulance because we have checked. It seems curious, however, that the advance publicity for these pleasure rides does not make mention of money going to these charitable organisations.

Needless to say, our fundraising has been severely curtailed this summer and if anyone can spare a few quid then we would be very grateful.

Nottingham Hunt Sabs

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Find us on



Eager Belvoirs:
Notts find another sett in the vale

Despite it being a far from usual summer we've managed to keep ourselves busy and out of mischief. Having discovered earlier in the year that the Vale of Belvoir had applied for a badger cull license we set about sett surveying with a lockdown-inspired vigour. Many miles were tramped, and some lovely setts were plotted. Now the vale is our usual stomping ground and we took delight in discovering, and dealing with, plenty of mucky countryside practices. Remember farmers and keepers if the cull comes to your manor it brings added scrutiny with it!

As always, we enjoyed the (socially distanced) gathering of the clans that is the Glorious 12th. Covid had curtailed many shoots but far beyond the wall in the North we found a small band who had chanced their luck. They were quickly driven off the moor by a wave of sabs who then retired to a nearby lake for a refreshing swim after a very hot day.

As the mornings grow colder, we're turning our attention to cubbing and the imminent cull. With a local cull zone we'll be able to give our local hunts some much needed attention in the early part of the season after far too many years of getting away with it. Bring it on!

Norwich Hunt Sabs

norwichsabs@protonmail.com
Find us on

After an abrupt end to the season, Norwich Hunt Sabs mostly went our separate ways to help out in our local communities. However, we knew that as soon as lockdown was at all relaxed the scum would be out, so we knew to keep an eye out for them. Sure enough, as the rest of the country was reeling from virus related shock, the Eastern Counties Mink Hounds were out in force. Well, if by 'in force' you mean there was 5 of them struggling up and down riverbanks.

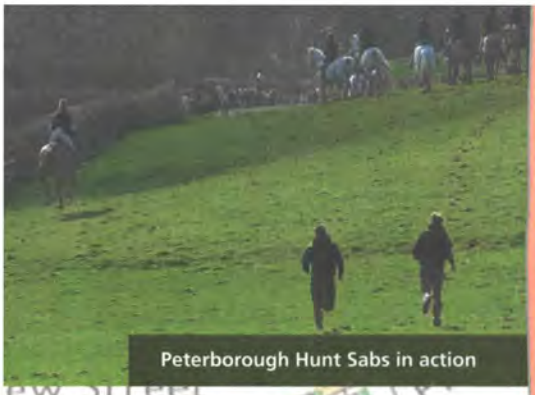


The highly prestigious ECMH meet at a rubbish dump

We joined up with several other local groups and were successful in closing down several of their meets, which you can read about in this issue. This was a rare summer treat for us as this hunt are tricky to find (due to their low numbers, lack of horse boxes etc.) so please keep the information coming in!

On 12th August we took the trip up north to the increasingly less 'glorious' Twelfth, and had fun shutting down a grouse shoot near Halifax. A long day for us, but worth it.

As we submit this article, we will be preparing for the oncoming cubbing season, for which we always need more members. If you're local to Norwich/Norfolk, please get in touch via our Facebook page or our email.



Peterborough Hunt Sabs in action

Peterborough Hunt Sabs

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

Peterborough Hunt Sabs have spent the quiet summer lull in a variety of ways. Since we last wrote, we had to endure a tumultuous final day at the Fernie Hunt in Leicestershire, which led to some repair work to our vehicles after being mobbed by drunk hunt followers.

Over the Covid-hampered summer, we enjoyed the fact that hunters too were prevented from going out to torment wildlife. We made new local contacts in our hunt countries, which led to further artificial earth discoveries, and spent time monitoring badger setts and practising our trail camera work!

At the time of writing, we have sabs deployed in badger cull zones ready for action and have already started to come across cages, even though the culls are yet to (officially) begin in those areas...

Reading Hunt Sabs

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Find us on

We've managed to keep busy over the summer despite the pandemic. Unfortunately, all of our fundraising events have had to be cancelled so far this year but we've had some success selling merch online to fundraise for our very own Sab Wagon (which we will hopefully have very soon!). We hope to be back out at events soon.



Cub hunters flee at first sight of Reading sabs

As we're still a fairly new group we've been making every effort to learn from our comrades in other groups and to gather intel on local hunts. Like many others, we've also been busy sett surveying and preparing for the new cull zones that are being introduced in Oxfordshire this year. And of course, more recently we've been out ruining the 'fun' for local hunts who have been caught blatantly cubbing.

We've also been busy helping local mutual aid groups that assist the homeless and vulnerable communities as well as newly arrived asylum seekers as much as possible.

Severn Vale Hunt Sabs

severnvalesabs@gmail.com
Find us on

We have kept ourselves busy during lockdown preparing to oppose Boris Johnson's expanded badger extermination programme with frequent forays into farm and forest. Wherever we roam we find evidence of widespread wildlife persecution by the shooting and animal agriculture industries. We even found an illegal elver net on the River Severn; these are used to catch endangered baby eels on tidal waters at night from February to May. Our rambles will continue throughout the cull.

We have also continued to gather intelligence on hare hunts countrywide in preparation for the forthcoming season. The more we know, the more that people tell us, the less likely that they can hide. They will be stopped!



Net loss: this won't be catching any more elvers

Sheffield Hunt Sabs

sheffieldhuntsaboteurs@riseup.net
Find us on



Sheffield sabs keeping a watchful eye on the Barlow cub hunters

After the Middleton had their season brought to an abrupt halt after we upset poor huntsman Ralph Richardson, by rating and calling his hounds away, the UK went almost straight into lockdown due to Covid-19. After finding our feet, we were stomping and sneaking our way through our local area, all aided by lashings of hand sanitiser. Many of us also turned our efforts to the local human community, with the sab van used to deliver food parcels to those who needed it.

A couple of our members have just attended one of the first cubbing meets of the season, managing to leave it in tatters alongside a small team from other groups. And we are on the brink of fighting another, truly sadistic, badger cull roll out.

If you'd like to support us, we now have a fantastic online shop, another positive to come out of lockdown. Let's see what next season has in store.

Surrey Hunt Sabs

Find us on

New season, new name. The group Guildford and North Downs sabs voted to operate under the name of Surrey Hunt Sabs which we feel more clearly represents us.

The summer was a bit of a wipe out because of Covid , but as soon as our favourite enemies the Surrey Union Hunt started so did we , already covering a few cubhunts and fun rides/puppy walks , scoring an early success when we counted over 40 riders out on a fun ride against the government Covid laws (£10k fine for the organisers). They have had to split all the subsequent pony club events giving them more work and inconvenience.



A Surrey state of affairs: sabs swarm all over the hunt

Suffolk and Essex Hunt Sabs

suffolkandessexhuntsaboteurs@protonmail.com
https://ko-fi.com/suffolkandessexhuntsabs
Find us on



Classic summer sabbing by Suffolk & Essex

We caught up with the Eastern Counties Minkhounds and sabbed them twice in July. Once Covid lockdown restrictions eased and the Hunting Office announced hunting could resume, these riverside vandals couldn't wait to get out there and attempt to kill any mink or otter they might find. Thankfully for the wildlife, the public called in the hunt's location to the HSA tip-off line. Along with Norwich Hunt Sabs and Norfolk/Suffolk sabs we found them at the same Essex river spot as last year, which has a known otter population. The Hunt soon scarpered back to their vehicles, piling 5 hounds into the back of a Land rover and drove off back to their kennels.

Another tip off to the hot line, the following week meant they were caught along another stretch of Essex river and sent packing. One of their foot followers got a bit handsy with our sabs and attempted to shove them, with another spotted carrying a spade, their excuses of 'hound exercise' clearly a cover for their true intentions. It took them longer to scarper this time, as one hound refused to go to the Huntsman and Whipper-in when called. He preferred hanging out with sabs instead.

We joined a large contingent of sabs on the Yorkshire moors for the 'Not so' Glorious Twelfth to stop any shoots. Thanks to local sabs acting as spotters, a small shoot was found in the South Pennines and shut down. Thanks to South Cambs and Peterborough for letting us jump in their vehicles for the day.

An online store has been set up for our group to continue raising funds, due to most of the events we usually attend being cancelled or postponed this year. Money raised has gone towards getting the sab vehicle ready for the upcoming cub hunting season which has already started in some areas.

South Cambs Hunt Sabs

schuntsabs@riseup.net
Find us on

Well, it's certainly been a strange and unexpected summer, but our sabs have been doing all they can during lockdown in accordance with the guidelines/restrictions.

Most of our fundraising has therefore been online this Summer, but since lockdown has lifted, we have once again started holding stalls in Cambridge to add to our funds. Our sabs also attended the Glorious 12th in Yorkshire along with many other groups.

We currently have sabs at one of the tree protection camps on the HS2 route protecting ancient woodlands and the specialist wildlife habitats within them. HS2 workers are felling trees with nesting birds and in woodlands with special bat habitats, fox earths and badger setts.

Our sabs have also been working closely with other parties to successfully prevent foxes being culled under the guise of pest control at various locations, including Muswell Hill Golf Club, United Synagogue's cemeteries, and Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School in Sidcup.

Alongside this we are also preparing for the cull and the upcoming cubbing season and are pleased that we have some new recruits to support us with this. We always need more sabs on the ground, so please get in touch if you'd like to get involved in sabbing or fundraising.



South Cambs get ready to hit the grouse moors!

South Coast Hunt Sabs

southcoasthuntsabs@gmail.com
Find us on

During these strange times we have been happy to see the back of the ESRM, our local wildlife killers, who have moved from the kennels at Catsfield where they have called home since the 1880's. They've had to shack up with other scum bags which must be a big blow to them. We've been cleaning up the countryside locally and further afield with friends including picking up spent cartridge litter and encountering traps, snares and shooting towers. We've seen corvids to safety and sanctuary from barbaric Larsens.

Some of us have been busy with wildlife rescues, plenty of herring gulls being on the South Coast but also an epic fox rescue and release. We set up an Instagram account to keep in touch with a wider audience and had our first mega online action which featured carvings from one of our own sabs and raised enough funds for Land Rover repairs and vehicle insurance.

We've been on BLM protests and weeded out the racists on our social media. We were able to highlight the bio-hazardous dumping of farm animals from an ex-ESRM huntsman's farm, their arrogance and animal cruelty knows no bounds. A tracker was found in our vehicle which goes to show the impact we have on those intent on murdering the natural world. We had Sabs join the stopping of grouse shoots up t'North. We'll now be sabbing the badger cull and up in the early hours sabotaging cub hunts.

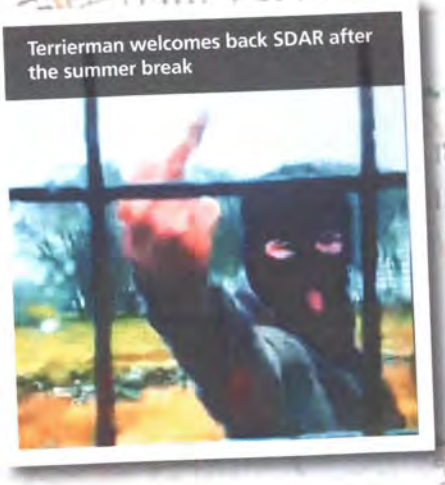
We thank all those that continue to support us and welcome all that wish to join us. South Coast Hunt Saboteurs remain small but mighty.



Rescue and release by South Coast sabs!

South Devon Animal Rights

SDAR2020@outlook.com
http://paypal.me/SDAR2020
Find us on



Terrierman welcomes back SDAR after the summer break

When the last hunting season ended unexpectedly early, we were able to turn our attention to sett surveying. It came as a bitter blow to learn, despite an announcement by DEFRA that culling was to be phased out in favour of vaccination, that supplementary culling zones were to be implemented, including Devon. With no let-up in sight we have had a busy summer.

On the hunting front, cubbing (now euphemistically termed by hunters as "autumn hunting" of the trail-laying kind – believe that and you'll believe anything) has started. With our Land-Rover currently off the road we have teamed up with our friends Devon County Hunt Sabs and paid the Eggesford Hunt a few early calls. On one occasion they returned to the meet within 75 minutes of our arrival, on another it was back to their kennels as soon as we arrived.

South Wales Hunt Sabs

southwaleshuntsabs@gmail.com
Find us on

Our season started well – with the demise of the Tredegar Farmers hunt and ended equally well with the collapse of the Ystrad Taf Fechan Hunt. Both hunts have been blessed with our presence over the last two seasons so we're looking forward to having more time to spend elsewhere.



Not Fechan surprising that this shambles have folded

Which leads us neatly on to the Banwen Miners who have held their annual game of musical chairs and ended up with convicted animal abuser and scum solicitor general, Clive Rees, as a new master. You know you're in trouble and out of options when he's your choice for anything. He is joined by local wannabe big businessman and pet shop owner Max Herbert. The Banwen are also onto their third huntsman of the season already... they just can't keep anyone it seems.

During lockdown, we have been responding to reports of traps left lying around the countryside. Because we live throughout South Wales, we have all been able to work locally and effectively. As soon as travel restrictions lifted, we tidied up anything we hadn't been able to get to sooner. Once this countryside stewardship work was finished, we headed off to one of the new cull zones getting ready to sab this year's bout of badger killing.

Staffordshire Hunt Sabs

https://staffordshirehuntsabs.bigcartel.com
www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1JR9BJC0W4XTV?ref_=wl_share
www.ko-fi.com/staffordshirehuntsabs
https://gogetfunding.com/fuel-fund-vehicle-costs-for-staffordshire-hunt-sabs-2021-hunting-season

Over the last few months sabs were able to go out in family groups on country walks checking our local setts and finding new ones so that we are prepared for the dreaded upcoming badger cull. Which sees one of Staffordshire zones entering its third year and two others their second. We also took the opportunity to learn more of our hunt's countries.



Pre-lockdown posing from Staffs and friends!

Some of our sabs spent time during lockdown delivering food and supplies to vulnerable members of the community, meaning that our vehicle was put to good use.

We took the opportunity over summer to work on a big recruitment drive, which was very successful, and we are pleased to announce that we have doubled our team! With this promising start and cub hunting underway we look forward to continuing to work with other sab groups, especially our buds Manchester sabs and Liverpool sabs. We have been working on building our skills with new equipment gratefully received by donation from our supporters.

In early August we nearly melted up on the moors when we and 100s of other sabs managed to stop the atrocity that is the Inglorious 12th.

We look forward to seeing our comrades out in the field and hope everyone in our sabbing community has been keeping safe and well during these tough times

Three Counties Hunt Sabs

www.network23.org/3CHuntSabs
threecountiessabs@live.co.uk
Tip-off Line: 07891 639803
Find us on

As we write we are approaching September and the beginning of the badger cull in many counties. We have, however, been fighting the cull in Gloucestershire since the beginning of June as we have two supplementary zones in the West Gloucestershire and North Cotswold areas. Working alongside Gloucestershire Badger Office, CIHW, Mendip Hunt Sabs and many independent groups and individuals, a number of cages (some set during heat waves, some during storms), bait points and shooters have been reported in and lives have been saved.


Nosing around at the Ledbury Hunt with Three Counties sabs

We have also been preparing for new cull zones in the Forest of Dean, Worcestershire, and Oxfordshire, working with Stroud / Worcestershire / Oxfordshire Against the Cull groups, as well as individuals. Throughout we have found both recent and historical blocking of setts, cubs potentially being blocked underground in these incidents. Members of the public are becoming increasingly educated about wildlife persecution, learning from our posts and website too, and various traps have been reported, saving the lives of corvids, birds of prey, squirrels, and foxes, among others.

September will also bring the start of regular cubhunting (and more sett blocking) though we already attended our first meet today (26th August) at the Old Berks with CIHW. The month brings vegan fairs back as well, and we look forward to raising awareness (safely) once more across our area. Thank you to those organisers who, in the absence of events taking place, have instead raised awareness of our work online.

Thank you, as always, to our amazing supporters, sources, everyone who sends in reports and tip-offs and our fellow sabs and monitors. See you in the fields!



Welsh Borders rescue a fawn in the Forest of Dean

Welsh Border Hunt Sabs

Find us on

Since the end of the season, we've spent the summer months involved in local wildlife rescues as well as sett checking. Working closely with Vale Wildlife rescue, our sabs have carried out numerous rescues and releases. But one of our best involved a fawn trapped down a hole in the Forest of Dean.

A member of the public had phoned it in so our smallest sab wasted no time by climbing down into the hole and with the help of others, the fawn was lifted to safety where her mum was waiting anxiously for her.

Another of our sabs has been waging a one man war against local wildfowlers by turning flights of geese away from their guns sending them packing without any kills.

We've also been lucky enough to be involved in releases of 17 fox cubs. Seeing these beautiful animals running free only makes us more determined to do all we can throughout the coming season. And with the support of members of the public as well as a grant from the HSA, we are now in the position to buy our perfect vehicle.

Weymouth Animal Rights

weymouthanimalrights@protonmail.com

Find us on

Well it's certainly been a different summer season, for everyone! With all social gatherings cancelled, it took away our chance to attend vegan fayres and events. This is where we usually raise enough funds to restock our PPE such as cameras and radios, that have been damaged or stolen, to cover basic maintenance on the Landy, with a bit left for fuel towards "autumn hunting" and the Badger Cull. We have thankfully just attended the Dorchester Vegan Market which had been postponed since the start of lockdown. Once again, we were blown away by the amount of local support we have, and generous donations



Direct action saved this beautiful fox

After an horrific last season for Juggers (Tobias Coles) and his struggling little South Dorset Hunt, he really must be thinking that things couldn't get any worse for him. New season, but no new staff to replace the ones that were made to leave last season. So after catching 'Juggers, in a flat cap, on a bike, puppy exercising, it seems that this season he is master, dog man and kennel boy, with Rob at his side to squeeze as many horses into a trailer as possible on a hunt day to save an extra trip!

With the big blue storage container in position at the South Dorset kennels, landlord and Tory MP Richard Drax must be really proud to have the slaughtered badger body collection point on his land, as he publicly supports the inhumane destruction of our beautiful badgers, as well as hosting the hunt.

With the Cattistock Hunt and SD already out cubbing, we will be there to 'greet' them. It's going to be flat out for the next few months, sett surveying and protecting our badgers, sabbing the South Dorset and beyond.

Stay Safe & FSU

West Midlands Hunt Sabs

https://www.youtube.com/WestMidlandsHuntSaboteurs
PayPal: https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/westmidlandhuntsabs
07767620767

Find us on

With the hunting season ending early, followed swiftly by the national lockdown it has been a strange summer. We noted that senior master of the Warwickshire Hunt Barbara Hester took part in the Cheltenham Festival. Hester had entered one of her own horses at the festival, which has since been widely criticised for helping spread Covid-19 around the local area. We guess Hester saw this as one last chance at a bit of animal abuse before the inevitable lockdown happened.



A gang of Warwickshire Hunt thugs attack West Mids sabs

At the end of last season, a sab was arrested after the Warwickshire Hunt made false allegations. She was charged with Common Assault and Actual Bodily Harm (ABH). Regular Warwickshire Hunt steward Belinda Glover had accused the sab of pushing her over whilst joint master Elizabeth Colgrave had accused her of punching her in the face and giving her a nosebleed.

The charges were dropped after photos showing Glover being aggressive and violent towards sabs were posted up. Despite having more camcorders than we do and filming everything that happens surprisingly no one from the Warwickshire Hunt managed to film this mysterious punch to the face. The second charge was finally dropped due to no actual evidence.

We all know what pathological liars the Warwickshire Hunt are, but we doubt that Colgrave or Glover will be charged with Perverting the course of Justice since Warwickshire Police are complicit in helping the Warwickshire Hunt.

West Sussex Hunt Sabs

w.sussexhuntsabs@gmail.com
Gogetfunding.com/west-sussex-hunt-sabs
Find us on

In the summer issue of HOWL we wrote about the dig out of an active badger sett, this was during a joint meet of the C&H and the OSBWK on the Balcombe Estate. We had clear and indisputable evidence, the perpetrators were filmed and named, all that was required for a prosecution was for the police wildlife officer to do his job; he failed to do so. The dig out took place of 27th Feb 2020, Sussex police were informed the same day, and Sgt Tom Carter, the operational lead for rural and wildlife crime was taken to the sett on 28th Feb. He agreed to get an expert to do a report ASAP; he didn't. Under the Police College guidelines, a dug sett must be examined immediately, two months later and still no expert had been to the sett, four months later and the case was NFA'd and closed. You can watch the dig out here; https://youtu.be/ITPDz42kq5U

During the summer months we have investigated snares and traps, and have been kept incredibly busy with the rescue, rehabilitation and release of injured foxes, badgers, and birds. Due to evidence we gathered and handed to police last season, William Bishop the huntsman for the Crawley & Horsham FH, has been charged with hunting a wild mammal with dogs, in contravention of the Hunting Act 2004. He faces two separate charges, one for December 2019 and the second for February 2020; he is due in magistrate's court in October 2020. We have kept an eye out for mink hunters and now we are doing hunt watch, this is the cub hunting season, and we intend to be there to protect fox cubs as much as we can.

A huge thank you to all of our supporters.



Serial criminals the Crawley & Horsham are back in court



West Yorkshire sabs hit the lesser-spotted Northern Counties Minkhounds!

West Yorkshire Hunt Sabs

wysabs@riseup.net
Ko-Fi:~ https://ko-fi.com/westyorkshirehuntsaboteurs
Find us on

With the season ending earlier and more abruptly than usual, we've enjoyed quite a lengthy period of time without running into the usual bumpkins - how nice! This doesn't mean we haven't kept ourselves busy however, as here in Yorkshire there is always some scummer up to no good. As per the Countryside Code, we felt it our duty to make sure we clean up some of the mess left littered around our green spaces - moorland and areas near shoots in particular seem to be plagued with junk metal, how odd!

Following longstanding tradition, we met up with groups around the country to shutdown the Inglorious 12th, and were delighted to help our close friends, and new HSA affiliates, Calder Valley Sabs target Walshaw Moor.

We've started the 20/21 season strong, keeping a close watch over hunt kennels across Yorkshire, often being right under the huntsmen's noses without them even knowing. We even managed to trace down the elusive Northern Counties Minkhounds, and so we quickly shut down their attempts to murder.

With cubbing season now upon us and the badger cull coming to Derbyshire we are back to the period of the year where we need fundraising the most. Unfortunately, with COVID this has been particularly hard, and so we need all the support we can get to ensure the wild runs free in Yorkshire.

Deadline for next Howl Group News submissions is 1st January 2021.
Please email 300 words or less to howl@huntsabs.org.uk

Please try to include at least 4-5 high resolution photos of something vaguely interesting - preferably sabbing!



SINGLE MINDED FOCUS

Saturday rolls around yet again, a cool mist lays on the ground as the portly master makes his rehearsed speech. "...hunting within the law..." he drearily recites. The field riders are paying little attention, while the terrierman smirks to himself as he takes another drag on a cigarette. As his words fade away into the morning, he notices a familiar sight. That dented old Land Rover is there again on the opposite hillside, waiting for the off.

The rotund man in red is used to this now, and he knows well what frustration awaits his huntsman for the rest of the day. This has been the routine for the season so far, as well as the one before that. Murmurings of, "Why do we even bother?" seem to grow louder each week.



This situation is the result of our local hunt sab group focusing on this hunt relentlessly. Week in, week out, their hit reports will describe the same huntsman, the same masters and perhaps even saving the same foxes.

"A single hunt focus for a hunt sab group comes with clear payoffs."



Vegan Quorn: Notts take the pack

A single hunt focus for a hunt sab group comes with clear payoffs. Most notably, the effect of attrition against the hunt. Hunts are businesses, they rely on regular paying customers in the form of field riders, who hand over their cash in expectation of a days uninterrupted hunting where they can imagine the ban does not exist. Having hunt sabs turn up so regularly, that they are expected, does nothing to encourage riders to renew their memberships. As the number of subscribers decreases season after season, the hunt will find themselves short of cash and the final prize being insolvency and folding.

As the same hunt is featured again and again in hit reports, videos or local press, public opinion is strengthened and gathered against the hunt. The more bad press the hunt receives, the more likely that local opinion is already against the hunt before they even arrive at their meet.



The Atherstone thought violence would deter hunt sabs. They were wrong.

An additional benefit to a hunt sab group paying continued visits to the same hunt, is that the country will be better known. The order of coverts hunted can be anticipated by experienced sabs, who position ahead of the huntsman and keep an eye out for wherever the terrierman may be headed next. This will provide vital extra seconds exactly when they count on a hunt day with hounds streaming towards the next covert on the line of their quarry.



Drunken thugs won't save the Cottesmore

The ultimate prize that we are all aiming for, of course, is to repeat the fantastic success achieved by West Midland Hunt Saboteurs in 2019, with a sustained and relentless single hunt focus on the Atherstone all of the above benefits were ticked off, with the hunt achieving notoriety and even ill-feeling amongst the pro-hunt world. Their subscribers faded away and their income dried up. Nowadays, this hunt is but a memory.

However, a single hunt focus does not come without its issues. Before a campaign of this nature can be sustained, intelligence and information has to be regular and reliable. Ideally multiple sources of information supplying meets and inside intel will give a fail-safe backup in case one source dries up. This is of course easier said than done! However, as a hunt is sabbed again and again, the chances of receiving intel from multiple sources will increase.

The hunt in question will now expect sabs. The effect of that can vary, but their behaviour will change. This could range from simply altering their start times, regular days hunting, to initially bringing in extra supporters to try to deter sabs. The huntsman could alter his calls, abandoning the hunting horn in favour of whistles so as to avoid incriminating evidence on sab video recordings. Essentially, they will wish to continue hunting, but not get caught. Sabs will need to be aware of this and be prepared to adapt their tactics to suit.

In an ideal world, the behaviour that the hunt changes is their hunting! This was seen in 2019, when a sustained single hunt campaign by several anti groups led the Cheshire Forest to completely abandon traditional hunting in favour of genuine, actual trail hunting, while allowing monitors to watch and confirm. Apparently, it does exist...



Domino effect: North Warks Beagles folded when the Atherstone collapsed

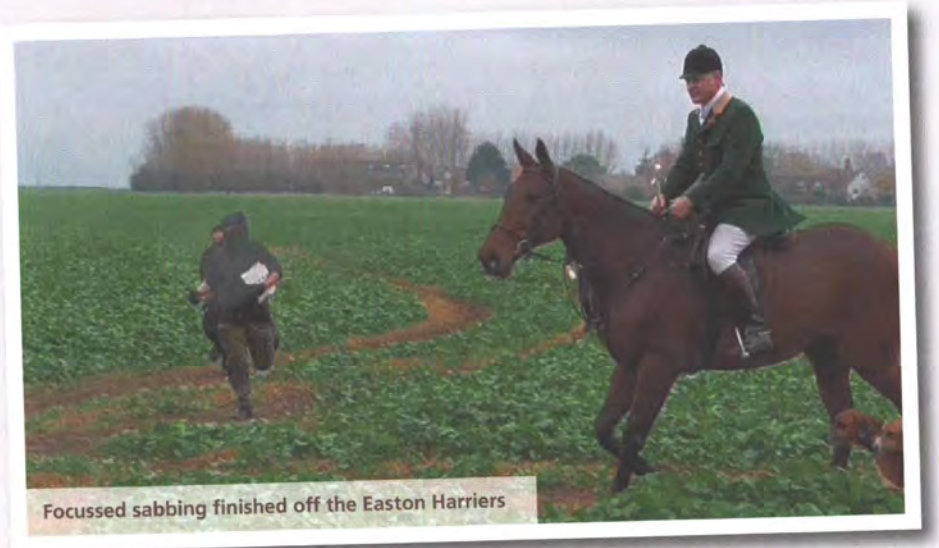
Of course, there are other effects of a single hunt focus not directly related to the actual hunting. Not least, activist burnout. The repeated mental strain of facing the same goons week in week out can tire even the most energised hunt sab.

Strong group support is a must, as the season ebbs and flows everyone will need to find the resolve and strength to see the campaign through to its end.

Successful examples of this tactic are well known. We have already covered the famous success at the Atherstone, and the curtailing of fox hunting at the Cheshire Forest. The once unassailable Quorn Hunt in Leicestershire were forced to abandon Saturday hunting at great cost due to relentless pressure from Nottingham Hunt Sabs, while to their east, the Cottesmore Hunt are beginning to feel the pressure from continued encounters with Northants and Hertfordshire Sabs.

Over in Suffolk in 2019, continued pressure from Norfolk & Suffolk Hunt Sabs along with other groups, resulted in the notorious Easton Harriers, terrorists of wildlife since the early 1700s, dissolving their pack and reforming as a legitimate drag hunt, the Hamilton Bloodhounds.

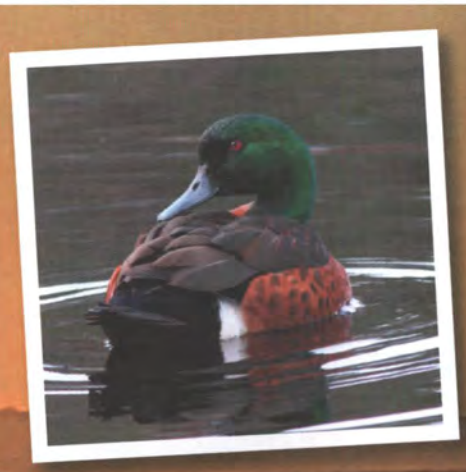
In summary, the decision to focus on a particular hunt comes with a significant commitment in terms of time and tenacity. The benefits however are clear: improved regular intel, a better grasp of the hunt country, greater exposure and PR and of course, the ultimate prize, eventual collapse of your chosen hunt.



Focussed sabbing finished off the Easton Harriers

MURDER MOST FOWL?

Not on Melbourne Hunt Sab's watch!



Early one Saturday morning, rather than heading out into the fields in pursuit of the hunt, Melbourne Hunt Saboteurs were standing in tall reeds with cold water up to their thighs, clad in an uncharacteristically bright uniform of white shirts, white hats and fluorescent orange high-vis vests. Hunts had been called off in Victoria due to COVID-19 restrictions, so we sabs joined the ranks of the Coalition Against Duck Shooting's duck rescuers to protect native waterbirds.

Victoria is home to a dozen different species of beautiful and unique native ducks, eight of which are classified as "game" in a government-sanctioned slaughter for three months every year. Prolonged drought and reports of a drastic decline in waterbird numbers and habitat had generated calls for the 2020 duck shooting season to be cancelled. Then catastrophic bushfires devastated much of eastern Victoria, killing over a billion native mammals, birds, and reptiles. Despite all this, the government announced the season would merely be restricted, shorter in duration with fewer ducks permitted to be killed each day. Hopes that the COVID-19 pandemic may ultimately halt the slaughter were short-lived – strict stay at home restrictions lasted long enough to prevent shooters from attending the season opening, but a week later hunting received a green light.



Sabs locate the shooters



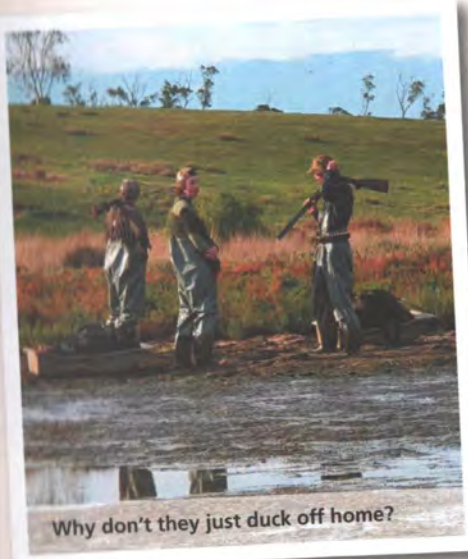
No kills today: despondent shooters leave the lake

Like Ducks To Water

The Coalition Against Duck Shooting was ready and quickly mobilised volunteer duck rescuers who had been on stand-by. Victoria has thousands of wetlands spread across an area the size of the United Kingdom and COVID-19 restrictions prohibited overnight stays, so small teams of rescuers were assigned to wetlands close enough to their homes for day trips.

The Melbourne Hunt Saboteurs duck rescue team headed to Lake Connewarre, about 100 kilometres away. Arriving each morning two hours before sunrise, we coordinated with other teams to cover every entrance to the wetlands, easily outnumbering the shooters.

Our main objectives were to protect birds from being shot, to rescue injured birds, and to gather evidence of illegal shooter activity.



Why don't they just duck off home?

For Duck's Sake

The campaign to end duck shooting started on this same wetland 34 years ago, when a group of only fifteen rescuers faced thousands of shooters, rescuing injured birds, and rushing them to a nearby wildlife sanctuary. Over 100 illegally killed protected and threatened species were collected and displayed outside the Premier's office in Melbourne, and the campaign received nation-wide media coverage for the first time. Since then, the activities of duck rescuers and resulting media coverage have galvanised public opinion against duck shooting in both urban and rural areas due the cruelty involved and the impact on local communities and the environment.

Three other Australian states have responded by permanently banning duck shooting, and nine in ten Victorians support a permanent ban in our state. The number of active duck shooters in Victoria has also been in steady decline, from 100,000 in 1986 to around 5,000 in 2019.

That figure plummeted even lower this year, but even with so few shooters about, many separate instances of animal cruelty and other illegal activity were documented across the state. In one incident, a CADS volunteer captured drone footage of shooters snorting cocaine off a camp table. Police were called, guns and drugs were seized, and the story made the evening news.

Some mornings we would sit under the stars and wait for the sunrise, the silence only punctuated by the calls of the birds as they began to stir far across the water. Thankfully, these mornings bore no resemblance to those in previous years when the darkness would suddenly erupt in deafening gunfire, birds falling from the sky.

"Our main objectives were to protect birds from being shot, to rescue injured birds, and to gather evidence of illegal shooter activity."

Even when there were no shooters around, we knew our presence was acting as a deterrent. Vehicles would approach, pause, and then leave again, sometimes coming right up to us, the occupants glaring through the window before spinning their wheels and driving away. We also made good use of the downtime to clean up litter from the wetlands, removing several large sacks of plastic debris from three kilometres of shoreline.

Shooters Out For A Duck

When shooters did set up, usually in the afternoons, they quickly realised that the few ducks taking refuge on this part of the lake were not likely to come within range of their guns with highly visible duck rescuers all around, and in frustration they turned their attention to us.

They would film us, trying to goad us into saying or doing something that could lead to prosecution and harm the campaign, particularly breaching rules against "hindering or harassing" a shooter or approaching too close. On each occasion they would call out the police or game officers and indignantly show them their footage, ultimately to no avail.

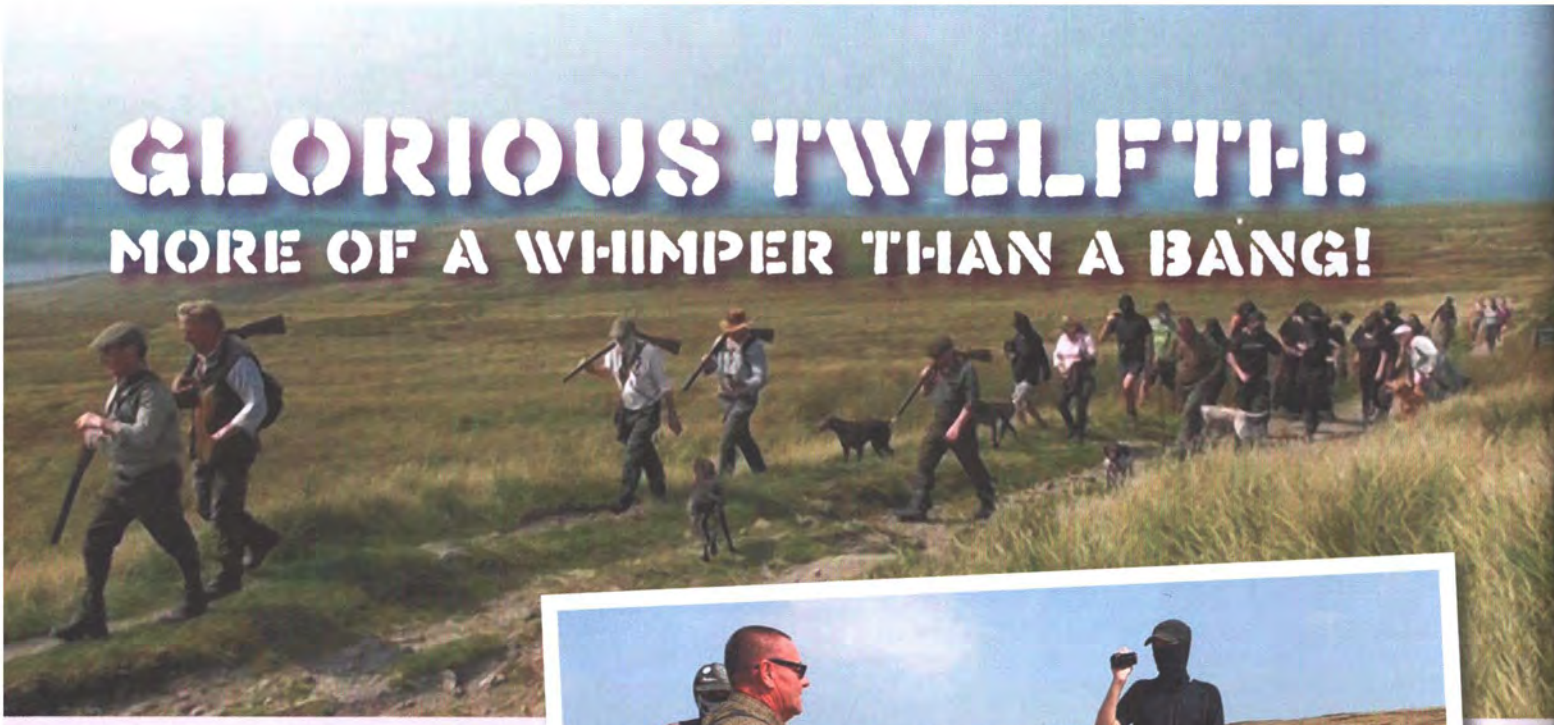
While no birds were harmed under our watch, sadly a few ducks across the lake could not be saved, and we will never know how many waterbirds were killed at other locations around the state or wounded and left to die.

Half an hour after sunset on Monday 8 June, the 2020 duck shooting season was finally over. The ducks that had been arbitrarily classified as "game" in a cruel blood sport resumed their protected status along with the rest of our native waterbirds. The wetlands are peaceful again and their inhabitants safe from slaughter for now, but the campaign continues until duck shooting is banned forever. We hope this season will be the last, but if it is not – we will be out there, before the dawn, for the birds.



In harm's way: brave sabs stand between the ducks and the guns

GLORIOUS TWELFTH:
MORE OF A WHIMPER THAN A BANG!





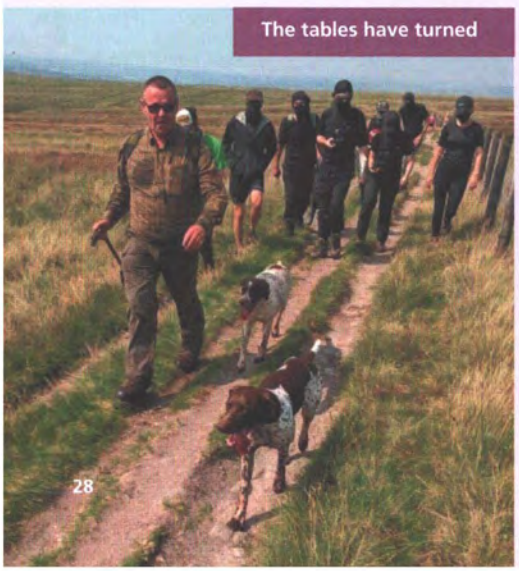
Broken guns, broken spirits

The (very) early morning of 12th August, saw sabs across the country swearing at alarm clocks, pulling on masks, and setting their sat-navs for the Peak District. Their mission: to participate in the HSA's annual sabotage of the "Glorious Twelfth" - the start of the grouse shooting season.

And with Covid precautions in place, this year was going to be no different!

As well over a hundred bleary-eyed sabs converged at the rendezvous point around 8am, HSA spotting teams were already out scanning vast swathes of moorland for the tell-tale sign that a driven grouse shoot might be assembling.

However, as the morning drew on, it became increasingly clear that shooters were not prepared to risk an encounter with sabs. To put it another way: on the most prestigious day of their season, the grouse shooters had surrendered the entire Peak District to the Hunt Saboteurs Association!



The tables have turned

As we were absorbing this amazing news, word came through that HSA spotters further north had located a shoot on the Walshaw Estate in the southern Pennines. In sweltering conditions, the main body of sabs raced to the location near Hebden Bridge and began to ascend the heather-clad moor.

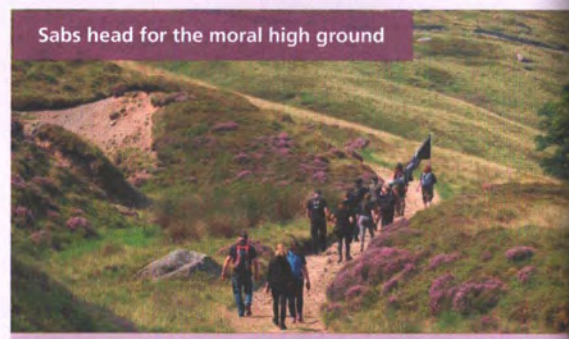
Sabs quickly located the shoot, which turned out to be a small affair using pointers to flush grouse to guns. Perhaps they thought that this more discreet form of grouse shooting would allow them to evade sab attention? If so, they were wrong.

With sabs closing in from all angles, the shooters wisely broke their guns and began the long and embarrassing trudge back to the road. One shooter (isn't there always one?) had difficulty reading the mood music and repeatedly tried to start fights with sabs. Back at his car, this idiot deliberately drove into a sab. Fortunately, the sab was not hurt, but the large number of cops who attended the scene simply hassled us instead of arresting the perpetrator of this serious crime.

With spotting teams confirming that the rest of the Pennines was shoot-free, and the blue sky beginning to fill with ominous storm clouds, most groups began their journeys home.

The long drive afforded time to reflect on the HSA's renewed campaign against grouse shooting...it's taken just three years of direct action for them to abandon the start of their season in the north of England.

A Glorious Twelfth indeed!



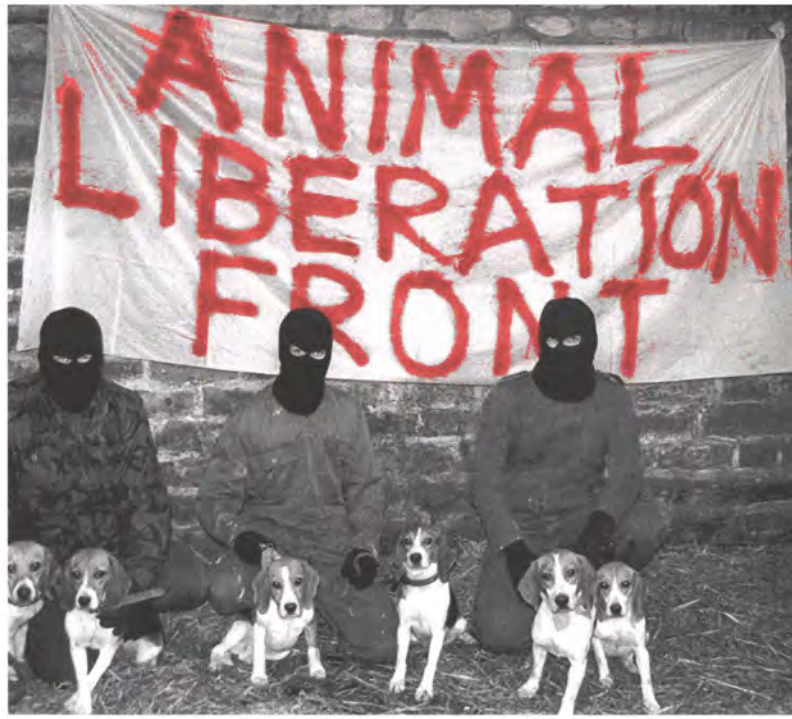
Sabs head for the moral high ground

WHAT IS SHOOTING OVER POINTERS?

A specialist form of grouse shooting where pointer dogs are used to locate the birds in heather. When the dog detects grouse, they freeze in their characteristic "point" pose while the shooters get into position. When the shooters are ready, the pointer is commanded to move forward and flush the bird into the air where it is shot.



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. Don't expect a reply as there is a limit to the number of letters each prisoner can write.



Marie (Marius) Mason #04672-061
FCI Danbury
Route 37
Danbury, CT 06811 USA

Marius Mason is a transgender anarchist, environmental and animal rights activist serving nearly twenty-two years in federal prison for acts of property damage carried out in defence of the planet.

After being threatened with a life sentence in 2009 for acts of sabotage, he plead guilty to his involvement in an ELF arson at a University lab researching genetically modified organisms for Monsanto, as well as admitting to twelve other acts of property damage (it is speculated though as to whether he was forced to accept guilt for these as part of a plea bargain). No one was physically harmed in these actions. At sentencing, the judge applied a so-called "terrorism enhancement", adding almost two years to an already extreme sentence requested by the prosecution. This is the harshest punishment of anyone convicted of environmental sabotage to date.

Please address letters to "Marie (Marius) Mason." Contrary to previous reports, Carswell is not accepting mail addressed to "Marius." All mail is opened and read. Letters that mention other Green Scare prisoners may be rejected.

Your letter and envelope must contain your first and last name when writing. If letters are not entirely in English, they may be delayed up to several months. Be sure to include your return address on the envelope and in the letter/card. You may also want to include his name and prisoner number on the letter/card in case it gets separated from the envelope during processing. Page numbers are also helpful in case of lost pages (example: page 1 of 5).

Last, letters and envelopes with anything "affixed" to the letter or card – such as glitter, glue, or white-out are not permitted but do not let that stop you from sending a colourful letter! Pen, pencil, crayon, and paint in the letter (not on the envelope) are accepted. Marius can also receive articles printed from the internet (which helps him keep up to date on the world) or photocopies but no newspaper clippings.

Marius is always in need of penpals. As people become more digitally focused and less familiar with writing letters, letters have dropped off, contributing to his isolation.

Even brief postcards, especially if they are sent regularly, help him feel connected.

Release date: January 10, 2027.

BACK IN THE DAY...

A HISTORY OF SABBING IN CUMBRIA



The idea behind the group having a blog site is to serve as an information resource for anyone who wants to take an active role in sabbing in Cumbria. We remember in late 1987 when the Hunt Saboteurs Association sent a guest speaker all the way up to Cumbria to the Labour Club in Carlisle. The club was packed out with people who wanted to know more about direct action against hunting. This talk provided the inspiration that we needed to form a group.

In April 1987 Newcastle sabs. with other groups from the north, organised the first hit on a fell pack, the Ullswater FH. Later in the year HOWL ran an article on sabbing fell packs, and this left us in no doubt what we were up against. But we had help from Newcastle hunt sabs and, over the next few years, both groups would sab the fell packs and mounted packs locally and we went over to the north east to help them. In the beginning it allowed local sabs to gain knowledge alongside more experienced sabs.

Cumbria sabs catch up with the Lyth Valley Mink Hounds, early 90s



Meet Cards

When the group started in 1987 the local newspapers would advertise hunt meets alongside the sport every Friday of the hunting season. But paranoia soon set in due to our activities and they ceased advertising. However, we never had a problem getting hold of meet cards, hunt supporters locally bearing grudges against neighbouring hunts would pass them on. After the Hunting Act in 2004, we were at local police station in the lakes and we spotted a meet card for a certain fell pack on the wall, the police officer noticed our interest and said "Help yourselves to it", which did take us by surprise!!

Violence

In the early years the violence, as elsewhere in the country, was intense. They thought if they could intimidate us and stop us attending hunt meets. How wrong they were: it just strengthened our resolve. At one point there was more police attending hunts locally than there were policing the football at Carlisle Utd! The attitude from the police was the same as elsewhere, very prejudiced against sabs.

At a meet of the Coniston Foxhounds /Windermere Harriers (the infamous Mayor's Hunt), a saboteur was punched in the face by a local police inspector in full view of cheering hunt support. On another sab involving the same hunt, a fox had taken shelter in a pipe, and hunt support dragged sabs away from the pipe at one end, so they could put a terrier in. At the other end of the pipe a WPC dragged another sab away, the fox shot out and was ripped to pieces by the pack.

Fell Week

From 1988 -1993, local sabs, with a great deal of support from the HSA, held Fell Week. This took place in early spring when sabs elsewhere had finished with their local packs, would come up to Cumbria to sab the six fell packs. As we write, over twenty-seven years since the last Fell Week, the memories come flooding back.



HOWL magazine from 1987

Hunt support would also travel up to Cumbria, and it gave us a great deal of satisfaction when they would bemoan the fact that they had seen no so-called sport for that week. On Fell Week 1992 a hunt supporter had a suspected heart attack and sabs, with the help of a police officer, tried to resuscitate him but shortly after he died. Hunt support from the Ullswater FH, rather than help one of their own, attacked saboteurs and ended up knocking out one saboteur from Newcastle.

A lot of preparation went into Fell Week, as accommodation and food had to be organised for well over a hundred sabs attending. The first year sabs stayed in a cottage at Cockley Beck in a very remote area of the lakes, and one of the abiding memories is of over a hundred walking sticks at the door affectionately known as stick mountain *(I remember it well - Ed).* Another year we had accommodation just outside Keswick at an outdoor activity centre very near to Derwent Water, but it was hard trying to stay low key in Keswick and out of sight from the local hunt support. After that we used a campsite near Morecambe on the border of Cumbria, and one year we had a big marquee erected for sabs and used a generator to try and stay warm through the night. So, a night before the next day's meet, sabs would prepare sandwiches for the next day, but if the munchies took hold through the night, sandwiches would mysteriously disappear...



Sabbing the Northumberland Beagling Festival, 1992

During Fell Week the terrain would take its toll on the vans and a lot of time would be spent on repairs. We also tried to keep the vans in a convoy, so if a van broke down, sabs were not left isolated and fall prey to hunt support. In 1988 Carlisle sabs hired a van out for the week: it was brand spanking new but by the end of the week it was well and truly battered. The narrow roads and stone walls had taken its toll and when we returned the keys, we made sure to get out of the office pretty sharpish as the owner just looked a bit numbed with shock.

Northumberland Beagling Festival and Alston Hare Week

Cumbria Hunt Sabs played a prominent role in helping sab the Northumberland Beagling Festival alongside Newcastle Hunt Sabs as well as sabs from all over the UK. Towards its end the Beagling



Blencathra huntsman surrounded by sabs, Fell Week 1993

Festival saw the emergence of so-called professional hunt stewards, which proved to be ineffective, due to the high number of sabs in attendance. After eight years of pressure from hunt saboteurs the festival ceased to exist after 1994.

Cumbria sabs and Newcastle also played a key role in sabbing the Alston Hare Week (which started in 1985) and once again sabs from the north and further afield would attend. The last year we had about seven sabs out, and we were able to put pressure on the hunts attending. Funnily enough we were all on police cautions by the end of the week. But we're all still having nightmares about a basset pack which came up to Alston, they are so stubborn; and it was hard work calling them off a scent (*That was the Westerby Bassets - Ed.)*

Summer Hunting

But it wasn't just fox hunting and beagling. The group also took action against mink hunting, and with the help of Lancaster sabs and others we targeted the Lyth Valley Mink Hounds based near Kendal in the early 1990s, but they ceased to exist by of the end of the century. Also based just outside Carlisle were the Dalston Minkhounds who existed from 1978 till early 2000s, they also had the pleasure of our company. We would also attend grouse shoots in Cumbria and elsewhere.

Over Two Decades of Direct Action

Cumbria hunt sabs was in existence for over twenty years and we saw a lot of changes regarding new laws etc, a lot of people were involved in the group and they came from all parts of the county.

We even had two ex-hunters who went rogue and joined our group, to the consternation of the local hunting fraternity. The group gained a lot of positive media attention over the years due to it being in John Peel country. We also gave a voice to those who lived in rural communities where hunting took place who in the past were wary of speaking out, they would pass on valuable information to us.

And finally, we did tip the scales in favour of the hunted, all the years of hassle off so-called law-abiding hunt support was worth it, because we denied them their perverted pleasure. Unfortunately, time has caught up with the group, but thankfully hunt saboteurs still come up to the lakes. We hope the blog site acts as a catalyst for those who live in Cumbria and are not prepared to see animals chased and killed in the name of tradition.

Find our more here: www.cumbrianhuntsabs.blogspot.com/



No hunting today: sabs blockade the Blencathra hound van at the meet! Fell Week 1993

RORKE GARFIELD
THE RED FOX
1942-2020



On Saturday 22nd January 1972 at a meet of the South Dorset Foxhounds in the village of Piddletrenthide, amidst a cacophony of exploding hedgerows and dense smoke, I encountered a military looking character who came striding out of the chaos introducing himself as Red Fox in company with the Northampton Light Artillery!

Such was my introduction to Rorke Garfield who was already well known by reputation and regularly reported in the press as the HSA guerrilla warfare tactics advisor due to the controversial tactics used against many fox hunts including the prestigious Beaufort and Belvoir.

Prior to forming his group of Northampton saboteurs in 1969 Rorke had served in the British Army, during which time he visited many trouble spots around the world. The expertise gained during those years would be put to good use when training his group in disrupting the local redcoats. Concerned with not just bloodsports he branched out into all forms of animal abuse starting with the rescue of swans injured by the angling fraternity. When the RSPCA told him that he was rescuing too many and they could not cope he set up his own swan sanctuary, later expanded into the major rescue team National Animal Rescue Association (NARA) that over the following forty years, having obtained Charity Commission status, would save and treat thousands of injured and abused animals both domestic and wild.


HOWL
Hounds off our wildlife
5p
WASHOUT FOR SEALHUNTERS
Hi there!
Rorke's exploits were often front page news

In 1972, as a witness to the cruelties caused by seal shooters during the annual Wash (Lincolnshire) cull, Rorke turned his attention to putting an end to this brutal and pointless slaughter. With the HSA in full support he set about raising money and equipment to take the fight to the open water. The very first edition of HOWL the following year carried the headline SABOTEURS V. SEAL HUNTERS (alongside another article on the injuries he had received from the Oakley Hunt the previous October) detailing the first attempts by Rorke's group, that would later become the official Save Our Seals Campaign, to disrupt the cull. By the time issue three of HOWL came out the front page read WASHOUT FOR SEALHUNTERS and announced that Home Secretary Roy Jenkins had refused to issue licences for the 1974 cull to proceed. Whatever official reasons were offered by the government it was evident to most people who were involved in the SOS campaign that the thought of direct action, speed boats and general disruption had played a significant role in their thinking. Seal culling never returned to the Wash, but the experience gained during that time was put to good use in Rorke's future anti sealing activities in the Orkney and Farne Islands. It was during this time, while sitting on a sandbank in the middle of the Wash waiting for the sealing boats to show and having a quiet cigarette, that Rorke convinced me to launch my own campaign (Save Our Stags) with the promise of any help that was needed. He would more than keep his word in the years to come.


Rorke sabbing the North Bucks Beagles, 1973

The commitments to NARA and the seals did not stop continuing actions on many other fronts from the clandestine rescue and resettlement of laboratory animals, snatch operations against individuals that the police and RSPCA either couldn't, or wouldn't, prosecute which would lead to accusations of vigilantism by sections of the national press, pilot whale rescues in the Wash, along with regular forays against hare coursing events such as the

three day Waterloo Cup event each February. There would also be many nights when Rorke and his group would patrol the hills and moors of the West Country keeping the promise to help make life difficult for the three stag hunt packs.

Although during the early 1970s he was publicly best known for his many exploits against the fox hunts in his local area, including invading an American Air Base to disrupt an invited meet of the Cambridgeshire Hunt, receiving serious injuries from the whipper-in of the Oakley Hunt and waging a private war against the Fitzwilliam Hunt. He was also well known as a vocal opponent of the Pytchley Hunt master and Northampton Labour MP Reginald Paget and threatened to stand against him until the constituency was abolished in 1974. During this period, he also found the time to write two books *Superforce* and *Animal First Aid*.

He was happiest out in the field working with the saboteurs and while it was true that he demanded complete commitment and loyalty from the people he worked with, it was equally true that he always offered nothing less in return. For Rorke the concept of consensus or committee -led decisions were anathema which would explain why he never wanted, or ever stood for, any elected positions within the HSA or any other attendant animal organisation. He was always a man of action who followed the beat of his own drum. He was the quintessential 'cat who walked alone'.

His later years were split between campaigning and animal rescue work under the umbrella of NARA and international rescue and relief work.



Rorke with seal on The Wash

This included trips to Bosnia during the Yugoslav Civil War (1991-2001) of which the most hair-raising was flying into Sarajevo Airport during the infamous three-year siege while under fire from Serbian army mortars. Major disasters also figured prominently including the terrible 1999 earthquake in the Turkish City of Izmet, while less dramatic but equally traumatic disasters kept him busy at home such as 2000 York floods.

After the frenetic heydays of the 1970/80s Rorke and I did not work together quite so much, meeting up at various national rallies, continuing rescue and rehabilitation work around the country and the 2002 funeral of our mutual friend Sue Smith (The Vixen) with whom we shared so many adventures together. Though in many ways he was a constant, as larger than life characters like Rorke tend to be, and consequently never cease to be part of your life.

Maybe the last word should go to the late animal rights 'great' John Bryant who, writing of Rorke under the pseudonym Gary Rorke in his novel *Lady Patricia,* referred to him as 'a legend'.

In 2010 Rorke was diagnosed with cancer and after a heroic ten-year battle finally succumbed on the night of 9th August 2020 surrounded by his family. I am proud to have been his friend and to know that he was mine.

Thank you, Fox,:
For the midnight rookie runs
The 3am calls to action
The frantic drives to the safe house
And all the heart stopping moments
in-between

RIP RORKE
IAN PEDLER



Rorke in Bosnia, 1996

Obituary

Sam Challis

(20 April 1981 - 24 March 2020)

Written by Sam's mother Carol and widow Laura

Sam Challis, formerly of Croydon Hunt Sabs, died on 24 March 2020 aged 39. Sam's opposition to hunting began when he was five years old. His family lived in a small village in Kent and on Boxing Day they went to quietly demonstrate against the local hunt in a local village square. Whilst the riders towered above them on beautifully groomed horses toasting themselves with various refreshments, Sam asked, "*Why are they doing this?*" His parents thought this was a good question.

Sometime later it was explained to him what fox hunting was supposedly about. His quick reply was "*Why aren't the hens kept in secure fields, then they would be safe, and no animals would be hurt.*"

There you have it. Words from a child, so simple and to the point. No animal had to die. It could be avoided.

Sam's enthusiasm to champion animals, both domestic and throughout the world, never left him. Birthday and Christmas presents for his family would always be adoptions of all kinds of animals such as elephants, donkeys, horses, cats, dogs, not forgetting pigs. His dream was that on retirement he would provide a sanctuary for pigs in his garden.

For the last nine years of his life, his commitment to the animals grew to include going vegan, finding subtle ways to encourage veganism amongst colleagues at the charity where he worked; financially supporting Sea Shepherd, Animal Aid; and The Vegan Society and going out with Croydon Hunt Sabs. Eventually, he found motion sickness from the sab van too debilitating to carry on. His widow Laura, a long-term vegan, has asked friends and family to donate to HSA in his memory. Sam also leaves behind two little terriers who loved him.

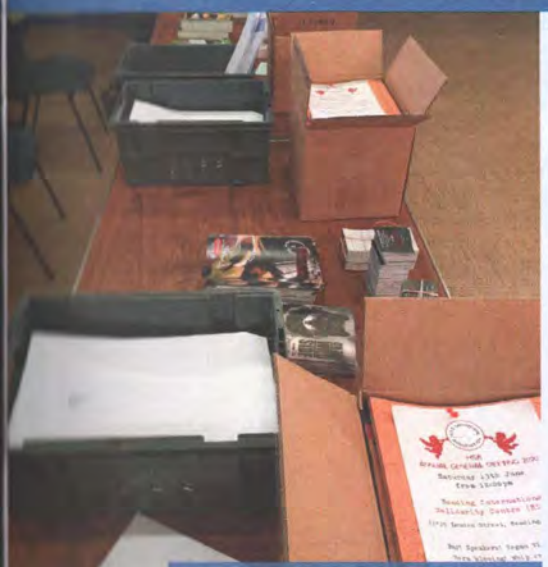
He wanted to do more for animals, and perhaps he is. We hope so. He was their friend on this earth.



Sam with his beloved Coco

MEET YOUR COMMITTEE: MEMBERSHIP 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.



Let the packing party commence!

How did you get involved in sabbing and animal rights?

A colleague at work gave me a leaflet about animal slaughter. I read it during my lunch break, never ate meat again and gradually found out more and more before joining the local animal rights group. Soon I was involved in campaigns against live exports and anti-vivisection as well as, later, the original Krebs badger culls.

Do you remember your first sab? What happened?

It was a Boxing Day and I went out with the local sabs after the usual demo. I soon realised I had to get a great deal fitter if I was going to do this again! I was astonished at the aggression the hunt showed towards the sabs, but I wasn't deterred. I managed to keep up – just – and resolved to get much fitter so that I could go out regularly. I didn't understand lots of what was going on, but I did as I was told (some people might find that hard to believe – but it's true, I swear) and watched closely. There were no kills. I went out periodically during the rest of the season and spent the summer getting a whole lot fitter so I could be a useful member of the team. That was 1992 and I'm still sabbing …

Why did you want to get involved in helping to run the HSA?

I love the idea that the committee is all volunteers and that it's a collaborative process, with each officer taking responsibility for a section of the organisation – I simply wanted to play my part in making that happen. I was Contact Officer for my first 3 years, then Admin Officer for 18 months or so, before taking on the Membership role five years ago.

Tell us about the role of HSA Membership Officer.

Since 2015, when I started in this role, the membership has grown by 200% - and is still growing fast. This means the work requires good organisation and careful processes. There's the daily updating of our records with new members and renewals, as well as responding to queries and emails. I liaise closely with the Social Media Officer to manage spikes in new members, which often happens around a particular news story or event or sometimes as a result of a membership promotion.

I work hard to make sure new members get their membership packs as quickly as possible. HOWL magazine creates a buzz these days too. It's always a 'thing' when the new issue is imminent and that usually generates new members, because people want the magazine and they only get the new one if they are members. And then there's HOWL distribution which is a major event at Membership Towers.



It's always busy at Membership Towers! (AKA, the kitchen).

What's the best thing about the role?

I love the interaction with the members, being able to resolve queries and just talking to our members whilst dealing with business. It's a very ordered, organised role so when I get the opportunity for an email chat or phone call with a member, I really enjoy it.

And the worst?

The biggest challenge at the moment is HOWL distribution. We have grown so much in the last few years that packing HOWL round my kitchen table is no longer an efficient option. For the March 2020 issue we hired a community centre and roped in some volunteers which was great, we had a laugh whilst doing it and it all felt very sociable – it was much quicker too. But with Covid 19 and lockdown the July issue was back to my kitchen table and I suspect the copy you're reading was packed in my kitchen too.

Any final words?

I may be biased, but for me the two most important parts of the HSA are the local groups and the members. Without the sabs there is nothing – and we can't sab as effectively without the support of our members.

HSA Membership Officer, "Without the sabs there is nothing - and we can't sab as effectively without the support of our members."



MUNSTER HUNT SABS

Munster Hunt Saboteurs are a new saboteur group based in the southernmost province of Ireland. The group is made up of numerous experienced saboteurs as well as many fresh faces to hunt sabbing. The new group was very much needed in the area as Munster is the largest Irish province, covering 24,675 square km and holds the majority of Irish hunts in its six counties, including the oldest Irish hunt to still exist today.

While this season may be Munster's first official season, it is not the first-time hunts in Munster have been faced. We've been made aware of locals sabbing hunts as far back as the early 1900's. Last season all Irish Hunt Sabs fell under the title, Hunt Saboteurs Ireland. But since the Irish population have seen hit report after hit report, there's been no shortage of newcomers. So much so that the influx of new potential saboteurs looking to get involved has led to Hunt Saboteurs Ireland dividing into three groups: Connacht, Leinster and Munster Hunt Saboteurs with each group taking on hunts in the province they call home.

"Last season we took on a couple of well-known Munster hunts such as Scarteen "Black and Tans" Hunt and The Union Hunt. During these hits we were faced with a lot of aggression and sometimes violence, so we are well equipped for more to come in the coming season."



Munster sabs our looking for traps, County Cork



A welcome sign

Black and Tans

Last season we took on a couple of well-known Munster hunts such as Scarteen "Black and Tans" Hunt and The Union Hunt. During these hits we were faced with a lot of aggression and sometimes violence, so we are well equipped for more to come in the coming season. With Munster being the province with the most hunts in Ireland and many of them being underground we've been doing a lot of investigation into many of the smaller hunts and have found through countless tip offs that Munster has a lot of unregistered hunts, mainly foot beagles or harriers.

Lockdown Action

Whilst at first we were worried that the recent pandemic would set us back, we were determined to do something whilst also respecting lockdown regulations. We brainstormed ways we could fundraise for equipment, fuel and our own Land Rover in the future but ultimately, we felt the need to do more in the moment.



Just a few of the attendees at the inaugural Munster Hunt Sabs Skillshare

This led to us questioning how we could keep other animals as safe as possible whilst we stayed at home. So we started posting online about leaving out water for the fur-covered locals, posting to make the public aware that drones were being used to locate dogs who could potentially be abducted, as well as asking the public to not strim their hedges before September due to hedgehog breeding season.

Birdwatch Ireland: Fox Killers

We also searched online for businesses placing traps, hiring hunters etc. We found a post by The National Animal Rights Association informing the public that BirdWatch Ireland had announced that they would be murdering foxes to protect a bird colony. We organised a place the foxes could call a permanent home, in their natural habitat, away from hunters as well as arranging transport for the foxes as a last resort plan. But as foxes are territorial animals and murdering them only leads to new foxes moving into the same area, we reached out to Birdwatch Ireland in hopes we could prevent the bird's deaths and the fox's deaths as well as them being relocated.

At first, it looked like they were still planning to kill the foxes even with all of our advice and offers to help so we continued to email back and forth and post online to make the public aware. The more we encouraged the public to contact BirdWatch Ireland to express their concerns the more they were willing to consider other options. After many emails it came to a victory. BirdWatch Ireland assured us that they would implement scare lights immediately, along with new fencing and more patrolling of the area. Which was a massive victory for us and the foxes! It just goes to show that if anyone out there has a reason preventing them from entering the field as a saboteur, they can work do wonders from their home!

Sabbing Skillshare

After the lockdown restrictions were lifted, our group met up for a skillshare to prepare us all for the upcoming season. This was where we discussed the basics of a hit and shared our tactics. Most of our tactics are the same as the ones made famous by UK sabs. But we've also applied our own unique tactics. For example, the use of hiking whistles which double as an extra distraction for the hounds and in case of emergency if sabs are lost and can't contact the others. The rest of our tactics are the ones made famous by UK sabs such as gizmos, horns, voice calls and whips. However, we've learned from our experiences with the other Irish sab groups that all hunts are different and we need to adapt ourselves to every new scenario. Especially with smaller unregulated hunts who don't typically behave like the registered hunts. So, we will use that knowledge to our advantage. As well as that, with our presence being felt last year, a lot of hunts have gone underground, leaving us to rely heavily on tip offs and kennel locations. Needless to say, Munster Hunt Saboteurs are a determined bunch of folks who are willing to adapt to whatever the Munster hunts throw our way in order to prevent deaths taking place!


Sabbing the infamous Scarteen Hunt – the "Black and Tans"

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

Cumbria Hunt Sabs blog
www.cumbrianhuntsabs.blogspot.com
Exploring the history of Cumbria Hunt Sabs (1987 -2015) written by those involved.

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



CONTACTING THE HOWL TEAM?



To submit articles, photos, or anything else for publication, please contact the Editor on: howl@huntsabs.org.uk

Please note that the copy deadlines for Group News and all other HOWL content are 1st January, 1st May and 1st September every year.

To inform us of a change of address, request HOWL as a PDF, or anything else to do with your subscription, please contact the Membership Officer on: membership@huntsabs.org.uk

RUN WITH THE FOX

Help save lives after you've gone





Making a will is the only way to ensure that your wishes are followed after you've gone. If you can, please consider leaving a legacy gift to the HSA after you have taken care of your loved ones.



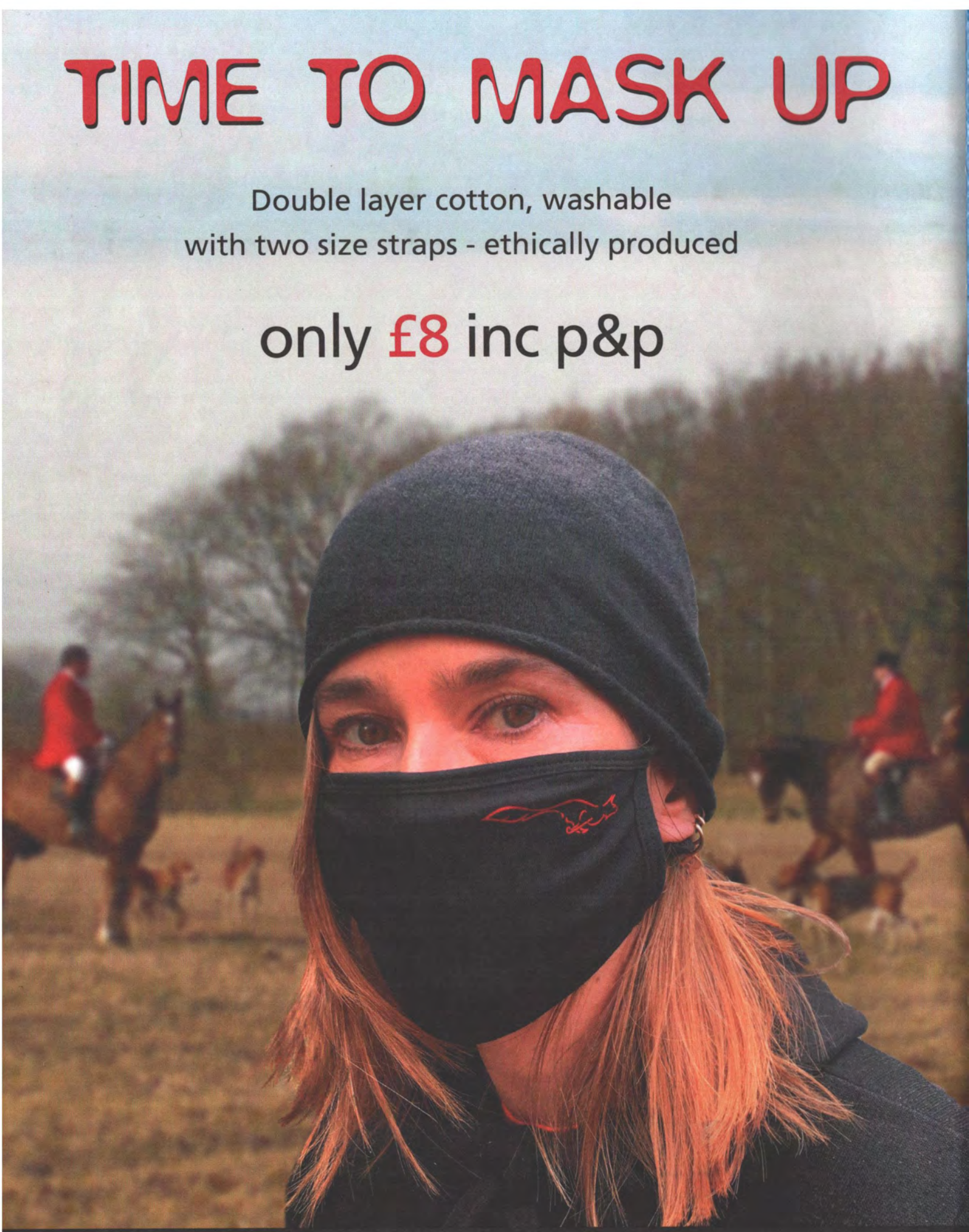
With no paid staff, you can be sure that your gift to the HSA will be used where it is needed most - out in the killing fields.
The HSA strongly recommends that you use a solicitor when you make or update your will.

If you would also like to discuss leaving a gift or legacy to the HSA please contact our Treasurer on: office@huntsabs.org.uk

TIME TO MASK UP

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with two size straps - ethically produced

only £8 inc p&p



www.huntsabs.org.uk