The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association Autumn 2021 (Issue 127) £2 (free to members)

HOWL

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

Sabotage:

HSA book launch

Mink Hunts Sabotaged

A Question of Class?

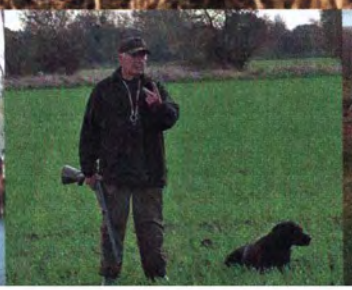
Hankinson Guilty!

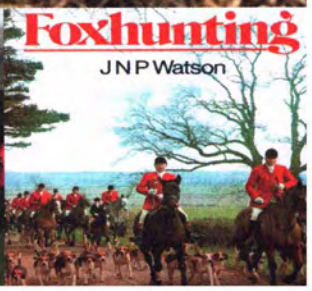
Hunting Literature

The Cheshire Set

Cub Hunting









LETTER FROM THE CHAIR:

As we come out of Covid restrictions the HSA and hunt sab groups have emerged stronger and more prepared than ever to take on hunting in all its forms. Unlike other organisations, who have complained about the lack of donations and support during the lockdown, the HSA failed to have that experience which led me to wonder why.

I could only conclude that our activist based, and democratic structure, is the reason why. As long-term supporters will be aware, the HSA has no paid staff or offices. All work is done by the committee or other volunteers who receive nothing but expenses, allowing us to run campaigns and give out grants to our local affiliated groups without massive overheads. But the difference between us and other animal rights groups is greater still. We have a fully functioning democracy with any member of one year able to stand for a voting committee position; whereas other groups are run by 'trustees' who are invited or selected by the current committee, creating an insular and self-supporting 'old boys' network'; blunting any hope of a radical agenda. The other main difference is that we remain a membership-led organisation, while other groups moved to a donation-based system actively discouraging people to join as members and be actively involved with the organisation. Thus, we have stayed a radical and strong force and we know our ability to damage hunting lies in our people, who are dedicated to ending hunting.

Of course, while under Covid we have not rested on our laurels. We released the now infamous Hunting Office video, which in October saw the conviction of Master of Foxhounds Association (MFHA) director Mark Hankinson. He was found guilty of encouraging others to break the Hunting Act following a three-day trial at Westminster Magistrates Court.



photo: © www.stacywoolhousephotography.weebly.com

The HSA was supplied the video anonymously as the only national anti-hunting organisation with the guts to get it out into the public domain. After many weeks of trying to get the national media involved (which failed due to their legal departments) we published it ourselves, on YouTube and our website. We were instantly under the threat of legal action, our YouTube postings of the video was repeatedly taken down, and we had to move our website hosting to Iceland to prevent other take down notices. We of course weathered this storm knowing the damage this video would do, and the national media eventually picked up the story, safe in the knowledge that it was in the public domain and their legal risk was removed. Additionally, we copied the video onto DVD and sent it to every police force in the country.

The court ruling is a massive blow to the hunting community proving our claims that they have been subverting the Hunting Act at the highest level since its very inception. It could potentially be used in hunting cases of the future. More importantly, it will affect the decisions of landowners when deciding if they will allow 'trail hunting' on their land. As one supporter wrote to me, *'thankfully we have the HSA who never give in to threats from hunters, thank you from all the hunted animals.'*

Fast approaching is 2023, the 60th anniversary of the creation of the HSA, which makes us still the longest surviving direct-action organisation in the world; having endured violence and oppression from hunters, various governments, and police forces. We are still here and still fighting for the animals. As you will see later in this issue, we are just about to publish a much-needed history of the HSA, celebrating the continued fight against blood sports throughout the decades. Pre-order your copy today.

Finally, a big thanks to those sabs who made it out to the moors on the 'Inglorious 12th'; gone are the days when shooters can expect to venture out on this date and not be opposed.

Hunt Saboteurs Association: the only anti-hunt organisation that matters.

www.huntsabs.org.uk
find us on:

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

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

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

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

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

EDITORIAL

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

I write just after the momentous 'guilty' verdict against Masters of Foxhounds Association Director, Mark Hankinson. Of course, hunt sabs realised that trail hunting was a 'sham' within weeks of the Hunting Act passing in 2005, but it's good that the courts have finally caught up with us. Whether its promoting veganism, opposing grouse shooting or exposing trail hunting, the HSA is always decades ahead of the game.

Away from the courts and national media, sab spent much of the summer out on the riverbanks, recording an incredibly successful season against the mink and otter hunts. This form of illegal hunting went underground years ago and it is impossible to overstate just how hard it is to track them down. Yet despite the many challenges, sabs have intervened to save lives week in, week out. At least one - and possibly two - such hunts have recently gone under as a direct result of sab pressure.

There was similar success on the grouse moors. With the shooters surrendering the entire Peak District to the HSA on the Inglorious Twelfth, sabs instead converged on the North Yorks Moors - and promptly shut down three massive shoots!

We have features on these campaigns and many other great articles besides - our thanks to all contributors.

All the best for the coming season,

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 2022.

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.

SABOTAGE



THE STORY OF THE HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION

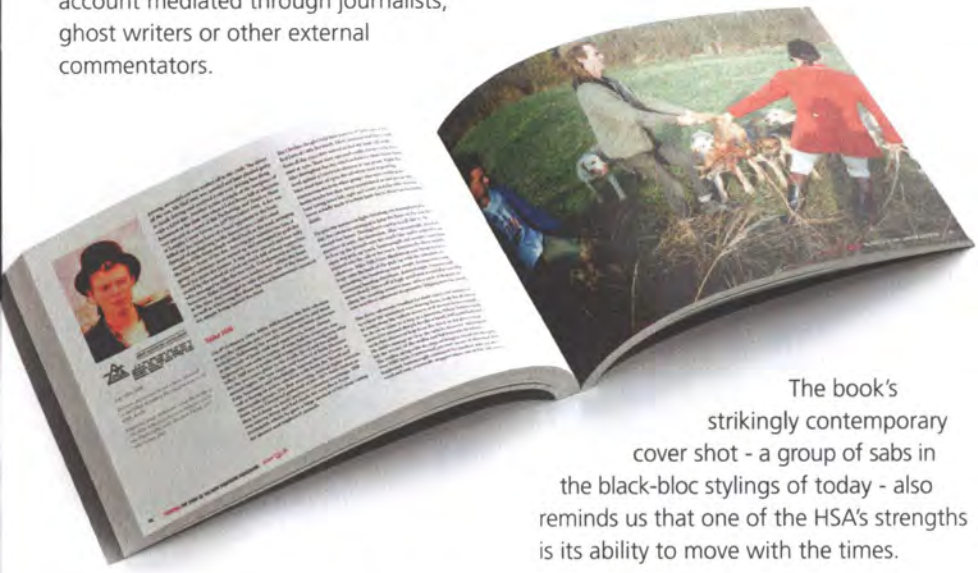
HOWL's Literary Reviewer Courtenay Tracy gets her hands on a preview copy of the HSA's new book.

"Someone should write a history of the HSA" is a common, if slightly unhelpful, suggestion frequently received here at HOWL Towers. But it's easy to understand why it's always been left to someone else. Where do you start? How do you cover almost sixty years of direct action? And what about the fact that the HSA - which has always prioritised deeds over words - has few written records to draw on? Well, it turns out 'someone' was prepared to step up to this awesome task after all. Dazza Scott, scourge of the Denton Lacey Foxhounds, is an experienced sab who has worked with several different groups around the country. He knows our movement well.





Like all the best historians, Dazza has gone back to the primary sources. He has interviewed key people, unearthed archive material, and, of course, scoured every issue of HOWL magazine. The result is an authentic history of sabbing as told by hunt saboteurs - not a sanitised account mediated through journalists, ghost writers or other external commentators.



It is stunningly successful. The text is detailed and thorough but presented in an accessible and readable style. The book is richly illustrated with over three hundred photographs, many of which have never been published before. Dazza has done a particularly good job of tracking down older photos. In today's media-saturated world it is easy to forget that cameras were a rarity in the sabbing field before the 2000s. Instead of mouldering away in cupboards or lofts, these images now vividly recall a time when hunting was all-powerful, and sabs were really up against it.

This is not to say that *Sabotage* simply wallows in the past. Far from it: the book analyses very recent events, with the infamous Hunting Office 'smokescreen' webinars providing an optimistic closing section!

The book's strikingly contemporary cover shot - a group of sabs in the black-bloc stylings of today - also reminds us that one of the HSA's strengths is its ability to move with the times.

But, ultimately, a book about sabbing will only work if it engages the emotions. Again, *Sabotage* succeeds spectacularly. Reading it recalls the highs and lows that hunt sabs everywhere will recognise: from raging anger at the injustice and cruelty of hunting to the incredible feeling of knowing you and your mates have saved a hunted animal's life.

The book's structure fits perfectly with its glossy 'coffee-table' presentation. Chapters covering each decade of the HSA's history are interleaved with sections looking at individual bloodsports - stag hunting, otter hunting, shooting and so on - in depth.

This means the book works just as well whether it is read cover-to-cover or simply dipped into over time.

Sabotage's historical overview is also a sobering reminder of what sabs have had to face over the years: ceaseless hunt violence, police corruption, state oppression (including the 1986 Public Order Act and the 1994 Criminal Justice Act, which both very specifically targeted sabs) and, of course, the never-forgotten deaths of Mike Hill and Tom Worby. It is this social history aspect that makes the book of interest way beyond the anti-hunt movement. Countless campaign groups have come and gone or - even worse - been absorbed into the very system they tried to change.

They could all learn a lot from the HSA's integrity and its simple philosophy of uncompromising, grassroots direct action.

Sabotage is a dazzling achievement by Dazza Scott - do yourself a favour and get a copy!

As with everything about the HSA, it's not just what we do, it's the way that we do it! Every aspect of this mammoth undertaking - the years of research, the writing, and the design - were done for free by Dazza and his graphic designer. The book has therefore cost the HSA nothing but printing - and, as you would expect, all profits from its sale will be ploughed straight back into the fight against all bloodsports.

To order your copy please visit the HSA web shop today: www.huntsabs.org.uk/shop/

THE BIG 'ANTI' PROBLEM IN CHESHIRE

The notoriously violent and well-supported Cheshire Hunts had it easy for a few years after the ban. That all started to change in late 2016...

After several years without a sab group in Cheshire, with Cheshire Monitors alone coping with the three foxhunts and one beagle pack who hunt the county, two sabs Sid and Dom, who at the time were members of other groups but lived in Cheshire, decided that their home county needed their own sab presence too, so Cheshire Hunt Saboteurs were born. For the first few weeks of our debut season, we joined friends from other groups, particularly North Wales and Lancashire sabs at their local hunts while we recruited people to join us.

Our first sab was a meet of the Cheshire Forest on December 10th 2016. Accompanied by North Wales and Lancashire sabs, we were met with a mixture of shock and confusion from huntsman Andrew German and our debut was a success. The day also brought unexpected media attention when a certain PC Claire Ford of Cheshire Constabulary arrived on the back of a terrierman's quad, then used her position to eject sabs from the field for her friends with the hunt.

We visited the Cheshire Hunt (aka the Hounds) for the last two meets of the season. That didn't go so well. The first visit saw a fox killed while the hunt were still at the meet, despite the best efforts of sab;, and the second, also the last outing for departing huntsman Shayne Francis, was when we experienced the violence this hunt were known for with sabs assaulted and ridden down by quads courtesy of their thuggish support and terriermen. Sadly for them we were undeterred.

2017 was also the year the cull began in Cheshire. We worked alongside many groups and individuals to protect our badgers, with some joining our ranks as the cull ended and the hunting season began. That season's recruits also included some amazing runners who did a fantastic job of keeping up with the hounds. A great advantage in Cheshire's flat landscapes and high hedges.
We spent most of the season sabbing the Forest. Especially after they killed in front of us on Boxing Day then happily toasted the kill as we carried the poor fox away in two separate pieces.

We sabbed them at every opportunity, bringing chaos to their days. As the season drew to a close, the Forest were a shadow of their former selves, with ever shrinking field numbers and huntsman German an unpopular man in Cheshire, once complaining about little old ladies screaming 'murderer' at him while he was doing his supermarket shop!



Cheshire hunts are known for their violence

The last meeting of the season saw us join Cheshire Monitors who'd already witnessed a kill, at a Hounds meet after a no show from the Forest. With us that day were the guys who would soon become the Stockport Monitors. The hunt realised that their usual violence wasn't an option and decided on an early pack up. In fact, they were so eager to leave that huntsman Jake Oppenheim didn't even bother to retrieve his prize horn which had somehow gone missing during the day! Hehe!

The following season saw the campaign against hunting burgeon in Cheshire. A new group who we've worked closely with since, Cheshire Against Blood Sports (CABS) were formed.

Many foxes were helped to safety that year, but all the focus was on the deaths



"We will not tolerate hunt saboteurs in Cheshire." Hmmm

of five foxes in the presence of sabs and monitors which brought outrage both locally and nationally.

Locals who had once said nothing began to speak out. From tip offs and landowners telling us exactly where the hunts were not allowed access, to locals organising a big protest outside police HQ to demand action against the hunts, voices were getting louder and the hunts began to lose land. We'd gone from being a thorn in their sides to a great big tree trunk. The hunts made the most outlandish accusations against us with the police (as we've seen since the Hunting Act became law) happy to take them at their word, such was their desperation to get rid of us (especially the Stockport Monitors.)

The PCC demanded a review into the policing of the hunts in Cheshire. Meetings were held that summer between us and the top brass where we were assured we'd be treated with the same consideration as the hunts and our complaints acted upon, which turned out to be more hot air.

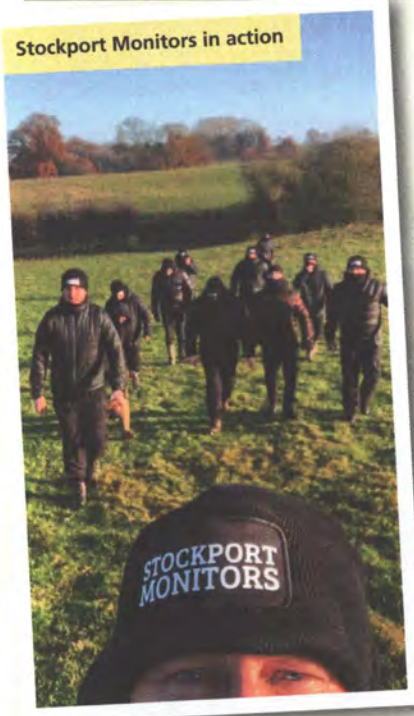
Season 2019/20 saw the emergence (we now know from the leaked correspondence) of the big Hunting Office plan to stop us in our tracks, with the arrival of the "safety officers."

"Locals who had once said nothing began to speak out. From tip offs and landowners telling us exactly where the hunts were not allowed access, to locals organising a big protest outside police HQ to demand action against the hunts, voices were getting louder and the hunts began to lose land."

"On, on, on!" ...sabs take control of the pack!



Stockport Monitors in action



As the minutes stated, they were at the meets of the Wynnstay and Cheshire Hounds, at first being ferried around by Richard Tyacke, a star of the leaked webinars. Making themselves unaccountable by refusing to tell us who their employers were and not displaying their SIA badges, they subjected us to verbal and physical abuse, throwing us off public footpaths, dragging us off stiles, damaging equipment and so on, which the police either ignored or justified whenever we made a complaint. So, we dealt with them our own way. Some of us would keep them occupied at their various 'pinch points' freeing up others to get after the hunts for example. By the end of the season, they'd disappeared.

So that brings us to last season. Before the lockdown brought an early end, we were sabbing the Forest (back to hunting foxes again with new huntsman Tom Wright after a season following trails and being monitored) and Wynnstay. The Hounds say they're now following trails but we're yet to be convinced after seeing the leaked smokescreen revelations.

As for us, seeing the hunting top brass talk about "the big anti problem in Cheshire" and giving us top priority for their various schemes to get rid of sabs, we reckon we must be doing something right.

We've had a lot of help along the way from many good friends for which we're ever grateful.

During our first season, the police told us that they would not tolerate hunt saboteurs in Cheshire. Well, we're still here and we're here to stay.

Cheshire sabs refuse to back down



MEET YOUR COMMITTEE: GROUP SUPPORT 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.



Albany Bassets get sabbed

How did you get involved in sabbing and animal rights?

It was around 14 years ago or so when I accidently bumped into a beagle pack whilst walking my dog at Ivinghoe Beacon, near Tring. I saw a group of people with a large number of dogs running in the distance and I figured it must be a hunt. I knew very little about hunting at the time but being an animal lover, I wanted to find out what was going on. I eventually caught up with the pack, who I later found out were the Trinity Foot Beagles, and the staff member that I spoke to was very polite and told me that they were not hunting animals but were following a trail. I carried on with my walk but was left wanting to find out more.

Do you remember your first sab? What happened?

After my accidental meeting with the Trinity Foot Beagles, I got more interested in animal rights related pages on Facebook and soon came across hunt sab groups. Eventually I messaged one group and asked to join, and I was given the meet up place for the next sab. I don't really remember exactly what happened during my sab but I do remember the drive there and almost talking myself out of it. I also recall getting into the back of the Land Rover and feeling car sick from the distinct lack of comfort in the back! But most importantly the feeling of being a part of a fantastic group of people who were doing something about the cruelty that was going on in the countryside.

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

I remember asking a committee member in our group if the HSA needed any help with anything but not really having any expectations on what, if anything, they would want help with. Instead it was suggested that I apply to join the committee. I felt I had some useful skills and I had a bit of time on my hands to devote to a project so I thought why not!

Always a warm welcome for sabs



Tell us about the role of HSA Group Support Officer.

My role was historically known as the Contacts Officer, but it was recently renamed to Groups Support Officer as the HSA wanted it to be clearer that this role can be the first point of contact within the HSA that a group goes to with any help they need. My day-to-day tasks involve passing on intelligence to groups, putting new sabs in touch with groups, processing grant requests for groups and helping set up new groups.

What's the best thing about the role?

I love seeing our network of groups expand so helping new groups to get up and running is without doubt the best thing.

And the worst?

Just because we're all sabs doesn't mean everyone always gets on and sometimes me and the committee have to work through some really tricky issues that groups have.

Any final words?

Being on the committee is a great experience and I would encourage other sabs to apply to join if they think they have something to offer the HSA

Sabs stop cruelty in the countryside



sabgroupnews

Bath Hunt Sabs

bathhuntsabs@yahoo.co.uk
Find us on

With cub hunting starting up again and mink hunts in full swing Bath sabs are finally back to seeing each other in person.

Not to say we had much down time when there was less hunting going on. We've kept a close eye on the updates about huntsman Johnathon Seed and his criminal behaviour, thank god we helped stop him becoming police and crime commissioner! We've also got a campaign with Mendip sabs against Banes Council using contractors like Penny's Demolition, who fund fox hunting by the Mendip Farmer's Hunt.

We've been preparing for the badger cull in the Avon zones, designing new merch (thanks to our in-house art geniuses), organising training days, training new drivers and recruiting in general! We are chuffed to be working with our mates Wiltshire sabs, who are newly affiliated - it's going to be a good year for us. That said, we had a financial wobble after a large Landy repair bill, so if you can donate to us we would really appreciate it!



Stand-off at the Courtenay Tracy





This counts as conservation on the grouse moors

Beds & Bucks Hunt Sabs

bedsandbuckshuntsabs@riseup.net
ko-fi.com/bedsbuckshuntsabs
Find us on

With the Covid situation getting under control we've been active over the summer and prepping for the new season. We were called out to rescue a badger which although still very feisty, unfortunately had to be put down due to its injuries. We also had a very successful operation against a shooting estate which had been illegally persecuting the local wildlife.

We've kept a close eye on our local mink hound pack but we think they may have folded as there has been no action over the summer, this will of course be great news if proven to be true.

Like many other groups we joined the hugely successful Grouse Shoot sab for the Inglorious 12th and had a great day saving lives and annoying the shooters!

With the Oakley's new huntsman and new whip we're confident of having lots of fun and games when the season starts for cubbing. We know they are only just hanging on, let's see if we can push them over the edge!

Berkshire Hunt Sabs

huntsabs@riseup.net
Find us on

This summer Berkshire Hunt Sabs have been keeping ourselves busy by fundraising for the season ahead and we held stalls at the brand-new vegan festival VFEST UK in Berkshire. Due to Covid regulations it was a smaller event than expected but it still had a great turn out and we met some fantastic people and had great interactions with our fellow festival goers. Next year it will be even bigger and better, and we hope to be invited back again. We also went back to the vegan fair in Newbury and had a great response as usual. Some of our sabs have been assisting with other causes including attending Camp Beagle. We're now getting ready for the badger cull and sett surveying in our area as well as preparing for the start of the hunting season.



Berkshire sabs fight the cull



Vintage banner gets an airing at Camp Beagle

Brighton Hunt Sabs

brightonhuntsaboteurs@riseup.net
Find us on

Along with keeping our local hunts the C&H and Southdown & Eridge company we've also been disrupting shoots on Brighton and Hove council land and the cops have been quick to target us for messing with their masters.

These animal abusers are not only interested in murdering wildlife but also use guns and hired thugs to threaten anyone who challenges them. The commercial game shoot is closely connected to Sussex police who are more than happy to do their bidding. The police have been consistently heavy handed in their policing of sabs but have admitted in court that they 'forgot' to investigate an assault on a sab, despite witnessing it first-hand! A few sabs will be on trial at Brighton magistrates on the 6th and 7th of December. Come support!

At the time of writing, it's the end of August and the last harvests are coming in, this means early mornings for sabs across the country as we go about stopping the disgusting act of cubbing. We'd like to wish luck to everyone and hope to see you in the field soon

Calder Valley Hunt Sabs

caldervalleysabs@gmail.com
Find us on

Despite the fox and hare hunting seasons not having started yet, there's still been plenty to do up here. We've taken numerous trips with our comrades from other groups to shut down mink hunts, including one particularly eventful day that was soured a little by the party poopers who are Leicestershire Police's Armed Response Unit!

We were also very proud to have played our part in the mass sabotage of the 'Glorious Twelfth', providing eyes and ears across a wide area to locate shooters. This wasn't the only sab of a grouse shoot we've been involved in. however, as only a matter of weeks afterwards news reached us that a small group of shooters were just about to begin a day's killing on a small syndicate-run moor in our valley. The alarm was raised, and we scrambled together a crew to shut down these ne'er-do-wells. The victory was made just that bit sweeter by the fact that these were the same bunch who were sabotaged during 2020's 'Glorious Twelfth'!


Glum faces all round

Live around Calderdale and want to join us saving lives? Drop us a line!

Bristol Hunt Sabs

bristolhuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk
Find us on

After an odd season cut short due to coronavirus lockdowns, summer saw us turn our attention to our local mink hunts; with three visits to the Courtenay Tracy Hounds and one visit to the Three Counties Mink Hounds.

We started in May, attending a meet of the CTH in Dorset, where their supporters got violent after we spoiled their fun but ultimately their attempts were fruitless, and they went back to the kennels.

We followed this up with a visit to the TCMH in Neen Sollars, Shropshire a fortnight after, which saw a well-known supporter so frustrated that we turned up that he lashed out at a local thinking they were a sab!

Our next outing was in late June, to another meet of the Courtenay Tracy at Midford near Bath, where we got them last September.


A prick with a stick at the TCMH

Late August saw our final outing of Summer, with a visit to CTH in north Wiltshire. The police did their best to facilitate the hunt, but we made sure that no hunting could happen on our watch.

Otherwise, we've been busy sorting new merch and getting ready for the start of cubbing and the badger cull.

Cirencester Illegal Hunt Watch

cihwatch@gmail.com
Find us on


Badger sett blocked by farmer illegally – a wildlife crime!

We've been busy in the field checking badger setts. Farmers ploughing over them, locals blocking setts and sadly poisoned badgers are amongst our findings. Gloucestershire Rural Crime Team responded but badger persecution is never ending. With building developments increasing and 2,350 new houses in Cirencester, wildlife is at risk. Also, the badger cull has started for the 9th year with thousands predicted to be shot again. Working with Stroud Against the Badger Cull we will be out in the field.

We tried to protect Geronimo the Alpaca, sadly killed by DEFRA claiming he has TB. We all know the test is flawed and this case has huge implications for the never-ending slaughter of cows, badgers, and camelids.

Cub hunting has started, so we will be out sabbing. Predictably, Rhys Matcham, Beaufort Whipper-in recently was found not guilty of illegal hunting whilst with the Quorn. The video of that day is clear but still the case was dropped as there was no reasonable chance of conviction. We will be out with cameras filming him and his partners in crime as no foxes are safe around them.

In July, we had a successful day at The Vale Wildlife Hospital despite, raising awareness. Thanks for your support!



Cumbria helped out on the Inglorious Twelfth!

Cumbria Hunt Sabs

cumbriahuntsabs@gmail.com
Find us on

The last few months have been quiet for our group. We have been spending our time checking badger setts and the local countryside for wildlife persecution, which sadly hasn't been hard to find. This is something we intend to spend a lot more time doing in the future as it's so simple, yet so effective.

One of our sabs made the trip over the border into Yorkshire to help with the Glorious Twelfth. We felt it was one of the most successful grouse sabs for a long while and we were proud to be part of such an amazing team. Members of our group have also been off rescuing and rehoming animals and doing beach cleans.

We are now starting to get ready for the badger cull and the new season - get involved!

Devon County Hunt Sabs

www.devoncountysabs.wordpress.com/
devoncountysabs@riseup.net
07717 473305
Find us on

Summertime is no break for sabs in Devon. We have several supplementary cull zones now so are busy keeping an eye on our setts and protecting badgers.

Illegal practices at shooting estates have been targeted too, in our eyes no animal is "VERMIN" and if gamekeepers continue to persecute our wildlife to protect their gamebirds, we will act. The vastness of the pheasant shooting industry is truly shocking, but we have continued to take action against it.


Brave DC sabs secured a conviction against Eggesford scum

With the cubbing season looming we will be out in full force protecting our foxes as soon as the time comes.

Derby Hunt Sabs

www.derbysabs.org
derby_sabs@outlook.com
Find us on

Derby Hunt Saboteurs have been hard at work checking on badger setts in the Derbyshire Cull zone. Despite last year's cull there are still some healthy active setts in Derbyshire, which sabs will be protecting this year.

We have joined up with other groups to sab mink hunts. The Dove Valley, Northern Counties, and Border Counties Mink Hounds have all received attention.

Former huntsmen for the High Peak Harriers, Philip Watts, was prosecuted over an incident which saw a terrified calf and its mother chased by hounds. The incident that happened last November in Hurdlow near Buxton, in which hunt sabs filmed. Watts changed his plea to Guilty. In court the defence tried to place blame on an "inexperienced trail layer".

We joined up with other sabs from across the country to sab Glorious 12th. However, when we heard that a shoot had rescheduled to the 17th from 12th to avoid being sabbed, we decided it would be rude not to pay a visit and packed them up as well.

Bonus shoot sabbed on the extremely Inglorious 17th



We've been able show solidarity with other Animal Rights campaigns such as Animal Rebellion and Camp Beagle by offering arrestee support.

East Herts Hunt Sabs

easthertssabs@gmail.com
Find us on

If we thought we'd get a rest before the new season we were very much mistaken and haven't stopped these last few months, checking vulnerable areas where wildlife has been previously persecuted and surveying new areas used by different hunts.

Puckeridge huntsman looks back in anger



We've found rusty snares with kinks that are no longer legal and dealt with badger setts that have been annihilated or have more branches stuffed down their holes than you'd find on a tree. We located another artificial earth with breeze block entrance. These earths consist of two lengths of pipes leading to a covered underground chamber so nasty law-breaking scumbags can encourage foxes into the area, they're also used to house orphaned cubs highlighting that 'trail hunting' is just a smokescreen for their illegal activities!

Some of us attended Camp Beagle on several occasions to campaign against MBR Acres, the breeding facility for beagles for toxicology testing (not medical science) and it's time this was banned.

It's going to be a busy season with cub hunting and the badger cull. If you'd like to join us, please contact us via our FB page and let us know if you get any information on our local hunts – thank you.



Kent & Sussex Minkhounds huntsman with all his mates

East Kent Hunt Sabs

www.kenthuntsabs.wordpress.com
eastkenthuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk
Find us on

So, with the Covid crisis still in place, it wasn't the usual summer for Kent Hunt Sabs! We lost the ability to fundraise due to all the Vegan festivals being cancelled, but luckily, we had some money in the coffers, so any repairs to vehicles and equipment have been done, and we are ready for action!

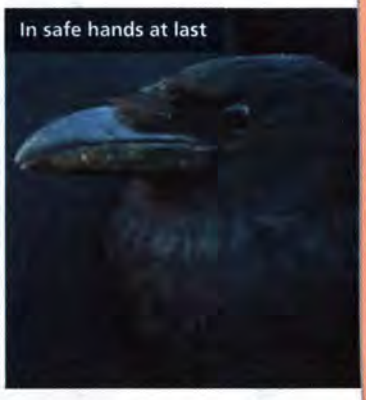
Sabs spent a lot of time alongside other Southeast groups searching at weekends for the infamously slippery KENT & SUSSEX MINKHOUNDS. On Sunday 11th July, sabs were rewarded by the hound van leaving the kennels - they took us a fair way before we lost them. Fortunately for us, someone else had seen the hound van out near Edenbridge. As sabs arrived it was obvious that illegal hunting was already taking place - but true to form - they packed up and zoomed off back to the kennels. More lives saved by direct action.

Other than that, we have been involved in various other campaigns (such the CAMP BEAGLE demonstrations), and a local campaign to stop EDF killing foxes at Dungeness.

So, with lots of interest from new people, we are all set to go. When the hunters get up at the crack of dawn for cub hunting soon in Kent...guess what? We will be waiting for them!

East Yorkshire Coast Hunt Sabs

eastyorkshirecoasthuntsab@gmail.com
Find us on



In safe hands at last

It is with eager anticipation EYCHS announce that we secured a zoom meeting with the Labour members of Scarborough Borough Council after meeting with Rich Maw, councillor for Scarborough

Rich was keen for a meeting with one of our saboteurs after several communications about the legality of trail hunting around Scarborough.

26 council members of Scarborough and Whitby Constituency Labour Party had the opportunity firstly to speak to Damien Readman Hunt master for the Derwent Hunt who voiced his views on conservation and how they "always operated within the law" (stop laughing at the back!). Our representative then had the same opportunity to answer several questions and speak of their experiences in the field. Rich took these findings to the council meeting who voted unanimously that the next Labour manifesto should include a ban on trail hunting on public land. He has also written to the shadow Environment Secretary to check the national policy which centres around the word "reckless."

With the council's help we feel hopeful about the future of restricted hunting around Scarborough.

Glasgow Hunt Sabs

glasgowhuntsabs@riseup.net
Find us on

With Covid restrictions ending the last hunting season early, we welcomed a break (and some lie-in's!) but soon got back to business getting our group into a stronger position ready for the start of cubbing, which is just days away as we write this report.

We've had a lot of interest from new sabs over the past few months, so Glasgow decided to take the baton and host a sab training camp. Over 20 new sabs came together for a few days to learn the ins and outs of sabbing. The weekend was a success, and it was also the first time we got to meet the newly formed Borders Hunt Sabs, who will be turning their attention to a handful of hunts not used to having a sab presence.

Our local hunt, the L&R Foxhounds, have a new huntsman who was last seen as whipper-in for the Atherstone Hunt. I think we all know how that ended. What with a growing army of sabs, let's see if he lasts longer than a season? Place bets now...



Class of 2021 graduate from sab training camp

Guildford Hunt Sabs

07306362010
paypal.me/GuildfordSabs
Find us on

Over the summer Guildford sabs have been monitoring and gathering intelligence on the Wealden Mink Hounds, who have been found twice in the last 10 years. With no tip-offs, days, or times of hunts and with 900 sq miles to cover it's tough. The hard work paid off in July when they were found on the River Adur. We had two Guildford sabs and one West Sussex sab. One sab was mobile in a vehicle while two sabs followed the hunt.

When we got to the hunt, they were trying to get something out of a tree. They stopped when we got there, and we started the walk of shame. The man with a spade was asked what he was hunting "rabbit" he said. "Well, you're going to need a bigger spade to dig out a rabbit from a warren they're huge. You need a JCB." No reply.

We did not see any tree-climbing aquatic rabbits. Two hours later they packed up with no more animals hunted. South Coast sabs then turned up and we made sure the hunt went home.

Our land rover is ready for the fox hunting season and so are we.



Wealden Minkhounds run into Guilford sabs!

Herefordshire Hunt Sabs

Ko-fi.com/herefordshirehuntsabs
herefordshirehuntsabs@gmail.com
Find us on

We have spent the summer checking setts in preparation for the sixth consecutive year of badger culling in Herefordshire.

In June Garry Williams, Ross Harriers ex-huntsman, pleaded guilty in court to charges of assault with beating against two of our sabs. This successful prosecution should reinforce the message that violence against sabs is never acceptable.


Keeping tabs on the cub killers

Local hunts have been amalgamating - the North Herefordshire with the North Ledbury to become the Herefordshire Hunt, and the Cotwsold Vale with the remnants of the disgraced South Herefordshire (tbh they're all a disgrace). The latter means the Ledbury lose a massive area of country and will return to hunting just two days per week. The Clifton on Teme FH have been advertising for their second huntsman in two years. All this is bad news for the hunts involved as it illustrates their struggle to survive.

Thanks to everyone who continues to support us with donations or information and a special mention to our fundraiser, currently organising a private event to cover the costs of our vehicle's MOT.

NEW GROUP! Jorvik Hunt Sabs

jorvikhuntsabs@protonmail.com
www.ko-fi.com/jorvikhuntsabs
Find us on



Jorvik have the best logo ever!

Jorvik Hunt Sabs have had a busy few months since the formation of our group. We've been focussing on the Northern Counties Mink Hounds which proved successful as they had so many consecutive failed hunts due to sab presence from many groups who pulled together to stop them.

We've also been out in the supplementary badger cull zones keeping an eye out for anything suspicious as well as noting and checking on the activities of the setts. Whilst surveying local setts we've come across people shooting pigeons which we've shut down as well as attending the Glorious 12th and shutting down a mass shoot that day.

We've been surveying local areas for traps, snares, and suspicious activities to ensure wildlife has a better chance of survival.

Lastly, we've been preparing for cubbing by sourcing a vehicle, spreading awareness of our group, and designing merchandise which is available to purchase my messaging us on Facebook and Instagram.

Thank you to all the sab groups who have supported us in our start-up. We're humbled by the support that's been shown to us and are looking forward to working with you all in the upcoming season.

Hertfordshire Hunt Sabs

hertfordshire-hunt-saboteurs@riseup.net
Find us on


Mutilated magpie

The countryside clear-up continues - giving wildlife a second chance of freedom. Corvids live to fly another day - one magpie we found with their wings cut (illegal as well as barbaric) so was taken to an animal sanctuary to recover. We've been active rescuing and protecting more urban birds as well, particularly pigeons.

We haven't stopped there. We have been at MBR Acres including camping out. Keeping a presence nonstop for the 40-day strong campaign to stop beagles being used for vivisection.

We've also been busy sett surveying areas old and new in preparation for the upcoming/ ongoing badger cull.

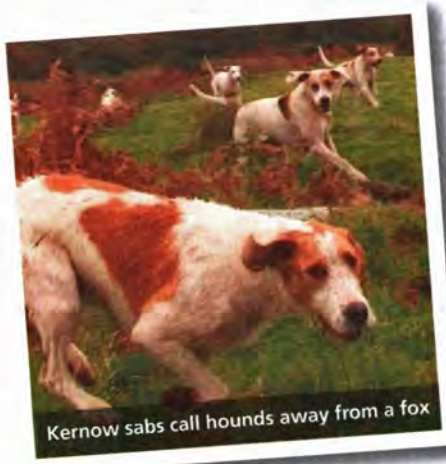
Now our attention turns back to the Cottesmore Hunt, so we've been getting our vehicles ready for the new season.

Kernow Hunt Sabs

kernowhuntsabs@riseup.net
www.kernowsabsmerch.weebly.com
Find us on

Over the summer the Kernow team have been continuing with sett surveying and rescuing injured animals. One of these was a poor little female pheasant that was trapped in the wire of a pheasant pen. She was taken to a friendly vet but sadly her injuries were too bad and had to be put to sleep. So many creatures suffer and die at the hands of this disgusting "industry".

The team will be out and about as usual for the next round of badger culling which covers a huge area of Cornwall already and has been going since 2016. Hoping that no new zones have been added. Cubbing has also started so we will be covering that whenever possible.


Kernow sabs call hounds away from a fox

Lancaster Hunt Sabs

Find us on

Lancashire Sabs have been keeping in touch but have been quiet during the lockdown period. Sett surveying and earth mapping has taken place and we were out in several vehicles on the 12th August in the Forest of Bowland, looking for shoots. They were conspicuous by their absence, however late in the day a local bumpkin let slip that there were royals shooting. Sometime afterwards we came across a "royal" vehicle crawling along a road looking up on the hillsides of the Abbeystead Estate

We're gearing up to get back into the fells and restrict the vile activities of the Lake District's criminal fox hunts, we feel sure they'll be pleased to see us.



Lancashire sabs: hunting down the fell packs

Liverpool Hunt Sabs

www.liverpoolsabs.bigcartel.com/

Find us on



Sab surveys a badger sett

After a long and much needed off-season, we've been preparing ourselves and raising funds for the upcoming badger cull in Cheshire. We're back in action now, which means we've been keeping a close eye on our protected setts. All signs point to the badgers proving their resilient nature once again as their setts are looking as active and healthy.

Unfortunately, with this comes some harder news to face. We are disappointed but unphased by the issuing of supplementary licenses around the areas of Cheshire that should be in their last year of culling this year – essentially meaning they can kill badgers for most of the year now. However, this has not deterred us from dedicating our time to protecting our furry friends out in the field, albeit throughout some of our usual time off.

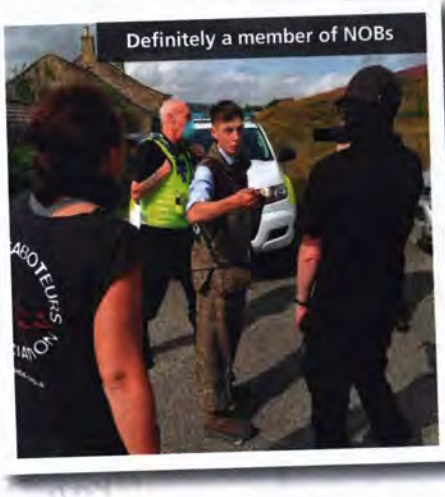
We will be extra vigilant this year, but our solidarity is always with the rest of us throughout the country fighting to protect animals. Until we reunite this winter, we'd like to thank the rest of our supporters who make everything we do possible. Every effort - no matter how big or small - is another step towards saving our wildlife.

Lincoln Hunt Sabs

lincolnhuntsaboteurs@gmail.com
www.ko-fi.com/lincssabs
Find us on

Lincoln have been busy little beavers. We've been quietly going about our business sabbing (alongside other groups) at the NCMH, the DVMH, the Inglorious 12th.

We have demo'd with our friends Peterborough at the Festival of Hunting and several times at Camp Beagle.



Definitely a member of NOBs

We have had a fundraising stall at the Great Northern Gathering and we even managed to catch up with Ferocious Dog who signed a Lincoln Sabs T shirt for auctioning off to raise funds as our vehicle was on death row but with the help of Sheffield Sabs it's got a new lease of life (Big love to the Sheff).

But no update can go without mentioning our stripy friends. Surveying the Lincs cull zone has been in operation since last year and continues on a weekly basis. The cull directors have been outed on social media and the locals haven't taken kindly to them (many of their own staff refuse to be involved). But don't forget those holes, always look into those holes, because once in a while a beautiful stripey face may just look back.

Fuck the cull! Love and peace, LHS

Manchester Hunt Sabs

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



Manchester sabs enjoy a very slow stroll

It's been a busy summer for us Manc sabs. As soon as the fox hunting season ended, we turned our attention to the elusive mink hunts.

Along with other northern groups we managed to sab both the Northern Counties & Dove Valley Mink Hounds multiple times. These hunts are not sabbed often, so it has been rewarding to see them have an awful season due to us gate-crashing their meets.

We have also found time to attend the many protests held over summer against the Barlow Hunt Fun Rides, the proposed Rabbit Farm in Atlow, and MBR Acres. Some of our sabs have been staying at Camp Beagle since the very beginning and it has been great to see the nationwide support for that campaign.

As usual, we were out in force on August 12th to make sure that the start of the grouse shooting season got off to a glorious start ... for the grouse! Three shoots were sabbed that day and we had a lovely time hanging out with some of sab friends from down south.

Cubbing season and the Badger Cull are almost upon us, so we are gearing up for some long days and early starts!

Melbourne Hunt Sabs (Australia)

Find us on
MelbourneHuntSabs@protonmail.com

With Covid causing trouble for everyone things have been quiet on the fox hunting side.


Just let them live in peace

However, the fate of the Heritage Kangaroos is still in the balance. With Melbourne Hunt Saboteurs alongside multiple team's keeping a close eye on things.

The Office of the Conservation Regulator (OCR) has recently released correspondence concerning the Heritage Golf and Country Club's claim that they will be relocating the kangaroos. The OCR confirmed that to date there has been NO approval given to the club to wilfully disturb, herd or relocate the kangaroos. Any such behaviour would be illegal.

Kangaroo relocation by experts is a fantastic option in some circumstances, but it is an unnecessary interference for the free-ranging kangaroos at Heritage. The kangaroos have lived harmoniously with the golf club for over twenty years, and they should simply be left alone.

We are watching as always.

Norfolk & Suffolk Hunt Sabs

ns.sabs@yahoo.co.uk
www.nshuntsabs.wordpress.com
Find us on

There's not a lot to say since our last group news. We've helped local comrades in Norwich and Suffolk and Essex sab groups with successful sabs of the Eastern Counties Mink Hounds a few times. And as I write, we've spent the early mornings of the past week or so watching a couple of local hunts in case they head out cubbing. We caught the Waveney Harriers cubbing for the first time on the morning of 31st August. They've returned to using a terrierman and have introduced even more fox hounds into the pack. Are they turning into a fully-fledged fox hunt? Something we're keeping a close eye on. Meanwhile, along with many other sab and other animal rights groups from around the country, we've had a regular presence at the campaign to shut down MBR Acres in Huntingdon, which breeds beagles for the vivisection industry.


A warm welcome at the Waveney

Please find us on all major social media platforms - including TikTok and doantions at Paypal - using the 'nshuntsabs' name. We've also started using a website for when Facebook inevitably crashes and burns: nshuntsabs.wordpress.com.

Mendip Hunt Sabs

07501192235
mendiphuntsabs@gmail.com
https://mendiphuntsabs.wordpress.com
Find us on

It's been a busy summer for Mendip Sabs. As well as badger sett surveying and monitoring, we've been keeping an eye on scummy areas. One sab had a horrendous experience finding an ailing magpie decoy bird in an illegally-set Larsen trap. The poor bird died in the sabs arms before they even made it back to their car.

We held a protest at the Mendip Farmers Hunt fun ride fundraising event to let everyone attending know that their money was funding illegal hunting and that the blood of innocent animals was on their hands. It took pressure from us for the organisers to even admit that the event was raising money for the hunt.


Mendip sabs hit the cub hunters

Mink hunts have received our fullest attention, and we've joined other sab groups at Courteney Tracy, Three Counties, Dove Valley and Border Counties meets. We also joined multiple groups to sab the Glorious 12th.

As we write, the badger cull and cub hunting have just begun. Our sabs helped seven foxes escape the MFH hounds in one morning, and we've joined other groups sabbing the BSV and MFH cubbing meets. We start as we mean to go on.

North Dorset Hunt Sabs

northdorsethuntsabs@activist.com
PayPal.me/NorthDorsetHuntSabsth Dorset
Find us on

We have had a very busy summer in Dorset. From spring, we were keeping an eye on local game keepers and their various contraptions. We have also been checking our vulnerable setts in the run up to North Dorset's 8th year in the badger.

Summer brought the start of the Mink (Otter) Hunting season. Considering they are a very secretive hunt, we've been very happy to have located and sabbed the Courtenay Tracy on several occasions so far this year. We have also been busy attending local fairs. Fundraising, spreading awareness and recruiting for the upcoming season. Some of the money we have raised will be going towards body cams to help protect our sabs in the field and gain evidence of illegal activity.

We have been unfortunate enough to have already witness one kill by the BSV but know our presence has saved many more foxes. The first three weeks of the season has already seen us sab 5 different hunts at 9 separate meets. We are always on the lookout for new team members, regardless of age or physical ability, so please get in touch if you want to get involved.


Hounds respond to North Dorset sabs



Standing firm against the shooters

North London Hunt Sabs

Find us on
07539 385224
northlondonhuntsabs@gmail.com

The summer has seen us continue our fundraising, recruitment, outreach, lobbying of public authorities and training. The public are very happy with our work and their generous donations have enabled us to purchase a much needed second 4x4 while leaving us with a good cash runway for the season ahead.

Thursday 12th August saw us take a crew of eight up to the Yorkshire Dales when we joined forces with other saboteur groups from across the country to stop several driven grouse shoots.

Saturday 28th August saw us hit the cubbing season running when we caught up with the Essex with Farmers & Union Hunt who were hunting fox cubs just outside Chelmsford. Upon our arrival they immediately stopped hunting and headed back to the kennels while the terrier men gifted us some much-appreciated background evidence we shall be putting to good use. This was the EF's first cubbing outing of the season. It lasted 15 minutes.

NLHS are now a year old. We appreciate the comradeship and support we have received from the other groups we work with and the HSA. Onwards!

Northants Hunt Sabs

07585186219
www.paypal.me/ENABS
Find us on

With cubbing just around the corner, we're not just sat twiddling our thumbs.



'V for Victory' over the Cottesmore Hunt

Our sabs have been recruiting, training, fundraising and sorting every detail out to the best standard we can.

Over the summer, we have been busy continuing with our fun ride demonstrations against the Cottesmore Hunt and have had great success educating locals of where their ticket money is actually going directly to fund their illegal fox hunting. As a result, we have watched the numbers of the Cottesmore's fun rides drop dramatically since we started holding demonstrations at these events last summer.

The bully boys of the hunt are looking more and more depressed, despite trying to show off their new quad bike (Covid grant?).

We have also been regularly supporting the Free the MBR Beagles Campaign over in Huntingdon keeping that close bond between Hunt Saboteurs and anti-vivisection campaigners that has always been strong in the animal rights movement. All in all, we are all over the Cottesmore. wherever they go, we shall be watching. This is a long campaign, but rest assured we will not back down.

North Wales Hunt Sabs

northdorsethuntsabs@activist.com
PayPal.me/NorthDorsetHuntSabs
Find us on

It's been our most full-on summer for targeting mink/otter hunts with the Borders Counties Mink Hounds being our prime target. Joined by other local groups, we kennel sat at the Wynnstay hunt kennels where the BCMH were kept. A few weeks of them staying in because of our presence was good work, then just as things were getting quiet, we were tipped off the BCMH would be hosting a joint meet with the Dove Valley Mink Hounds. Numerous groups turned up and caught them on the River Dee... they immediately packed up! It was a first for us to see a mink/otter hunt on the river.

Despite our vehicle being off the road a few of our sabs still managed to get out on the Glorious 12th to shut down the opening of the grouse season.

A campaign we've not been able to report on until recently is the campaign against illegal gill nets and illegal cockling we've been sabbing all summer. But you'll be hearing much more on that very soon!

We've just started cubbing season although our local hunts seem to be very nervous with us around. It's as if they have something to hide.



Caring sabs return cockles to the sea

Norwich Hunt Sabs

Norwichsabs@protonmail.com
Find us on

This summer, with fox and hare hunts taking a break after a season that barely happened, we have focused on our local mink hunt. You can read about this on the HSA website. We managed to track down the Eastern Counties Minkhounds a few times with friends from Suffolk/Essex Hunt Sabs, North London Hunt Sabs and Norfolk/Suffolk Hunt Sabs. This was the usual protracted affair that involved a fair bit of time looking for the hunt, followed by an embarrassingly short (for the hunt, that is) clash. By clash, of course, we mean following all three of them back to the meet and watching them pack up.



Every member of the Eastern Counties Minkhounds. And two sabs.

Just before writing this, we have also had our first official outing of the season, with a trip to the Essex Foxhounds at their kennels. The hunt packed up on sight, which is a) unlike them and b) a nice start to the season!

We look forward to getting back out again and watching from the side lines as hunting continues to fade into irrelevance. As always please get in touch if you are local to Norwich and would like to get involved.

Nottingham Hunt Sabs

huntsabs@hotmail.com
https://ko-fi.com/nottshuntsabs
Find us on

Our summer continued as planned – sett checking, mink sabbing and the Glorious 12th. And what a glorious day it was! Sabs from around the country converged on the Yorkshire Dales to save wildlife and ruin the day for those trying to kill them. It was, as always, an inspiring day.


Dee-lightful scenes as the Dove Valley MH are caught mid-river!

Pausing only long enough to swap maps and charge radios the following Saturday saw us in North Wales of all places where we were expecting to find the Border Counties Mink Hounds. We were delighted to discover it was a joint meet with our local pack, the Dove Valley, who quickly discovered their two-hour journey to kill wildlife was in vain as they scurried back to kennels after sabs had chased them back and fore across the River Dee.

Throughout the summer we've also had teams out surveying and sett checking ahead of the badger cull in early September. They didn't hit their target in the vale last year and we're determined to stop them this year. We'll also be keeping an eye out for the Belvoir who have started cubbing in the same area.

Peterborough Hunt Sabs

peterboroughhuntsabs@gmail.com
ko-fi.com/PBsabs
Find us on


Peterborough sabs occupy the shooting butts!

Since our last update, Peterborough saw the annual "festival of hunting", and also the now annual "protest against the festival of hunting". This was one of the best attended in recent years and was buoyed by visitors from the nearby 'Camp Beagle' near Huntingdon. As usual the angry faces of hunters stuck in a traffic jam while pointlessly shouting and waving two fingers inside their stuffy cars made the journey all worth it, thanks are due to all who attended.

Peterborough joined forces with many other sab groups in the national action against grouse shooting on the 12th of August. The waves of hunt sabs advancing towards several shoots on the day was too much both the frustrated shotgun owners and the local police to handle. As usual both the threats and pleadings of the shoots amounted to nothing, and a highly successful day was had by hunt sabs in the Yorkshire Dales.

By the time this edition is published, we will be stuck into sabbing autumn cub hunting – we would like to give thanks to both our supporters and to our secret insider informants for keeping us going.

Peak District Hunt Sabs

peakdistrictsabs@protonmail.com
pdhs.bigcartel.com
Find us on


Peak District sabs sit down on the job

Peak District Hunt Sabs had our first Glorious 12th, joining up with many sab groups and shutting down shoots all over the Yorkshire moors. We were involved in bringing a large shoot to a halt and holding them up for a good hour and half until the police arrived. We did inform the police that the shoot could, at any time, have driven around us and that we were just resting after a nice long walk. How strange that they chose to hang out with us.

The police had a buddy up with the shoot for a while and tried telling us that we must let them go home. After taking our rest, we felt obliged to help the shoot and the police exit the moors safely and guided them...very slowly...off the moors. On our drive back home, we swear we saw some pixies running along the stone walls, whatever were they doing?

We have visited a couple of mink hunts, what a grumpy lot they are. Some of our members have been busy with the badger vaccination program and we're gearing up for the badger cull and fox cubbing. Our group is growing nicely, and we have a lovely diverse team. See you all out there in the field.

Reading Hunt Sabs

07432643728
readinghuntsabs@protonmail.com
Find us on

Reading Sabs have been getting ourselves ready for the season ahead, which following the lifting of covid restrictions we anticipate hunts will be even more bloodthirsty than usual.

Leading up to the season, we've been checking for, and dealing with illegal traps as we find them.

Cub hunting is just about to start in the South and we've been up early kennel watching our local hunts.



Reading sabs keep watch



Hunt saboteurs: the thin black line

Severn Vale Hunt Sabs

PayPal.me/severnvalesabs
Find us on

In May we targeted the Courtenay Tracy Hounds (a mink & otter hunt) in the Dorset hamlet of Toller Fratrum. The hunt were predictably unhappy to see sabs and turned violent but were soon sent packing.

Two weeks later we were back by the riverside at Neen Sollars, Shropshire to stop the Three Counties Minkhounds who also got a bit tetchy, chasing sabs with sticks and turning on a local mistaking her for a sab and stealing her phone.

In late June we again ran into the Courtenay Tracy at Midford on the outskirts of Bath, who unsurprisingly were a bit cross to see dozens of sabs descending upon them. It was all too much for some hunt members who tried strangling sabs.

Our next day out was to sabotage grouse shoots on the 'Glorious 12th' - three driven shoots were shut down on the Yorkshire Dales.

Our most recent sab (as we go to press) was in August to again mess up the plans of the Courtenay Tracy, this time at Great Somerford in Wiltshire at the invitation of an ex-Tory Councillor. Unable to kill wildlife they called in local police to assist, but this didn't go too well for them either and they were soon heading home.

South Cambs Hunt Sabs

schuntsabs@riseup.net
Find us on

Our sabs have been busy monitoring and protecting wildlife over the last few months including checking local badger setts, protecting swans and other water life during the 'bumps' (the annual rowing-fest on Cambridge waterways) and helping with pigeon rescues.

We have had a continued presence at Camp Beagle in North Cambridgeshire to protest against the horrendous practice of breeding beagles for toxicity testing in laboratories.

In July we supported our friends up North by attending a very successful demonstration and protest the Barlow Hunt terrier show. In August we attended the annual Animal Rights March in London and continue to regularly take part in local protests against the PCSC Bill with KillTheBill Cambridge.



Gathering intell

We are now seriously gearing up for the season starting with local cub hunting sabotage.

We dedicate this report to our friend and fellow South Cambs sab, Leo, who sadly lost her battle with cancer in July.

Sheffield Hunt Sabs

sheffieldhuntsaboteurs@riseup.net
Find us on

This summer we've been upsetting mink hunters, with efforts from many northern sabs concentrated on the Northern Counties, who never left the meet when we arrived. The Dove Valley got about 10 minutes down the River Dee before we appeared for a paddle, and to send them home.



Master of Minkhounds: all dressed up, but nowhere to go

Watts, the ex-High Peak huntsman has been dragged through the court system, and found guilty of livestock worrying, after his hounds chased a calf last season, despite Welford attempting to defend him.

The Inglorious 12th was a great success, with 3 shoots stopped, as sabs flocked across the moor in a show of force against the cruel and outdated shooting industry. The even-less-glorious 17th found us out again, this time with only 4 field sabs who responded to a last-minute tip-off and packed up a 50 person grouse shoot quadruple-handedly.

Between the moors and the rivers, we had time to run a stall at a vegan fair, host an online raffle, and pop over for some demos outside to Barlow kennels, reminding them to expect us for cubbing. We're also gearing up for Derbyshire's second year of the badger cull, bring on the late nights, and pre-dawn starts of autumn.

South Coast Hunt Sabs

Find us on

Well, here we go again! Cubbing has begun and we are out at stupid O'clock looking for scumbags in our local areas.

Prior to the start of this revolting practice, we have found the Kent & Sussex Mink Hounds and packed them up swiftly.

Several members of our group joined in with a right to roam mass trespass on the South Downs. If trespass is made a criminal offence this will make it even harder to expose wildlife abuse by hunt scum and other animal abusers.

We volunteered at a local animal sanctuary, assisting with work to support the incredibly hard-working staff there. Some of us also visited Camp Beagle to oppose the horrific use of beagles in vivisection and stand in solidarity with fellow activists.

Our drone operator has been getting lots of practice in too.

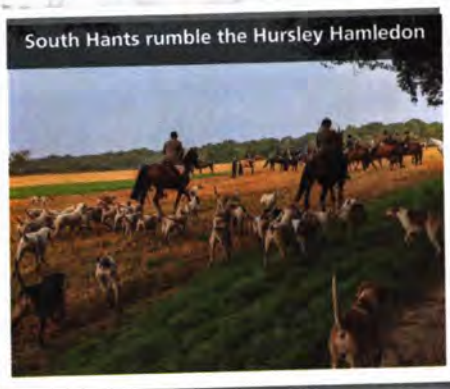
We continue to give our all...South Coast Hunt Sabs remain small but mighty and muddy.



Kent & Sussex Mink Hounds huntsman looking a bit shifty

South Hampshire Hunt Sabs

southhantshuntsabs@gmail.com
Find us on


South Hants rumble the Hursley Hamledon

We have not been very active over the last few months as most are still catching up on our lives after the last year of lockdowns. We are currently getting ready to start sabotaging local hunts cubbing and. as the main season approaches, we will publish a fundraiser for a group vehicle, so keep an eye on our socials for that. In other news, one of our sabs has been assisting Foxagone with monitoring a local badger sett, as they work on it due to affecting buildings it's under. See you in the field!


Gotcha! Mink hunters can't hide from SES...

Suffolk and Essex Hunt Sabs

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

We've been focusing on tracking down the elusive Eastern Counties Mink Hunt. They got off to a late start this year, not holding their first meet until June. Thanks to information received, we were able to track them down to their meet at Dairy Farm in Semer where we found a grand total of four hunters, with three of these being the master, the huntsman and the whipper-in! It seems trudging through rivers with a handful of sad ancient men and women just isn't very popular anymore.

We also managed to follow the huntsman all the way to a joint meet with the Essex Hunt at Ford End in Essex. When he saw us, the huntsman promptly turned tail and went straight back to the kennels! The only way the ECMH can muster up any support is to tag along with other hunts after their hound exercise. We will keep up the pressure on the ECMH until we finally see them pack up for good, which can't be much longer if this season has been anything to go by.

We are currently fundraising for a second vehicle, so please send us a donation if you can spare it.

South Wales Hunt Sabs

southwaleshuntsabs@gmail.com
Find us on


Crazed mink hunter screams abuse at sab

We've had a busy summer – mostly sett-checking in preparation for the badger cull, due to start within days, and working with other sab groups looking for mink hunts.

The Banwen Miners FH have struggled on through the summer trying to raise money with fun rides and showjumping events. Given their previous for trespass, we checked they had permission to be on the land (they frequently didn't), that their sponsors knew they were fundraising for hunting (they frequently didn't). So, we made sure that every person and their dog knew the truth – several funders then pulled out and landowners barred them from holding events.

We and other groups enjoyed a successful trip to Yorkshire on 12th August, sabbing the first day of the grouse shooting season. The sight of cross tweedy faces and safe grouse always makes us smile.

We ended the summer with another set of very cross faces - the Courtenay Tracy otter/mink hounds. They spent the day unable to hunt due to being surrounded by sabs and had to retreat to the set of Downton Abbey to sulk, before heading home.

And now? It's badger badger badger time. Thank you to all our supporters.

Staffordshire Hunt Sabs

Find us on Find us on



North Staffs Open Day proved popular... with sabs

With more normal activity returning, we have been busy preparing for a return to normal sabbing of our three main hunts, the Albrighton, North Staffordshire, and the Meynell.

We are also gearing up for yet another autumn of bloody badger slaughter on Staffordshire farms, and getting equipment, vehicles, and intel ready for the fray, working with local people opposed to the cull.

We found time to help surprise the Director General of the National Trust on a visit to the Long Mynd in Shropshire to protest the NT's blind eye for illegal hunting on their land, to protest at the North Staffs kennels on their open day with much support from passing drivers, and to join the protest at puppy imports at Manchester airport. We have also been at the protests outside the Cambridgeshire puppy farm and against the devastation of habitat by HS2 in Staffordshire.

We are looking forwards to joining old comrades in the field this season, after the bizarre last one, adding to the pressure on local hunts.

Surrey Hunt Sabs

https://linktr.ee/SurreyHuntSabs
Find us on

After a quiet last season because of Covid we made ourselves busy in the spring and summer with a few trips out on countryside clean-up duty.

The Surrey Union Hunt who we know categorically are in financial trouble arranged two hunt rides to raise funds. We enjoyed disrupting both by moving signs and sending riders in the wrong directions all of which was a bit of a laugh!



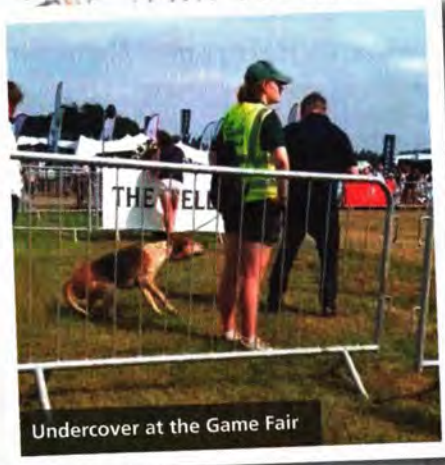
There's no dead grouse in that basket. Wonder why?

The highlight over the last few months was to send seven of our sabs to join a hundred others on the Glorious 12th in North Yorkshire where together we stopped three grouse shoots. We dedicated the day to an old friend of North Downs Sabs, Alun Davies, who sadly passed away recently. Alun was active against hunts and vivisection in the Early 80s. On the way back, we joined the protest at Camp Beagle to lend our support.

We are more than ready for the new season as recently through the generosity of the national HSA we purchased a new vehicle to accompany our trusty Landrover in our campaign against the Surrey Union and other local hunts.

Three Counties Hunt Sabs

www.network23.org/3CHuntSabs
07891 639803
threecountiessabs@live.co.uk
Find us on

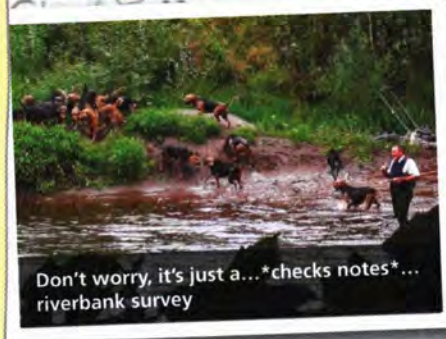


Undercover at the Game Fair

As we write we are just heading into September and the start of the cub hunting season. We have already been fighting against the badger cull in areas of Gloucestershire since June as well as raising awareness, alongside Gloucestershire Badger Office, of the farce that is the DEFRA bTB policy. The latest victim of the farce is Geronimo the alpaca, who has helped to further highlight issues in the way that the government deal with the disease.

We attended the Game Fair in Warwickshire in July, where we were able to gain intelligence and watch as hounds were dragged about in the heat to show them off to attendees. One of our sabs was also gave a talk on the badger cull to thousands of people at Vegan Camp Out, which was well-received. Our usual activities have carried on as well, sweeping the countryside for various acts of wildlife persecution and animals injured by human recklessness and intentional acts of cruelty.

We're working on several projects and carrying on writing articles and educational resources for those wishing to learn more about hunting and related abuses. Thanks, as always, to our amazing followers for their continued support.



Don't worry, it's just a...*checks notes*... riverbank survey

West Midlands Hunt Sabs

Phone: 07767620767
westmidlandhuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk
https://network23.org/westmidshuntsabs/
Find us on

We've had a busy summer preparing for a second year of badger culling in Warwickshire with the possibility of a second new zone.

August has seen us back out in the fields. First, we joined other sabs groups sabbing a joint meet of the Border Counties Mink Hounds and the Dove Valley Mink Hounds. On arriving the huntsman was blatantly hunting the hounds on the other side of the riverbank. We wasted no time and waded across the waist high river to reach the other side where we caught up with huntsman and hounds. Upon seeing us he took the hounds back across the river back to the meet.

We also sabbed our first meet of the Warwickshire Hunt where a lone foot sab had to stop the hounds and turn them back from hunting a fox on land owned by Tory town councillor John Colgrave.

West Sussex Hunt Sabs

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

Where did that summer go? We have had an incredibly busy few months, joining up with other groups almost every weekend since early April watching out for the mink hunters. Knowing they were being watched, the Wealden Mink Hunt started to leave the kennels earlier and earlier to avoid us, but we still caught them out. We've been helping with wildlife rescues and the care of injured animals and birds, while also checking the countryside for illegally set traps and snares. We were at Brighton Lush in August to help promote and get signatures for the petition to make free running snares illegal for trapping wildlife, please have a look and add your name – petition.parliament.uk/petitions/581402.



Sabs send the Wealden Mink Hounds packing

The start of the badger cull is imminent and at the time of writing this, the cub hunting season has started so we are out before dawn keeping an eye out for illegal fox hunting. We have not been able to do much fundraising over the last eighteen months, which helps to keep us on the road protecting our wildlife, any donations will be gratefully received.

West Yorkshire Hunt Sabs

ko-fi.com/westyorkshirehuntsaboteurs
gogetfunding.com/wy-vehicle-fund/
wysabs@riseup.net
Find us on

What a busy summer! We've had our sabs out on mink hunts, demos, and the Inglorious 12th (with a bit of sett surveying in Derbyshire in between).

After interrupting their meets with our northern sab pals early in the season, the Northern Counties MH became shy and dedicated followers were seen on social media claiming the hunt was in crisis - success!


That shooting convoy is going nowhere!

In June, we went to Batley to stand up to Tommy Robinson's far-right rabble. There was fantastic attendance from the West Yorkshire community, but no Tommy on the day. A few of his followers showed up, but they were blocked from view by our flags and drowned out by the sound of hunting horns. Our sabs have also been attending demos against vivisection and further witnessed the lengths cops will go to protect animal abusers.

Finally, we enjoyed a very Inglorious Twelfth when we visited shoots on the North York Moors with sab groups from across the UK. Just a stroll across the heather (and a footpath equivalent to the M25 according to one local PCSO) and their bloodthirsty fun was ruined!

Weymouth Animal Rights

weymouthanimalrights@protonmail.com
www.weymouthanimalrights.co.uk
https://ko-fi.com/weymouthanimalrights
Find us on


WAR sabs save Fantastic Mr Fox!

The South Dorset Hunt is on its knees. With nearly all the directors resigning back in March, not only did they take prime South Dorset hunting land away, but also extremely important funding. With huntsman Tobias Coles having resigned (did he jump or was he pushed?), the South Dorset were left with pretty much no staff, horses and dogs! Enter the new Kennel Hand, Simon 'shaky' Hand, ex-huntsman for the Oakley Hunt. With 'cubbing' season fast approaching, still no new huntsman....

Enter Captain Mark Pearson, ex-huntsman of the South Dorset from at least 15 years ago!! Will the Captain be able to save the sinking South Dorset ship, or has this hunt gone well and truly over its tipping point...we won't stop pushing them until they are sunk!

We have also had some of our members taking part in the ongoing protest against the MBR Beagles Huntingdon, attended local vegan fayres, to talk to the public and raise funds. With the Badger Cull underway we are also keeping an eye on as many vulnerable setts as we can.

Joining with friends from other groups, we have sabbed the Courtenay Tracy Mink Hounds with great success. Now our main focus is on the barbaric 'sport'of cubbing'. Stay Safe and FSU.

NEW GROUP!
Wiltshire Hunt Sabs

https://www.paypal.me/wiltshirehuntsabs
https://ko-fi.com/wiltshirehuntsaboteurs
Find us on

A mixture of brand-new talent and more experienced sabs from across the generations have revitalised the newly-affiliated Wiltshire group We are busy trying to pin down cubbing meets for our local packs who are extremely elusive this season.

We have organised two successful hits on our local otterhounds, the Courtney Tracey, with the support of our regional comrades. To say they were unimpressed by our intervention would be to put it mildly. We have come across some blatantly illegal poisoning which had orphaned some innocent hoglings, and snares which have been appropriately dealt with and in one case, we hope, being pursued by the police.

Talking of the police, we helped our comrades in Bath Hunt Sabs, in ensuring the crapulent, drink driver Jonathon Seed failed in becoming Wiltshire police commissioner, exposing all of Seedy's sordid past evils, both behind the scenes as well as raising awareness on the streets and on social media. Although sadly the bumpkin vote still went to the Tory candidate the independent did creep up on them as a result of Seed's dodgy activity.

None of this comes cheap! We have already had to organise Landrover repairs, give us a paw?


The face of defeat: it's been a miserable summer for mink hunters

HUNT SABOTAGE - CLASS WAR OR ANIMAL LIBERATION?



By Pablo of West Yorkshire Hunt Saboteurs

One of the main arguments put forward by those who seek to discredit the anti-hunting movement is that it is not based upon any desire to help animals, but rather a form of class warfare.

Whilst I can imagine many easier ways of symbolically taking on the class system than waking up at 6am on a cold, miserable November morning to chase a pack of hounds around waterlogged beet fields, they remain firm in their belief that harassing a bunch of toffs is our only intent. These same people will also go on to argue that hunting is not a rich man's sport; a position which surely contradicts their original argument. This leaves them with a peculiar conundrum - to sustain this argument, they must accept that attempts to sabotage it are based firmly in an animal rights context.

Whilst it is undeniable that the upper classes are deeply rooted in this bloodsport, many of the Northern packs have foundations in the working-class communities of the area.



Hunters, shooters...we sab them all

Whilst Lord Middleton's hunt has always been able to count members of the peerage amongst its followers, in the 18th century many villages in the West Riding of Yorkshire had their own foot packs. These trencher-fed packs (hounds were kept at individuals houses and farms and brought together on a hunting day) were run by committees and over time became more centralised and formalised, with the use of kennels to house the hounds and a subscription system for followers.

Many of these village packs amalgamated and became some of the hunts we know today. Beagle packs, in particular, flourished, as the lack of need to own a hunting horse allowed more people to join in on foot. This also extended to fox hunts, with the Pennine Foxhounds being a rare example of a foxhunting foot pack.

The Holme Valley and Colne Valley beagle packs (now amalgamated) are a good example. In these two valleys, water-powered textile mills sprang forth from the industrial revolution to become the main industry of the area, and many of the workers employed were followers of the hunt – so much so that when hunting Saturdays there were often joint meets of the two packs with one hunting in the morning before a break for lunch at the pub where the morning workers would meet them, before the second pack hunted the afternoon.

The aforementioned Pennine FH were formed in the early sixties as a foot pack offering a 'fox control service' for the hill farmers along the length of the Pennines. Formed by and for the working class, even as of this year, whilst the Beaufort Hunt held their show on the Duke and Duchess' estate, the Pennine FH held their puppy show at a local cricket club. Both the Holme & Colne Valley Beagles and the Pennine FH share this tradition, along with 'christening' the puppies in the local dialect. Whilst both these packs and the Beaufort participate in the same type of bloodsports the resemblances end there. Indeed, the situation is much the same in Wales, with packs like the Eryri having a similar background story.



Northern beagle pack gets sabbed



"You horrible, filthy, common scum!"

"Whilst it is undeniable that the upper classes are deeply rooted in this bloodsport, many of the Northern packs have foundations in the working-class communities of the area."

Of course, the hierarchies of the class system made their way into the more traditional hunts. Whilst the masters most often come from the upper classes, the hunt staff themselves are all 'workers' – the huntsmen, whippers-in and the terrier men are all employed by the hunt.

Whilst some huntsmen are fairly well off, many are 'amateur' with no pay from the hunt, tied into service as it provides a place to live, and therefore find themselves in precarious living situations. Lee Peters, ex-huntsman and master of the Ross Harriers, lived with his family in a porta-cabin next to the kennels.

Richard Tyacke in his youth hunted the Stowe Beagles, spent his gap year whipping-in without pay for the Sinnington Hunt, and did three years at Cirencester. Whilst many hunts were keen to take him on, none were offering financial support until he arrived at the Eglinton in Scotland, where they provided a flat and a £4000 annual salary. Tim Coulson, whilst master and huntsman of the Bedale from 2016, took on extra work as a lorry driver. It isn't unheard of for masters to have to combine hunting with their regular work, with many combining running a farm with running their pack.

When deciding on which meet to attend, sabs don't consider the income of the hunt staff and supporters. Up here in West Yorkshire, visits have been made to the Holme & Colne Valley in the same season as the Middleton. When being attacked by the Badsworth & Bramham Moor's terrier men, we don't pause to consider whether we are successfully dismantling the class system.

Peterborough sabs, whose usual targets include the Thurlow and the Fitzwilliam, sabbed gangs of hare coursers twice last season. Classism remains entrenched in the mind of a lot of hunt supporters however and, coincidentally, on my first sab said BBMH terrier men scoffed at the idea of us living in flats with no gardens. In a video of a joint meet between the Crawley & Horsham and the Chiddingfold in 2012, a farmer shouts at sabs to get off the land, referring to them as "horrible, common, filthy scum", and uses a slur often thrown at the travelling community.

Be it a high bag grouse shoot or a rough pigeon shoot, a Duke's hunt or a working-class foot pack, hunt sabotage remains firmly an attempt to save animals' lives using direct action. We acknowledge the fact that the hunting of animals is something which traverses class boundaries, and it makes no difference to us when we intervene. We sab because it is the most effective way of shutting down bloodsports in the act and will continue to do so no matter the socioeconomic backgrounds of those taking part.



Holme & Colne Valley Beagles

INGRID NEWKIRK:
CAUSING GOOD TROUBLE



The pre-vegan Newkirk who apologizes to the horses she rode

The PETA Founder and Global President speaks exclusively to HOWL about the time she became a hunt saboteur...

In the 1970s, I was driving in Montgomery Country, Maryland, one of the richest counties in the United States, when I spotted about eight or so foxhounds headed across a field.

Potomac is one of those "Great Gatsby" areas, where many of the residents who, like Gatsby, have achieved the Great American Dream of having a country mansion, maids, and lavish parties, ache to be recognised for their English ancestry. They cling to anything that might define them as such. Shops in Potomac's "Olde Towne" (as if!) sell jodhpurs, riding boots, Earl Gray tea, and fox-head door-knockers, and the Potomac Hunt club is a big deal. Formed in 1931, it is jealous of its neighbour across the river in Middleburg, Virginia: the oldest hunt club in the country, having started around 1840, something akin to the Stone Age here. These days the Potomac Hunt prefers to play up "fox chasing" and countryside conservation but no-one's fooled.

I pulled my van to the side of the road, jumped out, and with great enthusiasm, called to them. Miraculously, they ran right over! I ripped open a sack of kibble, and they all jumped into my van. I found out later that I'd interrupted a training day: the young hounds were out "cubbing"



I remember at school, when we recited what we'd been up to on our holidays, one girl described her initiation ritual into foxhunting by being "blooded" on her face with the fox's brush. From then on, I regarded foxhunting with the same revulsion I'd reserved for bullfighting. And, when you think of it, those who "ride to hounds" must think they look rather special in their silly, "pink" coats – some women still riding side-saddle – drawing attention to themselves in much the same way the matadors in tight pants, little embroidered bolero jackets, and funny hats draw attention to themselves as they prance about in the bullring. Unlike a good drag show, there's no humour in either event.

Anyway, there were the hounds – obviously as happy to be let out of their kennels as cows released from a barn after being cooped up all winter. I pulled my van to the side of the road, jumped out, and with great enthusiasm, called to them. Miraculously, they ran right over! I ripped open a sack of kibble, and they all jumped into my van. I found out later that I'd interrupted a training day: the young hounds were out "cubbing" in an area "seeded" with foxes for the hunt.

Off we drove to the animal shelter, many miles away. The master of hounds had to come down to the poor part of town the next day to bail the dogs out, paying a hefty fee per hound for boarding and a fine for each dog "found running loose".

It was just a small disruption, but it's my only claim to having "sabbed." More power to everyone out there creating far more of what our late, great civil rights senator John Lewis called "good trouble".



HUNTING WITH HOUNDS IN THE USA

Sadly, hunting with hounds is well established in the United States, a legacy of early English colonisation. There are currently 158 foxhound packs, 35 beagle packs and 17 basset packs active across the country. Many of the fox packs also hunt coyote and bobcat, while the foot packs hunt European hare, jackrabbit, and cottontail.American wildlife needs more hunt saboteurs!



MINK HUNT SEASON 2021

There's no doubt this has been the best summer against mink hunts since sabs re-engaged with them back in 2014. Severn Vale sabs assess the dismal state of mink hunting in 2021.

When the dark, dank, muddy days of the fox and hare hunting season give way to the longer, warmer days of spring it isn't long before the mink hunting season begins, with many of the same bloodsport fanatics taking to streams, rivers and lakes with packs of hounds in pursuit of their summer quarry.

Mink hunting has its origins in otter hunting, a once popular blood sport which saw its height in Victorian and Edwardian Britain, made famous by Henry Williamson's 1929 'Tarka the Otter.'

By the late 1970s, otter packs were finding few otters, due to a huge crash in their population, due to pesticide use but helped along by hunting. In 1978 with a growing tide of support for the protection of the otter, the species was given protected status and hunting was effectively banned. Some packs disbanded whilst others reformed as mink hunts, non-native mink having been imported to the country from America in the 1930's for fur farming and gaining a foothold across the country from escapes and releases.

In 1977 the 'West Midlands Mink Hounds' (soon renamed the Three Counties Mink Hounds) were the first pack formed specifically to hunt mink, and after a season of successful hunting many other packs followed suit. The Courtenay Tracy Otter Hounds became the Ytene Minkhounds (although in more recent years they have once again reverted to Courtenay Tracy Hounds), and the Eastern Counties Otter Hounds briefly became the Eastern Counties Coypu Hunt, hunting another animal introduced to the UK for fur farming.

Some of these packs retained their otter hounds, but increasingly entered retired English foxhounds and Welsh foxhounds into their packs, packs using true otterhounds are now in the minority.

By the early 80s this new 'sport' was gaining popularity. Large numbers of farmers and hunt supporters followed approximately 20 packs on the waterways across Britain in pursuit of their new quarry and large joint meets and long weekends of mink hunting were highlights of summer months for many hunt supporters.

Fast forward to 2021 and what's the situation now? Some of the packs formed in the late '70s are no more, with more forming and disbanding over the years. The size of support for mink hunts has also hugely decreased, and paranoia about the 'antis' reigns supreme meaning favoured days and stretches of water have been abandoned.

But they're still causing untold damage to fragile riverside habitats (see 'Riparian Barbarians' article in HOWL #121), and packs are hunting stretches with known otter populations, some believed to have reverted to hunting their old quarry, if only on occasion.

With coronavirus putting much of the 2020/21 hunting season on hold, it was anticipated that hunt supporters would be wanting to make the most of their opportunity to get out and follow hounds, with sabs readying themselves for a busy summer. But has this been the case?

In part, yes. Sabs have once again been very busy. Despite their illusive nature, small numbers of supporters and huge countries, we've had a successful summer of tracking down and disrupting the mink hunters.

On the other hand, bar a few exceptions, it's been a summer much the same as other recent years for mink hunters; a handful of aging diehards shuffling around following hounds in ever more secluded areas in a bid to avoid us. A shadow of their former selves!

Starting in earnest in April, the summer sabbing season got underway at a meet of the Dove Valley Mink Hounds in Ashby Folville, Leicestershire. The hunt called in support from Leicestershire Police, who duly obliged and held up sabs whilst searching for weapons after unscrupulous allegations from the hunt. An age-old tactic from hunt supporters that many police forces seem perfectly happy to help with...⇨

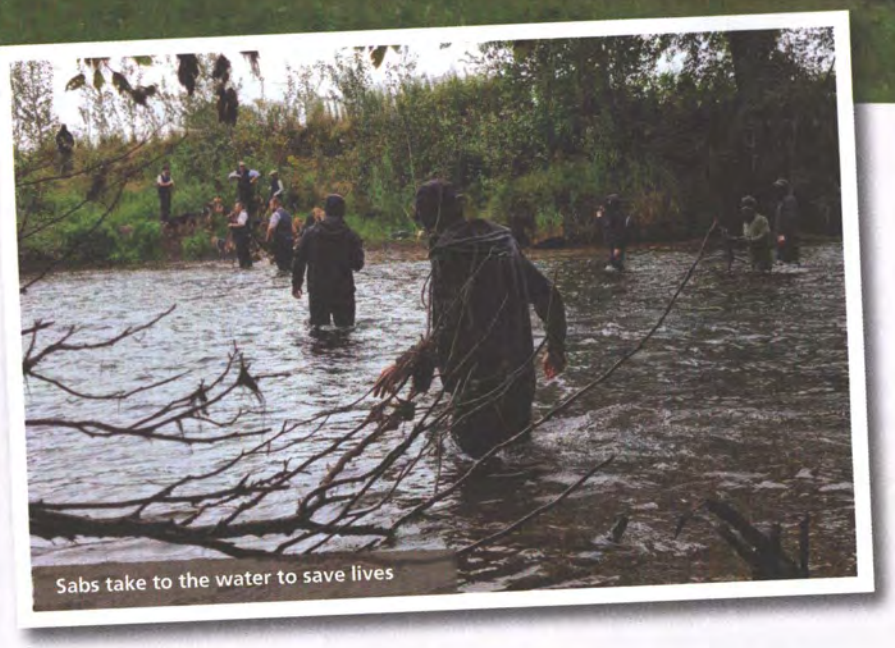


Mink hunting in its heyday



Eastern Counties head home

Things really got moving in May, the Northern Counties Mink Hounds had their May Day meet near Darlington ruined as they did once again near Beverley, East Yorks a fortnight later. The Dove Valley didn't go out after a kennel watch, and frustrations boiled over for supporters of the Courtenay Tracy in Dorset and the Three Counties in Shropshire, after both were sent packing by sabs.



Sabs take to the water to save lives



Northern Counties pack up early...again

June saw another successful sab of the Northern Counties Mink Hounds, which resulted in a master lamenting on Facebook about the future (or lack thereof) of the pack in light of sab activity. In the southeast, the Wealden Mink Hounds were caught in the act trying to bolt a mink from a tree in West Sussex, but once they realised sabs were present they hot-footed it back to the meet. The Courtenay Tracy had a second visit of the season, with their meet at Midford, Somerset swamped with sabs.

In July the east took the reins, with a pitifully small Eastern Counties Mink Hounds visited twice, in both Suffolk and Essex, and the Kent & Sussex Mink Hounds also getting their first visit of the season.

August saw a more prestigious meet sabbed, with several groups sabbing the East Midlands-based Dove Valley Mink Hounds who had travelled to the River Dee near Wrexham for a joint meet with the Border Counties Mink Hounds. Whilst this was one of the better supported meets attended by sabs this summer, the result was still a resounding success for hunt sabs; the DVMH packed up and made the long journey back to their kennels.

A Courtenay Tracy Hounds meet at Great Somerford in north Wiltshire, where they would once get upwards of 80 supporters following them, was telling of the state of mink hunts in 2021. They had little more than 20, with phone calls for back up from Beaufort Hunt supporters going unanswered.



Courtenay Tracy staff consider their dwindling options

September usually sees the end of the mink hunting season, but many packs will still be out and there often is overlap with fox hunts who have started cubbing, so keep your eyes and ears open when you're out and about!

And as always, what you read here or on the hit reports online is just the tip of the iceberg. Week in, week out, sabs are busy routing out their local mink hunts; key players, preferred stretches of river, who's still active (and more commonly now who's not!)... And for every close but just-missed meet, or frustrating failed search, or sneaky bit of monitoring, we build a clearer picture on these illusive hunts, which all helps in making next season even more successful than the last one.

There's no doubt that as autumn gets underway and the main hunting season resumes, the green, sweet mornings of early summer will be at the back of your mind. But when your season comes to a welcome end, some other prats will be heading out to the riverbanks. So, bear this in mind and get out and find your local mink hunters in 2022!

STOP PRESS

Eastern Counties Mink Hounds have folded!



Sabs shut down a rare joint meet

SUMMER 2021 ROLL OF HONOUR

Not including the dozens of mornings spent outside kennels, searching meets, or the ones where sabs were present unbeknown to the hunters...

April

24th - Dove Valley MH at Ashby Folville, Leics. Leics Police stopped & searched sabs for non-existent weapons.

25th - Border Counties MH came through on HSA tip-off line, local monitors attended.

May

1st - Northen Counties MH meet near Darlington - huntsman & hounds didn't leave.

8th - kennel watch at Dove Valley MH - they didn't go out.

15th - Northern Counties MH at Arram, near Beverley, East Yorks.

- Courtenay Tracy MH at Toller Fratrum, Dorset. Sabs faced violence but hunt packed up

29th - Three Counties MH at Neen Sollars, Shrops/Worcs border. Hunt support lashed out at local they confused for a sab.

June

3rd - Northern Counties MH, Cawood, North Yorks.

5th - Wealden MH - Wineham, West Sussex. Found trying to dislodge something from tree when sabs arrived - then packed up.

20th - Wealden MH - kennel watch. Didn't go out 'due to flooding.'

26th - Courtenay Tracy MH at Midford near Bath.

Eastern Counties MH kennel watch - returned to kennels when they realised they had a sab tail.

July

3rd - Eastern Counties MH found late at Semer, Suffolk. Only 4 of them, including hunt staff.

11th - Kent & Sussex MH - Mearle Common, Surrey. Found hunting fishing lakes, on a Sunday!

31st - Eastern Counties MH - Ford End, Essex. Essex Farmers & Union Foxhounds also present with hounds. They all left unhappy when sabs arrived.

August

14th - Dove Valley MH travelled to River Dee for joint with Border Counties MH. Sabs found hunt staff in river and followed, hunt packed up and started the long journey home.

28th - Courtenay Tracy MH - Great Somerford, Wiltshire. Police turned out in force to help facilitate the hunt, which didn't work.

September

18th - Dove Valley MH, Eggington. River Dove.

EVERY STEP YOU TAKE, EVERY MOVE YOU MAKE... WE'LL BE WATCHING YOU.

Manchester sabs report on the challenges and rewards of targeting a pack during cubbing.

It's 5:30 AM on a cold and foggy September morning near Selby in North Yorkshire, and we are parked in a layby with our eyes glued to the road, waiting for the first glimpse of the hound van we've just been told is heading our way.

The York & Ainsty South /Badsworth & Bramham Moor Fox Hunt have just left the kennels, and we are poised and ready to follow them to one of the first cubbing meets of the season.

Cub hunting or 'cubbing' is the more secretive side of fox hunting. Starting in Autumn, in preparation for the main season, hunts will meet at the crack of dawn to introduce the new hounds to killing. Aware of how distasteful most people would find this practice, they have in recent years tried to rebrand this as 'Autumn Hunting'

Hunt tactics differ for cubbing. Unlike hunting during the main season, the huntsman has no interest in a chase; instead, riders will surround a covert where a litter of foxes lives. The purpose is to form a human fence, trapping the unsuspecting cubs inside before the hounds enter. The Huntsman will use voice calls to encourage the hounds on as they scent out their quarry.

The fox cubs are forced to try and flee from the invading hounds, with all underground escape routes blocked by terrier men the night before, the cubs try to escape from the covert but are turned back by the shouts and slapped saddles of the hunt riders and supporters. Left with nowhere to run, the cubs become easy quarry for the new inexperienced hounds.



Finger wagging cub-killer



Blood on his hands



Sabs keep the pack moving

Cub hunting or 'cubbing' is the more secretive side of fox hunting. Starting in Autumn, in preparation for the main season, hunts will meet at the crack of dawn to introduce the new hounds to killing. Aware of how distasteful most people would find this practice, they have in recent years tried to rebrand this as 'Autumn Hunting'



Sabs keep watch

In the lay by in Selby, we finally see the familiar sight of the YAS/BBM hound van trundling towards us, a van full of Sabs already on its tail. We wait for them to pass and join the convoy.

Eventually, they lead us to Roall Manor Farm in Kellington, a favourite meet of theirs and perfect for cub hunting with its multitude of maize fields for foxes to hide in. They will kill here later in the season, but not today. After 3 hours of trying to run away from us, they finally pack it in and go home.

Just like the hunt, our tactics for sabbing need to be different for cubbing. We have two main objectives.

Firstly, we are there to save lives. If we can stay with the hunt then we can often keep them moving from covert to covert quickly, when they are doing this we are not allowing them enough time to hunt properly. It would be difficult for a hunt to claim they were following a trail or "exercising the hounds" if we record them using traditional cubbing methods, so often just being near them with a camera is enough to send them running to the next covert.

Our second objective is to have a negative impact on the training of new and inexperienced hounds. If we can compete for their attention with our own voice and horn calls then the huntsman faces entering the upcoming season with a pack that he struggles to control.

This is beneficial to us and to the quarry as it means longer periods spent getting the pack under control, instead of hunting.

For this second objective to be effective, there needs to be a sustained and constant campaign against the hunt.



No trail laid through this

During the 2020 cubbing season, the YAS/BBM were sabbed almost every time they left their kennels. Manchester Hunt Sabs, West Yorkshire Hunt Sabs, and York Anti Hunt League worked together to make sure that we followed their every move.

Doing so meant we learned their habits, we knew their followers, which vehicles they used, which farms they had access to. We started being able to anticipate where they would be heading to. It became easier to sabotage them. The hunt was so desperate to get a successful days cubbing that they started going out six days a week, and so did we.

This desperation eventually led to them becoming frustrated with us, and they became more reckless with their behaviour. Once October rolled around, all pretence of hound exercise was gone, and they were blatantly hunting right in front of us - in a last-ditch effort to get the hounds up to speed for the season.

This finally led them to their first two kills of the cub hunting season, both foxes killed within an hour of each other at the same meet.

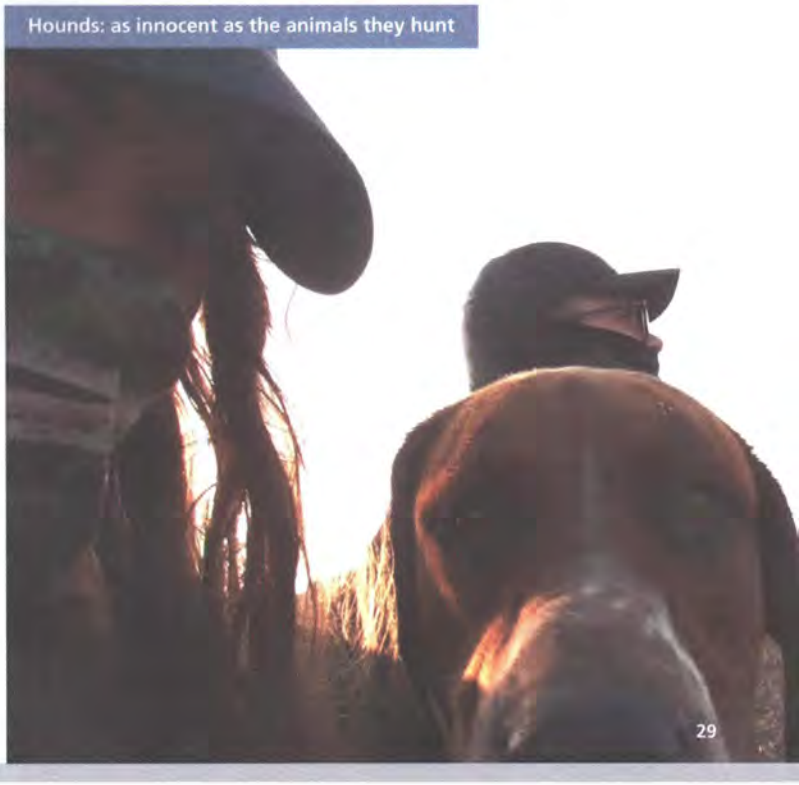
Witnessing these kills was extremely distressing for our sabs, but it's worth remembering that the same would have been happening daily had we not been there, and in far greater number.

The kills were reported to North Yorkshire Police but ultimately the case was dropped by the CPS due to a "lack of evidence". It may be disheartening when this happens, but the hunt still paid for their mistake. Footage of the day went viral online, and even made it on to ITV news, leading to many people boycotting businesses linked to the hunt, and we were flooded with tip-offs and information from locals disgusted that this was happening on their doorstep.

Let's not forget that AXA provide insurance for every hunt's legal fees, so although this did not make it to court, they will have paid out for the solicitors when huntsman David Elliot and whipper-in Mark Poskitt were interviewed by police. Hopefully, this impacts their premiums for the following year.

From mid-September to the end of October we sabbed 34 meets, over 28 days (yes that means some days we did more than one!) and 19 of these were the YAS/BBM.

We learned a lot during this period, and we believe that the relentless campaign against the YAS/BBM, coupled with a shorter season due to Covid, will have had a hugely negative impact on them.



Hounds: as innocent as the animals they hunt

BACK IN THE DAY... EARLY BATH

In this article a current Bath sab looks back at the early history of their group - one of the oldest sab groups in existence.

The mini-bus made its way round the familiar pick up points, gradually filling up with its cargo of young adults and an air of nervous excitement. Everyone was there on time, which was impressive considering everything had been arranged by telephone the day before and not everyone even had a landline. It was a crisp morning in March 1964 and the group, made up of saboteurs from Bath, Bristol and the surrounding areas, were heading out to sabotage a meet of the Duke of Beaufort's Foxhounds in South Gloucestershire.

The HSA was still in its infancy, having only formed the previous year and hunt sabs were seen at this time as being quite radical. This was a time when people should 'know their place' and laying false trails and setting off smoke bombs against the gentry was considered the height of radicalism. There was even a suggestion in the right-wing press that hunt sabs were communists in the pay of the Kremlin (this being the height of the Cold War).

There would be no social media for another 40 years and there was little public awareness of blood sports; except stag hunting which the Daily Mail had campaigned against.

Animal rights activists, even vegetarians, were considered extremists. Animal rights wouldn't take root as a movement until the early 1970s.

"We were just children of our time and did the best with what we had."



Same old hunt violence

Much of the early sabbing was far from scientific, but by the end of 1968 there were perfected techniques using horn calls and false trails that could well disrupt a hunt. By the mid-1970s sabs were using walkie-talkie radios in the field to keep in touch but, prior to that, it was mainly down to luck and judgement. There would sometimes be a 'runner' driving around the lanes trying to keep in touch with the various groups.

This early group of hunt sabs who set out to sab the Beaufort underestimated the reaction from the followers and the pressure that could be exerted on the police and press. There was extreme violence from hunt supporters, as well as dead foxes sent through the post and heads of foxes left on doorsteps. The group also sabbed the Berkeley and the Wick & District Beagles. Meanwhile, there were other west country groups forming in Street, Glastonbury, Wells, Taunton, Minehead and Bridgwater.



Big pre-sab demo

Joining up with these groups, sabs would together target the Somerset hunts: the Mendip Farmers, Quantock Staghounds, Culmstock Otterhounds and later the Devon & Somerset Staghounds.

Between the mid-1980s and early 1990s there were around a dozen members of Bath Hunt sabs, with often a couple of vans carrying them. Many of the group members came from the two Bath universities and there was trouble once when they used a student union minibus to sab which had the university name on the side. Sabs used to do leafleting in Bath and found lots of opposition to hunting and good support from the public. Street collections would bring in funds.



2020 - still saving lives

Working with Bristol sabs, West Wiltshire, Swindon and for a time a group from Wedmore, the group sabbed using horns, garlic spray and homemade whips. They would unblock fox earths and badger setts and set up rook scarers to frighten foxes underground before the hunt arrived. These would sometimes be set up before the group then left to sab another hunt, leaving the rook scarers going off and the hunt furious.

In 1992 the group purchased a Transit crewbus from a scout group to replace their old landy. A PA speaker was mounted on the roof. Horn calls looped with the sound of hounds in cry would be played from the radio cassette player while the van was parked up (so as not to draw hounds into the road). The effects were fantastic.

Unfortunately, the transit got smashed up at a meet of the Hurlsey Hambledon FH in March 1993.



Sab van takes a battering!

Hunt supporters threw a fence post through the windscreen and then surrounded the van, smashing all the windows and lights. A couple of sabs ended up in hospital. None of the hunt supporters ended up in the court because the Police said they couldn't identify who were the ringleaders. The police also then raided the houses of a few sabs and confiscated maps and CB radios.

Good organisation was key to a successful day sabbing and everybody would meet at the pub the week before to agree what they would be doing at the weekend. Sabs would be given a photocopy of a map for the day with agreed pick-up points for anybody who got lost (mobile phones not yet being available). The main source of news was local newspapers and radio, so Saturday night would be spent typing up press releases to fax out to journalists about the day's events.

Hunts sabbed at this time included the Beaufort, Berkeley, Mendip Farmers' Hunt, South & West Wilts and Blackmore & Sparkford Vale and occasionally the Vale of the White Horse and Avon Vale. There were some large hits, including the Beaufort with over 100 sabs. Sometimes the group would travel further afield and had an eventful week in Devon sabbing with other groups.

Bath sabs and their landy



In the lead up to the Hunting Act 2004 the hunts became even more violent, especially the Avon Vale and Mendip Farmers, who targeted individual sabs and attacked vehicles at their homes. The police presence at hunts became extreme; on one occasion there were 7 police cars, 3 riot vans, a canine unit and a helicopter for a group of 8 sabs!
The hunting ban came into force on 18th February 2005. The day before sabs at a hunt noticed a heavy police and media presence. For the first time the hunt were being kept under control. Could this be the end of hunting? Would wildlife finally be safe from hunters? The answer, as we all know, is sadly no - nothing had changed.

Since then Bath Hunt Sabs have maintained a regular presence at fox hunts throughout the region and will continue to do so!



Another prick with a stick

With thanks to Ian Pedler, David Thompson (and others who are still sabbing with the group to this day!) who played a pivotal part of the history of hunt sabotage in the southwest.



A GLORIOUS TWELFTH FOR HUNT SABOTEURS

Despite repeated claims in the media that shoots were either delaying or cancelling their seasons due to low grouse counts we knew that many of them still wouldn't be able to resist the urge to shoot on the Inglorious 12th. Sab groups from across the country were up bright and early to head North and screw up their day. Our target this year was the Yorkshire Dales, neglected for the past few years but a ripe target with over 25% of the National Park dominated by intensive grouse moors. Although the Dales were our focus, we also had spotting teams out in the Forest of Bowland, South Pennines and the Peak District (deathly quiet for the second 12th in a row).

Spotters were out early looking for vehicle movements on roads and by 9am we'd found our first driven shoot located above the village of Healaugh on Reeth Low Moor.

A beautiful grouse



A stand-off ensued whilst the shooters called in the police, and we held them there for several hours and monitored them for the rest of the day.

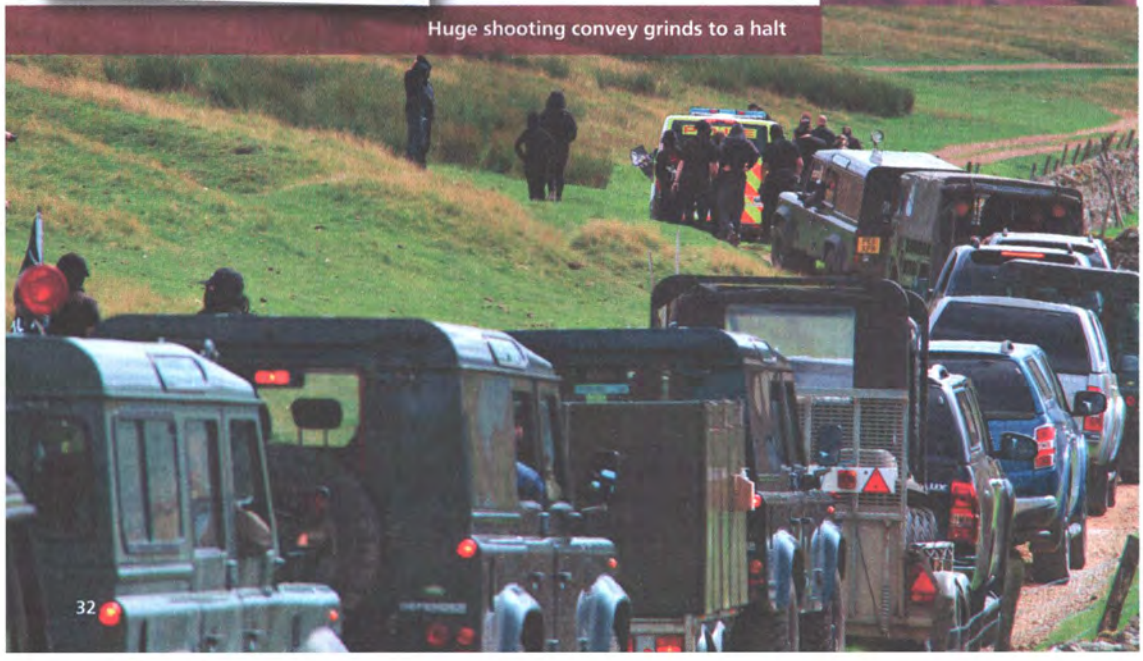
Shooters not shooting



Sabs mobilised and headed in that direction while spotters monitored the shoot. A stand-off ensued whilst the shooters called in the police, and we held them there for several hours and monitored them for the rest of the day.

While some sabs stayed to manage that situation, the rest of us moved to Arkengarthdale where spotters had been keeping an eye on another shoot throughout the morning. They broke for lunch and moved deep into an inaccessible area of moorland, but indefatigable sabs followed them in and when they realised they couldn't lose us they got in their vehicles and attempted to leave, only to be blocked in for over an hour by sabs who sat on the track in front of them. Again, the police attended.

Huge shooting convey grinds to a halt





Standing firm



The flag flies high

We still had time to find, and stop, a third shoot on Woodhall Greets near Askrigg. They'd planned a late drive at 3pm but had only just started beating when a line of sabs streamed over the horizon, only allowing them one or two shots before their day ended with the walk of shame back to their vehicles.

So, a Glorious 12th for hunt sabs who, as our numbers continue to increase, will sab more and more shoots throughout the season.

Indeed, the following week Sheffield sabs found, and sabbed, a shoot in the Peak District with just four foot sabs.

This shoot had been targeted on the Glorious 12th in previous years and had moved their opening day back purely to avoid sabs!

A week later, another small but uncompromising crew from Calder Valley sabs packed up a grouse shoot as they assembled at Blackshaw Head.

With intelligence on grouse shooting pouring in our message to the shooters is clear...expect us!

WHY DO HUNT SABOTEURS TARGET GROUSE SHOOTING?

Animal rights:

up to 500,000 grouse are blasted out of the sky each season between August and December. Their natural predators - foxes, stoats, and crows - are trapped or shot in huge numbers. Mountain hares can carry ticks that affect grouse, so they too are killed in their thousands.

Environmental concerns:

intensive grouse moor management causes increased flood risk, higher water-treatment costs, greater carbon emissions, damage to moorland habitats and reduced insect life in the streams running off grouse moors. The recent spate of moorland fires is attributed to the intensive management of moors by gamekeepers.

Land ownership:

Grouse moor estates cover an area of England the size of Greater London - some 550,000 acres of private playground for the wealthy elite that are propped up by millions of pounds in public farm subsidies.



Black bloc blockade

BROUGHT TO BOOK: HUNTING LITERATURE AS INFORMATION GOLDMINES

Mike Huskisson will need little introduction to HOWL readers. He's been a hunt sab for decades and his courageous undercover exposés have had a devastating impact on hunting. With hunts going more and more underground these days, Mike advises that we look back to a previous era when they were more honest!

It is worth reading hunting books and magazines, particularly older literature, as they are often surprisingly truthful. Here are some examples.

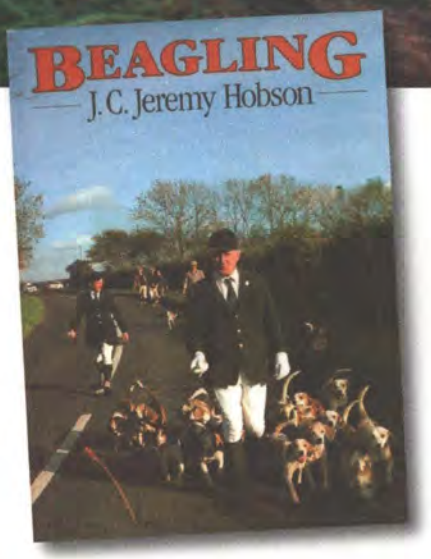
This author cautions hunters against feeling any sympathy for their quarry. *"In hunting, whether it be of fox or hare, every follower should identify himself with hounds' aims and give his entire sympathy to them. If he allows himself to sympathise with the hare, his pleasure in the chase will be neutralised and he might as well go home at once."* (The Art Of Beagling. Captain J. Otho Paget. 1931. Page 217)

Artificial earths are referred to at length in hunting literature. This from perhaps the most respected (by hunters) expert on hunting:

"In countries where earths are scarce it is sometimes found necessary to make artificial earths, to provide somewhere for local foxes to have their cubs: in other words, for breeding purposes.



Mike catches the moment a sab gets between hare and hounds!



Another advantage of artificial earths is that in grass countries where the coverts tend to be small and scattered it is useful to have snug earths judiciously placed at regular intervals, thus persuading foxes to take a good line. An additional advantage is that if an artificial earth is left open, it will only take a few minutes to bolt a fox. Also if it is a blank day, one knows where to go with some certainty of finding a fox.....In this book I only wish to touch on the subject, and to tell you what my grandfather had to say.

He felt that artificial earths should be primarily intended as breeding establishments, and so among the chief points to be borne in mind should be the aspect, position, soil, drainage and materials used for their construction." (Fox-Hunting. The Duke of Beaufort. 1980. Page 141)

We knew artificial earths to be common in lowland hunt countries. We learned the largest was built in the upland sheep-rearing Fells after reading this in *Hounds* magazine:

"Barry drew again down Lansdale Fell, found, and hunted over to Mill Beck, marking to ground in "Porter's Parlour". Now I would have attempted the short climb to where they were digging, but a very interesting Mr John Gregg came and spoke to me and told me the history of "Porters Parlour". It is the largest man-made borran ever known, built about 30 years ago by Ronnie Porter.

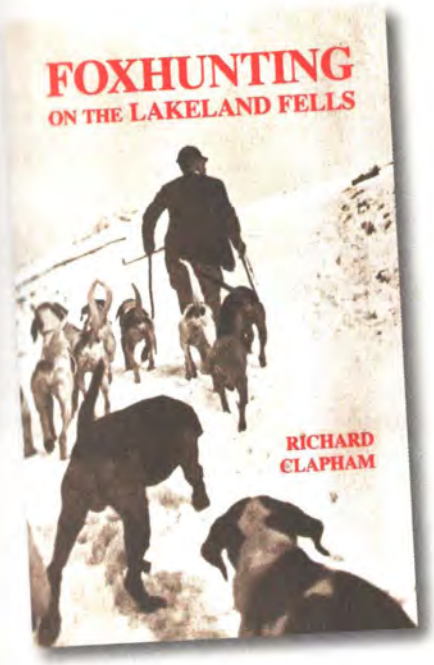


Porter's Parlour artificial earth

A maze of pipes and entrances exists... The fox in Porters Parlour was accounted for, making a total of four foxes that day. On returning to the kennels, they were a terrier short, so went back to Porters Parlour, where a terrier was heard baying. It was then dug to, and the fifth fox of the day was added to the tally" (Article by The Gaffer, "Spring Hunting In the Cumbrian Fells" Hounds magazine. Vol. 10 No. 1. November 1993. Page 28. [Refers to meet of the Blencathra FH, a fell pack, huntsman Barry Todhunter])

Colleagues and I found and photographed Porters Parlour – and found another newly built artificial earth in Blencathra country.

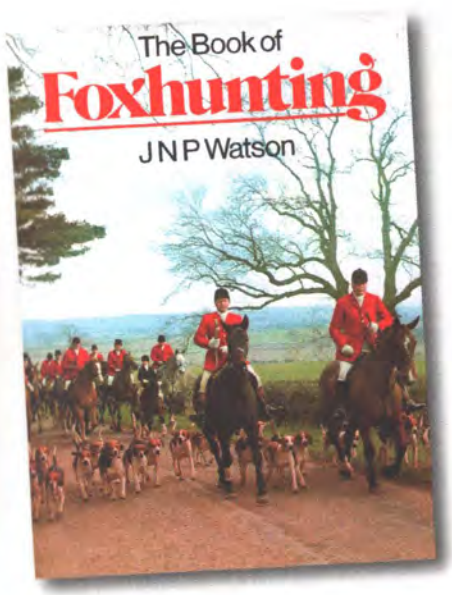
acigawis.org.



MPs who saw such evidence dismissed hunt claims to be involved in 'pest control'.

As well as building homes for foxes to live and breed in hunters also moved foxes around and between countries. This extract refers to the Cork-based United Foxhounds:

"In 1905 Mr. Nicholson took sole charge giving way to Captain R.H. Collis of Midleton County Cork in 1907. In Collis's time the pack consisted of forty-five couple under the control of Huntsman Denis McCarthy. Nicholson had planted sixteen new coverts at Ballinahina, Ballinvarrig and Hightown, Mellifontstown and Ballyogaha in the Bartlemy area. However, Mr. Collis had to contend with a shortage of foxes and in 1907 imported one hundred and ten brace from Wales and Kerry." (***Hunting in Ireland*** *A Noble Tradition* edited by Dr Claude Costecalde and Jack Gallagher 2004 Page 215)



The best explanation of the brutality inherent in cub hunting is given by the Duke of Beaufort:

"The object of cub-hunting is to educate both young hounds and fox-cubs. As was said earlier, it is not until he has been hunted that the fox draws fully on his resources of sagacity and cunning so that he is able to provide a really good run....I try to be out cub-hunting as often as possible myself, and the ideal thing is for the Master to be out every day....Never lose sight of the fact that one really well-beaten cub killed fair and square is worth half a dozen fresh ones killed the moment they are found without hounds having to exert themselves in their task. It is essential that hounds should have their blood up and learn to be savage with their fox before he is killed." (Fox-Hunting. The Duke of Beaufort. 1980. Pages 68-69)



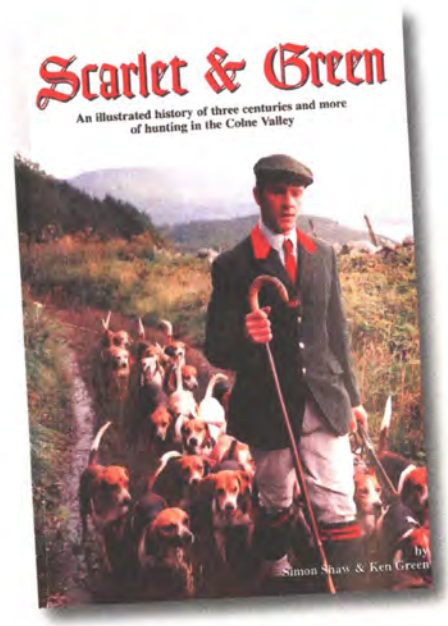
Mike's exposés have devastated hunting



There is a tradition of a similar happening in Northumberland. Whilst a brother of the unfortunate Marie Antoinette, Dauphine de France, lost his father-in-law, Don Philip of Parma, who fell from his horse in the woods of Colorno and was torn to pieces by his own hounds."
(Hound, Horse, Hoof and Turf. Tom Andrews ("Gin and Beer"). 1934. Page 97)

Finally, whilst hunt saboteurs know hounds to be gentle, hunting literature reveals they can turn:

"One more tale of this Worcestershire M.F.H., which Captain Hubert Berkeley tells me is true. John Parker met the Berkeley hounds on the Broadway side of their country and borrowed a hound from Colonel Berkeley (afterwards Earl Fitzhardinge), who was the Master (1807-57), for stud purposes. The story goes that the fool of a kennelman put this strange hound in with the dog-hounds and in the night they set on him. The second whip, Tom Pitt, heard them and hurried in to stop the fighting. He did not put his kennel-coat on, and the hounds set on the poor fellow, eating all but some of his limbs and the Squire of Spetchley and his groom carried such remains as there were to Spetchley Churchyard.



JUDGEMENT DAY FOR TRAIL HUNTING

Westminster Magistrates Courts, Friday 15th October 2021

To say this day was surreal would be an understatement. Hunt sabs and hunters alike solemnly queued through security at the court entrance, while Richard Tyacke, one of the Executive Directors of the Hunting Office, stole a covid facemask from the security guard's personal supply. I knew then this was going to be an odd experience.

The Hunting Office 'elite' were out of their comfort zone, and it showed. Polly Portwin and co were huddled by the entrance keen to steal a march on the crew from the League Against Cruel Sports, like two rival playground gangs determined to get one up on each other.

Tim Bonner and Andrew Osborne, who were inadvertently caught furtively plotting in the men's bathroom, quietly dispersed, and sat away from the crowd, hoping their lavatorial conversation had not been overheard.

After an initial scrum where both LACS and Hunting Office members were equals in their sharp-elbowed push for the door to Courtroom No.2 with its limited seating, the Westminster Magistrates ushers relented and moved the entire circus to a larger space. One with enough room for all to enjoy the coming spectacle.



Trail hunting is a sham

We didn't have to wait long. Once the Judge was sitting comfortably, he began to deliver his comprehensive and absolutely damning judgment.

Hankinson, reduced to sitting behind a plastic screen in court, grew more and more red with each word the Judge uttered. Long familiar phrases such as, *"People ask why lay trails at all? The answer's simple, if you don't you won't be covered by the insurance"*, and *"It's just as well to have something foul smelling on the end of the rag, just in case an anti jumps out"*, came back to haunt poor old Mark.

From the public gallery, it seemed the atmosphere was growing ever more tense. We couldn't believe what we were hearing! Could it be that the hunting world had finally been found out? The lies told by hunters week in, week out were being force-fed back to them and, from the faces of Bonner, Portwin, Tyacke and friends sat in the gallery, they did not like the taste of them one bit.

The judgement from Mr Ikram, now available for all to read online, left nothing to the imagination. Of course, he was simply reflecting back the cold, hard truth which was that Hankinson was engaged in a plot to encourage others to hunt as they would have pre-ban, for as long as they pleased.



How did anyone believe this bollocks?

Once the now immortal 'GUILTY' tweet from ITV reporter Rupert Evelyn had been sent, the deed was done.

Outside the courtroom on Marylebone Road, anti-hunting supporters were gathered. The man responsible for the downfall of hunting in Britain trudged out to a fanfare of cheers, waving HSA flags and even a strategically deployed gizmo which added a slice of drama to his escape.

After all this excitement, a swift debrief was held over a pint in a nearby pub. Then, as the smokescreen began to clear around Westminster, the national press swung into action...


The smokescreen clears....

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.

Joseph Dibee

Joseph Mahmoud Dibee was arrested in Cuba whilst boarding a plane towards Russia after being twelve years on the run. The FBI accuses him of multiple accounts of sabotage carried by the ALF and ELF during the 90s. One of the actions he is accused of is a horse meat packing plant that was burnt to ashes twenty-one years ago.



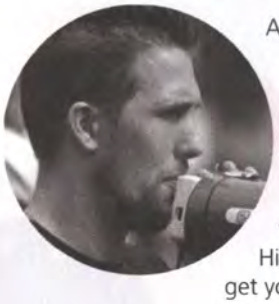
Joseph Dibee #812133
Multnomah County Jail
11540 NE Inverness Dr.
Portland, OR 97220
USA

Please do not discuss anything related to his case, to anything illegal or to any direct actions!

Release date: unknown

Peter Janssen

Peter is awaiting trial accused of an arson attack at a slaughterhouse in the Netherlands.



All correspondence should be unrelated to his case and not contain any reference to illegal activities. You can write to him by sending your letters through an email: forthebulls@gmail.com His support team will then get your words to him.

Release date: unknown, awaiting trial

Marius Mason

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



*In July 2014, Marius announced that he would no longer be using the name Marie, and will be using male pronouns. Until his name is legally changed, mail sent to Marius in prison will need to be addressed to "Marie Mason."

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

Release date: January 10, 2027

Ladislav Kuc

Ladislav is an animal rights activist accused of illegal possession of arms, manufacturing explosives for a bombing in front of a McDonald's in December 2011, in which there were no injuries. He was arrested in January 2012. In the latest ruling in early 2018, his total sentence was extended to twelve years. All his mail is opened and read. So far, there are no letter restrictions listed.



Uutos, Gucmanova 19/670
Priecinoik 7
Leopoldov 92041
Slovakia

His expected release date is January 2024.

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

Free The MBR Beagles
free_the_mbr_beagles@riseup.net

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

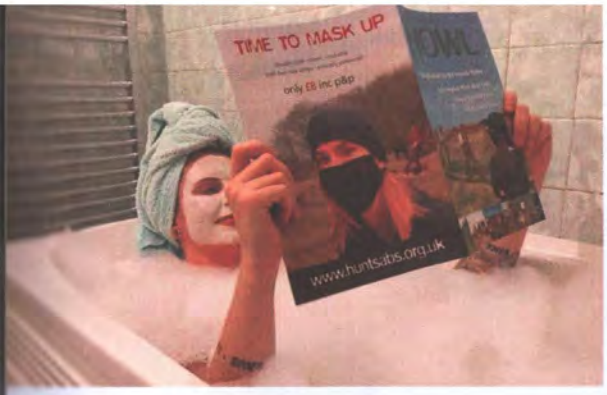
Sea Shepherd
www.seashepherd.org.uk

SPEAK Campaigns
www.speakcampaigns.org

Stop the Cull
www.innocentbadger.com

Vegan 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 or anything else to do with your subscription, please contact the Membership Officer on: membership@huntsabs.org.uk

Please also contact the Membership Officer if you would like to receive future editions of HOWL as an interactive PDF flipbook. Receiving HOWL electronically reduces postage costs for the HSA, meaning even more of your subscription goes to supporting hunt sabs in the field.

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.

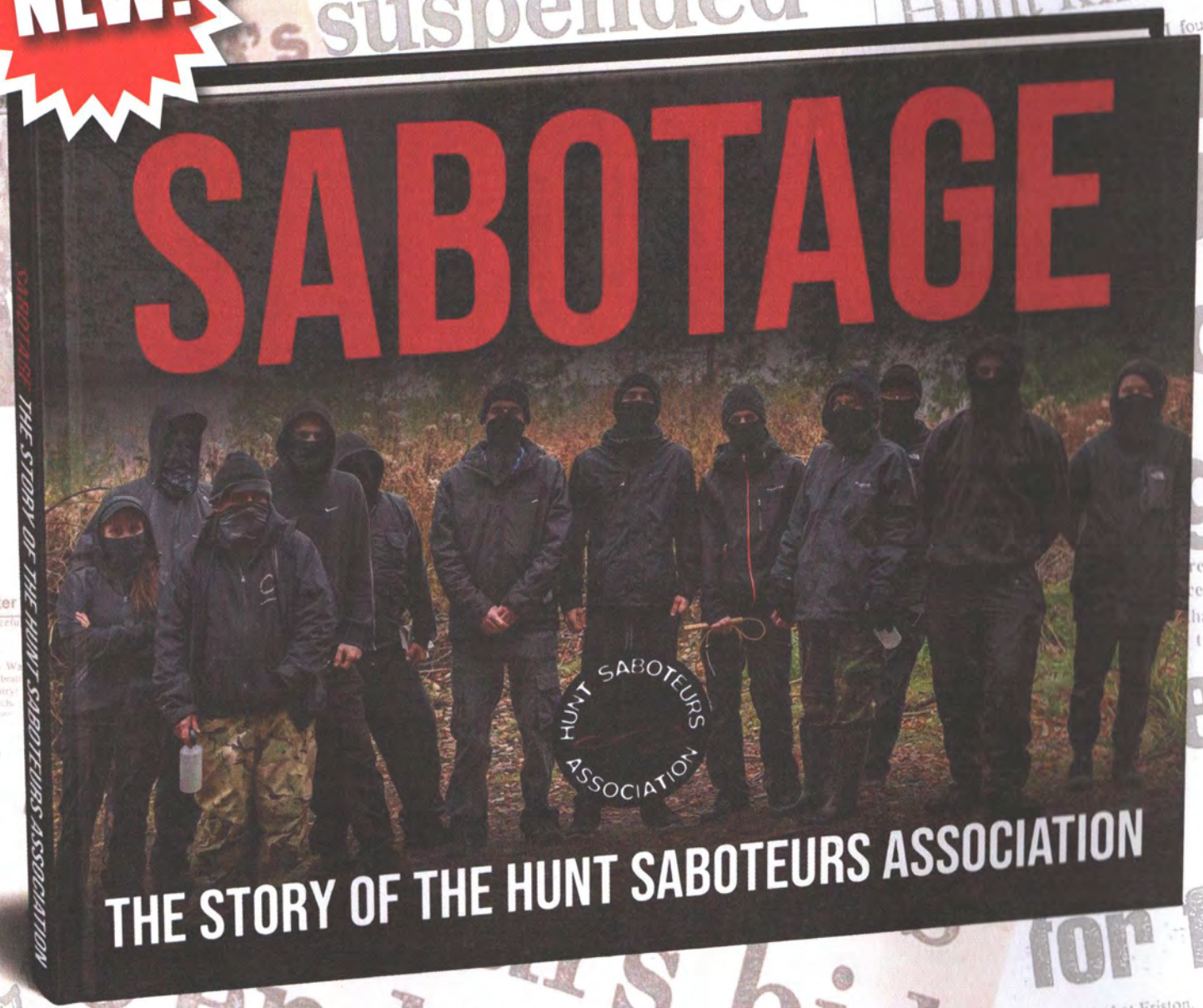


With no paid staff, you can be sure that your gift to the HSA will be used where it is needed most - out in the killing fields.
The HSA strongly recommends that you use a solicitor when you make or update your will.

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

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