The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association Autumn 2017 (Issue 115) £2 (free to members)

HOWL

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

Sabbing Down Under

Scottish sabs training camp

Atherstone on the brink?

Michael Bax exposé

Glos badger office

Group news













Letter from the Chair:

Some days the fight against blood sports seems an endless slog against the relentless cruelty and banality of evil which are organized hunting and culls. Then, out of the blue, things suddenly have the potential for major change; it seems possible that hunting on National Trust land will be banned, after much work behind the scenes. Make no mistake, if this happens some hunts may be forced to close. Even if the vote is not passed (or it is and the NT council ignores it, as they are permitted to) things will never be the same. In a last-ditch effort to shore up hunting, they have proposed some changes when hunters are on their land: no terrier men, no animal-based scents, and the publication of hunting meets. All are steps forward, but they have yet to answer our open letter as to how they intend to police this and how hunts would prove they have trained hounds to follow a new scent; hounds cannot be trained overnight and it takes many years to change. We watch with interest but whatever happens, sabs will be present.

At a recent meeting with a senior police officer, I was told that the police will decide what laws to instigate (as opposed to sabs being encouraged to investigate, was the unvoiced assertion) and that the hunting ban was not one of those laws he would choose to select. This came as no surprise, due to sab experience of the police forces he represents. This force also tend to ignore criminal damage, assaults, and GBH to sabs and other major crimes committed by hunters on saboteurs. My response was simple, I told him that he was just legitimising the increasing need for hunt saboteurs and we will, of course, continue to fight legal and illegal blood sports wherever they occur.

Finally, I was reading some social media comments praising sabs actions and thought it a shame that just those in the field (and photos) get all the plaudits. There are many unsung heroes in our movements; you, as our members, of course, but also those who bake cakes for sabs each week, partners and parents who support sabs by looking after animals or children so that others can sab (hoping not to get that dreaded call from the hospital), mechanics who do free work on our vehicles, companies who adjust their rotas so sabs can be free every Saturday during the hunting season and anyone who sells our merchandise and supports and defends us in all forms of media. Finally those in the position of having links to the hunting community and keep their thoughts to themselves, but feed us weekly information, which is vital to our work, but also at great personal risk to themselves. All are crucial in supporting what we do. Not everyone can be an active sab, but all of the above support is so very important to the success of our work.

Thank you all.

HSA Chair



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www.huntsabs.org.uk

Hunt Saboteurs @HuntSabs

Hunt Saboteurs Association
BM HSA, London WC1N 3XX Tel. 0845 2501291
Howl e-mail: howl@huntsabs.org.uk
info@huntsabs.org.uk
www.huntsabs.org.uk

The Hunt Saboteurs Association has been in existence for over 50 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 Dawn
Contributors All groups who sent group news in.
Photos stacywoolhousephotography.weebly.com, HSA Archive, Sab groups all over the country - Ta folks!
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EDITORIAL

The late summer/ early autumn edition of HOWL has, traditionally, been a fairly thin copy, the most lightweight of our reads, and a variation on the theme of, 'what we did in the summer to get ready for the new season'…no more! As you can see from the number of groups involved in cull zones, fund raising and training days, there is definitely no peace for the wicked!

The Scottish groups' training days sound incredibly well planned as well as increasing local knowledge, group cohesion and vital orienteering skills… dare I say it all sounds like quite good fun too… read their report inside.

With a big roll out of the cull zones, groups have been kept busy and spread fairly thinly; it has not daunted their enthusiasm, just encouraged them to recruit as many 'local experts' as they can and to share their own knowledge and expertise as far and as wide as possible.

And mentioning far and wide – a huge welcome to the furthest-flung fellow sabs that we could ever have imagined: a new group is up, running and ruining jolly good days out for those who like to kill defenceless wildlife. Take a bow, Melbourne! This group has started from scratch in a truly inhospitable and huge terrain; check out their details for completely confused (but strangely cooperative) hunters and read how they got their movement off the ground by skyping the HSA for tactics and then adapting it all brilliantly to their own needs. Awesome stuff.

Another riveting read is that from a courageous sab who suffered a heart attack whilst sabbing, was aided by fellow sabs, airlifted to hospital (despite the hunt trying to block medics) and then went out again with his local group! Seriously, what have they got to compete with this?!

Thanks again to all of you who support this vital fight for the freedom from harassment of our wildlife, and to all those out in the field – Stay safe, stay strong.



HUNT SABOTAGE DOWN UNDER

INTRODUCING MELBOURNE HUNT SABOTEURS

Firstly we just want to say 'thank you' to all the sab groups and especially the HSA who have welcomed Melbourne Hunt Saboteurs with open arms. It has been a productive first season for us and, as this goes to print, we would have successfully sabbed our first end of season hunt.

Australia (well, specifically Melbourne-based) Hunt Clubs are extremely secretive and the majority of our first season has been spent collecting data and intel to track these clubs down and lock them into spaces; then sab them. So, with our ever-expanding expectations of where we want to be for our first season, we are pleased.

This is due to the collective of Hunt Sabs groups as we are using the well experienced tricks and tools you have used to successfully sabotage. So: thank you. Our foxes thank you too.

"...a lot of time has been spent educating everyone about the fox and the fact that they were introduced here, at no fault of their own..."

A big thank you to what we have called our big brother group South Cambridgeshire Hunt Sabs, without whom we wouldn't be where we are! In Melbourne there are lots of different organisations supporting the never-ending need for Animal Rights. This though, has proved to be a tricky minefield to negotiate with lots of interests and lots of questions. With that in mind, it has simply driven us harder to give it to these hunters and to up our game. They are not expecting us as we are the first formed Hunt Sab group in Melbourne. This has worked to our advantage.

So, whilst negotiating the political correctness of the animal activism movement in Australia, we have been



able to collect a group of sabs, well aware of the need for militant direct action, and no nice style of play given to the hunters. We are simply getting out there and interrupting a hunt at all costs, with no compromise. Our motto is: 'Eyes Up, Hearts Full.'
Sadly, the fox is an introduced species here and our government bodies have been arranging different methods to "eradicate" them. So a lot of time has been spent educating everyone about the fox and the fact that they were introduced here, at no fault of their own, but by white settlers who wished to continue their bloodlust traditions here in Australia.

The majority of the public is against hunting with hounds, but (ironically) approve of government approved culls.



We will get there; we are looking forward to next season, and the next and the next; saving more foxes and upsetting the hunters.

Saturday the 9th of September, saw Melbourne Hunt Saboteurs head out to sab the Oaklands Hunt Club end of season hunt. This hunt was joined by the very pro-fox-hunting club Findon Harriers Hunt Club, with information advising that the hunt was to take place in the location of Nulla Vale in Victoria. Sadly, we missed the jump of the hunt, but after driving down the surrounding roads we ran directly into the clubs' support cars, who were ever so helpful in explaining exactly what was going on, and with the Hunt



clearly visible the spotter cars advised us that, "this was God's country!"

As they headed off to a new observation location they invited us to follow: and follow we did! Once at their new location, we regrouped and decided on action.

Following one of the cars to a location, five sabs headed into the field to run into four hunters returning, stating that they were tired. Again, they helpfully pointed us in the direction of the rest of the field, and told us that the hounds were out hunting. To which we set up and waited. Upon seeing the hunt about 800 meters from us we ran straight to them, using a road as cover, before greeting them.

We were met with the expected conversation topics, and could see that their end of season hunt had been a flop. After a few warmly exchanged words, we decided it was best to leave the location as our support cars had advised that a car full of hunt supporters was making it way to us. While leaving we had a quick conversation with the landowner who was upset at our presence but agreed that we could be against whatever we wanted! With a quick apology for being on his land we left, whilst our other group of 3 sabs continued to monitor the returning hunt via drone. This was the first time in both clubs' history that they had been sabbed. They weren't as happy as we were!!

MelbourneHuntSabs





NOT TO BE TRUSTED: MICHAEL BAX

2017 has been a bizarre year. Donald Trump was inaugurated as the 45th President of the United States, the Conservatives lost their majority against all odds, and it was uncovered that Michael Bax, Chairman of Kent Wildlife Trust is a lifelong hunter.

Bax served as Huntsman for the Blean Beagles between 1971 and 1995 and Joint Master from 1991 until 2005 (according to Bax and Kent Wildlife Trust), however, Baily's Hunt Directory lists him as Joint Master until 2016. He is also listed as Joint Master in the 2014/2015 edition of Horse and Hound Directory.

Michael Bax is the former High Sheriff of Kent. He is also currently the Chairman of Kent Crime Stoppers and CRAG (Crime Rural Advisory Group). CRAG is an amalgamation of several groups with the aim of tackling rural crime. CRAG consists of: Kent Wildlife Trust, the Countryside Alliance, the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, Police Representatives and Neighbourhood Watches, the National Farmers Union, the Countryside Land and Business Association, English Heritage, Kent Fire & Rescue, RAMSAK, as well as the Rural Dean and Jon Wilson of Kent Association of Land Councils.

Please note the absence of rural crime fighters with the potential to prosecute: RSPCA, League Against Cruel Sports. Bax has even set up his own app called 'Country Eye', in which he asks people to: 'report it and we will cut rural crime.' He then mentions that he would like to stamp out illegal hare coursing: the working-class blood sport. Bax makes no mention of stopping beagling, the sport that he personally took part in for thirty-four years (at least). That's probably because his business partner at BTF Partnership, Stuart Sillars, still serves as Joint Master, Huntsman and Hare Conservationist for the Blean Beagles.

Bax has allowed a pheasant shoot to take place on his land since purchasing Street End Wood, adjacent to his Moat Farm estate in Shadoxhurst, Ashford, Kent in 2007. Kent Wildlife Trust claim that this piece of land is 'species rich.' It would be interesting to know which species this land is rich for, because pheasant shoots don't tend to be happy breeding grounds for animals such as foxes, stoats, badgers, hares, birds of prey or corvids.

On top of this, Bax raises funds to shoot birds in Kent (including the personal donation of a 'tide flight' to an environmentally-sensitive area of Kent in which rare wading birds and ducks dwell).



He also sponsors both the Ashford Valley Tickham and the Southdown and Eridge Hunts, both Fox Hunts which have convictions to their name. Ashford's Joint Master, Brian Fraser, was sentenced to eight months in jail for possession of a shotgun without a licence, whilst a terrier man for the Southdown and Eridge Hunt inflicted serious knife wound on a hunt saboteur within recent years.

Kent Wildlife Trust's CEO, John Bennett, has been in his position since 1998. He claims that the Trust needs to work with 'landowners, farmers and the wider rural community'. Mr. Bennett is making a basic error in suggesting that the issue here is working with farmers or landowners. It is not. Engaging with people of all backgrounds is to be applauded. The issue here is that a lifelong hunter has been appointed to Chair a charity whose mission is to protect wildlife. Protecting wildlife includes protecting wildlife from hunters.

Kent Wildlife Trust's recent Chairmen /women have all been of the same background; wealthy landowners: Mike Bax, Fidelity Weston, and the notorious James Teacher who served as Chair between 1988 and 1999. Teacher was Joint Master of the Quorn hunt (foxes).

A charity whose slogan is 'Protecting Wildlife for the Future' have appointed a man (whose only experience of wildlife is its' slaughter), to Chair their board of trustees. Sit back and allow that to sink in for a few moments.

Donald Trump won his presidency because people felt ignored by the previous administration. The Conservatives lost their majority partly because Theresa May publicly stated that she wished to bring back fox-hunting. Many thousands of people have signed my petition calling on Bax to leave the Trust. Ignoring the views of those who surround you is neither a healthy, nor a positive action to take.

Not only would I suggest that M. Bax needs to leave his position at the Trust, but perhaps John Bennett should also step aside and allow a fresh-blooded, 21st-century thinker to take on his mantle at the top of Kent's main conservation body.

sabgroupnews



Bath Hunt sabs

bathhuntsabs@yahoo.co.uk
Donate at: ko-fi.com/bathsabs

Our Landy finally packed up a while back and since then we have had to use our own vehicles or jump in with other groups (big thanks to Bristol Hunt Sabs, in particular!) However, recently, the HSA kindly gave us a grant for a new vehicle and we have hit the ground running, with a very busy few months. Aside from fundraising to get our new vehicle taxed, insured and fuelled, we have been sett surveying in North Wiltshire so we could be ready for this years' cruel and illogical Badger cull. Wiltshire is one of the new cull zones this year, along with Cheshire, and we are determined to save as many badgers as we possibly can.

We've been giving the mink hounds our attention and took particular pleasure in shutting down the elusive Three Counties Mink Hounds, along with sabs from Bristol, South Wales and Severn Counties Hunt Sabs. Whilst out searching for mink hunts we found a trapped fox cub and a crow; they were in a 'Larsen' trap. Gamekeepers use 'Larsen' traps, baited with live Corvids to attract others into the cage to await their deaths. Needless to say, the cub and crow managed to find their way to freedom...

A recent highlight for us was joining up with one hundred hunt saboteurs to travel to the moors of Yorkshire and the Peak District to disrupt the first day of grouse shooting - the 'glorious twelfth'. It certainly was a glorious day for us sabs, with two shoots shut down!

Thanks to everyone who has supported us and please continue to do so – we couldn't do what we do without you! You can contribute to our fuel fund for the price of a coffee at ko-fi.com/bathsabs





Beds & Bucks Hunt Sabs

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

After another successful season against the fox and hare hunters we went into the summer with plans to raise funds and hit the mink/ otter hunts. We had a good day in Lush, MK and another at MK Vegan Fair. Lots of people spoke to us wanting to get involved, which is great news, and some money was raised as well. We'll be holding a training day with talks and guest speakers during September and we hope to get more sabs active in the field. Along with this, we hope to start running a second vehicle which will increase our effectiveness hugely.

The mink/ otter hunts have been hit very hard. We've been active every week through the summer and the Northants Mink Hounds have been hunting on different days and at different times to lose us - but we always find them and sab them; they are in a very sorry state indeed! We've also been further afield with other groups to sab the Dove Valley Mink Hounds, as well as being part of the multi-group sab of the grouse shoot on the Inglorious 12th.

We're currently in discussion with Thames Valley Police and will be having a meeting with their WCO over the policing of hunting. Once again we hope to change the perception of the police and how they should respond to reports of hunting. Fingers crossed that we're making progress.
Once again we'll be fully engaged in fighting the cruel and unnecessary badger cull. We'll have people on location 24/7 to save as many lives as we can.

The Fitzwilliam case is continuing to drag on and on with more delays. It would seem that for such a high profile case it's difficult to find an impartial judge. Perhaps that's why it's so difficult to get convictions when there's a lack of non-hunting judiciary?

Brighton Hunt Sabs

brightonhuntsaboteurs@riseup.net
www.facebook.com/BrightonHuntSaboteurs



We've been keeping ourselves busy down here in Sussex. Our influx of fresh-faced newbies are quickly becoming hardened veterans (and the old bods are still at it too!). Much rubber has been burnt along the A27 as we've spent many a summer's day down in the West Country surveying for signs of badgers and working out the likely hotspots for culling. We are having a constant presence in the zone from the day the killing starts so if you are a bumpkin intent to shooting these great animals, don't be surprised when torchlight greets you in the night!

We had a great away day up on the moors of the Peak District for the national hit against the Glorious Twelfth. Tensions grew as we intrepidly ventured above the M4 to what we believe is known as the North, but all fears were laid to rest as we joined up with our many friends and comrades from across the country on what turned out to be a very easy, and even more effective, day's sabbing.

As always, we are on the lookout for new recruits to join the crew. PM us on Facebook or drop us line (email above) if you are interested in taking on the hunt scum.

Bristol Hunt Sabs

bristolhuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk
www.network23.org/bristolhuntsabs
www.facebook.com/BristolHuntsaboteurs

Bristol Hunt Sabs have had quite a busy year in comparison to recent years; sabbing a couple of mink hunts, the opening of the Grouse shooting season, running stalls at a number of events, taking part in a few anti-Tory protests and prepping for the badger cull and the start of cub hunting in September.

The first mink hunt was back in June, which saw us travel up to the Midlands to a meet of the Dove Valley Mink Hounds, who we don't think had seen sabs for a few years previous to this. We caught them in the act and they literally ran to their vehicles and packed up on seeing us. Guilty much?!

On August 12th, we joined around 100 other sabs in the Peak District, to disrupt the opening day of the Grouse shooting season. A very successful day with two shoots stopped!

The week after we rounded our summer off with a sab of the Three Counties Mink Hounds, another pack who haven't seen sabs in a few years, but with this lot operating in our regular stomping grounds. Again, upon our arrival they were keen to get the hounds out of the river, into the hound van and out of the area. Another result!

We have also run stalls at Bristol Vegfest back in May, which was busy as ever and saw loads of interest in fighting the repeal and getting involved, the Lush store in Bristol city centre, Common Ground Punk Festival as well as a number of other benefit gigs.

At the time of writing, we're gearing up to get stuck back in with both the badger cull and cub hunting starting imminently. With plenty of new recruits and recharged batteries, the hunts had better watch out! Until next time...



South Cambridgeshire Hunt Sabs

schuntsabs@riseup.net
www.facebook.com/Southcambshuntsabs/
www.instagram.com/scambshuntsabs

We have been busy over the summer with fundraising and outreach in preparation for another season. We'd like to thank the HSA for their financial support, which has been key in securing a much more reliable and suitable vehicle. We have had some fantastic new sabs join us and are feeling strong and ready for the upcoming season.

Sabs have remained active through the summer, joining other groups to sab mink hunts, as well as having a presence at the hugely successful sab of the Glorious Twelfth grouse shoot.

We have been down to West Dorset where preparations are underway for the badger cull, and we intend to have a presence there as much as possible over the cull period, supporting the wonderful Badger Protection Group. We have already been kennel watching in preparation for the start of cub hunting season.

Now that we have a working vehicle and a stronger group, we intend to focus on our local hunts as much as possible in the coming months, and really make our presence known.

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

07900 603 742
SLWG@riseup.net
www.facebook.com/pages/Croydon-Hunt-Saboteurs/105305009534130

SLWG has had a relatively quiet summer. Despite our best efforts, we were unable to locate the local mink pack. We have been sett surveying in the Wiltshire cull zone and we were very happy to contribute to the spectacular turnout on the Inglorious 12th.

Our trusty Landy needed extensive repairs, which have now been completed, and we have recruited several new sabs, so we are all geared up and ready for cub hunting!



Kernow Hunt Sabs

kernowhuntsabs@riseup.net
paypal: kernowhs@yahoo.co.uk
www.facebook.com/kernowsabs/

The Kernow team has been busy with continued surveying of the North Cornwall badger cull zone. Our total zone is approximately 650sqkm and the task of surveying is enormous. We are making good progress but still have a lot of ground to cover. We are definitely well ahead from where we were last year though, and confident we can make more of a difference this year.

We have also had a few new people join in to help but, as most other zones are finding, getting boots on the ground seems to be a problem. Our group Landy finally packed up towards the end of last hunt season but we have now bought another one which will hopefully last us for a while.

Manchester Hunt Sabs

Donate via: www.nwhsa.org.uk/
www.facebook.com/ManchesterHuntSabs

After a long and at times difficult season, we'd like to say we've been enjoying a nice break over the summer... but alas with the roll out of the badger cull to Cheshire we've found ourselves once again endlessly traipsing through fields and woods looking for setts! It has, however, provided a wonderful opportunity to get lots of new recruits out and ready for the start of the cull and for cub hunting in September.

Lancashire Hunt Sabs

lancasterhuntsabs@hotmail.com



We recently changed the group name from **Lancaster** to **Lancashire**, pulling smaller groups together as we now cover the whole county. We have been as busy as ever over summer, working hard on the National Dis-Trust campaign, which we have been working hard with since 2013. We have recently started working with others who have the same aim – to get all hunting banned on National Trust land – and the campaign has picked up momentum, with a members' resolution being presented at the National Trust's AGM in October.

We recently joined with other groups from all over the country to sab the 'Glorious' 12th, and it certainly was a glorious day for us as we were able to shut down two shoots.

We also met with our colleagues from Cheshire Hunt Sabs and Welsh Borders Hunt Sabs, travelling to the Peak District National Park near Macclesfield, where the Cheshire Forest hunt were holding a cub hunting meet. The hunt were not able to hunt, and had to do a 5 mile ride along the local roads. They were a bit put out by our presence and called the police, who duly arrived and blocked the road so that the hunt could continue back to the meet without us following… or so they thought. The Cheshire Forest were witnessed killing a fox in a residential street in Macclesfield at the beginning of the year, but were not prosecuted. We will be joining our colleagues in Cheshire when we can throughout the season.

Lancashire sabs have also been out sett surveying in preparation for the impending badger cull in Cheshire, and intend to have a presence there when the cull starts.

Northants Hunt Sabs

zorro@northantshsa.org.uk
www.northantshsa.org.uk
www.facebook.com/NorthantsHuntSaboteurs



This summer has been one of our busiest yet: fundraising most weekends thanks to the generous support of local vegan fairs, markets and sanctuaries who kindly give us free stall space. Thanks to all.

We've paid visits to some of the elusive mink hunts, the Northants Mink Hounds and the Dove Valley Mink Hounds, and delighted in their walks of shame back to the meets; most notably when covert sabs popped up unexpectedly from out of the long grass; never a quicker U-turn will you see!

May saw us London-bound for the day as part of the HSA flag bloc at the Anti-Hunting march.

And, for the second year running, we've organised a protest outside the Festival of Hunting at the East of England Showground, one of the most prestigious events on the hunting calendar. The amount of vehicles driving in with fluffy foxes on their dashboards just goes to show the disconnection these people have to the animals they pursue and kill.

Some of us made the journey up to the grouse moors for the Inglorious Twelfth; what was glorious was the sight of so many sabs coming together from across the country to stop them shooting for the day and saving numerous lives.

Sett surveying in Devon and Dorset continues; long journeys, but the help is desperately needed, the start of the cull is imminent and we're ready. Cub hunting has started; our first early morning was an extremely successful one at the Cottesmore Hunt, so much so that they packed up early: a good day for us and a great day for the fox cubs.

Always looking for new people to get involved, especially confident map readers, please get in touch.

North East Hunt Sabs

nehuntsabs@hotmail.com
www.facebook.com/pages/North-East-Hunt-Saboteurs
paypal gargoyle6967@aol.com.

Over the summer we have been very busy with having stalls at multiple vegan festivals across the North East raising much needed funds and awareness; we also had a stall at the Durham Miners' Gala again which is always a great success.

We have attended anti-hunting marches in London and Leeds to show our support for our little red friends in the cities, as well as those out in the field.

In August we were lucky enough to be able to attend a training weekend up in Scotland with our fellow Scottish sabs where we learnt a few new tips and tricks we can bring to the field this season. All the while we have been out searching the area, taking care of any unwanted traps we have come across.

At the beginning of September we are heading over to Luxembourg to the International Animal Rights Conference to spread our message and help encourage our European comrades to get active.

Finally, with the cub hunting season upon us, we are now making plans to get out in the field whenever possible to intervene in this horrific event and make our presence well and truly known before the season starts.



Nottingham Hunt Sabs

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

Ah... do you remember the days when summer was the time off for sabs and we all went to festivals and got drunk? We do, but fortunately we've found much better ways to while away the hot months!

This summer we've mostly been enjoying the delights of the Herefordshire countryside whilst sett checking for the upcoming cull, as well as the more dubious delights of the Northants Mink Hounds who we've been sabbing into geriatric obscurity. There can be fewer more pleasing sights for sabs than the look of slack-jawed astonishment on a mink hunter's face when, miles from anywhere and happily committing slaughter and environmental destruction on some sun-blushed creek, sabs storm over the brow of a hill and ruin their days' killing.

We also attended the Gory 12th. A great day with over a hundred sabs causing chaos in the Northern Peak District. Two shoots were scuppered, hundreds of lives saved, and it was a great opportunity to meet up with friends from around the country and feel blessed to be part of such a wonderful movement.

So now the nights are drawing in, the mornings are getting colder and summer is but a memory. Autumn will find us in one of several cull zones as well as ruining many a days' hunting in our local manor; it's hard work, heart breaking at times, but we won't stop. New faces always welcome...

Sheffield Hunt Sabs

sheffieldsaboteurs@live.co.uk
www.facebook.com/sheffieldsaboteurs
www.sheffieldsaboteurs.wordpress.com/
sheffieldhuntsaboteurs@riseup.net

We finished the 2016/17 season having successfully annoyed many of our local hunts and, with a strong team of sabs new and old, we looked forward to a summer of fundraising, training and new vehicle shopping! The positive end to the season was, however, tarnished at the final meet of the Middleton Foxhounds as their whip lead the full pack of hounds onto a busy A-road with no spotters in front of him. This resulted in a high speed collision round a corner, which killed four hounds instantly and narrowly missed the whip and sabs. And they say we're the dangerous ones?!

Moving on to more positive news; we attended the mass sab of the 'Glorious Twelfth' and helped to thoroughly ruin the first day of the grouse season for two shoots in the Peak District with sabs from up and down the country. Thanks to a grant from the HSA and money we raised, we now have a new vehicle, which we are looking forward to testing out in the upcoming cub hunting season. Our swell in numbers over the last season means that we are hoping to have sabs in the cull zone, while the sabs who remain up north can tackle cub hunting; something we have aspired to over the last couple of seasons. But it's not all stalls and planning; a few of our sabs have used the end of the fox hunting season to get involved in anti-fracking actions and campaigning, as well as taking action against the on-going profit fuelled tree felling and Zippo's Circus in Sheffield.

At the time of writing, we are checking our torches, charging our batteries and buying maps for Round 5 of the badger cull.
See you on a dark country lane soon!



Severn Vale Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/SevernValeSabs/
severnvalesabs@gmail.com

Since the end of the foxhunting season we have focused our energies on preparations for the latest badger cull which, as I write, is expected to start any day, plus sabbing mink hunts. Over the course of the summer we have joined forces with friends from Beds and Bucks Hunt Sabs, Bristol Hunt Sabs, Bath Hunt Sabs, South Wales Hunt Sabs, Nottingham Hunt Sabs and North Hants Hunt Sabs to spoil the 'fun' of several elusive mink hunts, doubtless saving the lives of many animals. Mink hunts receiving attention from us this year include the Dove Valley Mink Hounds, The Northants Mink Hounds and, to round off the season on a high note, the highly elusive Three Counties Mink Hounds.

Mink hunts still use otter hounds in their packs and are just a way for them to ensure that the blood lines of the hounds are preserved in the vain hope that otter hunting will once again be made legal. "Not on our watch," is our response to that. During a mink hunt every animal on the river bank and in the river risks being harmed. The hunt staff and supporters damage the river bank environment by bashing the vegetation with sticks, an illegal offence in itself as they often disturb nesting birds or water voles. If a mink escapes up a tree, it is shot down. If a mink hides in the bank or a tree stump, it is dug out by terrier men. Once located, mink hunts usually stop hunting, turn tail and make their way as quickly as possible back to the meet and leave. Nothing quite beats the pleasure of a mink hunt 'walk of shame' on a hot summer's day.

Now, with the badger cull just days away, we are out daily checking setts and their immediate environs for signs of pre cull activity; bait points, peanuts in sett entrances etc.

We are a relatively new group born out of the badger cull, but with several years' sabbing experience under our belts, working alongside other groups. We are now keen to grow in numbers as a group and also purchase a dedicated vehicle. We are based in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, but cover the wider area of the Severn Vale if you think you might like to join us please get in touch.



South Coast Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/SCoastHuntSabs
twitter: @SCoastHuntSabs
Southcoasthuntsabs@gmail.com
Paypal: Southcoasthuntsabs@gmail.com

Whatever happened to long summers where only the odd mink hunt disturbed us from our slumbers? Those golden days have gone. It's now an endless round of fundraising and work preparing not only our Landy, but also a car for the badger cull. This may seem excessive, but with both cub-hunting and the badger cull happening at the same time, it's essential. Also, land rovers are just not good cull vehicles, with their higher mileage and lower speeds.

With duel requirements on our time, things have been tricky with half the group in the cull zone and the rest doing the early morning cub hunting; but, to date, both have been very successful, gauged by our sabs in the zone being hassled by cops and even buzzed by police helicopters.

Cub hunting has also been successful, without a single week when we have not been able to find and stop a hunt; many an irate bumpkin jumping up and down, getting red in the face claiming they are only hound exercising. Seems odd that you need 30 mates on horseback surrounding a wood to do that…

As always we are looking for new sabs so if you are in our neck of the woods get in touch.

South Wales Hunt Sabs

southwaleshuntsabs@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/pages/South-Wales-Hunt-Saboteurs

The fox hunting season finished with our group in good spirits and soon we were getting stuck into summer pursuits - firstly checking on the badgers we had been protecting during last year's cull, and then heading over to one of the new zones to help with surveying there. As ever, the signs of casual and commonplace cruelty litter the countryside – animals in poor condition, stinking farms and units, slurry running into fields and streams and, on one particularly grim occasion, finding young pheasants that had died after getting their heads and necks trapped in the fencing of their pen.

On a more positive note, we took a road trip to the Peak District to sab the start of the grouse shooting season – with so many sab groups working together it was certainly a glorious day for us and a spectacularly miserable one for the shooters, most of whom spent the day having a (hopefully very expensive) picnic and looking alternately cross and glum. Hearing the guns of the first shoot go silent when sabs turned up was fantastic.

We've also sabbed mink hunts with friends from Bath, Bristol and Severn Vale sab groups– most recently the Three Counties mink hounds who were sent on their way as soon as we turned up.

As this is being typed, we are in the cull zone, ready and waiting. A massive thank you as always to all our friends and supporters.



West Sussex Hunt Sabs

www.facebook.com/westsussex.huntsabs
westsusssexhuntsabs@riseup.net
Phone: 07871 569 494
Email;.sussexhuntsabs@gmail.com
Twitter: @westsussexhuntsabs

The summer went by far too quickly. We filled the months after the end of last season doing anti-snaring campaigns and checking large areas for traps. We have tried to fit in some fundraising for the group, and encouraging new people to join us. Doing on-line campaigns can be time consuming but we are getting a lot more support from people who want to help by informing us of hunt meets.

The cub hunt season started early when we caught the Crawley & Horsham Fox Hunt out at the beginning of August; we are catching them earlier each year! It was full-on illegal cub hunting from the start, with the usual and now expected intimidation and threats from the hunt and their employees. We are in no doubt that during one meet we saved three fox lives after we caught several men lined up along the edge of the wood with the huntsman pushing the hounds through from the other end. A fox cub ran from the wood crossing the footpath and escaped. Then chaos ensued as two more fox cubs ran across the field, with the hound's riders and the quad bikes on their trail. We were now some distance away but headed after them. Fortunately, the foxes ran into a wood where one of our hunt monitors was waiting. He stepped out to greet the hunt while the two fox cubs got away.

Well, here we go for another long season. WSHS will all be busy trying to fit in the hunt season alongside doing what we can in the cull zones etc. Our best wishes go out to all our sab friends, stay safe this season. And a huge thank you to all our supporters.

Three Counties Hunt Sabs

threecountysabs@live.co.uk
www.facebook.com/3CHuntSabs
vimeo.com/threecountiessabs
www.network23.org/3CHuntSabs
Mobile: 07891 639803

Heythrop Hunt hounds just metres behind the hunted fox, March 2017



At the time of writing, cub hunting has just begun in our area and the badger cull is imminent. Our sabs will be on the ground once again in the Herefordshire, West Gloucestershire and North Cots zones as well as fulfilling our roles within Gloucestershire Badger Office and sabbing hunt meets. Last season we attended more than 100 hunt meets, stopping dig-outs, catching sett-blockers and giving foxes those valuable extra seconds to escape, and had several sabs out daily/ nightly during the culls (hundreds of long days, in total, including sett-surveying!)

Networking has gone really well; as have the events. We've held stalls, talks and workshops during spring and summer (plus the 'cull zone surveying/ training' days that we've held have been well attended). This means that our group has grown larger as we've emphasised the importance of a range of tactics in sabbing hunting and culls; you don't need to be super fit, really young or have loads of time or money - some of our sabs spend their time during the season checking/ unblocking badger setts for an hour or so before work, others put up cameras or walk their dogs near hunt meets and film or pass us info.

We've also recently launched a new website for the Gloucestershire Badger Office: www.network23.org/GlosBadgerOffice with a history of the last four years of campaigning, plus resources and advice for those wishing to set up local wildlife crime watch groups in their own areas, trying to make anti-cull and anti-hunt work more sustainable and accessible while dealing with other threats like development, snaring, baiting and so on.

It sounds like a lot but we're feeling positive!

West Midlands Hunt Sabs

twitter:@WestMidsSabs
www.facebook.com/WestMidsHuntSabs/
westmidlandhuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk
Phone: 07767620767
Donate: https://www.paypal.me/westmidlandhuntsabs



We've had a busy summer. As well as numerous fundraising stalls, we actively helped keep hunting an issue during the election and we've kept the pressure on the Atherstone Hunt. (Look at separate article for details). We've held demos at their pleasure rides, a demo at the kennels for their hound racing event and started a campaign against the Ashby Show for allowing hound parades at the show (we are now in talks with the show).

The previous season ended with the Atherstone teetering on collapse with no riders due to our consistent presence. These fundraising events are crucial to keeping the hunt afloat. Huntsman Stuart Barton was fired and replaced by previous Atherstone huntsman Mike Lane as an unpaid amateur huntsman.

The Atherstone Hunt supporters involved in the shocking violence during their New Year's Day meet all pleaded guilty including George Bentley Brown who was filmed throwing manure at peaceful protesters. He was convicted of 8 counts of assault. Jake Mitchell was convicted of Theft and two counts of Assault, James Farrands was made to write a letter of apology and Richard Matthews was convicted of Theft after stealing a banner. Two others were given cautions.

Since we started focusing on the Atherstone Hunt they have made a loss of over £13,000. They have lost over 235 acres of farmland to hunt on. They have 20 convictions, cautions and community resolutions for violence with more cases pending. They have killed five foxes. They are on their third huntsman, have had 6 Whippers-in and three terrier men. They have been mentioned in the local and national media over 80 times helping keep the realities of fox hunting in the public domain and consciousness for the last two years.



SCOTLAND'S SAB CAMP

The First Hunt Sab Training Camp on Scottish soil

As with every hunt season in Scotland over the last few years, the season of 2016-17 saw every Scottish group approached by even more new faces interested in getting involved in actively opposing fox hunting.

After meeting these new volunteers many of them soon joined us out in the field to tackle fox hunts. However, this new boost in numbers meant that unlike in the past, we have been unable to always pair new sabs with experienced sabs, leaving newbies to very much learn as they go. We had spoken of doing a sab training day in the past, but now felt like the perfect time for it.

Having finalised a date for the end of summer just before the next season, Grampian Sabs got to work organising numerous activities to teach sabs about the hunting law in Scotland, how to use a map, how to tackle illegal hunting and, importantly, to give everyone a chance to get to spend quality time with the people they will be sabbing with. As we drum into everyone who comes out with us, the sab groups over Scotland may be divided geographically, but we treat each other as one big family, and we love to spend time together outside of the season. It is important to have a community so that when times are tough there is always someone to talk to.

> "Expecting maybe ten or so people we were blown away when around thirty sabs came along, not just from Scotland, but from England as well."

Expecting maybe ten or so people to make the weekend which we had organised (because we had too many exercises to fit into just one day!) we were blown away when around thirty sabs came along, not just from Scotland, but from England as well.

A few came only for the Saturday or Sunday, but the majority were able to make both days.

After setting up camp in a big forest in the north of Scotland, we soon began teaching the basics of tool and map use and running practical sessions for people to put what they had learnt into practise and perfecting the whip crack, amongst other things. Orienteering was a fun excuse for the organisers to receive ridiculous selfies from each group and share out vegan chocolate to the winners. Map reading is something many new sabs are reluctant to put to the test so practising in a fun, competitive style gave everyone the chance to get involved without the stress that comes with it on a hunting day; on the second day of camp we put everyone to the test individually as they had to navigate drivers to set checkpoints a few miles from camp.

Other activities included terrain running, what to do when a fox has gone to ground and how to pre-beat woodlands.

Everything that was taught had a practical element to it so that a mock real life situation could be experienced by all. After all, what sounds good in theory does not always work in practice.

In the evening after all of the activities a big (vegan) BBQ was had, which consisted of about fifty or so vegan sausages, many burgers and even vegan bacon donated to us for the camp by Sgaia mheats! Above the dark woodland, we were even treated to a meteor shower.

Day two saw everyone put their learned tactics into practise in gizmo and 'Foxes Running' exercises where all tools were employed and sabs acted out the roles of fox and hounds (as well as some very abusive terrier men and women)! Everyone was reminded that the warm sunny weather was very far removed from the reality of sabbing mid-season! Most activities were carried out in groups, but everyone was able to make their own decisions and people who had been out before were able to suggest to new sabs what was best to do in any given situation, and even seasoned sabs were able to see new ways of doing things due to suggestions and tactics employed by new sabs that some of us had never thought of before.

Camp ended with important stories of sab history, hunt violence and the deaths and serious injuries of sabs at the hands of hunters. The police corruption and inability to stop hunting and violence shocked many sabs who so far have been lucky enough not to see this side of the police. Sabs were taught the importance of numbers in the field and the rule of always looking out for one another and trying your hardest when you're out there.

In the weeks since, everyone has agreed that lots has been learned by all thanks to sab camp, from people who have never been out before to people who have been going out for years. Importantly, the bonds between groups have strengthened and we are stronger and tighter-knit than ever and ready for the season ahead.



Nominated by Severn Vale Sabs

Email us your favourite, dribbling, undead bumpkin pictures and we'll feature the best....space permitting!

SABS SAVED MY LIFE



My name is Mark, and I would like to tell you about my unique and very frightening experience: I had a heart attack whilst out sabbing the Surrey Union.

On Saturday 2nd of September I got up at 4am and got to the Surrey Union Hunt kennels at 5am along with the Guildford sabs.

I parked up and waited to keep an eye out for the hound van; we had other roads covered and monitors close to where we thought they may go. Sure enough, at 5.45, the terrier boys went past me, followed by the hound wagon. I followed, after informing the other sabs.

The lane was long and narrow and the terrier boys held me back while the hound wagon drove on. Intelligence was good, and they did go to the farm we thought they might. We grouped up in a local village and forged our plan. I and another sab went in on foot and soon heard the horn; the other teams joined us as the hunt was found. We decided to make ourselves known to be there.

The hunt stopped hunting and brought the hounds into the open field in front of us and we had the stand-off while the hunt tried to work out what to do. We then decided to walk into the middle of them. My chest at this point was hurting but we were now walking into the middle of the hunters telling them to stop cub hunting.

We moved into the woods and, when we were out of sight of the hunt, I told one of the Croyden sabs that I had bad chest pains. He knew what to do and got me in a good position and told me to breathe slowly. Two of the female Croyden sabs kept with me, keeping me calm .I was in a lot of pain and was meditating on keeping my heart going.

Guildford and North Downs sabs then sorted all the logistics of getting emergency services to me, as I was a couple of miles from any road.

I was there for about an hour before medics got to me; I was scared, but the First Aid from the Croydon sabs was good and there would be no-one I would trust more to sort things out than the North Downs and Guildford sabs, so I felt that everything was being done.

The hunt stopped the paramedics getting to me until the police got them







"The hunt stopped the paramedics getting to me until the police got them to move..."

to move (they really are scum), I was given loads of drugs and an air ambulance was ordered as I was a long way from a road. When it arrived I was flown to Brighton Hospital and went straight into surgery, where put a couple of stent into my heart.

I had had what is classed as a massive heart attack: I have lost the use of 60% of my heart. I would be dead if the beautiful, wonderful, Croydon, Guildford and North Downs sabs had not done everything right. I am so proud to be a sab, but the way they saved my life has put my pride into a different range.

When it was known in the hospital that I was out sabbing cub hunts, lots of hospital staff came to me and patted me on the back and said how they thought what we sabs do was cool. It's been three weeks now and I'm out of hospital. I have a recovery plan and am feeling ok.

I would like to thank all sabs that saved me: Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance and the wonderful NHS staff.

We are very pleased to note that Mark is not only making a very rapid recovery, but that he is also back supporting his fellow sabs in the field; that's dedication! We wish him our very best.



The sad demise of

THE ATHERSTONE HUNT

The Atherstone Hunt was one of a few local hunts we sabbed during the 2013/2014 season. The following season, however, we decided to focus completely on the Atherstone.

We wanted to document and expose the activities of one hunt and show that if this is what one hunt gets up to, imagine what all hunts around the country are doing.

We decided to do this by fully exploiting the power of social media, by filming everything that we do and everything the hunt does and then uploading the video. A lot of the videos went viral and reached tens of thousands of people and, in some cases hundreds of thousands. We also wanted to reach out to new audiences and dispel some of the myths about hunt sabs by showing that we are ordinary people.

"The Atherstone Hunt certainly played its part in making fox hunting one of the most talked about issues during the 2017 general election which saw pro-hunt Theresa May lose her majority."

The age of affordable good quality camcorders and social media means that fox hunts have nowhere left to hide…

A lot has happened in those three years; numerous assaults and acts of violence, blatant fox hunting with lots of foxes hunted, but, also, lots of foxes saved.

Since we started focusing on the Atherstone Hunt they have made a loss of over £13,000. They have lost over 235 acres of farmland to hunt on. They have 20 convictions, cautions and community resolutions for violence with more cases pending. They have killed five foxes. They are on their third



THE ATHERSTONE FACT FILE

£13,000+ LOSS

235 acres LOST

20 offences for VIOLENCE

KILLED 5 FOXES

3 HUNTSMEN

6 WHIPPER-INS

NEWS 80 Mentions

huntsman, have had 6 whippers-in and three terrier men. They have been mentioned in the local and national media over 80 times, helping keep the realities of fox hunting in the public domain and consciousness for the last two years. The Atherstone Hunt certainly played its part in making fox hunting one of the most talked about issues during the 2017 general election which saw pro-hunt Theresa May lose her majority. They also make a very strong case for the need for the Hunting Act to be strengthened.

Having been close to collapse towards the end of last season the start of our fourth season at the Atherstone sees them in desperate need of new riders forcing them to publish their meet card for September on Facebook. This is, of course, a welcome move; why would a hunt need to be secretive if they aren't breaking the law? Now that they have set this precedent they must surely carry on and publish all their meets for the entire season.





It will be difficult for them to explain if they suddenly decide to be secretive again.

And what about other hunts? Most hunts across the country don't publish their meets. Why? What have they got to hide? The only conclusion is that they are illegally hunting. If the Atherstone Hunt can publish their meets, why can't other hunts?

The Atherstone's Facebook post also claims they will only be hound exercising for the entire cub hunting period, which means until November. This means the hounds should be next to the huntsman at all times and should not be off by themselves at any point. If this is true, it is again a welcome development as it means they shouldn't be hunting anything for the next few months.

There are also rumours that the Atherstone are claiming they won't be hunting at all this season but strictly following trails. If true, this would mean we have effectively shut a hunt down and forced them to stop hunting. Whether this turns out to be true or not as their hounds are out unleashed in the countryside we will be there to ensure that no more "accidents" happen.





Pimping Our Sab Van

South coast hunt sabs report on how to make your vehicle the envy of sabs and hunt scum alike!



South Coast Hunt sabs have had a rocky history, called by one irate bumpkin farmer, 'horrible, common, filthy scum'; we have taken that title with pride and use the sound clip on most of our public videos!

Many core members have been long term sabs in other groups but have coalesced under the South Coast title (not without some muttering). This came about when the decision was made to finally get a group Landy to pull together sabs from a wider region. With some hard fund raising and help from the HSA we purchased a red Land Rover safari, which, once we had grilled up the rear and side windows served us well for many years, only breaking down once and then only after getting sabs close enough to the meet for other groups to take them sabbing.

It was the victim of numerous blocking in incidents by hunters, catapult attacks, thrown rocks, whacks from sticks and, worst of all, two doors damaged and the windscreen smashed when our driver came under sustained attack from the terrier men of the South Down & Eridge hunt who broke into the vehicle and smashed his head and hands with rocks. This, we felt, was a very apt Neanderthal form of attack; although he can be quite annoying, this seemed a little OTT.

Our beloved Landy was also backed into twice by Brighton sabs Landy, and we never did get a real apology! Each time it was patched up and sent back out, saving lives, until in March 2016 it was stolen, never to be seen or heard of again. Shortly after this incident the driver received threats and details published on Facebook by the East Sussex and Romney Marsh hunt supporters.

The group continued to sab with cars and help from other groups but set about some serious fund raising. This took the form of many internet pleas and a GoFundMe campaign. The GoFundMe was suspended after a hunter complained that as we were insured so it was a fraudulent claim, to their mind. We had made it clear in the text that we were unlikely to get enough back from the insurance to purchase a new, suitable vehicle and, of course, our insurance would increase. GoFundMe removed the suspension after a few days exonerating us, and the increased publicity about this tripled the money coming in not only via that method but also from direct donations through PayPal. We had some seriously large donations from loyal supporters and the response was very humbling in its generosity. We had raised enough within only six weeks to purchase a new vehicle but kept up with other fund raising efforts knowing that after purchase we would need funds for tax, insurance MOT repairs and other items such as a base radio.

Our driver is a Landy geek so took on the task of finding a replacement. He was given much advice from the group regarding the colour and placement of windows but (he claims) little of real use and after nearly two months of searching a replacement was found. The vehicle had been owned by an off-roading enthusiast who, due to illness, was having to sell his vehicle. The Landy is a 110 Defender Turbo Diesel, and came with off road tyres, jacked up suspension to carry extra weight, an external roll cage, engine immobiliser, winch fitted on the bumper and even a reversing camera.

All of which is great but over the summer some work had to be done to ensure that South Coast hunt sabs had the best sab vehicle in the country, bar none. Internally, bench seats were fitted to the bare interior, a dash-cam with

"Finally after a few weeks the horn stopped, so it worked out cheaper to get a model off the internet for just 15 quid, which plays numerous tones but also doubles as a PA system. A debate is being had as to if we play Wagner's 'Ride of the Valkyries' or Slipknot's 'March of the Maggots' when going through hunt meets."

rear fitted camera was installed as well as a replacement base radio unit. Additional 'cigarette lighter' points front and rear were installed to allow phones and other equipment to be charged on the move. A GPS tracking system was installed to stop any future thefts. The ceiling and walls were fitted with foam to reduce the chance of painful head bumps. A hole was found in the rear panel which we left as it has the use of spraying scent duller on the road behind without even leaving the vehicle! An extra heater in the rear, for those cold days and also the ones where someone falls (or is pushed) into a river. Finally after a few weeks the horn stopped, so it worked out cheaper to get a model off the internet for just 15 quid, which plays numerous tones but also doubles as a PA system. A debate is being had as to if we play Wagner's 'Ride of the Valkyries' or Slipknot's 'March of the Maggots' when going through hunt meets. We may alternate each week, or pick a tune for each hunt.



Externally we have grilled all the windows, yes that is right **ALL** the windows. With the roll bar fitted it has allowed us to attach a thin grill mesh well away but over the wind screen to deflect thrown bricks, large stones and the odd spade which we know will come our way this, and other, seasons.

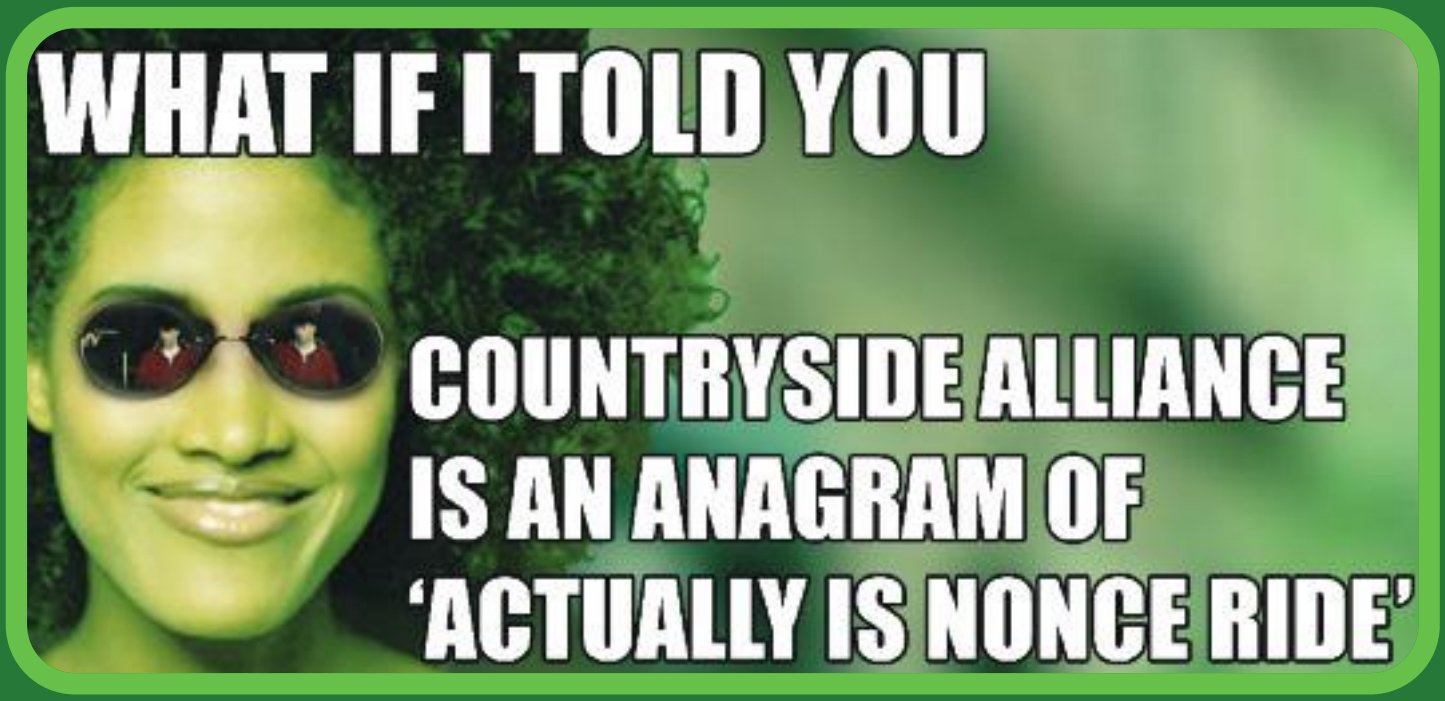
Thick grills on all lights front and rear, thick metal corner bumpers at the rear and finally a metal step and handle by the door to ensure our more elderly sabs can actually get into the rather high standing vehicle… we used to refer to ourselves as the 'Saga Sabs,' as our average age was in the upper-forties, but a recent influx of young whipper-snappers has reduced that age and made the title out of date. So, it's back to the former, 'horrible, common, filthy scum.' All the external items were donated by supporters, so a big thank you to them; it also gave our driver a fun summer tinkering.

So we're back, we're still pissed they nicked our last ride and we are thinking of new items to add to our Uber-Landy to make it even better. Watch out for videos and pictures of mournful looking hunters as we roar past them taking their hounds with us. As if nicking our vehicle was ever going to stop us, a very bad move guys…

When they stop hunting we will finally mothball our Landy in the inevitable museum of Sabbing History, but until then we are horrible, we are common and, at the end of most sabs, we are indeed very filthy, after saving wildlife from hunters. But that's just the job we do.

New sabs always welcome so get in touch today, as we want enough people to require a second Uber-Landy!

South Coast Hunt Sabs
(see our Group News for details of how to contact us)





Gloucestershire Badger Office was set up in 2013 as a collective in response to the government's decision to cull badgers in parts of the county.

For the next four years we coordinated hundreds of people, autonomous groups and individuals, keeping an overview and ensuring that the 'zones' were surveyed for badger setts and monitored throughout the culling periods.

Outside of these periods we also worked with others in order to monitor setts, looking out for local foxhunts, who routinely block setts to prevent foxes escaping below ground, as well as other forms of wildlife persecution.

Current GBO roles

People within the collective generally play different parts. At the moment we have 2 people working on regular fundraising and another 2 keeping an overview of funds and managing the bank and PayPal accounts. One person has taken on the majority of camp/ welfare coordination over the years with others chipping in. Our arrestee support person is always on call but lives out of the area with an otherwise busy life (and luckily hasn't been needed much over the years). Police liaison, on the other hand, is a connected, but much bigger role, being needed outside of cull periods a lot more as well. Media is an area we're trying to improve on, though we're pretty sorted social media-wise as our reports are written up by any of our admins in the above roles, plus those focusing more on coordination of people on the ground, for sett surveying, during the cull and for emergency call-outs. Website updates are mainly organised by one of the admins.

One of the coordinators is currently mapping all known setts on a central database for the three counties, whilst another has more of an overview of upcoming events such as sett-surveying training days (run by us) as well as country shows and other events which we attend to raise awareness. The public phone line is held by one person at the moment but with various others able to take on the role, even during the intense cull periods.







Intel obviously comes through to us via social media and the phone line as well as from people we meet whilst out, but we also gather our own, doing research; though this usually falls to whoever is interested in a particular angle or has certain knowledge on an issue, so isn't the responsibility of any individual specifically. Logs are kept of reports and intel by a few of the collective. A few of us write articles and information for wider dissemination with a collective member who has good contacts for printing and so on. It's only when we write it down that we realise just how busy we are... and that's before we talk about daily sett-surveying, meetings and talking to those who call in!

A week before the cull began in 2016 two people doing their regular checks of setts caught a group of badger baiters digging down into an active sett; one that is heavily targeted by cull contractors. Numerous poachers have also been caught in the act over the years and illegally-set traps and snares found.

We have learned a huge amount over the last four years and have met hundreds of dedicated people… one thing we wish we had done more of in the run up to the first year of the cull and between subsequent culls is having more public events, leafletting and so on, trying to engage more with others locally – some of us are quite openly vegan/ pro-animal liberation/ anti-cull but many people don't feel so comfortable in their local communities and some were busy on their own trying to save badgers without any support or idea of how many others were out nearby doing the same. Not everyone is on Facebook either.

The last four years have been intense – our public phone line receives thousands of calls and messages during the culls and a large number of calls for information and advice and with tip-offs even outside of the culling periods. We gather intel, organise camps, fundraise to help with fuel costs and coordinate resistance on the ground – everyone in the collective has their own role/s in addition to physically being out in the fields. We became especially busy when the cull rolled out to two new areas here – another zone in Gloucestershire (the 'North Cotswold zone') and a zone in nearby Herefordshire.



And now there come more changes...

With uncertainty over how long culling periods will last for in future culls and how many more zones culling will roll out to, with landowners taking on the majority of the groundwork themselves instead of bringing contractors in from elsewhere, and wildlife persecution an ongoing daily issue across the country, we strongly believe that it will not be possible to coordinate anything in the same way as we have been doing again.

With more zones becoming active there won't be the same numbers of people flocking into cull zones, especially if the cull lasts for longer periods of time. Sett-sitters and patrols, autonomous groups and individuals can't cover every sett all the time throughout these periods and much more work will be intel-led.

There are already lots of people out there working on their own projects to highlight what is going on, gathering and collating evidence, for example, of hunts blocking badger setts in current and potential cull zones and other breaches of biosecurity and cull guidelines – how can culls continue to be licensed and given the go-ahead, badgers being scapegoated while certain humans get away with behaviour that is much more likely to spread bovine TB?

We get a lot of messages through from people saying that they wish they were younger, fitter or that they lived closer or had more time free as they would love to get involved… but there is almost always something that everyone can do much closer to home and in their own time, whether or not the cull is coming to an area near them. Our advice is to join or set up a local group in your area, get your heads together and work out what you want to achieve and learn. If you're in the country, get sett-surveying, looking for badger setts near you (and as you go, signs of tampering, blocking and digging-out, snares and so on). In more built-up areas there may well still be badger setts and foxes may be more persecuted in these areas too. Urban sprawl affects huge numbers of animals and their habitats. Even the culls take place right near towns – the cull zones here go right up to Cheltenham and Ross-on-Wye and smaller towns such as Tewkesbury and Stow-on-the-Wold. Across the country we hear reports of poachers being spotted, illegal hunting activities, illegal trapping.

You don't need to live in or near a cull zone or wait for culling to happen near you to do something.

- Check for local badger/ wildlife groups in your area or set up your own (if there isn't anything or if the group doesn't have the same objectives as you)
- Get a phone number (provide a way for others to contact your group for information, to join or with tip-offs)
- Talk to other locals/ groups (local wildlife enthusiasts, bird watchers, anti-hunt groups, wildlife rescues – all may have skills, experience and knowledge which will come in handy)
- Consider using social media to draw attention to the cause and your group (whatever you think of it, it reaches millions… be careful not to put information like the location of setts out publicly, though)
- Get started, get active (leafleting, talks, meeting with others, sett-surveying... surveying is a vital part of building knowledge about an area and badger activity as well as legal and illegal persecution like badger baiting and snares and vital to knowing where to protect if the cull does come to you)



We talk about recruitment a lot; how much better to get more people involved than to set something up in the area in which they live? Who better to gain local information about wildlife persecution and to build networks with others in the area than those who bird-watch or walk their dogs nearby or who have lived in the area for years? It's also easier to build working relationships with police wildlife officers or local businesses if you're not seen as an outsider.

The cull may well become too big and spread out to resist in the same way as we have been… but with a large number of groups working in their own ways across the country, networking and communicating, learning and teaching and fighting wider persecution than the cull alone, more wildlife will be helped and more awareness raised.

Whether you've got a couple of hours before or after work to check on setts close by, have a day free at weekends to gradually sett-survey a bigger area or only have time during school holidays, there's something you can do. It doesn't matter how fit you area, how far you can walk, whether your whole family is involved or just you, there's something you can do.

The GBO collective have decided to carry on working as one such local group while also providing advice to and networking with groups much further afield. We'll continue to coordinate on the ground in the zones in this area when the culling begins again, but we no longer want to focus on the cull as a single-issue campaign. Resistance to wildlife persecution can become a part of 'daily life' – we check setts as we walk our dogs, some of us have caught poachers whilst out on bike rides because it has become second-nature to notice suspicious activity and we've learned what is 'normal' in the areas in which we live. On top of this, we run sett-surveying training days and various workshops as well as providing information to others through producing leaflets and writing articles. None of us are anything special: we're not 'younger' or 'fitter'; we just do our bit. And we want you to know that you can too. As much or as little as you want to.

And we'll be here to help if you need us.

07709 624903
www.facebook.com/Glosbadgeroffice
gloucestershire_badger_office@riseup.net
www.network23.org/GlosBadgerOffice





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 the prisoner. Remember all correspondence is read by prison staff. Also don't expect a reply as there is a limit to the number of letters each prisoner can write.

Marius Jacob Mason (formerly Marie Jeanette Mason, 04672-061)
FMC Carswell, Federal Medical Center, P.O. Box 27137, Fort Worth, TX 76127, USA.
Marius was sentenced on 5th February 2009 to an outrageous 21 years and 10 months imprisonment for ELF/ALF actions. www.facebook.com/supportmariusmason/ and http://supportmariusmason.org, In July 2014, Marius announced that he would no longer be using the name Marie, and will be using male pronouns. Until his name is legally changed, mail sent to Marius in prison will need to be addressed to "Marie Mason."

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

Joseph Buddenberg #12746-111
FCI Victorville Medium I, Federal Correctional Institution, P.O. Box 3725, Adelanto, CA 92301, USA.
In early 2016, Joseph Buddenberg and Nicole Kissane signed non-cooperating plea agreements in which they pled guilty to Conspiracy to Violate the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act. Joseph and Nicole were accused of releasing thousands of animals from fur farms, and causing damage to associated businesses in 2013. Joseph was sentenced to two years in prison. Nicole was sentenced to 21 months in January 2017.

Nicole Kissane #20651-111
MCC San Diego, Metropolitan Correctional Center, 808 Union Street, San Diego, CA 92101, USA.

Brian Vaillancourt #M42889
Danville Correctional Center, 3820 East Main Street, Danville, IL 61834, USA
In February 2014, Brian was sentenced to nine years in prison for a McDonald's arson.

save us some dosh if you're moving!

If you move house please tell us. The HSA has a disproportionate number of returned envelopes due to unknown addresses, this inevitably means wasted funds.

Please make sure we have your current address!





HELP SAVE A LIFE AFTER YOUR DEATH

REMEMBER THE HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION IN YOUR WILL

You may think that it is not worth your while making a Will but you may be surprised at how much you are worth, especially if you own your own home. Most people in this country die without making a Will and that means that the government gets more than their fair share. Making a Will need not be complicated or time consuming and it could save your loved ones a lot of unnecessary heartache. If you do not have a Will when you die there is no guarantee that those closest to you will benefit from your wealth and property. In addition, many people like to know that the organisations they support whilst alive will continue to benefit after their death.

The Hunt Saboteurs Association relies entirely on the generosity of its membership to function. As the organisation strives to function on minimal running costs more of the money coming in can be put to good use where it counts most – in the hunting field. Leaving a gift to the H.S.A. in your Will helps to ensure that the good work carried out by active hunt saboteurs can continue. With a ban now in place, and so many hunts blatantly flouting it, the role of sabs has never been more important, so your gift will still be put to good use – the HSA will continue until no sentient creatures are abused in the name of sport.

A Will is a legally binding document and needs to be prepared properly. The services of a solicitor should be employed. A solicitor is the only person who can give professionally qualified advice. Have a look in Yellow Pages (under 'Solicitors') or call the Law Society on *020 7242 1222*. If you already have a Will you can include a gift to the H.S.A. by adding an amendment (known as a 'codicil') – you will need to consult your solicitor about this.

If you are able to remember the H.S.A. in your Will it would help if you could let us know.

I plan to / have already prepared a Will and have remembered the Hunt Saboteurs Association as follows (please tick as appropriate):

☐ **Residual Legacy** - a percentage of my estate once my family and friends have been provided for.

☐ **Pecuniary Legacy** - a cash gift of £.....

☐ **Specific Gift** - an individual item of value e.g. jewellery.

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Signature.....

Date.....

HOW YOU CAN HELP END BLOODSPORTS

Organisations such as the Countryside Alliance are backed by some of the richest people in Britain, and can spend millions on advertising and paid campaigners. Their wealth and power gives them a stranglehold over most of the media and some of the most influential people in government.

The Hunt Saboteurs Association, in comparison, runs solely on funds from you, the public, who keep the organisation afloat with donations and membership. It depends on the small band of volunteers who give over their spare time to keep the HSA running smoothly, produce leaflets and salesgoods, staff stalls, manage websites/social media and deal with the press. And most importantly of all it depends on the dedication of the men and women who, week in, week out, defy the hunts on their own turf, and in the face of increasing violence and police powers, *still* manage to save the lives of thousands of hunted animals every year.

There are several ways you can help the HSA.

- Get in touch with your local sab group (details from the office) and either go sabbing yourself or help in other ways such as fundraising, mechanics or donating financially.
- If you are not already a member of the HSA, please join now by using the form below - or join online at www.huntsabs.org.uk/index.php/get-involved/join-the-hsa
- If you are already a HSA member then please photocopy the form and pass it on to someone else you think may like to join us.
- Ask the office for back copies of HOWL to leave in places where they can be read by members of the public (ie. doctors waiting rooms). If you are still at school or college why not leave a copy in the library reference section?
- Support us by buying HSA T-shirts and other merchandise - see enclosed salesgoods catalogue or visit www.huntsabs.org.uk/index.php/merchandise
- Let the hunters know what you think! Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, contact your local newspaper's letters page and your MP to let them know your views on Government plans either regarding hunting or hunt saboteurs.



HSA MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

PHOTOCOPIES WELCOME

I would like to become an active / supporting* member of the Hunt Saboteurs Association (**delete one*)

I enclose my membership subscription of: (*tick one*)

❒ £20 (1 year subscription) ❒ £200 life membership

❒ I enclose a donation of £..... to help fund the HSA's work

Name.....

Address .....,.....

.....

..... Postcode .....

Telephone Number.....

Email.....

Cheques / PO's should be made payable to "HSA".

Please return to HSA, BM HSA, London WC1N 3XX

For a standing order form, to pay via paypal, or for more information please email us - info@huntsabs.org.uk or visit www.huntsabs.org.uk

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Animal Justice Project
www.animaljusticeproject.com

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

ARPS (Animal Rights Prisoner Support)
PO Box 2174, LEIGH-ON-SEA, SS9 0AZ
www.arprisoners.org
info@arprisoners.org

The Black Fish
www.theblackfish.org info@theblackfish.org

The Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade (CAFT)
PO Box 38, Manchester, M60 1NX
0845 330 7955 caft@caft.org.uk www.caft.org.uk

Digging Out (Campaign for the Abolition of Terrier Work)
BCM Digging Out, London, WC1N 3XX
info@diggingout.org www.diggingout.org

Earth First!
www.earthfirst.org.uk www.eco-action.org

The Fox Project
The Lodge, Kings Toll Road, Pembury, Kent, TN2 4BE
01892 842111 mon-fri 9am-12 noon
fox@foxproject.org.uk www.foxproject.org.uk

Hounds Off
PO Box 162, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 7AZ
www.houndsoff.co.uk

Hunt Watch
PO Box 487, Norwich, NR5 8WE
07952 550054 contact@huntwatch.info www.huntwatch.info

The National Anti-Snaring Campaign (NASC)
PO Box 3058, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN16 3LG
info@antisnaring.org.uk www.antisnaring.org.uk 07580455223

National Fox Welfare Society
135 Higham Road, Rushden, Northants, NN10 6DS
01933 411996 natfox@ntlworld.com www.nfws.org.uk

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

Sea Shepherd
Sea Shepherd UK, 27 Old Gloucester Street, London WC1N 3AX
Tel: 0300 111 0501 admin@seashepherduk.org
www.seashepherd.org.uk

SPEAK Campaigns
PO Box 6712, Northampton, NN2 6XR
0845 330 7985 07906 497317 info@speakcampaigns.org
www.speakcampaigns.org

Stop the Cull
www.badger-killers.co.uk

Vegan Prisoner Support Group (VPSG)
BM 2107, London, WC1N 3XX info@vpsg.org www.vpsg.org

The Vegan Society
Donald Watson House, 21 Hylton Street, Hockley, Birmingham, B18 6HJ 0121 523 1730 0845 458 8244
info@vegansociety.com www.vegansociety.com

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

Obituary



In Memory of Mary Kathleen Faramus

14th April 1928 – 1st February 2017

Husband and wife couple Tony and Mary Faramus would be known to almost every sab in the Surrey and Hampshire area. In the 1980s when most sabs were in their twenties, often sporting dreads or dodgy traveller mullets, Tony and Mary stood out; not only because they were in their late fifties/ early sixties, but also because Tony looked every inch the 'English Gent' (his story is worth looking at on Wikipedia) and Mary had film-star looks.

In fact, she was in the film industry as an actress for many years, even working in Hollywood and befriending Cary Grant, returning to Britain with his Alsatian dogs when he could no longer care for them.

Animal suffering weighed heavily on Mary to an extent I had never seen with anyone before, but it made her a tireless animal rights campaigner and, from the 1970s onwards, a hunt saboteur.

At home, she surrounded herself with rescued dogs and cats. Her door was constantly open to younger sabs and a nourishing pan of homemade vegetable soup always awaited. In later life, after Tony's death, her health diminished and she had to go to a specialised nursing home. On visits, she would always try to greet you with her trademark red 'lippy' on, and a joke or even a song.

Mary was a real inspiration and will be very sadly missed.



MAKING HUNTERS RED-FACED AND NARKY SINCE 1963

JOIN *SAB DONATE



www.huntsabs.org.uk