



**LEAGUE**  
AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

# PROTECT

No17 SUMMER 2017

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The League investigates the recent outbreak of bovine TB at a hunt kennel

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This adorable dog was saved by the League from a potentially horrible future



## A fox running for Parliament?

Stranger things have  
happened



# WELCOME

**It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.**

It's probably a bit pretentious to open this issue with a Charles Dickens quotation, but it seems apt. I did think about referencing Schrodinger's Cat but I was concerned that Winnie, my Greyhound co-worker, will simply chase it off...

Let me explain. At the time of writing, the League is steaming ahead with our Votes for Vinny (see opposite) election campaign, and as such the general election hasn't happened yet. But for you, it's already over.

Depending on your political outlook, of course, it could be the best or worst of times. But what we are concerned about is the outcome for British wildlife. It is at moments in history like this you have to be sure to stand up to be counted. We are proud to stand alongside our supporters and be the voice for the voiceless. And, no matter the outcome, we will continue to be the voice for animals.

But the world doesn't stop just because there's an election on (although it sometimes feels like it) and the hard work of the League has continued regardless. In this issue you will find the seeds of a campaign to have hunting stopped on National Trust land. I know, I was as shocked as you are that the NT allows hunting, but you can find out how to turn that outrage into action on page 13.

Speaking of seeing red, on page 14 you can read about the latest outbreak of tB, not caused by badgers as some would have you believe, but by a Hunt. We found this news through the vigilance of the public, and on page 17 we ask for your help in exposing hunting's dirty secret.



We strive to make the world a better place for animals, and we continue only with your support. As Dickens said, "It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done."

**Nick Weston & Winnie**  
*Editor & Greyhound*

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# Stranger things

A fox running in the general election? In the past month, what started as an amusing idea to gain public and media traction turned into a rather appropriate social commentary.

## Votes For Vinny

Yes, you read that correctly. During the 2017 General Election, a fox ran for parliament. Except he didn't, not really. Vinny, although based on a real life rescued cub, was not actually a candidate, but the League ran a campaign in his name as though he was. In a year with so much political noise, it was important that the voice for animals was heard, and what better way to hear it than from one of the animals themselves?

## What Does The Fox Say?

Vinny stood on a platform of two central policies. A Vote For Vinny meant that;

- You want to keep fox, hare, stag and mink hunting illegal
- You want to increase sentencing for animal cruelty, including dog fighting

Through online campaigning, members of the public could "Vote for Vinny" and thereby contact their local candidates, asking where they stand on the above issues.

## On the Campaign Tail

It's all well and good to have an online campaign, but if Vinny was to act like a real life politician, he would have get out there and win the hearts and minds of the public. So it was 'all aboard' the battle-bus for a week long tour of the UK, starting in London, then Bristol, Cardiff, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle and finally Edinburgh. As you can imagine, a fox in a campaign bus draws a lot of attention, but Vinny was met with open arms by constituents and candidates alike.

The campaign launched in central London, with celebrity supporters Peter Egan and Meg Matthews, as well as dozens of fox mask wearing Lush employees. This press event was broadcast live thanks to the wonder of mobile phones and Facebook, but was cut short as the sound of a hunting horn cut through the air and Vinny was chased away by the Central London Foxhunt. But never fear dear reader, Vinny returned and with the help of the crowd performed a dance routine to the hit song What Does The Fox Say?

It should probably be pointed out for our more impressionable readers that he was not really attacked by a hunt, it was a publicity stunt. And if you ever do find yourself in the path of a hunt, we do not advise dancing to Norwegian pop songs as an attempt to halt them.

Continued on next page...



## STRANGER THINGS (CONTINUED)

### 100,000 Animals

Of course, as much fun that could be had with Vinny, his purpose was to promote a serious message. Alongside the campaign, the League published a new study which estimated that the Hunting Act 2004 has so far helped over 100,000 animals including foxes, hares and deer, and is therefore worth protecting.

The figures were calculated using many factors such as the number of hunts that operated before and after the ban and the changes in the number of hunt meets. The figures refer to the number of animals being killed, chased or disturbed by the activities of the hunts, as these are the activities that the Hunting Act 2004 banned (not just the killing).

However, by the same calculation, the figures suggest that if the Act had been properly enforced it would have helped up to 2.8 million animals, a strong reminder that as much good as the Hunting Act does, it is vital that it is strengthened.

### Commitments

Unfortunately, not everyone sees things this way, and Theresa May's commitment to a free vote on the repeal of the hunting act was a disappointment. It was not just a disappointment for us, but the general public at large were outraged at the very suggestion and the League found itself front and centre of the media, reminding the country on television, national newspapers and national radio that 84% of the population do NOT want fox hunting to become legal once more. Opinion against stag and hare hunting and hare coursing is even higher.

It was this message that made the Vinny campaign so important as, through Vinny, supporters like you could take action and contact their local candidates, sharing concerns about a potential repeal, and asking candidates to vote against it. Thanks to supporters, over 1,000 responses from candidates were generated, helping to build a picture of just where candidates across the country stood on animal welfare.

### Where is he now?

As the last week of the election started to heat up, sadly Vinny no longer felt safe and went to ground. But the campaign continued in his name, and it was made clear that in the 21st century, a return to legal hunting is not something the British public want to see.

The future of the Hunting Act is still uncertain, but with your support we can make sure it stays in place. And you never know, should the threat arise, Vinny might feel obliged to return to the world of politics...



### MailOnline

Outrage as Theresa May confirms a Commons vote on scrapping the ban on fox hunting WILL be held

### EXPRESS

Fox hunting: Angry animal campaigners accuse Theresa May of being OUT OF TOUCH with voters

### WalesOnline

A giant fox has appeared in Cardiff as part of an election campaign to keep the hunting ban

### ABOUT MANCHESTER

Mark Radcliffe to join famed Vinny the Fox cub in Manchester as 'Battle Bus' hits town!

## TAKE ACTION

The future of the hunting act is not certain, please check the League's website to see what action you can take.





## FROM THE CEO

## Fox hunting, the election and the future



I'm writing this on the morning after an extraordinary election. While the rest of this magazine was completed pre-June 8th, I've got a chance to ponder on our own campaign - and what the future holds.

Our Votes for Vinny campaign reached pretty much every corner of Great Britain. By 'voting for Vinny' you were able to tell your local candidates that you care about animals. We estimate this led to an astonishing 85,000 emails being sent. Several candidates told us they had received more communication about hunting than any other issue.

Alongside Vinny we continued our usual work in the media and in Parliament. Our polling showing that 84% of the public are opposed to legalising fox hunting was published everywhere. We know that some pro-hunting candidates publicly switched their position, potentially because of this work.

*“Several election candidates told us they had received more communication about hunting than any other issue.”*

We also commissioned a poll which showed that half of all voters would switch their vote to a candidate of another party if the local candidate from their preferred party was pro-repeal. That's quite a devastating figure when you consider how close the election was.

Other polling showed that hunting was one of the most talked about issues of the entire election, second only to social care. Hunting was truly a hot topic, and I firmly believe the League can take a lot of credit for keeping it in the public eye.

But to the future - what will the election result mean? There is a chance that hunting has become so toxic that no government will touch it for a while. But there is also the threat of an attempt to re-write environmental legislation - including the Hunting Act. Meanwhile, the hunters who continue to defy the law will be out and about - starting with cub hunting season in just a few weeks.

Our work continues, and we continue to rely on your support. There is so much more we can achieve together in bringing cruel sport to an end - who knows what mountains we can climb.

**Eduardo Gonçalves**  
Chief Executive, League Against Cruel Sports



## A True Voice for Animals

*Peter Egan* is a British actor, made famous by his roles in 70's sitcom *Ever Decreasing Circles*, 80's spy drama *A Perfect Spy* and most recently *Downton Abbey*. However, he is becoming equally well known and respected as an animal welfare campaigner, including being Vice-President of the League Against Cruel Sports. He recently joined Vinny on the campaign trail, so we took the opportunity to catch up.



The last time we saw you, you were dancing in front of Vinny the Fox's Battle Bus – what was that like?

It was really terrific dancing (if you can call it that) in front of the battle bus for the Vinny campaign. I've never danced much in my life but it's amazing how you forget your inhibitions when you are supporting such an important campaign... you even discover a bit of rhythm!



You support many animal welfare organisations – it must be important to you?

I believe passionately in animal welfare. It is the issue of the 21st century. The future will look back on us as savages when they see how much cruelty went on during our time. Not only the appalling practises involving all hunting throughout the world; the circuses;

the leather and the fur industry and of course the deeply cruel and shocking food industry. I don't want to be one of those people who look away. It's vitally important to me.

We feel very privileged at the League to have you as our vice-president – what does it mean to you?

The feeling is mutual. I feel privileged to be a part of such a committed and important group of people. Without the League we would all be ignorant of the extent of the cruelty involved in all sport in which animals are coerced and forced to take part. I hesitate to use the word 'sport' because to me sport is an activity which involves mutual consent and an agreed understanding of the rules of engagement. In my opinion all 'sport' involving animals is one sided and driven by humans for gain.

You are well known for rescuing many dogs – how many do you currently live with and what's it like living with so many pooches?

My wife and I live with 5 pooches at the moment, we've had 7, but sadly lost two to old age a couple of years ago. It is wonderful living with a pack of dogs. You learn so much about them. How different they all are, how individual. Dogs teach us all forgiveness and show us how to live in the moment. It is wonderful to wake up each day to a

group of different personalities who all greet the day with enthusiasm and interest. Dogs also force you to not think about yourself or take yourself too seriously. They pick up vibes in the most sensitive and accurate way and respond vigorously to positive and creative energy. All animals have this ability except sadly the human animal.

What do you feel is the most important thing anyone can do for animals?

I think the most positive thing anyone can do for all animals is to become a vegan. By doing so you renounce all cruelty by the simple act of refusing to source any animal product. You do not eat them, wear them or support any activity which abuses them. If the world became vegan all cruelty would end and all humans would be healthier.

What's next for Peter Egan?

What's next for me is my continuing work in animal welfare. To continue my commitment to work for a more compassionate world and a world that respects the right to a life for all species on this wonderful planet of ours.

You can follow Peter on Twitter @PeterEgan6 and on Facebook [www.facebook.com/PeterEganAnimalAdvocate/](http://www.facebook.com/PeterEganAnimalAdvocate/)



## LEAGUE IN ACTION

### WORKING TO END HUNTING IN SCOTLAND

*In Scotland, the campaign to strengthen the Protection of Wild Mammals Act, the weaker equivalent of the English and Welsh Hunting Act, is gathering pace.*

The Government has agreed to review and strengthen the law. An independent review by Lord Bonomy recommended that the deadline for prosecutions be extended, that hunts have to prove they were using an exemption, and that vicarious liability be introduced.

The Scottish Parliament recently held a meeting of the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee, which questioned Lord Bonomy on his report.

At the time of writing, a consultation on amending the Act is imminent.

The League in Scotland is of course doing all we can to make sure that Scottish wildlife is protected by the best laws possible, and we're lobbying hard to make sure the Scottish legislation will really ban hunting.

Particularly if you live in Scotland, we'll be in touch as the legislation progresses, asking you to get in touch with your MSP – it's really important that as many people as possible take our supporter actions.

**BBC  
NEWS**

**Fox hunting  
laws hinder  
prosecutions,  
says review**



### SNARES IN SCOTLAND

*The Scottish Government recently commissioned a review on snaring legislation.*

The review itself was a toothless exercise which, from the outset, didn't have a remit to consider a complete ban on the sale, use, possession, and manufacture on snares.

However, the good news is that Colin Smyth MSP, a League member, has put forward a motion to Parliament, which has gained cross party support and means that the Scottish Parliament will debate a ban on snares.



### BIRD FLU OUTBREAK

*In January it was reported that there had been an outbreak of Bird-Flu among 10,000 pheasants on a farm in Lancashire. Of the outbreak, League CEO Eduardo Gonçalves said:*

“This outbreak of Bird Flu was inevitable and should be a wake up call because the amount of birds used by the shooting industry each year is a disaster waiting to happen. More pheasants and partridges are bred to be shot each year than the combined number of turkeys and ducks killed for the table, but the understanding of their impact on the wider ecological picture is poorly researched and understood.”

### CAUGHT ON CAMERA

*On 14th March 2017 three members of the Nottinghamshire based Grove and Rufford Hunt were found guilty of illegal hunting at Mansfield Magistrates Court.*

The court were shown photographs taken by two members of the public who came across the hunt near Rainham, Letford, in January 2016 while going birdwatching.

The perpetrators were fined a total of £1,530 between them, as well as instructed to pay costs of £248 and an £80 victim surcharge each.

On the conviction district judge Tim Spruce said: “It's an inescapable conclusion that the Grove and Rufford Hunt were hunting foxes and not artificial scent trails.”

The League wishes to congratulate Sergeant Matt Scott of Nottinghamshire Police and Rod Chapman, Specialist Wildlife Crime prosecutor at CPS East Midlands for bringing this case to fruition.

## IS THERE TO BE A NORTHERN IRELAND BADGER CULL?

*Before the recent stalemate in the Northern Ireland Assembly, DAERA were toying with the idea of scrapping the TVR programme in relation to badgers allegedly spreading Bovine TB, in favour of a large scale cull.*

The League is challenging that idea and working hard to gather support with facts and figures, and challenge the misconceptions about the relationship between badgers and bovine TB.

We are looking at the studies and the overwhelming evidence that clearly shows badgers, while carriers, are not responsible for the spread of it. We are urging the government to not waste public funds on culling a protected species to make minimal impact and instead focus on finding the actual cause.



## GERALD KAUFMAN – THE QUIET MAN WHO ROARED FOR ANIMALS

*The staff at the League were saddened to hear of the passing of Sir Gerald Kaufman, on 26th February 2017.*

During the passage of the Hunting Act into law he played a key part, in which he stood fervently against the licencing of hunting and insisted on a vote for a ban.

All who saw hunting and coursing with dogs for sport made a crime by the Hunting Act, should remember that the quiet man, Sir Gerald, had the loudest voice when it really mattered. And for that we should all remember him and give thanks.

## LIVERPOOL LOOKING LUSH

*Earlier this year the League teamed up with fresh, handmade cosmetics brand Lush to run window displays in 12 of its stores across the country, as part of the campaign to stamp out dog fighting in the UK.*

The Soapbox window displays featured a striking black and white image of Cupcake, a Staffordshire bull terrier rescued and now undergoing rehabilitation after sustaining horrific injuries at the hands of dog fighters.

## SHOOTING ESTATE LICENSING

*On May 23rd, Scottish Parliament Committee recommended that the Scottish Government consider implementing shooting estate licensing.*

The meeting of the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee considered a petition calling for a licensing system. It was held soon after MSPs had raised concerns over a Crown and Prosecution Service ruling that a video of a hen harrier being shot was not admissible evidence, and could not be used in a prosecution.

The committee rejected a proposal by groups representing the shooting industry, which called for self-regulation.

The Scottish Government has already published a review of licensing arrangements in other European countries and has commissioned a review of evidence gathered through the satellite tagging of raptors.

While the League would prefer a ban on driven grouse shooting, the committee's recommendations are a step in the right direction, with several members raising specific concerns about driven grouse moors.





## ANTI-BULLFIGHTING PROTESTS

*On the 13th of May 2017 over 80,000 people marched on the streets of Madrid to protest against bullfighting, making it one of the biggest anti-bullfighting protests ever.*

But they were not alone. In solidarity with the majority of the Spaniards who are against this cruel spectacle a protest was organised in London the same day at the Spanish Embassy. The League's Head of Policy and Research Jordi Casamitjana participated wearing a costume of a bull head, and giving a very well received speech.

## AN ALLIANCE TO BE RECKONED WITH

*During the election 23 leading animal welfare charities and campaign groups joined forces to write to all the party leaders in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, urging them to maintain the UK's animal protection laws amid fears some of them may be scrapped after the election.*

Organisations that form The Animal Protection Alliance include: League Against Cruel Sports, Compassion in World Farming, Save Me Trust, OneKind and Four Paws. It is hoped that this unprecedented coalition will continue to be a voice for animals. You can find more information at [www.animalprotection2017.org.uk](http://www.animalprotection2017.org.uk)

## RIP ANDREW TYLER

*Everyone at the League was deeply saddened to learn of former Animal Aid Director Andrew Tyler's death.*

Andrew was one of a kind. He was a champion for animals, who fought tirelessly for their rights, working to create a world where they could live free from cruelty. He was thoughtful, compassionate, and always a pleasure to work with.

His death sees the animal rights movement lose one of its most effective advocates, but his legacy will live on through all those he inspired and the animals whose lives he bettered.

## News in brief

- **R.I.P. Sir Roger Moore.** The late actor, most famous for his role as secret agent 007 James Bond was also a voice for animals describing hunting as a "coward's pastime". He will be sorely missed.
- **£100,000 in court charges have been placed on the Essex Farmers and Union Hunt** after booting a farmer off land his family had worked for generations. They were also ordered to pay £31,500 in damages.
- **Over 92,000 people have signed the League's anti-dogfighting petition.** It calls on the UK Government to introduce stronger sentences for dog fighting. If you would like add your name you can sign at [www.league.org.uk/dogfightingpetition](http://www.league.org.uk/dogfightingpetition)
- **Celebrity league supporter Ricky Gervais** has been presented with the Lord Houghton Award by Animal Defenders International. The Award is presented annually by ADI, OneKind, Cruelty Free International and the League – with each one taking turns to nominate a recipient.
- **Police in Northern Ireland** are using drones to combat wildlife crime, amid dangerous poisons being used to kill birds of prey.

## SIGN UP!

Receive the latest news direct to your inbox by signing up for our e-newsletter at:

[www.league.org.uk](http://www.league.org.uk)





A Roe Deer is spotted  
among the trees of  
Baronsdown





**LEAGUE**  
AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS





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# Meet Buddy

As we continue to investigate the murky underworld of dog fighting, there are some rays of light that help us through the dark.

You may remember 'Buddy' from a recent appeal. Buddy was obtained by the League when he was being got rid of by a dog fighting gang because he was so sickly he was of no use to them.

Buddy's foster parent tells the story.

"The League undoubtedly saved his life as the gang would have left him to die or – even worse – potentially used him as 'bait' to encourage their other fighting dogs to kill.

"When Buddy arrived at my house he was very nervous and very weak. His eyes were weeping; he had mange and he wasn't interested in eating anything. The following morning Buddy started to vomit so we took him to the vets where he was admitted immediately. They told me Buddy was very ill with canine parvo virus.

"He was in the Intensive Care Unit at the vets for 11 days. For me that time was an emotional roller coaster ride but eventually he pulled through. If it hadn't been for the League rescuing him, I am sure little Buddy would not be alive today."

Since his recovery from illness, Buddy continues to grow, both inside and out. He is learning to trust humans, and learning to socialise with other dogs. With the care and attention that he now has, it is hoped that the love he receives will help heal his scars.

Buddy's story does little to convey the scale of the problem of dog fighting in the UK, but what it does do is remind us that each individual matters. Each individual hurts, and each one heals. His start in life was cruel and unfair, but he is one of the lucky ones and has a chance of a future. One day, we hope to say that our work means that more dogs that have been part of this criminal underworld, or are destined to be part of it, will have the chance of a brighter tomorrow.

*"If it hadn't been for the League rescuing him, I am sure little Buddy would not be alive today."*

## TAKE ACTION

Help us fight against dog fighting

[www.league.org.uk/protectdogs](http://www.league.org.uk/protectdogs)





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# Can you trust the National Trust?

The National Trust is one of the largest membership organisations in the UK, and the nation's second largest land owner. The National Trust says it's working hard to safeguard wildlife habitats, so surely this means animals are safe from hunts on its land?

Unfortunately, it doesn't.

In fact, the League has learned that the National Trust has issued multiple licences to hunts to make use of its land. These licences contain conditions designed to protect fauna and flora, but the League is concerned about the growing evidence of illegal activity, including the criminal use of firearms, poaching of deer, driving vehicles at deer and damaging Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

In one example, League officers have found evidence that a hunt which was banned from National Trust land in 1997, has repeatedly engaged in illegal stag hunting. This hunt has also driven hunt quad bikes and other vehicles on a restricted byway, footpaths used regularly by the public (including school children) and across protected moorland, and has discharged firearms to kill deer on open access land.

Naturally, the League would like to see incidents such as these cease. To this

end, The League was able to secure a meeting with the National Trust in March, with the hope that our evidence would be enough to persuade this loved and trusted institution to see the error of its ways and put an end to this licenced cruelty.

Once presented with the evidence, the Trust regretted to inform us that it did not have the resources to monitor hunting activity on its land, whether licenced or not. Not a problem: we were (and still are) happy to offer to support by providing monitors and training to their estate managers. Disappointingly, this offer of assistance was declined. We were however, informed that that the evidence presented would be shown to the regional managers to see what action could be taken.

At the time of writing, the League has not since heard from the National Trust.

But they haven't heard the last of this issue. 50 National Trust members have backed a motion for licences to be

revoked and for all hunting to be banned on National Trust land. This motion is to be debated at the Trust's AGM in October.

Expect to see more on this campaign in the coming months.

## ARE YOU A NATIONAL TRUST MEMBER? YOU CAN HELP!

As a member you have the power to change National Trust policy. If you can attend the AGM in October, please do. If not, keep an eye out for your proxy voting cards when they come through the post and vote to ban hunting on National Trust land.

If you're not a member, don't worry. You can write to Dame Helen Ghosh expressing your concerns, or if you wish to take further action, please get in contact.





## INVESTIGATE

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# Are hunts spreading TB?

When you ask a member of the public to name animals associated with bovine TB, they will most likely answer “cows” and regrettably, “badgers”. But what about hunting hounds?

In March of this year, our friends at anti-hunt organisation Hounds Off reported an outbreak of bovine TB (bTB) at a hunt kennels used by the Kimblewick Hunt. Conversations with hunt supporters revealed that the Kimblewick's pack had been euthanised and that other hunts were riding in that area.

Only after being contacted by a journalist did both Defra and the hunt confirm that there had been a bTB outbreak. This raises a number of serious questions.

## How can hounds contract bTB?

We believe that the dogs caught the disease from eating infected meat or by being allowed to run in fields where infected cattle had recently been. Hunt kennels routinely collect carcasses from local farmers and use them as cheap meat to feed the dogs, in exchange for letting them hunt on their land. Of the possibilities, Ian McGill of Vets Against the Cull suspects something more sinister:

“It is also possible that the hunt may have been used as a cover for non-declaration of bovine TB cases in cows, so that the farmer does not suffer the severe penalties imposed on farmers with TB in their herd.”

## What, if any, precautions were taken to prevent further outbreak?

After hearing about the outbreak, League investigators were sent to the kennels. If bio-security measures were in place, they were nothing short of a joke.

Animal carcasses could be seen in the open and dogs were wandering around freely. Small signs (barely visible, let alone legible from outside the kennel) declared that biosecurity measures were in place. But our investigators found no real indication that there were any in place.

Regardless of bio-security measures on site, there is still the issue of other hunts making use of Kimblewick territory. Other hunts' hounds ran across the same land that the Kimblewick would have used, before going home to their own territory and potentially spreading disease into other areas.

The League estimates that there are more than 3,000 hunting hounds in the England BTB epidemic zone alone, which may have been out in the



countryside an average of two days a week during the six-month hunting season. If farmers have to lock down their farms and restrict cattle movements to tackle bTB, why are hunts allowed to freely roam the countryside now we know that there is a real chance that the dogs could be carrying and spreading the disease?

## Why wasn't this outbreak made public?

Technically it was, but the trick is in the timing. A message on the Master of Fox Hounds website seemed to have been posted the week the news broke (March) though dated 28th February, claiming that 'Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB) was suspected in hounds at the Kimblewick in December (and subsequently confirmed at the end of January)'. It also claimed that the hunt suspended hunting, and that Defra did not impose any movement or other restrictions as 'it does not consider that there is any increased risk to wildlife and farm stock'.

But what about the government? It may be a coincidence, but there are a number of Defra Ministers with strong links to the hunt lobby. Did they intervene to influence Defra's response? It is also relevant that the Minister for Animal Welfare at Defra Lord Gardiner, is the former Director of Political Affairs at the Countryside Alliance - and is an Honorary Member of the Kimblewick Hunt.

For the sake of the Kimblewick Hounds, the farming industry and public health, we need a full inquiry into Defra's actions in order to clarify these issues.



*“The League estimates that there are more than 3,000 hunting hounds in the England BTB epidemic zone alone ...”*



## Ask an expert

*Andrew Wood, is the former Executive Director for Science and Evidence with Natural England (October 2006 – January 2015) and now a League Against Cruel Sports Trustee. Andrew who was once in charge of the badger cull policy and its roll out, is now outspoken in his opposition to the Government’s policy.*

The Kimblewick case neatly brings together two myths of the modern countryside. One of these claims that the Hunting Act has stopped fox hunters killing foxes; the other says that bTB could be eradicated if only we shot enough badgers. But myths aren't facts.

While some badgers do carry bTB, so do deer, mice and domestic cats. Most bTB transmission is cattle to cattle; much of it the result of poor biosecurity and poorly regulated cattle movement.

So what does the Kimblewick case tell us? Three things. First, that dogs are susceptible to bTB. Secondly, that farmers sometimes play fast and loose with regulations put in place for the good of all. And thirdly, that hunting activities continue to pose a real threat to the countryside. If hounds can contract the disease through feeding on an infected carcass (under regulations they should have gone nowhere near), they can contract it as they explore cowpats in the countryside. What then is the risk of them spreading it further as they go from farm to farm in the course of a hunt?

It doesn't have to be like this. In Wales, badger vaccination, proper biosecurity measures on farms, proper enforcement of cattle movement and disposal regulations have led to a 41% reduction in bTB over the last 8 years. This would result in more badgers and more cows reaching a ripe old age.

So wouldn't it be sensible to ban hunts across land where there are infected herds or across any livestock farms in risk areas for bTB, thus removing the risk of other hounds having to be destroyed and of them spreading the disease further to hitherto clean herds?

The Kimblewick case is undoubtedly a tragedy for the poor cow herself and for the innocent dogs who had to be put down. But it needn't be a total waste of those lives if it leads to a more rational approach to bTB control and better control of hunt activities.

THE  
HUFFINGTON  
POST

Hounds at  
Kimblewick Hunt  
Killed After Bovine  
TB Outbreak in  
Buckinghamshire



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# Sanctuary news

Our Sanctuaries certainly stir the senses.

The sounds of the birds, the rich smell of flowers, the taste of fresh air, the feel of nature underfoot and the sight of majestic deer in the distance. Although the deer are starting to look quite different as we move into the summer months, with the Red Deer stags shedding their antlers and moving deep into cover to grow a new pair in time for the rut in Autumn.

Events such as these mark the passing of the seasons, and Baronsdown's largely untouched landscape does allow the scale, variety and beauty of wildlife that grows in a temperate climate. The variety of wildlife that populates Great Britain often goes unappreciated, most likely because of the lack of mega-fauna such as lions and elephants etc.

If it's smallies and creepy-crawlies that interest you, we have plenty in our neck of the woods. In rocky areas slowworms can be found basking in the sun, whilst

newts can be found sheltering below stones by the waters of our ponds, as below the surface tadpoles blossom into frogs.

In preparation for the awakening of some of our smallest warm blooded residents, 50 newly constructed nesting boxes have been installed as part of the National Dormouse Monitoring Programme. The Hazel Dormice awoke in May, and we are hoping to find that they have made use of their new homes.



On the larger side, above the treetops, aerial displays can be seen as buzzards and ravens compete for airspace and territory, whilst the sounds of swallows twittering overhead heralds the sound of summer.

Due credit needs to be given to our bee population. Despite a serious national decline in the Bumblebee population, they are thriving on our sanctuaries thanks to the lack of pesticides and herbicides. In return, these industrious little insects help pollinate the many plants that live on our land and help create a beautiful summer picture.

As a member, if you would like to visit our sanctuaries and see this beautiful picture for yourself, please contact us via email [info@league.org.uk](mailto:info@league.org.uk) or by phone 01483 524 250.





INVESTIGATE

EDUCATE

PROTECT

# Help expose hunting's dirty secret

Autumn Hunting. It sounds just as incongruous as any other type of hunt – but this somewhat bland and inoffensive title belies its true and brutal nature: the hunting of fox cubs.

It's hard to believe, but it would seem that nothing is sacred to those who like to kill for 'sport'.

But what's cub hunting for?

1. *To teach new hounds how to hunt* – contrary to what the hunters say, hunting a live fox does not come naturally to a fox hound. Young dogs have to be taught how to hunt ready for the main season.
2. *To disperse foxes* – hunting fox cubs means the family of foxes in an area are more likely to be separated and take up residence elsewhere. This provides for better 'sport' later in the season.
3. *To kill foxes* – The new hounds cannot be trained without learning about the kill. The killing of fox cubs will also be a key reason why farmers and other landowners give the hunt permission to cross their land, under the misguided notion that foxes need controlling, or that killing them is the best way to control numbers.

As many as 10,000 fox cubs may be illegally killed every year during cub hunting season, which is why we need your help. Your eyes, ears and wits are the first line of defence against this abhorrent practice. Your vigilance in the coming months may help us place investigators in front of the hunts and catch them in the act.

What to look out for:

- Cub hunting normally takes place in September and October in early morning and late evening
- Hunt staff wearing tweeds – not red coats
- As there is no real chase, these hunts can often appear quite static and may take place on crop fields or surrounding small areas of woodland, in which the cubs are trapped.

## TAKE ACTION

If you suspect anything, please file a report with our Animal Crimewatch team:

[www.league.org.uk/animal-crimewatch](http://www.league.org.uk/animal-crimewatch) or 01483 361 108





**YOU'RE HELPING**

**HAIR-RAISING FUNDRAISING**

Would you throw yourself out of a plane for animals? Holly and Lucy did, and raised over £1,200 for the League in the process. We spoke to them about their fundraising experience.

**What made you decide to fundraise for the League?**

*Hollie:* We are both extremely passionate about animal welfare and we always use our voices for those who don't have one. More needs to be done to expose cruelty to animals in all forms and we will do whatever we can to do our bit at all times.

**Have you ever skydived before?**

*Lucy:* We have never been skydiving! It was always something that I had wanted to do but when it was nearing the jump I was really nervous. The fear of the parachute not opening or accidentally knocking my instructor out really stressed me out but what I was feeling was nothing compared to what animals go through every day! And I'm so happy I threw myself out of a plane for them.

*Hollie:* One day I want to learn to jump on my own – it's addictive.

**What was the best moment?**

*Hollie:* Free falling was the most exhilarating experience ever! You travel at 120mph and the adrenaline just kicks in. The canopy ride back down to earth was amazing. Everything just goes silent and you have a moment to take everything in and look at the views as well as thinking "Did I really just do that?"

**Do you have any tips and advice for raising money?**

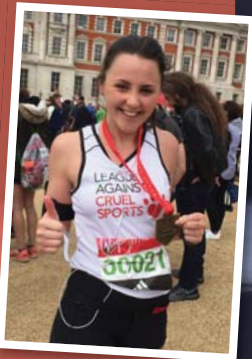
*Lucy:* Social Media is a biggy – overload your friends and family on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, even LinkedIn if you have it and just spread the word as much as possible.

You can request a FREE Fundraising Pack by contacting Mike on 01483 524 250, emailing [fundraising@league.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@league.org.uk) or visiting [www.league.org.uk/LeagueHero](http://www.league.org.uk/LeagueHero)



**BECKY'S LONDON MARATHON EXPERIENCE**

I'm really pleased with my fundraising and hope that it helps the animals and the League's great work.



I came in at 3:43 hours, which qualified me for a 'good for age' place for 2018/19.

It's such a great day and the crowds are fantastic and really make the experience worthwhile.

**Fauna - a fox's life**

Episode 5

4 months later





## THANK YOU MID-DEVON GROUP

We would like to say a huge “thank you” to the Mid-Devon supporter group for over 20 years of active and loyal support. In that time, the group has raised a whopping £30,000 towards the work of the League. There are many members of the group, but we would like to pay particular attention to Ivor, Yvonne, Tony, Pete and Suzanne whose efforts have been a repeated source of inspiration for the staff at the League.

We are sad to hear that after all these years, the group is stepping down, but we hope that its legacy will continue with new recruits.

If you would like to join a supporter group visit [www.league.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.league.org.uk/volunteer)



Story by the League Against Cruel Sports,  
illustration by [www.woodyfox.co.uk](http://www.woodyfox.co.uk)

### Episode 6



## SUMMER RAFFLE

Over £2,000 in cash prizes to be won plus the chance to be entered into a Super Seller Draw with a chance of winning an extra £200!

**1<sup>st</sup> prize = £1,000**

**2<sup>nd</sup> prize = 2 x £250**

**3<sup>rd</sup> prize = 3 x £100**

**4<sup>th</sup> prize = 10 x £25**

With so many cash prizes up for grabs, please consider taking part and helping to protect more animals from cruelty.

And that's not to mention the bonus Super Seller draw. This is your chance to be automatically entered to win a £200 cash bonus prize – just from buying or selling £20 worth of tickets.

All profits raised will help us to protect animals, so why not ask friends and family to take part too? This is a great way of helping us combat wildlife crime over the coming months.

You can also play securely online at:  
[www.league.org.uk/onlineraffle](http://www.league.org.uk/onlineraffle)

To request an Summer Raffle booklet if there is not one enclosed and you do not wish to play online, please contact us and we will be delighted to post one to you.

You can also call to request extras!

**Call 01483 524 250**  
**or email [info@league.org.uk](mailto:info@league.org.uk)**



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☆☆☆ VOTES FOR ☆☆☆

**VINNY**



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