

My interest in animal welfare started when I was young and specifically anti hunt when I saw a League Against Cruel Sports car sticker on a car window – the very old rectangular one with the image of the hunt chasing a fox over a green field. I took the contact details and the rest they say is history!

Whilst at college I came across the Wolverhampton polytechnic hunt saboteur's society who had the use of the college minibus and of course the chemistry labs. They brewed their own anti-mate liquid held in 5/10-gallon containers on the bus from which we regularly refilled our spray bottles whilst sabbing the two local hunts (at that time the Albrighton and Albrighton Woodland) as often as we could make it.

That carried on for a number of years but it's literally a lifetime ago now. Fast forward and whilst almost a pensioner with a worn-out body I'm far too old to 'sab'. But I do financially support them and frequently write letters to papers and MPs for the cause. And not just fox hunting of course but hare coursing, the badger cull, stag and mink hunting, fur farming etc.

Whilst the tide is in our favour and the vast majority of the British public are now aware of 'smoke screens' and what actually goes on in the countryside under the guise of trail hunting, it will take a determined, honest (as they have promised it) new government to fix the many loopholes in the hunting act. Only then, and with proper policing/CPS support, will we see an end to the barbaric practices carried out by the so-called 'custodians of the countryside'. The sooner the better.