

Patron: Virginia McKenna OBE

Newsletter Winter 2020
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East Surrey Badger Protection Society
Registered charity No. 800270
Affiliated to the BADGER TRUST



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Christmas Badger Newsletter 2020

Dear members

With this we mark the end of another year, and a year like no other.

We're hoping for a better year in 2021, for us, for wildlife and nature in general. We realise the negative stories can feel overwhelming sometimes, but this year was particularly challenging. Despite that we continued with the badger orphan cub release programme.

We thank you for your continued support, particularly in these difficult times. The badgers have no idea what's occurring in our human world, and your support has allowed us to continue our work to help them.

We hope that you and your families remain safe and healthy, and that you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ewan Crosbie – ESBPS Editor

Despite its role in causing the pandemic the wildlife trade is set to continue unabated.

It would be an understatement to say that this has been an unusual year and in the previous newsletter we covered the underlying factors that caused this pandemic, the broken relationship that humans have with nature. There is now some optimism that a variety of new vaccines will make a significant difference in bringing the COVID-19 virus under some control, sometime next year and that would be very welcome.

The recent G20 summit which should have been a golden opportunity to address the causal factors and develop an agreed action plan to stop such a pandemic ever happening again proved to be a total failure in this regard. While recognising that the world needs to be better prepared to deal with a similar pandemic in the future, the G20, made up of 19 countries and the EU, has pledged to ensure that pandemics like COVID-19 never happen again by committing to "advancing global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response" and they acknowledge "the need for long-term solutions to address gaps in global pandemic preparedness and response".

The agreement by G20 leaders is a very modest first step towards reducing the risk of future diseases and pandemics of wildlife origin and lacking in any urgency. It certainly falls short of the action needed to end the global wildlife trade – which increases the risk of disease transmission from wild animals to humans due to exploitation and the cruel, unacceptable conditions wild animals are often forced to exist in.



Pangolins are one of the world most exploited animals

Image credit: Arief Budi Kusuma / shutterstock.com

It is a matter of great concern and dismay that the leaders did not attempt put any focus on the cause of the coronavirus and failed totally to address the wildlife trade, even though the G20 Agriculture Ministers recently acknowledged the need to assess the link between the wildlife trade and pandemics. This also showed indifference to a million-person signed petition demanding that these measures were taken at the summit. It is vital that a global wildlife trade ban, including a ban on wildlife being used in entertainment, is included in any related measures. Not to do so is not only reckless it is extremely dangerous as it makes much more likely the event of another pandemic in the future. We should expect more from world leaders and in particular those representing the UK. The World Health Organisation who should be the guardians of global health has also showed a stunning lack of interest in the causal factors of the pandemic and making recommendations to prevent it happening again. It looks like the commonsense statement of '*prevention is better than cure*' has gone out of the window.

MATT



'I'm sorry, but this is the only way to stop the spread of coronavirus'

Matt cartoon, April 18

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AGM Delay

As a result of the various shades of lockdown that have permeated the country over many months, we, like many charities, have been unable to have an AGM this year. We will therefore have to wait for matters to improve next year and as soon as we are confident that we can safely have our AGM we will let the members know. However, this has not stopped our work protecting badgers and has not affected our orphaned badger cub release programme.

Badgers killed in record numbers despite the pandemic

Sadly, neither has it put the brakes on the Government's badger killing programme. Despite the fact that a group of eminent vets have claimed that the rationale for expanding the badger cull has been undermined by a pair of studies commissioned by the government that ministers have been sitting on for two years, the government says new cull zones should be introduced where there is evidence that badgers are an important factor in spreading bovine TB to cattle, a potentially ruinous scenario for farmers.

The National Farmers' Union says 30,000 cattle were slaughtered last year because of the disease, with more than 3,300 herds affected. But in a letter to the government's chief veterinary officer, Prof Christine Middlemiss, the vets say the studies confirm that hardly any badger carcasses analysed in two key areas in the north and south of England had infectious bovine TB.

This, claim the seven vets – who include Dr Iain McGill, the former government scientist who blew the whistle on the BSE cover-up in the 1990s, and Prof Ranald Munro, chairman of the independent expert panel on pilot badger culls – throws into question the decision taken this year by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to introduce culls in Derbyshire and Oxfordshire. They write: "In the Southern Edge area [which includes Oxfordshire, Hampshire and Berkshire] the overall prevalence of MTB [mycobacterium tuberculosis complex, which can cause bovine TB in animals and humans] infection in badgers was under 1%." In Oxfordshire specifically, of the 79 carcasses examined by scientists from the University of Surrey only three were found to have bovine TB, a prevalence of 3.8%. But the vets say none of the badgers had clinical signs of the disease, so they would have been unlikely to infect cattle or other animals.

A University of Nottingham study conducted in the Northern Edge area, which includes Derbyshire, Cheshire and Nottinghamshire, found that around 8% of badgers were infected. But the vets say only two carcasses were shown to have the clinical disease while two others had visible lesions, leading them to claim that under 1% of the badgers in the area might have been infectious. The findings were submitted to Defra in the summer of 2018 but published only at the end of October. So, it is clear that DEFRA has been in no rush to get this information into the public domain. So much for transparency and the often quote mantra of *'we follow the science'*. Apparently only when it suits.

The Badger Crowd continues the legal fight against the badger cull

We like many other badger groups have provided funds to help The Badger Crowd take DEFRA to court. WE have just received the following update.

'Last week a legal submission was made to the Court of Appeal against the decision of Justice Cavanagh to refuse permission to bring a judicial review. The issues related to the disgraceful badger culls in England and the illogical and high risk 'supplementary' badger culling. The case raises elements of the "Next steps for the strategy for achieving bovine tuberculosis free status for England - The government's response to the strategy review, 2018", adopted in March 2020.

The judicial review claim is clearly arguable. The case against the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with Natural England as an interested party raises important points of law on a matter of significant public interest. It contends that the policy decision was contrary to both the emerging scientific evidence, and the recommendations of the Government's independent review of bTB policy (the 2018 Godfray Review).

This is the final stage in the application for a judicial review. It will be decided on the written submissions, as opposed to a further oral hearing. Matters surround the rejection of the Godfray Review report's main recommendation, that is to have a two-year cessation period after a 4-year intensive cull and to compare the outcomes of badger vaccination in half of the cull areas over the following years to see how that compares as a new approach. This is consistent both with the Godfray report finding of the desire for a move to non-lethal badger intervention and the making of a truth of the so called wish to 'tilt' policy in that direction by the government (as proclaimed during the failed NFU JR relating to Derbyshire), towards a future objective of leaving badgers unmolested.'

We wish The Badger Crowd every success with their legal endeavours.

Badger orphaned cub release programme continues despite the pandemic.

This year we teamed up with our colleagues at the West Surrey Badger Group to complete the release programme that we do in association with Wildlife Aid at Leatherhead. There were enough badgers to be released to need to have two separate release sites and this year one of them was in the WSBG area.



We were able to reuse one of the sites that we used in the east surrey area a few years ago as the badgers that we had released had dispersed. This site had six badgers released into the pen. The soil was ideal as it was very chalky allowing for good drainage and reducing the risk that the setts could be flooded in a sustained downpour that seem to be increasingly common. The artificial sett is designed to have both underground chambers and above ground nesting areas as a precaution against flooding, but this did not prove to be required this year.



The fences were taken down at the end of November and the badgers free to move where they wished but having the security of returning to the sett and some further supplementary feed for a few days more. Warwick set up a camera to take video footage of the badgers while they were still retained in the pen and it showed the badgers playing and interacting with a great deal of energy. The above photo shows that the badgers had worn down all the vegetation in the pen by the time of their release.



General Information Section

Outside Events.

Julie Rawbone
mobile: 07885 162039

For obvious reasons we have been unable to attend any events, preventing us from raising awareness of the ESBPS, badgers and wildlife in general.

2021 dates will appear on our website in the new year and subject to what will be permitted.

Badger Merchandise!

We have some t-shirts for sale for a donation of only £10, to add to our range of merchandise. We also have various books, tea towels, cuddly toys, greeting cards, leaflets, badges etc.

All proceeds go directly to ESBPS to assist in continuing our work in looking after the welfare of badgers, in particular into the sett building that Warwick does.

Please contact ESBPS on esbps.badgers@gmail.com for more details.



Talks to Local Organisations

Want to book a talk about our work for badgers? Contact Ian Tilbury on 01372 721289.



Illustrations

We would like to acknowledge, with thanks, the use of drawings from Michael Clark's excellent book 'Badgers'. This is published by Whittet Books and we have it on our sales stall.

Our logo is based on Simon Turvey's painting 'Badger'.

For more information on us, and much more on badgers, please take a look at our website at: <http://www.esbps.org.uk>



Treasurer

Diana Andrews – Tel: 01883 625585

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE ON 1 JAN 2021

£8 per year for an adult or a family at the same address, £6 for senior citizens and juniors

An important message about Gift Aid

You will find a standing order form together with a Gift Aid form pages 16 and 17 of this newsletter. If you haven't signed up for Gift Aid, and you're a UK taxpayer, you can increase the value of your subscription at no extra cost to yourself.

If you have any questions about standing orders, Gift Aid or subscriptions in general, you can give our Treasurer, Diana, a call on 01883 625585. If Diana isn't available you can leave a message and she will call you back.

Finally, many thanks for your continued support, without you we wouldn't be able to do all that we do.





Gift Aid declaration – for past, present & future donations
East Surrey Badger Protection Society

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made today, in the past 4 years and in the future

Please tick all boxes you wish to apply.

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April 2020 and will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2020.

Donor's details

Title -----First name or initial(s) -----

Surname -----

Full home address -----

Postcode -----

Date -----

Signature -----

Please notify the charity if you:

Want to cancel this declaration

Change your name or home address

No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Please tear out or photocopy and post to
ESBPS 30 Church Road
WARLINGHAM
Surrey
CR6 9NU

Or you can scan the completed form and email to esbps.badgers@gmail.com



East Surrey Badger Protection Society Membership Application £8

Please complete and return to ESBPS, 30 Church Road, Warlingham, Surrey CR6 9NU

Individual Subscription £6. Family £8 (living at the same address and listed after the subscription payer below (only sub payer has voting rights).

Subscriptions are due on January 1st each year.

Title Initials Last Name Please use **CAPITALS:**
..... - sub. payer.

.....
.....
.....

Address

Postcode

Phone no.

e-mail address

Sign & date

Please sign this Standing Order (Regular payment)

(you can pay by cheque to the address above if you prefer. Please make cheques payable to East Surrey Badger Protection Society as bank will not accept ESBPS)

This is not a Direct Debit - the ESBPS cannot alter it. You can cancel it easily by contacting your bank. We will not keep your bank details electronically.

Bank

Branch address

Postcode

Your Account name:

Your Account No. Sort code.

Please pay now and on the 1st January each year until further notice to the East Surrey Badger Protection Society (ESBPS) at Lloyds Bank, 102 South End, Croydon, CR9 1YA, Account No. 02435058, Sort code 30-92-45 (If joining between 1st Oct and 31st Dec we will collect your sub the following January.)

the sum of £ (£8 plus any regular donation you may wish to make)

Signature Date

Badger Trust



PO Box 708
East Grinstead
East Sussex,
RH19 2WN.

e-mail: staff@badgertrust.org.uk
website: www.badgertrust.org.uk
Chairman – Peter Martin
Chief Exec – Dominic Dyer

Tel: 08458 287878

Fax: 02380 233896

Badger Trust (BT) is the working name of the National Federation of Badger Groups (NFBG). The NFBG is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England no.5460677; Registered charity no.1111440.

BT promotes the conservation, welfare and protection of badgers, their setts and their habitats. It represents and supports 60 local voluntary badger groups throughout Britain, provides expert advice on all badger issues and works closely with the RSPCA, the police and others.

BT maintains a database on incidents of badger persecution in Britain.

BT is an active member of PAW – The Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime. This involves the police, other government agencies and non-governmental organisations that are working to fight wildlife crime. BT is a member of WCL – Wildlife & Countryside Link.

Volunteers Wanted

We are run entirely by volunteers, and we can't get enough of them! Badgers are coming under increasing threat from developers, so it is ever more important for us to maintain up to date records of badger setts and activity.

There are three ways you may be able to help – by reporting badger sightings (alive or dead) and the whereabouts of any setts you know of; by helping us carry out sett surveys in your area; by helping us update our records and create and populate a new computer-based record of setts and activities. If you can help email us at esbps.badgers@gmail.com or call our Secretary, David, on 020 8644 9715.



EAST SURREY BADGER PROTECTION SOCIETY (ESBPS)

You can contact us by post, email or telephone:

post address: ESBPS, 30 Church Road, Warlingham, Surrey CR6

9NU

e-mail address: esbps.badgers@gmail.com

website: www.esbps.org.uk

Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the ESBPS. No responsibility can be accepted for errors, although every effort is made to ensure accuracy.

Committee Members:

Chairman:	Ray Ings	01883 380321
Secretary:	David Meanwell e-mail: esbps.badgers@gmail.com	020 8644 9715
Newsletter Editor:	Ewan Crosbie	07736 064226
Treasurer:	Diana Andrews	01883 625585
Senior Field Officer, Croydon contact & Sett recorder:	Warwick Reynolds	020-8688 9905
Membership Sec.:	Sue Machin	020-8657 3227
Outside Events:	Julie Rawbone	07885 162039
Outside Organisation talks:	Ian Tilbury	01372 721289
Sett recorder:	VACANCY	
Minutes Secretary:	Jennie Dolling	
Mole Valley, Reigate, Banstead, Epsom & Ewell area contact:	Ian Tilbury	01372 721289

Contacts for Neighbouring Badger Protection Groups:

West Surrey:	Dave Williams	01483 811989
Badger Trust Sussex (Mid Sussex):	Jan Spooner	01403 822735
West Kent:	Roger Branton	020-8777 0125



In case of emergency or if you have important information



ESBPS 24 Hour Rescue Service:

Warwick Reynolds 020-8688 9905 mobile: 07973 327017

Ray Ings 01883 380321 mobile: 07736 520332



RSPCA – 24 Hour Emergencies & Enquiries: 0300 1234 999



POLICE – Crime in progress or danger to life, but also Badgers in road accidents, or interference to Badgers or their setts: **999**
or ring your local Police Station in office hours

IF THE PROBLEM IS NOT URGENT ring 101

Crimestoppers – Call anonymously if you have information on anyone involved in criminal activity: 0800 555111.

League Against Cruel Sports – Relies on the public to report wildlife crime. If you believe you may have important information, call their Wildlife Crimewatch Line on 01483 361108.

Reporting Dead Badgers - Please phone Warwick Reynolds. We need to know about them, but we do not collect dead badgers, your local council should be able to help.