

# EAST SURREY BADGER PROTECTION SOCIETY

Patron: Dame Virginia McKenna OBE

## New Year's Newsletter 2024 No.112



East Surrey Badger Protection Society  
Registered charity No. 800270  
Affiliated to the **BADGER TRUST**





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## **New Year's Badger Newsletter 2024**

**Dear Member**

Welcome to the East Surrey Badger Protection Society's Christmas newsletter for 2023. This newsletter has been delayed due to the very late release this year of the orphaned badger cubs as explained below. I hope all our members had a great Christmas and all the very best for the New Year from the East Surrey Badger Protection Society.



## Six previously orphaned badger cubs finally released into the temporary holding pen



This year there was quite a delay in moving the badgers from Wildlife Aid where they are held for several months. Usually, we move them to the holding pen sometime in October. This leaves enough time for them to bond as a social group. However, two of the badgers died and there were fears that this could have been caused by a disease and that all the badgers might succumb.

This led to considerable delay as the remaining badgers had to have blood tests (no mean feat). After a wait of several weeks for results to come back the badgers were given the all clear for release by DEFRA, much to everybody's relief.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, Simon Cowell the Director of Wildlife Aid is battling with lung cancer and for the first time in the 20 years that we have been doing these releases he was not well enough to help with the move. We all wish Simon well. He has much deserved MBE for his services to wildlife rescue and care and badgers are his favourites.



*The badgers in the bunker*

We used a release site that we have done in the past and we know that it worked well previously and has a very sympathetic and enthusiastic landowner. As well as taking the badgers loaded in their boxes a good supply of straw and food to keep them going until the pen comes down in a few weeks' time and allows them to come and go as they please.

This was the artificial sett under construction:



**All the political parties commit to building hundreds of thousands of houses a year for the foreseeable future.**

The recent political party conferences made grim news for our green spaces and the environment in general. Each of the main parties appears to be holding a bidding competition to see who was committed to building the most houses. The idea that this would involve just so-called brownfield sites is just not credible. It is inevitable that a lot of green spaces are going to disappear forever under concrete and bricks. The green belt, a planning concept that came about after unchecked urban sprawl after the second world war looks like it will come under increasing pressure, and it is inevitable that large chunks will disappear. This will degrade wildlife habitats and recreational areas for people and make flooding more likely due to 'hardscaping' as rainwater has less area to be absorbed. This already serious problem is about to become a lot worse.

For badgers that live in or near semi built up areas (such as South Croydon) the future looks very bleak. With record levels of net migration house building looks increasingly like a dog chasing its tail and by itself will not solve the housing crisis and the high price of house for first time buyers. It is just not possible to build our way out of this problem if the demand side of the equation is ignored, and all efforts are just put into an environmentally damaging supply side solution. This may seem obvious and just common sense, but it seems to allude the decision makers.



## **We successfully hold a developer to account for damaging a badger sett**

We have just been informed in the last few days that a case of a developer damaging an active badger sett that we reported to the police has now been reviewed by the Crown Prosecution Service. On the basis of the evidence, we supplied to the police wildlife officer (PLO) and the case she put together the CPS has decided to charge the developer and one of the contractors with interfering with a badger sett under the Badger Act 1992. This process seems to have taken forever and we had given up hope of anything ever happening even though this was a blatant case of sett damage, but the PLO stuck to the task with a positive result at least as far as the CPS is concerned. As this is now likely to go to trial next year, we can't say anything further but hopefully there will be an update in the next newsletter.

This was just the sort of example that is referred to in the above article, a population of urban badgers clinging on to an ever-decreasing habitat as they are enveloped by more and more house building.

## **News of the badger cull**

The intensive badger cull period for 2023 has now just ended, but supplementary cull zones continue with cage trapping due to finish on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

Badger Trust recently published an article which showed that it is the cull companies themselves that are trusted to keep track of badger populations and ensure they are sustainable despite having a clear conflict of interest in killing badgers for profit.



Alongside this revelation, and in a clear warning to Defra, the Bern Convention on Animal Welfare announced this month that it will continue to monitor the approach of the UK government to badger culling in England .

The complaint against the UK government, brought by Born Free, Badger Trust and Eurogroup for Animals, alleges the government is in breach of international wildlife treaty obligations after failing to consider the cull's impact on the badger population. The complaint remains on file through to 2026, an unprecedented decision. The convention also drew attention to the facts that:

- The **population monitoring of badgers in badger cull areas was unclear** and needed to be clarified to ensure badgers were not under threat of local extinction.
- The **link between badgers and the spread of bTB was unclear** and not justification for the scale of culling of a native species.

However, there appears to be some good news on the political home front. It appears that the Labour Party is likely to end the badger cull if they form the next government. Below is taken from a recent article in the Guardian.

## Labour promises to end badger cull in England

### Shadow farming minister says party would eradicate bovine TB using a range of other measures

Labour has vowed to end the badger cull in [England](#) if elected, the Guardian can reveal.

Badgers are being culled to eradicate bovine tuberculosis (bTB) because it spreads to cattle and can eliminate entire herds, causing severe problems for farmers. In April, figures released by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs showed more than [210,000](#) badgers have been killed since the cull began in 2013.

Daniel Zeichner, the shadow farming minister, said:

*“I’ve spent a long time looking at this. The [2018 Godfrey](#) review, the last piece of work done by the government, found that badger culling is not the answer. We’re going to make England bovine TB free by 2038, but with a range of measures that do not include culling.”*

If, as seems increasingly likely, Labour do form the next Government charities concerned with the conservation and welfare of badgers will certainly be holding their feet to the fire on this once they are in power.



## General Information Section

### Outside Events.

Julie Rawbone: mobile: 07885 162039

2024 dates will appear on our website in the new year and subject to what will be permitted.



### Talks to Local Organisations

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





## Treasurer

Diana Andrews – Tel: 01883 625585

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE ON 1 JAN 2024**

**£6 per year for an adult**

**£8 per year for a family at the same address**

### **An important message about Gift Aid**

You will find a standing order form together with a Gift Aid form pages 13 and 14 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 2023 and will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2023.

### **Donor's details**

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

Surname -----

Full home address -----

-----

Postcode -----

Date -----

Signature -----

### ***Please notify the charity if you:***

- a) *Want to cancel this declaration*
- b) *Change your name or home address*
- c) *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](mailto:esbps.badgers@gmail.com)



**East Surrey Badger Protection Society Membership Application**

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Oct and 31<sup>st</sup> Dec we will collect your sub the following January.)*  
the sum of £ ..... (£6 or £8 plus any regular donation you may wish to make)

Signature ..... Date .....

# Badger Trust



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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.

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# 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:

1. reporting badger sightings (alive or dead) and the whereabouts of any setts you know of
2. helping us carry out sett surveys in your area
3. 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](mailto:esbps.badgers@gmail.com) or call our Secretary, David, on 020 8644 9715.

## 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.eastsurreybadgers.org.uk>



## **EAST SURREY BADGER PROTECTION SOCIETY (ESBPS)**

*You can contact us by post, email or telephone:*

address: ESBPS, 30 Church Road, Warlingham, Surrey CR6 9NU

e-mail: [esbps.badgers@gmail.com](mailto:esbps.badgers@gmail.com)

website: [www.eastsurreybadgers.org.uk](http://www.eastsurreybadgers.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

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e-mail: [esbps.badgers@gmail.com](mailto:esbps.badgers@gmail.com)

**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

**Minutes Secretary:** Helen Dorrell

Nick Power

Michael Seabrook

**Mole Valley, Reigate, Banstead, Epsom & Ewell area contact:**  
Ian Tilbury 01372 721289



## **Contacts for Neighbouring Badger Protection Groups:**

West Surrey:

07726 929681

### **In case of emergency or if you have important information**

#### **📞 ESBPS 24 Hour Rescue Service:**

Warwick Reynolds      0208 688 9905      mobile: 07973 327017  
Ray Ings                      01883 380321      mobile: 07736 520332

**📞 WILDLIFE AID** – Emergencies:                      01372 360404

**📞 RSPCA** – 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.

**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.

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