

PROTECT

SPRING ISSUE

2022



LEAGUE
AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

Enough is Enough

Together, we can make the next general election the last one at which hunting with hounds is open for debate. Find out how in this issue.

Welcome to your spring issue of Protect



Your ongoing generous donations, your valiant fundraising efforts and your perseverance in petitioning your local councils and MPs is overwhelming. We can only achieve our goals for animals when we join together, and as you'll read in the following pages, our combined efforts are working very well indeed.

Take care and we'll be back with more updates in the summer.

Emma
Editor

Jonathan
Designer

Spring; new life, a revitalised sense of hope and renewed vigour for our work for animals.

Our wildlife reserves, which provide sanctuary to many species of British flora and fauna, were hit hard during Storm Eunice. But in a display of nature's resilience, wildlife rode out the storm and signs of spring are all around.

Our campaigning efforts are bringing hope to persecuted animals as we continue to bring people across the country into the fold of our Enough is Enough campaign. It has been a pleasure to meet many of you at our events and thank you for standing by our side as we spread the word.

PS Remember to visit Protect Extra for more actions and activities

league.org.uk/protectextra

Our Goals

End hunting, shooting, animal fighting and other cruel sports and the associated practices that enable them.

Win the hearts and minds of a broader audience.



This issue at a glance



Enough is Enough

Join us, tell us your story and help spread the word that hunting should be consigned to the history books once and for all.

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Land denial update

Success! A complete fox hunting ban on over one million acres of private land. But whose land is it?

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Wales says 'no'

Time to end snares and caged breeding in Wales. Find out how you can take action.

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It's time to stop, look and listen to nature.

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Scotland & N. Ireland

Bills being passed, motions being backed and manifestos being released. Find out more.

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Team League

Runners, riders, book launches and competitions. Want to get involved?

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We say...

Enough is Enough

We're launching a campaign with a simple aim: for the next general election to be the last one at which hunting with hounds is an issue open to debate. We are inviting you to join us in saying enough is enough – end hunting for good.



Hunting with dogs continues 17 years after the Hunting Act 2004 came into force, with people and animals let down by a law in place to protect them and by those meant to enforce it.

Since the leak of explosive training webinars from the Hunting Office in which more than 100 huntsmen were taught how to get away with old fashioned illegal hunting, major landowners have denied hunts access to their land. Not only that, but the public are finally beginning to see what we've all known for a long time - that 'trail' hunting is just a smokescreen. But we need to do more to ensure it's ended for good.

That's why we've launched our Enough is Enough campaign.

It aims to highlight the havoc that hunts cause in communities across the country and, as part of the campaign, **we want to give you the chance to stand up and tell your story.**

We are hosting a series of panel events in areas where hunting is rife. Each event includes panellists from law enforcement to animal welfare experts, with local politicians from each party also invited.

But, more importantly, we're inviting you to take part; to share your experiences of illegal hunting and ask what's being done about it. Additionally, if you have an event coming up in your constituency, please email your MP and ask them to attend.





First stop, Plymouth

The first in the series was held at the University of Plymouth with residents joined by panellists Luke Pollard, Plymouth MP and former Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Paul Netherton OBE, Former Deputy Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall police; Emma Judd, Deputy Director of External Affairs, League Against Cruel Sports; and Charlie Moores, Off the Leash podcasts.

We heard a very emotional story from a resident who wished to stay anonymous

due to intimidation by the hunts. She said:

“We wake up every Tuesday and Saturday in dread that the hunt will come on our land and harm our animals. We are in our 60s and are terrified to publicly speak about our situation because we have been threatened and intimidated by the hunt.”

All too often we hear stories of people terrified in their homes and we are in awe of the courage the resident showed when telling her story to the audience.



“Have we let the people down? The answer is yes. The reality at the end of the day is that we have limited resources and those resources have to go where it matters most, and that may not always be policing hunts”.

Paul Netherton, former national Police Chiefs Council lead for fox hunting, speaking at our Plymouth panel event.





Second stop, Cheltenham

Our most recent event was held in February at the University of Gloucestershire. Again, the panel consisted of experts across various fields, including: Councillor Max Wilkinson, Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency at Cheltenham Borough Council; Kate Parker, Wildlife Crime Campaign Manager, Naturewatch Foundation; Nick Weston, Head of Campaigns, League Against Cruel Sports; and Denise Taylor PhD PIEMA, Sustainability Practitioner and Environmental Educator. Denise put forward the successful motion to ban trail hunting at the National Trust AGM in 2021 where members voted to ban hunting on National Trust land.

One former police officer explained how he was shocked at the lack of priority placed on hunting. He said: “I don’t want to diminish what the police

are doing at the moment but I know, certainly in this county, the wildlife crime team is mainly made up of police crime support officers who have no police powers, no investigative training.

“Even my ex-uniformed colleagues, if hunting cases were placed in front of them, they would have very, very slopy shoulders.”

What has been clear from the start of these events is how courageous our supporters are, even in times of fear over repercussions of speaking up.

You, our supporters, are what drive our campaigns to succeed, and we want you to know you have a voice that is listened to.

Thank you for taking the time to tell your stories.



Enough is Enough



How can you help?

Please join us at one of the Enough is Enough events. We’d love to hear from you and for you to hear from our panellists and share what they say.

1. Join us at a panel event

Our next scheduled event is in Peterborough on 17 June, but keep checking our website as we will continue to add locations throughout the year.

2. Take action

Petition your MP, urging them to ask the Secretary of State for the Environment to strengthen the Hunting Act 2004. Take action at league.org.uk/enoughis-enough but if you don’t have an email address you can write to your MP instead.

3. Keep up to date

Search for League Enough is Enough Supporter Group on Facebook and we’ll welcome you to a forum for lively debate and important updates.

#EndHunting



Keeping the hunters out

The brutal world of fox hunting is in turmoil thanks to all your efforts in calling on landowners to deny hunts access to their land.

In one of the most significant blows for hunts since the fox hunting ban in 2004, major landowners have suspended them from hunting on over 2.3 million acres of land across England and Wales (following the leak of Hunting Association training webinars in November 2020).

We called on you to contact major landowners and once again, you showed your commitment to persecuted animals by taking action and making your voice heard.

Now three organisations – the National Trust, Natural Resources Wales, and the Malvern Hills Trust – have permanently (let me repeat ‘permanently’) banned fox hunts from their land, which amounts to over one million acres.

The next step is to persuade those landowners – including the Crown Estates, Duchy of Cornwall, and Ministry of Defence – which still allow trail hunting on their land to end this once and for all.

Our goal is to end hunting, and we can only strive to achieve this thanks to your ongoing support. Together, we can make the world a kinder place for animals.

We say ‘no’ to snares and caged breeding

We are stepping up our campaign in Wales to end some of the cruel practices linked to the ‘game’ bird shooting industry as the Welsh parliament gears up to debate new animal welfare measures.

The relaunched campaign will call on the Welsh Government to ban the manufacture, sale, possession and use of snares, and the caged breeding of pheasants and partridges.

Have you ever seen a snare? They are cruel, thin wire nooses laid by gamekeepers to trap animals they want to kill. Up to 51,000 snares lie hidden in the Welsh countryside at any one time, waiting to ensnare their victims.

Sadly, three quarters of all the victims of snares are not the intended target species and protected species like badgers, or even pets such as cats and dogs, fall victim to them.

Thanks to polling conducted by YouGov in 2021, we know that 78 per cent of the Welsh public want to see snares banned. That’s what makes this campaign so encouraging; it is winnable. The Welsh Government has committed to banning snares but we are calling on them to ensure this ban is as effective and enforceable as possible.

Wales is also home to Europe’s largest game bird farm, where around 90,000 pheasants and partridges kept in cages for breeding often have less space than an A4 piece of paper each.

The Welsh Government has committed to restricting the use of cages in farming so, together, we can campaign to ensure this applies to game birds too.

Take action

1. Wales has the chance to lead the way on banning brutal snares. If you live in Wales you can help by contacting your MS and urge them to back a complete ban on snares in Wales.

league.org.uk/BanSnaresWales

2. You can also help the campaign if you live in Wales by joining one of our Welsh supporter groups and attending campaign events which are being organised across the country.

league.org.uk/protectextra



Emma Judd - Deputy Director of External Affairs

Hankinson appeal **delayed** until summer

Mark Hankinson, the only person to have been prosecuted over the now-infamous leaked Hunting Office training webinars, has had his appeal hearing delayed.



“...thanks to you, hundreds of thousands of emails were sent to landowners and MPs to urge them to look behind the smokescreen to the truth of hunting...”

Hankinson was found guilty in October by chief magistrate of England and Wales, Tan Ikram, of encouraging or assisting others to break the Hunting Act 2004, under the Serious Crimes Act 2007.

Hankinson talked about how ‘trail’ hunting was a “smokescreen”. It was a watershed moment for those, like us, who campaign to make the public and politicians aware that “old fashioned illegal hunting”, as Judge Ikram put it, still goes on today.

Together with supporters we not only made sure we had a large presence outside of Westminster Magistrates’ Court throughout the trial, but thanks to you, hundreds of thousands of emails were sent to landowners and MPs to urge them to look behind the smokescreen to the truth of hunting taking place on their land.

However, Hankinson lodged his appeal late last year and it was scheduled to be heard at Southwark Crown Court on 5 May. It has now been postponed to 6-8 July.

It’s not set in stone that his appeal will be allowed - the judge will have to decide on that first day whether there are grounds for it to proceed.

But what Hankinson and others said on those webinars cannot be in doubt. And what they meant was so clear as to lead Judge Ikram to say, when delivering his verdict, that: **“I simply did not find him credible in any of his explanations of the words he used”**.

The judge went on to say the words of Lord Benjamin Mancroft, former Chief Inspector Phil Davies and others **“... clarify the true meaning of what the defendant said”**.

What is certain is that we will be at Southwark Crown Court in July, and we would love for you to join us, or to share this with friends and family on social media too. It all adds volume to our cry that enough is enough – **strengthen the Hunting Act 2004 to finally protect animals properly**.

More details will be released closer to the time, but if you would like to get your feet on the ground for one of our campaigns, please email campaigns@league.org.uk or write to us at our office address for the attention of Suzanne Heaney.



Taking time to stop, look and listen

Paul Tillsley - Head of Conservation & Education

At first sight, the destruction wreaked on the Baronsdown wildlife reserve by the combined furies of Storm Eunice and Storm Franklin was devastating. Old trees that I had known for 30 years, but which had stood for much longer, lay battered to the ground by an invisible foe. Trees planted in Victorian times, when Baronsdown was a pleasure ground for hunting and shooting, ripped up by the roots during a few hours of nature's violence.

You can only wonder at the events these majestic giants have witnessed on Baronsdown over their lifetime, from hunt meets to supporter open days. One thing is certain, their now lifeless bodies will not go to waste.

Where the fallen trees were a danger or an obstruction, we have cleared them away, but the rest will remain in situ. Here they will become homes for a host of fungi, plants, and animals, before they are eventually returned to the soil from which they grew.

Nature is a great recycler and restorer if we give it the opportunity and we resist the temptation to make things tidy.

Having said that, the increasing amount of litter that is strewn along the road verges that border the Baronsdown reserve is completely inexcusable. A crisp packet caught my eye as it swirled around the front lawn, after



being carelessly discarded by a passing motorist. But it was something else that really drew my attention. Something small and sinuous was darting around; one minute disappearing into the grass, and the next standing up on its haunches to look around. A stoat was busy looking for one of the voles that live in the long grass of my deliberately unkempt lawn.

Stoats are persecuted relentlessly by the gamekeepers in the surrounding shoots, for the heinous crime of killing one or two of the thousands of pheasants that are dumped in the countryside for people to shoot. To see a live stoat is a rare treat, but to see one out in the daytime probably meant they had young to feed. Extraordinary moments like this lift my mood and are testament to the value the League's reserves have for wildlife in an otherwise hostile countryside.

As spring slips seamlessly into summer, we look forward again to the annual cycle of wildlife events that we will be privileged to witness on the League's reserves. Some things can be predicted with some certainty, like fox cubs and

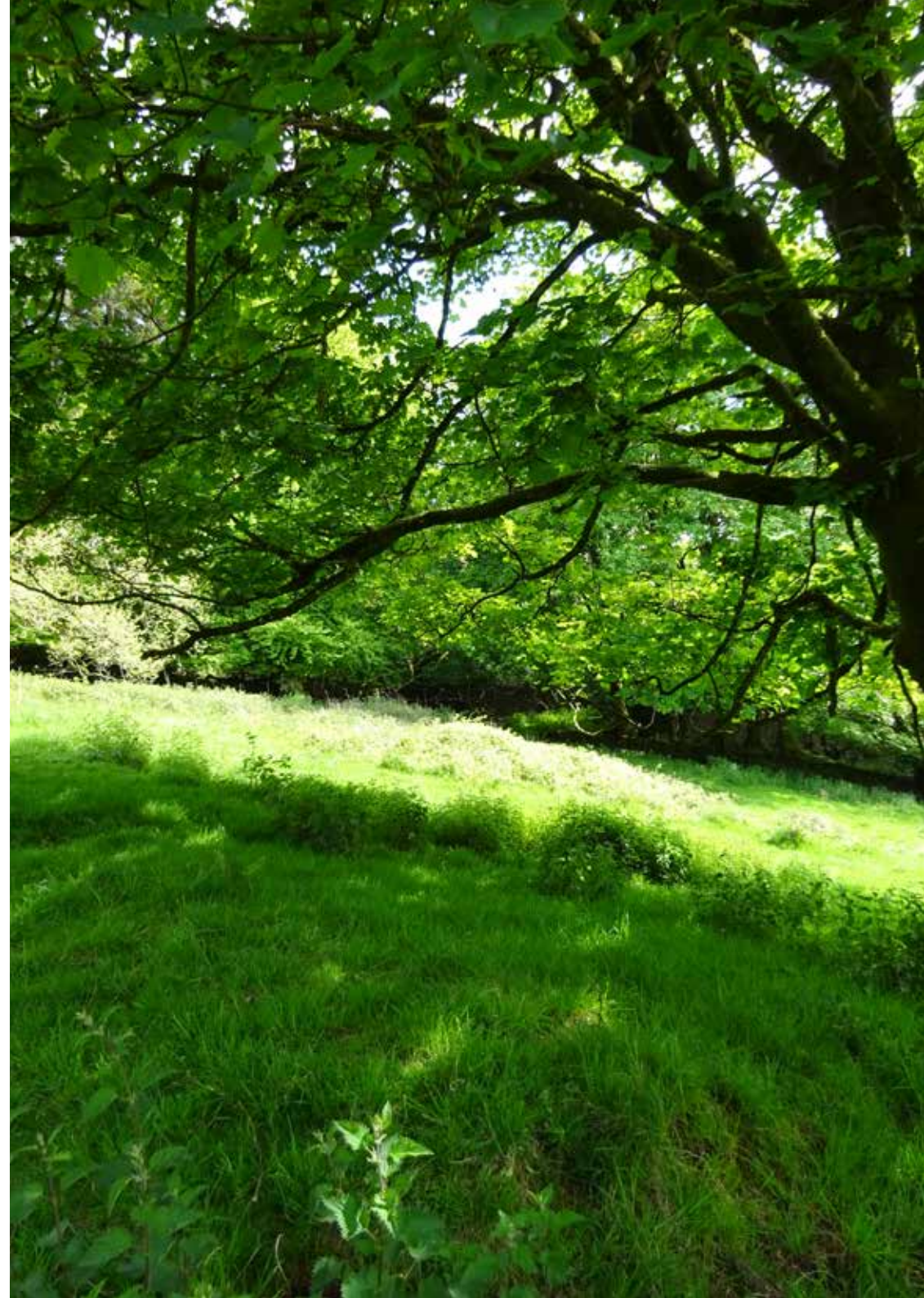
'...As spring slips seamlessly into summer, we look forward again to the annual cycle of wildlife events that we will be privileged to witness on the League's reserves...'

badger cubs appearing above ground in May, and red deer calves being born in June, but that doesn't make them any less special. The complete lack of fear that young animals show when they encounter their first human, makes for some magical moments. It is a pity they have to quickly learn to fear people if they are going to survive.

Other wildlife events are becoming less predictable, especially the arrival of birds that migrate long distances. We will have to wait to see if birds such as barn swallows and spotted flycatchers make it back to us this year. Maybe the barn owl that spent a few months with us last year will make another appearance, only time will tell.

In these uncertain times, which have gone on for far too long, it is important that we appreciate the small things around us that make us happy. There can be few sounds more joyous than a robin singing its heart out from the top of a bush, or a blackbird calling until the final remnants of sunlight have slipped from the evening sky. Even the briefest glimpse of a fox or a deer can make our hearts race and make us feel alive, while the colours and scents of flowers can set off a whole range of positive emotions.

Taking time to stop, look and listen to the nature around is proven to have great benefits for our mental and physical health. Why not record the moments in a diary, so you can relive them over and over again?



The end is nigh for fox hunting in Scotland

Don't you just love it when a plan works? Thanks to you, this is one of those occasions.

Seven years ago, the League in Scotland set itself the task of strengthening the loophole-ridden fox hunting ban and to 'really' ending this cruel sport.

First, we proved the current ban wasn't working by sending our professional field workers to film what the ten mounted hunts were up to in the Scottish countryside. That incriminating evidence led to the Government asking a senior Law Lord to undertake a review of the Scottish fox hunting ban. He concluded that "traditional fox hunting" was still going on.

Next, the Government began a long consultation process about what changes should be made to the legislation. The need for change was starkly illustrated by a member of the Jed Forest hunt being found guilty of illegal hunting, thanks to our footage showing what

they were up to. We knew the public was behind us when almost a thousand people joined our For the Foxes march and rallied outside Parliament.

We were then hit with a two-year delay while Covid 19 ravaged through Scotland, and Parliament was busy dealing with it. But finally, on Friday 25 February, the day after we handed the Scottish Environment Minister, Màiri McAllan, a petition signed by over 26,000 people, the Government published a new Bill that we think will go a long way to really banning hunting in Scotland. As ever, there is a long way to go, and the devil will be in the detail, but we have high hopes this Bill will finally bring an end to people encouraging packs of hounds to chase and kill foxes across the Scottish countryside.

We couldn't have achieved this without your support, and I want to thank you for all your efforts and contributions that have got us this far.





Ending the circle of destruction of grouse shooting in Scotland

Grouse moor management in Scotland takes place on an area around half the size of Wales and is a horrific land use that causes untold suffering to our wildlife. As a founding member of the REVIVE coalition, we continue to lead the way in ending the circle of destruction that surrounds the grouse shooting industry.

Hundreds of thousands of animals are killed every year to protect grouse, so more can then be shot by a few people for entertainment. We are currently working on a campaign that aims to end this unnecessary killing that driven grouse shooting seems to depend on, which will be launched later this year.

In the meantime, one of your fellow supporters, Member of the Scottish Parliament (MSP) Colin Smyth, has launched a motion asking MSPs to support reform of wildlife management to help end the unnecessary killing of our wildlife. Due to our work and support, we have already encouraged

MSPs from across the political divide to back the motion which means it will be debated in Parliament. We've successfully raised the profile of this issue and the coming years will unveil some big opportunities for our wildlife.

We are also working with our partners to tackle the environmental destruction caused by grouse moors – the burning of heather to ensure more grouse can be shot for sport – which still goes on despite these times of climate and biodiversity crisis. We'll be taking our calls to end this environmental destruction straight to the heart of the Scottish Government, and if we can get some wins here then driven grouse shooting is a cruel sport whose days could be numbered.

Your support means outcomes that were previously seen as impossible are now achievable. I'd like to thank you for all you do: for getting us to where we are now and to where we're going.

Putting on the pressure in Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland is the last part of the UK with no legislation to ban hunting with dogs but thanks to our combined efforts we're closer than ever.

Our polling has shown that a vast majority of Northern Irish people support a ban on hunting with dogs. This was reflected in the immense public outcry against some Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who stopped the recent bill from passing in Stormont, that would have banned the horrific practice once and for all.

This is not the end. On the contrary, thanks to your support this is just the beginning. It was a close call, and this opportunity is still there for the taking.

We want the Assembly to make time, as soon as possible after the elections, to revisit the issue of hunting wild mammals with dogs which is why we will be contacting every single candidate to back our call. We'll release our manifesto and put more pressure on the Assembly than ever before.

Many of the MLAs are already with us. The public is with us. Most importantly, you are with us. This is why I'm confident we can win.

‘..this is not the end. On the contrary, thanks to your support this is just the beginning...’



GIFTS AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

David Shrigley OBE is a leading British visual artist and is best known for his quirky and distinctive drawing style that makes satirical comments on everyday situations and human interactions, often involving animals. We are delighted that David has designed a limited-edition T-shirt to support our latest nation-wide campaign.

This unique piece makes a simple and powerful statement; no more hunting, enough is enough. A modern sentiment on an archaic past-time.

Please consider showing your support by buying one of David Shrigley's limited-edition T-shirts; 100% organic cotton, 100% of profits going to support animals persecuted in the name of sport.



Photo by Craig Gibson

“When it comes to animal cruelty, our T-shirt says it all - **Enough is Enough**”

David Shrigley OBE



For a limited-edition David Shrigley T-shirt, and other gifts against cruel sports, visit: league.org.uk/shop

Team League



Lily Chamberlain - Challenges Manager

London Landmarks Half Marathon

On 3 April, Team League took to the streets of London and ran past historic St Paul's Cathedral, the Tower of London, Tower Bridge and many more of London's greatest landmarks. The thrill of the race, the motivation of a cheering crowd, the knowledge that not only has a personal challenge been completed, but vital funds have been raised to help persecuted animals.

Many thanks and a round of applause to Ian Duffield, Lorna Cook, Richard Norris, Coral Imber, Steven Rice, Abigail Metcalfe and Nathanael Ingram for your training, your fundraising efforts and your commitment to the cause.



Lorna Cook

"I have never run a half-marathon before - or any race! But I was spurred on by my desire to help the animals forced to run for their lives in the name of 'sport'. I also ran in memory of my fiancé Sam who died last year and who was a passionate advocate for animals, loved wildlife and always sought to protect and defend the vulnerable and defenceless".

Brighton Marathon Ride

Saddling up for a 50km bike ride is no mean feat, but on 10 April Steve Macsweeney, James Bell, Ros Kinloch, Susan Robinson and Robert Morgan sped into action for animals. Cycling on closed roads alongside the breathtaking beaches of Brighton and Hove in spring may sound idyllic, but the training regime in the winter months was a challenge indeed. Standing ovation to this amazing group of individuals who came together to raise money for the League.

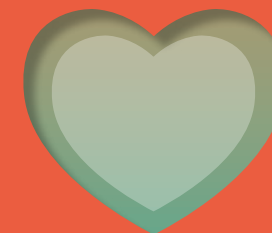


Steve Macsweeney

"Every little helps. Please support wildlife by making a donation!"

Join Team League

If you would like to show your support of animals by taking on a sports challenge, please head to league.org.uk/protectextra for more details.



Annual CEO challenge

Our flagship wildlife reserve, Baronsdown, hosts an abundance of active wildlife, but on 12 May, it will also provide the backdrop to this year's CEO Challenge.

Last year, our CEO Andy Knott MBE, ran 100 laps of his local park and raised £12k for the League. Aspirational as ever, this year he will attempt to run 100 laps of steep and uneven terrain on one of our wildlife reserves; all with a 10kg log hoisted upon his shoulder. His target? £20k.

“When animals are hunted, fought or raced, they struggle for breath often for hours, at the hands of their abusers. Aged 53, (and needing two new hips), running up and down a hill, in our reserve at Baronsdown with a 10kg log on my shoulders in May will be as close as I get to feeling what is like to be a persecuted animal. Please consider sponsoring me so we can protect them.”



Donate to one of our fundraisers

Our fantastic fundraisers are inspired by animals, but your support and motivation can make all the difference. If you would like to donate to any of Team League, please visit league.org.uk/teamleague

Kids Creative Competition 2022



The League of Animals has teamed up with our Youth Ambassador, Megan McCubbin to launch a very exciting competition. Together, we are calling on all young creatives between the age of 0 and 16 to get involved for a chance to win some amazing prizes.

To enter, all they need to do is create a piece of artwork which is inspired by our beautiful British wildlife, using anything they like from pencils and paints to photographs and paper mâché.

Then, submit a photo of their masterpiece to competition@leagueofanimals.org.uk by Tuesday 26 April and don't forget to include your contact details and age in case they are the lucky winner. There are some great prizes on offer including a £30 voucher towards art supplies, soft toys and a personal video from Megan herself giving feedback on your winning entry.



LEAGUE OF ANIMALS 



For the full details on how to take part please visit our website: leagueofanimals.org.uk/competition

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MAY 2022



Fox; Neighbour Villain Icon

On Tuesday 3 May, we are going to launch the UK's first ever National Fox Day. We'll be celebrating everything fox throughout the day to raise awareness and appreciation of this marvellous mammal.

To help celebrate this special day, the long-awaited book Fox: Neighbour, Villain, Icon, can now be pre-ordered by our supporters for the special price of £30.

www.foxbook.shop
using the code **FOXNVI22** at checkout.



Voice for the Silent

Following the success of his first anthology for the League, For the Silent, our Poet in Residence, Ronnie Goodyer (pictured), is once again producing a bespoke anthology of poetry to raise money for our important work.

Submissions have now closed but you can pre-order your copy by visiting the website below.

There is also an option to include your name in the book itself for an additional donation.



www.indigodreamspublishing.com/voices-for-the-silent

PROTECT EXTRA

Would you like access to even more articles, actions and activities? Head online today to download spring activities for adults and children, check out new event dates, learn how to fundraise for the League and lots more.

Head to league.org.uk/protectextra



Get in touch

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