

Binfield Badger Group

Protecting badgers across Berkshire

Charity Number: 1075886



Newsletter No. 120

March 2020



An original drawing by Karen Beaney (see page 15)

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PLEASE NOTE:

POSTPONEMENT OF AGM & MEETING
(Scheduled for Thursday 16th April)



Binfield Badger Group

Affiliated to the Badger Trust

www.binfieldbadgers.org.uk

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GROUP NEWS AND MEETINGS IN 2020

POSTPONED – Our Public Meeting and AGM - 16 April 2020

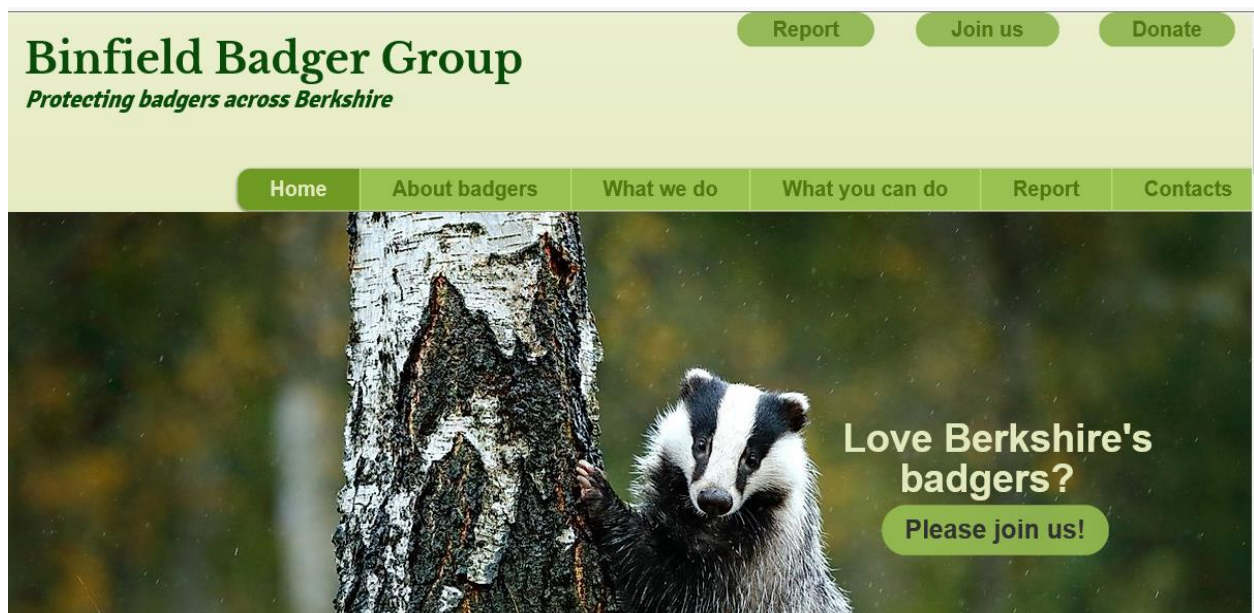
Please be aware that, following government advice and the deepening concern over the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), we have decided in the interest of health and safety to postpone our next meeting, which was scheduled for Thursday, 16 April.



We will keep the situation under review and let you know as soon as we have a new date for the meeting. Stay safe and well!



Don't Forget! - Our New Website is now Live!



Have you visited our sparkling new Website yet?. We hope we've made it more enjoyable, informative and easier to use and navigate around.

Go to www.binfieldbadgers.org.uk and check it out!



🐦 Berkshire badgers hit Twitter! 🐦

For those of you who use Twitter, please note that BBG now has a Twitter account and is joining in with the general Twitter chatter! It's a great way to get exposure to a wider audience than Facebook and spread badger awareness. If you are on Twitter, please follow us and retweet our posts so you too can help share the word about badgers. Find us by searching 'Binfield Badgers' or '@BerksBadgers', or click through to Twitter from our website!



Membership renewal for April 2020 – March 2021

The time has arrived again to renew your membership of our Group – please continue to support our activities. The ongoing bovine TB debate, habitat loss due to housebuilding and the fight against wildlife crime, mean your support is again vital.



Your renewal form is enclosed. However, if you have asked for this newsletter to be emailed to you, your form will be in the post.

- **Please check that your details are correct**, particularly post codes and phone numbers and add any changes in the box next to the entry.
- **Email addresses are very helpful** so we can let you know what is going on; *no personal details are shared with anyone else.*
- **Core Group Communications** – please *carefully* read the ‘Opt In’/‘Opt Out’ statements, just above your signature on the form *and tick the appropriate box.* (We hope you will choose to continue hearing from us regarding badgers and other wildlife-related issues, including our newsletters.)
- **Newsletter options-** you can now indicate on the form if you would prefer to receive your quarterly newsletter by email, by ticking the appropriate box. (Of course, you can change this option at any time in the future.)
- **Membership rates** - the annual Membership rates are £6 per adult and £2 per child (under 18). Please remember that from this fee we pay a levy of £2 per head to the Badger Trust to support its valuable work. The membership fee doesn’t cover our costs, so we (and the badgers!) continue to be very grateful to those able to add a donation to their fees. Please indicate where you are able to Gift Aid any donation to the Group by ticking the box.
- **How can you help?** - You will also see a section asking for details of how you can help - you are sure to find something that interests you, but more ideas are always welcome! Please get in touch today with your ideas, or comments on current issues – contact details are all listed on the back page of this newsletter.

Please then return your form to us as soon as possible, either by post or scanned and emailed to: membership@binfieldbadgers.org.uk

- **Payments** - there are 3 ways to pay. **(1)** you can return a **cheque** (made payable to ‘Binfield Badger Group’) along with your membership form; our address is given on the form; **(2)** you can pay by **BACS** - our bank details are given in the ‘Join Us’ section on our website; **(3)** you can pay via **Paypal** - please use the ‘Donate’ button in the ‘Join Us’ section on the website. (*Paypal charge us fees so more of your money goes to badgers if you use BACS!*)

(If paying by BACS or Paypal, please still remember to return the form to us. It would help if you mark the form “paid via website”, or “paid via BACS” please.)

If you know of anyone who would like to become a member, they can go to the ‘Join Us’ page on our web site:

<http://www.binfieldbadgers.org.uk/join-us>, where the whole application process can be done quickly and securely – they can just fill out the page then click ‘Submit’ to send.





Our sett surveying sessions each month always turn up new setts and allow us to check data on existing records. Whilst most of us on these sessions can recognise a range of badger signs, more difficult are identifying those occasioned by rabbits, deer, fox and the other species that inhabit our countryside.

We were most grateful therefore to have training on the field signs of these other animals from group member, Dave Hammant. Dave's an expert on wildlife, both here and abroad, and has excellent

field skills, whether it's identifying different footprints, animal pathways, faeces or just about anything else you care to mention! Thank you, Dave. Here are a few tips on tracking:

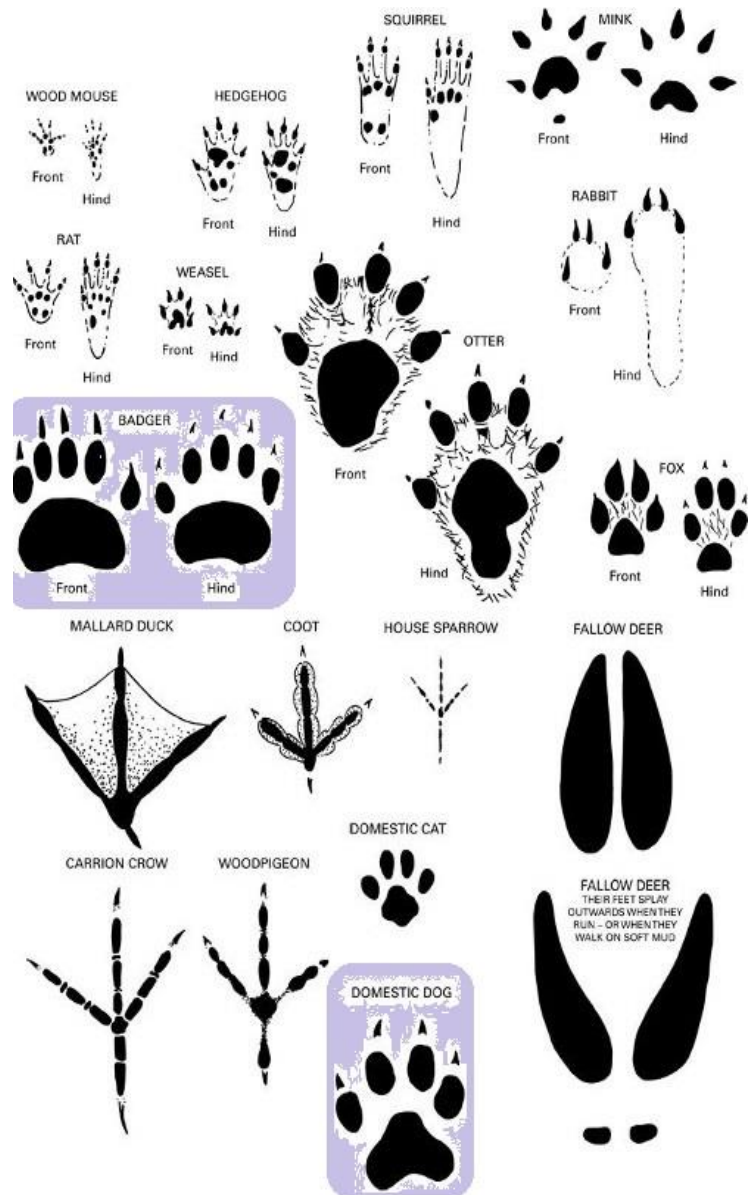
One of the first things you may notice are the badger paths that run from spoil heap to spoil heap and away from the sett. These paths can be very well worn and in wet weather will be a good place to look for paw prints. Don't assume the prints will all be badgers, because foxes, rabbits and deer will also use these paths and both foxes and rabbits will sometimes live in part of a badger sett if it is a large one with many entrances.

Also if the badger sett is close to a footpath, you will probably find dog prints as well, especially if dogs are walked off the lead. Dogs are notoriously inquisitive about holes in the ground, so it is always best to keep a dog on the lead near a sett.

Make sure you know how to identify one print from the other. Deer prints are called "slots" and if you look at the shape you can see why. If you find very clear badger prints you may see that sometimes there are two prints overlapping one another. This happens when a badger is walking, the back foot is put down where the front foot has been.

When a badger trots or runs, the prints are separate, so you can tell if the badger was in a hurry or not!

At first glance a badger's print may look like a large dog's print, however closer inspection will allow you to count the toes- a badger's print has five toe marks and a dog's has only four.



I'm sure you've all seen the exciting headlines in the news on 5th March. *"Seismic shift": ministers signal end of badger cull"* read The Guardian. *"Badger culls to be phased out"*, said The Independent. Headlines that made all badger lovers' hearts leap as the Government response to the Godfray Review was finally released.

Now the dust has settled and we've all had a chance to read beyond the headlines, if not the full 100 page Government document, then, yes, this is still good news. It signals perhaps a turning point and gives us hope at last, indicating that *'an intensive badger cull was only ever envisaged as a phase of the strategy, not a perpetual state of affairs'* and *'an intention to begin to phase out intensive badger culling'*.

The backbone of the Government's strategy over the next few years is to accelerate the production and use of a cattle vaccine (and associated test), to transition from badger culling to badger vaccination and to improve diagnostic testing to identify bTB more effectively (using more sensitive tests). Cattle vaccination has been the perceived silver bullet for years so it's fantastic to see this commitment. To quote the Strategy: *"Vaccination is manifestly easier to deliver to herds of cattle than to wildlife and could significantly reduce the spread of the disease both between cattle and between cattle herds and wildlife"*. Let's hope so!



The badger vaccination plans include a proposal to pilot vaccination in a High Risk Area that has completed 4 years of intensive culling (on the basis this will be more effective with so few badgers left). Further vaccination is proposed to take place in other areas alongside intensive culling, and in areas not under cull licence at all.

Whilst we would prefer badgers to be taken out of the equation altogether, clearly vaccination is better than culling, so much of this sounds like positive news. However, caution is still required. The policy maintains the myth that culling has been effective in reducing bTB in cattle, quoting the widely discredited Downs Report. This claimed a 66% reduction in bTB in Gloucestershire in the first 2 years of the cull, ignoring the 130% increase the following year.

Worse still, the 'transition from badger culling to vaccination' that the strategy claims 'desirable' is not in fact the end of the badger cull. Read on and the strategy says that the Government will retain the ability to introduce NEW cull zones where the 'epidemiological evidence points to a significant reservoir of the disease in badgers'. It talks of licences being granted for intensive culling over a further 20% of the High Risk Areas (largely western England) – this is on top of the 57% of land already under cull licence. And in the Edge Areas (which include West Berkshire), the strategy advises that *"our aim will be to ensure that badger culling is only authorised in areas where the epidemiological evidence points to a problem in badgers."*

The door seems open for continued culling for many more years: *"We envisage that any remaining areas would join the current cull programme in the next few years and that the badger cull phase of the strategy would then wind down by the mid to late 2020s, although we would need to retain the ability to cull in a targeted way where the epidemiological evidence requires it."*



Use of epidemiological evidence as the basis for action is problematic - it is notoriously difficult to determine the source of a bTB outbreak in cattle as is indeed acknowledged in the Government epidemiology reports themselves. The estimated attribution to badgers in recent reports have been met with a high level of mistrust in scientific circles.

What does this mean for West Berkshire (designated an 'Edge Area')? The simple answer is that we don't know yet. It may depend on the level of faith the Government gives to these epidemiology reports. The last one for Berkshire gives cause for concern with an estimated 36% of cattle bTB outbreaks attributed to badgers. This is despite the fact that a previous study testing dead badgers found less than 1% infected with bTB.

And the Gatcombe conclusions (see the following article) place massive doubt on badgers playing any role at all.

Furthermore, would you want to trust the lives of our precious brocks to a scientific report which includes this statement:

"Anecdotally (from discussions with farmers, game keepers, and from local knowledge) badger and deer populations are continuing to increase and are at an all-time high in Berkshire, providing a large potential wildlife reservoir"?

However, to finish on a more positive note, we may have some cause for optimism as the number of actual bTB outbreaks in Berkshire has reduced from 32 a year ago to 19 last month.....and the dairy industry is not large here.

Perhaps, just perhaps, this shift in strategy has come in time to save our badgers. Nonetheless, we'll remain in readiness for the cull until we know for certain.



Drawing by Karen Beaney





Dr Brian May has long been a loud voice speaking out for badgers but arguably we are seeing now his most important contribution towards their future safety. His **SaveMe** organisation have gone beyond rhetoric and have been quietly working over the past 5 years with a senior vet (Dick Sibley) and an enlightened farmer (Robert Reed) in Devon to find a real solution to the problem of bTB in cattle.

The result of that is the '**Gatcombe Strategy**', named after the Devon farm which had been chronically infected for years, but now has TB Free status - and all without any badger control! Brian May says, '*we now have an alternative TB eradication strategy which DOES work, has worked for Robert Reed, and could work for the whole of the UK, and make the bTB problem history*'.

Exciting stuff! How did they achieve this?

The strategy is based on a number of key discoveries:

- **The SICCT skin test**, as enforced by the Government, is the foundation of the bTB eradication strategy but **is only 45% successful** in identifying cattle infected with bTB. This is a massive risk factor leaving high numbers of infected cattle in the herd.
- They found that there are enough TB organisms in just ONE GRAM of infected bovine faeces to infect another animal. And a cow can excrete 45,000 grams a day. Think about this – **one infectious cow can produce the same number of TB organisms in its faeces as 500 badgers!**
- **Slurry is likely to be the most significant means of disease transmission** with widespread risk points from the sheds, where cattle stand in their own faeces and slurry can splash into feed and water troughs, to the slurry pit (some holding 400 million grams) to the fields where slurry is spread. Neighbouring farms could be at risk too with slurry getting into run-off water and even being transported by lorry to be spread across the fields of other farms.
- **bTB** has always been thought of as a respiratory infection but the Gatcombe team established that it **is actually primarily spread through ingestion**. In the light of the slurry discoveries, this is very significant.

And what did the Gatcombe team do to overcome the challenges these discoveries present? Measures included:

- **Using a combination of sensitive new tests** to directly find the pathogen in the faeces and blood of cattle. Each of these specialises in identifying the TB organism at a different stage of infection and TOGETHER they are powerful in the early identification of infected animals.



- **Identifying and isolating infected animals** before they become infectious and therefore a risk to other cattle.
- **Scrupulous hygiene**, keeping the food, water and environment clean to avoid the cattle eating bTB bacteria. Simple measures such as raising water troughs to avoid contamination.
- **All excrement removed immediately**. Birthing stalls fitted with rubber floors and disinfected to prevent infection of newborn calves at birth from slurry.
- **Using the new sensitive tests** when introducing new stock.

What about the badgers? Well, the great news is that Gatcombe effectively takes badgers out of the equation! TB Free Status was achieved without killing or vaccinating any badgers – despite the fact that the Gatcombe badgers tested positive for bTB. Interestingly, all the infected cattle were the dairy cattle housed in large sheds (with NO badger contact). The beef cattle, grazing near to badger setts, were the only group NEVER infected with bTB.

Not surprising really - think how tiny badger faeces are compared to the voluminous quantities of slurry (and that's assuming a cow would even have access to the badger dung pits). Perhaps stopping the cycle of infection in cattle will see the infection die out in our badgers too.

What next? SaveMe and Dick Sibley are preparing to test the strategy on a wider scale in Wales and are distributing a booklet giving far more detail about the project. Persistently infected farms under bTB restrictions can apply to Defra for permission to use the new, as yet unvalidated, tests which form the basis of the Gatcombe Protocol.

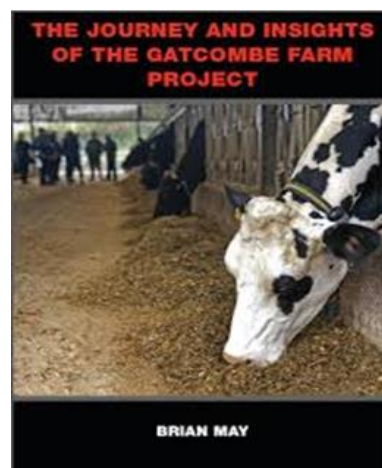
Brian May says *“We now believe that the great ‘Reservoir of Re-infection’ of bTB is undetected cows in the LARGE herds. Not, as has been widely believed in the past, wildlife. We believe that if the Gatcombe Protocol can be used to clean up these large herds, it will prevent the spread of new infections and in a matter of a few years, effectively eradicate TB from the UK”*

It is a very significant outcome but it is early days. The Protocol may not be relevant on all farms or indeed in all areas. But could this inform the future bovine TB strategy?

And what about Berkshire? We've met with Anne Brummer, CEO of SaveMe, to hear more about Gatcombe in detail. We were super impressed and our overriding feeling was that it simply just makes sense. Moreover, the outcomes support our long-held belief that cattle-based measures are crucial in the battle to deal with bTB. Our hope is that the discoveries from Gatcombe, together with the recent news that the Government plans to phase out culling and accelerate cattle vaccination, are sufficient to prevent any Berkshire farmer applying for a cull licence in the mistaken belief that doing so might reduce bTB in cattle.

You can read more about Gatcombe on our website, with a link to the full Gatcombe booklet from SaveMe:

<https://www.binfieldbadgers.org.uk/why-is-culling-wrong>



The extent of flooding caused by recent storms could be having a devastating impact on badgers. From loss or damage to badger setts, to difficulties finding food in flood-affected habitats, life will be harder for badger clans throughout the UK.



Late winter storms – like Storm Ciara and Storm Dennis in February 2020 – come at the worst time; new-born badger cubs are underground, so unless the sow can get them out (she does this by grabbing them in her mouth one by one), sadly they will drown.

What happens to badgers when a sett is flooded?

Where badger setts have been damaged or flooded completely, whole badger clans could be disturbed and have to move. Badgers in floodplains do get used to it as they are born to that way of life, having to move from their setts and find higher ground, even hollowed-out trees. However, prolonged flooding, more regular floods, and floods seen in areas not normally subject to them may have a bigger impact on previously unaffected badgers not used to these conditions.

How will badgers feed in flooded areas?

Badgers will, if they make it to dry ground, have much less foraging ground available. They are very opportunistic and will eat carrion and those animals that may not have died. They will also break open wood and bark where they can find insects, such as woodlice.

In 2019, when checking on floodplains after a flood event, I sadly found a dead, emaciated badger. Years ago my dad had an experience of finding flooded-out badgers in a tree, and some marooned on an island.

What is the effect of severe weather events on badgers?

According to the Met Office, “Several indicators show that the UK’s climate is becoming wetter,” with its projections showing a trend towards wetter winters and drier summers on average in the UK. And even in summer, flash flooding can occur when heavy bursts of rain hit parched ground. The after-effect of flooding can be devastating for humans – as it sadly is for the UK badger population and a whole range of wildlife too.



BADGERS HAVING A HARD TIME OF IT – BUT LUCKILY HELP IS AT HAND!

Floods!: The Derbyshire High Peak Badger Group caught this lovely bit of footage from a trail camera placed by one of their team.

The sow moved her cubs at 1.40am and returned them at 9.45am! They're not sure why, but it is possible that the chamber may have flooded temporarily, however they report she hasn't moved them since.



Visit their Facebook page to watch the whole video - turn the volume up to hear the tiny baby protesting at his Mum's decision to make him get out of bed - <https://www.facebook.com/highpeakbadgergroup/videos/239754727047729>



Drains!: Willtshire Wildlife Hospital rescued this lucky badger – it was spotted by a lady walking her dog across a field, stuck down a 3-4' drain hole. Somehow the lid had ended up inside the drain, leaving a gaping hole into which the poor badger had tumbled.

The badger was uninjured, just a bit wet from water running through the pipe work and very distressed as it couldn't climb out. A grasper was brought into use and after several attempts to loop the badger, it was hauled up on to the grass. The rescuers were pleased to watch as it promptly 'bumbled' off up the hill to a mound where it disappeared down its sett!



Wheely bins!: It's those High Peak badgers again! The Group got an unusual call earlier this month from a local school - a badger was in one of their Wheely Bins (with a football for company!)



Two members of the Group attended to get the badger out safely, but he was found to have a wound on his rump.

He was taken to Medivet for cleaning and treatment and then transferred to Lower Moss Wood Wildlife Hospital for some rest and to finish his antibiotics. "Binny" the badger has now recovered and was released back to his own area.

Another happy ending!



KIDS' PAGE

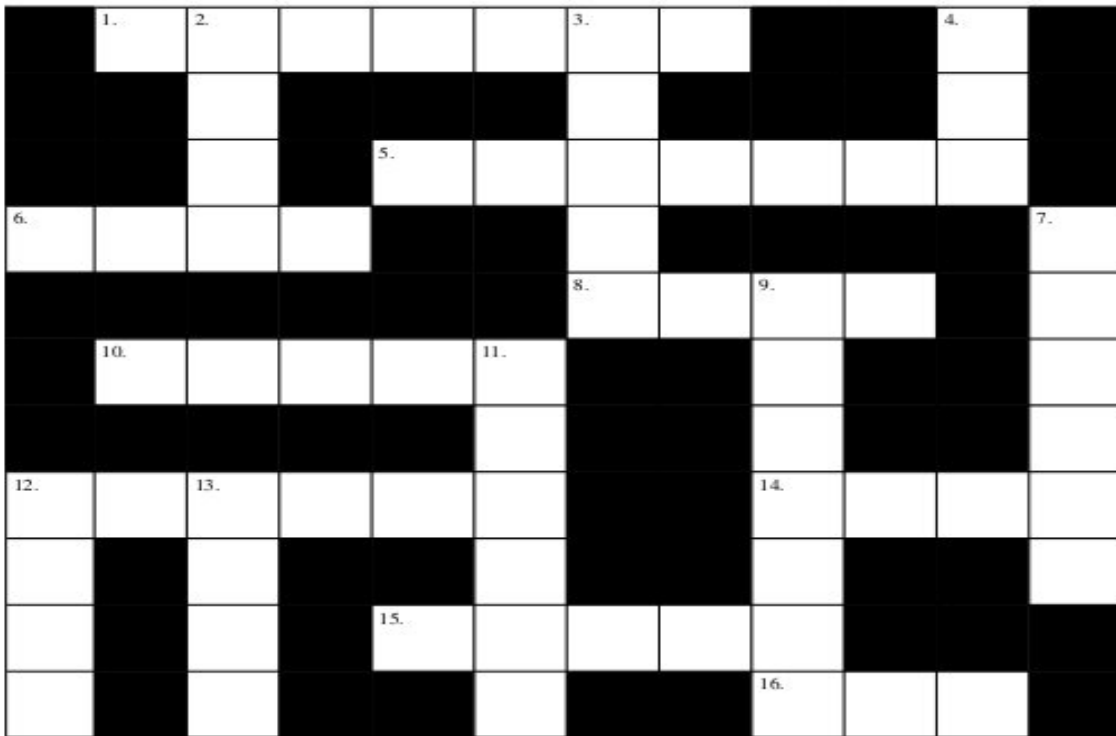
How's your badger knowledge?
Have a go at solving this badgery crossword!

The answers are near the end of the newsletter –

Don't cheat!



Badger Crossword



Across

1. Badgers do this to get rid of fleas!
5. A badger goes to sleep here
6. To mark with scent
8. Where a badger lives
10. Favourite food for badgers
12. My favourite animal!
14. A badger uses this to find his way
15. Earth dug out by badgers
16. A female badger

Down

2. Young badgers
3. Good tools for digging!
4. A badger's coat is made of this
7. Someone who digs out badgers
9. Underground passages
11. A badger's is white on black
12. A male badger
13. Badger poo!



Naturally, as a badger group and a charity, we do not support any one political Party or set of ideas. Equally naturally, we do have opinions on proposals and decisions from political Parties and NGO's.



The Conservative Party manifesto before the December election, stated on p.19 that they 'will make intentional trespass a criminal offence...' and the Home Office commenced a public consultation process on this change to the law. Although the focus seems at first sight to be on informal settlements, the implications are potentially much wider, it would seem.

Badger groups around the country are likely to have great concerns if general trespass becomes criminalised. Challenging a badger-related crime encountered in the field might well necessitate a rapid response, including entering private land immediately. Seeking permission would almost certainly cause delay, such that those engaged in the crime would be able to finish their vile deeds and make good their escape.

Any such 'trespass' by a badger group in these circumstances should be carried out responsibly and without damage to property; no reasonable landowner would object and only someone complicit with the malefactors would be obstructive. However, if trespass becomes broadly criminalised, could those 'trespassing' in defence of badgers (or other wildlife, come to that) be arrested for their public-spirited actions? Under the law of unintended outcomes, could a person seeking to prevent a violent crime be arrested, whilst a person committing a violent crime is given time to escape?

Other legitimate concerns may also be raised. For example, would such a change to the law make it easier for careless constructors to conceal site practices which contravene the 1992 Protection of Badgers Act? Given the amount of building in our county, this must be a legitimate concern.

In any event, the criminalisation of trespass seems certain to add significantly to the burden of already over-stretched police forces, demanding more police time and pushing issues such as wildlife crime still further down the pecking order.

The Ramblers Association has written an open letter to the Home Secretary, asking for an urgent rethink of any criminalisation of intentional trespass, and opposing any measures that would deter people from accessing the outdoors. The Badger Trust, along with other leading wildlife and conservation groups, have given their wholehearted support to this open letter.

Unfortunately, the deadline for comments on the consultation has now passed, but we will be closely monitoring the situation regarding this significant change to the trespass law.



A recent event in West Berkshire reinforced the importance of recording evidence each time we visit a badger sett. As everyone is aware, we monitor and record all badger setts we find across the county, this work enables us to protect vulnerable setts, get a good view of the level of badger activity across the county and also monitor any changes that we see that might need further investigation.

In December of last year, one of our sett guardians was doing a regular check on a sett in a wooded area in Hampstead Marshall. To her horror, she discovered that this sett had been completely devastated. The sett was previously checked in early October and prior to that in March. It was a truly stunning sett, with over 30 large active holes, latrines, runs, digging and evidence of badger cubs from the nesting material we saw in the spring. The last time I was there it was brimming with life, a lovely woodland with bird song, deer, squirrels and brocks.



Upon further investigation, it appeared that the Estate had approved a “woodland management” plan with the Forestry Commission and had felled all the trees on and around the sett, driven heavy machinery right over the area and totally caved in the setts in which the badgers were living. We called in the Police as it is a criminal offence to interfere with a badger sett and the badgers have their own legislation to protect them. The police response was superb. They wasted no time visiting the area and spoke to the landowner, the gamekeeper and the land manager and took witness statements and photos from members of the badger group. They followed up with Natural England to check to see if a licence had been issued for the work and investigated any records of recent ecological reports. Sadly, it turned out that no licence was sought due to the Estate believing there were no badgers present prior to the work being carried out. It is not uncommon for a licence not to be obtained in these circumstances and it is all down to evidence regarding a badger sett being active or inactive and the work being carried out.

This is where evidence becomes so crucial....even though the sett was being checked regularly, there was no photographic or video evidence taken on the last visit to the area in October and the last set of recorded photos were 9 months prior in March. The land manager advised the police that there has been no badger activity for around 2 years, but sadly, because we could not provide hard evidence that the sett was active very shortly before its destruction, it made the case for any prosecution untenable.

So, the lesson learnt here is – whenever you visit a sett, always take date-stamped photos, even if nothing has changed from the last time you visited.

The one silver lining here – if there is one – is that after an introduction by the Police to the land manager, we are hoping to work together with the estate and do a sett survey of a further 9 setts on their property. We can then build a future where we can work together to protect the badgers, rather than be on opposite sides. Working together with land owners, especially those who are pro-badger, is key to the long term protection of badgers and their setts.



'WILD JUSTICE' – A SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR, BUT MORE CHALLENGES AHEAD

Wild Justice, a not-for-profit company, was set up in 2019 by Chris Packham, researcher and wildlife campaigner Dr Ruth Tingay and author and campaigner Dr Mark Avery to take on legal cases on behalf of wildlife against public bodies where they are failing to protect species and/or habitats. They are now looking ahead to what 2020 holds in store for our threatened wildlife:-



"We launched Wild Justice on 13 February last year and so we are heading towards our birthday, and we have been planning for the year ahead.

We start 2020 with unfinished business from 2019; the statutory conservation agencies across the UK are still figuring out their positions on general licences for bird killing and DEFRA is dragging its feet over assessing the ecological impacts of gamebird releases. Because of your generosity last year, and because of the success of our legal challenges, we still have money in hand to carry out further legal challenges on these subjects, though time will tell how much resource will actually be needed.

But we'd like to start some other legal challenges and we have been investigating several and the list is a long one. We are also looking at producing some reports to move on particular debates. All this costs money and that's where we hope that you can help us, please.

The Wild Justice funding model is to crowdfund for particular legal cases once we are committed to them and that remains our approach. We will only launch legal challenges which tackle important issues and that stand a reasonably good chance of success. So, if we decide to mount a legal challenge to aspects of the Badger Cull, an issue that we are looking at very carefully, we will launch a crowdfunder and ask the public to support it and we will rely on that being an attractive case to fund.

But we realise, after our first year's experience, that we need a fighting fund to explore new cases, and quite a lot of them, before we press the button and launch a crowdfunding appeal. So, yes, we are asking you for contributions to the Wild Justice Fighting Fund so that we can explore and start more projects, please. We have to be a bit coy about what those projects might be, because we don't want to tip off others about what we are looking at until we are sure we want to tackle a subject.

Many of you have sent us messages saying that with Brexit coming and a new government with a strong majority, this will be a critical year for Wild Justice to take further legal challenges on behalf of wildlife. We agree and we have been making plans. But this costs money and that's why we need a Wild Justice Fighting Fund so that we can move quickly.

Please have a look down the back of the sofa and see whether you can make a donation. We accept donations through PayPal or bank transfer – <https://wildjustice.org.uk/wildlife-donation>. Or you can send us a cheque through the post, to Wild Justice, 9 Lawson Street, Raunds, Northants NN9 6NG.

Thank you in advance for your help. Let's make 2020 a year for wildlife!"



BADGER OF THE MONTH! – BASILDON BADGERS FC

The Binfield Badger Group are proud to sponsor Basildon Badgers FC's 'Berkshire Badgers Trophy', which is awarded each month to the young player who has shown special effort and qualities while playing for their team. Here's another worthy trophy winner:



This month's "Badger of the month" trophy goes to George in our U8 group

His commitment and effort each week has not gone unnoticed, with the coaches remarking how much progress he's made since Christmas.

Well done George and keep up the good work.



BADGER CROSSWORD - ANSWERS



Across: 1. Scratch; 5. Chamber; 6. Musk; 8. Sett;
10. Worms; 12. Badger; 14. Nose; 15. Spoil; 16. Sow
Down: 2. Cubs; 3. Claws; 4. Fur; 7. Baiter; 9. Tunnels;
11. Stripe.; 12. Boar; 13. Dung

How did you do?



AND FINALLY -Karen Captures our Hearts with the Beautiful Brocks in her Art!

The wonderful study of a badger on the cover of this newsletter is by one of our members, talented amateur artist Karen Beaney. She has also kindly offered to donate this beautiful, unique painting of a badger to help raise funds for the Group. It has been painted using a mixture of watercolours, inks, silver gilt leaf, with a touch of texture paste.

We are hoping to hold a 'silent auction' at our next public meeting, so, if you are interested in owning this lovely piece of art, watch out for the date when our postponed April meeting will be rescheduled.



Chairpersons: John Fennell and Jill Hoblin
Secretary: Judith Darnell, Woodley
Treasurer: Karen M^cCoy, Sonning
Membership Secretary:

Judith Darnell, Woodley
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Group email: Mike Coon, Maidenhead
Talks John Fennell, Binfield
Copse maintenance: Cathy Holwill, Reading

Newsletter: Judith Darnell, Woodley
Vaccination: Jill Hoblin, Newbury

Sett/RTA Records & Surveys:
 Karen McCoy, Sonning

Rescues: *Currently Vacant*

Planning: Andy McCoy, Sonning

Website: Karen McCoy and Cathy Holwill

Committee Members: Carol and Trevor Samuel, Maidenhead

Your MP: www.writetothem.com/



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Website:
www.binfieldbadgers.org.uk



EMERGENCY NUMBERS:	(cut out and keep)
RSPCA 24 hour <u>emergency</u> call out number	0300 1234 999
Police emergency only (use 101 for non-urgent)	999
Thames Valley Police Wildlife Liaison	08458 505505
Harper Asprey Wildlife Rescue, Camberley	01344 623106
Leatherhead Wildlife Aid, Surrey	09061 800132
Aylesbury Wildlife Hospital Trust, Haddenham, Bucks	01844 292292

PLEASE PASS THIS NEWSLETTER ON TO A FRIEND WHO MAY LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT THE GROUP - HELP THE BADGERS BY INTRODUCING A NEW MEMBER – YOU CAN NOW JOIN ONLINE.

A FULL COLOUR VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE

