Badger Vaccination Programme 2014

Our first year of badger vaccination is over. After the vaccinators finished their courses, we then had to wait for their paperwork to come through in order to apply for a Natural England Licence to enable them to carry out vaccination.

Surveys had been completed, the record team had very kindly mapped all the badger activity on each farm and provided us with great maps to pass on to the farmers with their detailed survey reports. Walkover surveys were then undertaken to catch up on the activity and mark out the bait – points.

We put out camera traps at setts in the weeks leading up to vaccination, basically to enable us to gather as much info and try to gauge badger numbers, knowing that we would need to vaccinate 70% or more of any one social group for vaccination to be effective.

After the first week of pre-baiting, the traps were dug in and for the next week the bait was placed at the entrance of the cage then just inside and so on, until the badger was taking the bait from right at the back of the trap.

It is then that the vaccinators set the traps and everything is crossed! Hopefully, all the hard work has paid off and we have 2 successful mornings of vaccination! We vaccinated 2 neighbouring farms for our first attempt (we like a challenge!)

The first farm’s camera footage identified 8 badgers of which 7 were vaccinated. The second farm we estimated 3 and vaccinated 6! And the third farm, we had only captured 3 badgers on camera, 2 of which had been busy mating, the evidence of which was captured on 72 videos! 4 badgers were vaccinated, the benefit of that vaccine will be passed onto those unborn cubs giving that new life protection and making this whole process extremely worthwhile.

It’s been a year long hike, mostly uphill, but what a summit! Its taken dogged determination, true grit, selfless commitment, personal and financial sacrifices, tears and laughter, great company, superb weather and a raft of willing volunteers, all doing it for the badgers. Not once did we question our ability to succeed. We all have the same want and desire to protect badgers from whatever that threat may be. I am extremely proud to be part of such a great team who have given their all.

To every person who has volunteered in any way shape or form, we thank you for helping to make the programme a success – it would never have happened if it couldn’t be delivered by volunteers. We have a meeting scheduled with neighbouring farmers and hope to grow the vaccination area, we hope to grow the volunteers too, so please, if your interested in getting involved, please contact: jane.cullen2@btinternet.com 01925 572312

Hope to see you at the Member’s Day or out and about next Spring surveying!

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and Health & Happiness for 2015.

Jane Cullen
Chair
Dear Members,

As you know, Mike Taylor and Lesley Brockbank resigned from their positions of Chair and Vice Chair at our AGM in May this year.

I am very pleased to announce that, at the request of my fellow committee members, I have taken the position of Chair. I feel honoured that my colleagues believe in me and it is a real pleasure to work with them in our constant fight to protect badgers.

I am also very pleased to announce that Paul Cassidy has taken on the role of Vice Chair. Paul has been a group member for the past 3 years and joined the Committee in May this year. Paul’s background as an Ecologist and Environmental Land Manager means he brings a wealth of skills and knowledge to the group.

Our positions are interim until the AGM where they will be ratified.

We also welcome Eamonn Ritchie back to Committee as our Woodland Officer.

Along with my fellow Committee Members I am committed to growing our membership and fully supporting our vaccination programme and all other aspects of badger protection. We are especially keen to engage and support any of our members who wish to take an active role within the group and will provide ongoing training sessions, presentations and member’s open days to encourage this.

As a group we have achieved much these last few years and have had a great response from our volunteers in everything that we have done. We have forged great relations with many local wildlife organisations including Chester Zoo and the RECORD team where we now store all our badger data and encourage our members to record their own sightings.

We will be holding a member’s day at the end of November (details to be confirmed) which will give our members the opportunity to meet our Committee, see what we have achieved during the last couple of years and what we can offer in terms of volunteering opportunities, whether that is involving yourself with badger vaccination, our woodlands, attending training sessions and assisting with badger rescue and rehabilitation, sett monitoring, raising funds or if you are just generally interested in hearing our hopes and aims for the future!

We can guarantee that you will receive a very warm welcome and we look forward to seeing you in the future.

Jane Cullen - 01925 572312  Paul Cassidy - 07763 896972

On behalf of your Committee, we thank you in anticipation of your continued support.

Kind regards

Jane Cullen  Chair  Wirral & Cheshire Badger Group  info@wcbg.org.uk

MEMBER’S DAY

Saturday November 22nd - 11am - 3pm
Fiddler’s Ferry Educational Resource Centre

Our Member’s Day looks set to be a great day and we hope we have a great turn out from our membership - all welcome!
It’s a chance to meet with the Trustees, find out about all the volunteering opportunities on offer for 2015, including the badger vaccination programme, which has gotten off to a great start this year and will hopefully continue to grow year on year. A guided walk of the site is optional (weather permitting) and this is scheduled for after lunch (which will be provided). There will be a talk and presentation from Neil & Nicole Copping on their experiences of volunteering in Gloucester as part of the Wounded Badger Patrol during the cull last year and this.
We will hold a raffle on the day and there will be a selection of merchandise for sale including Badger Trust Calendars, the new range of Xmas Cards and a selection of “vintage” stock as featured on our FB page!

It is essential that you book a place asap, due to the nature of the site there are strict instructions for parking and access plus, we need to know numbers for lunch also. All details will be given at time of booking. You can do this either by emailing Louise volunteerwcbg@gmail.com or calling me Jane Cullen on: 01925 572312
Once the weather settled down after a miserable May, badger watching was generally very good, with the odd “blip”.

One member who suffered more “blips” than most, was Frank Ryder who, however, was probably the cause of what I now believe was a “hyena” type alarm call, warning colleagues of Frank’s presence. I’d never heard this call before so thanks Frank!

Later on, (19 August), after Frank had changed his aftershave! We were rewarded with a brilliant watch with the badgers all around, and up to all sorts of tricks. Surprisingly, given a fairly decent summer, watching numbers were well down on previous years.

Give me a call anytime to book a spot for next year.

Brian H Rhodes

Merfy

Looking back to the year 2000, I could not have wished for a better start to my retirement.

Jet lag, following a fabulous driving holiday around the South West of America, was interrupted by a phone call from a friend, Roger Lewis, the owner of two superb black Labradors, which I had long admired. He told me of a 7-month-old black lab, which urgently needed a new home.

And so arrived Merfy (12.10.2000), later nicknamed “Mad Merfy” by Roger’s brother Mark (who also had a black lab), due to his powerful frame, the speed of a Greyhound and a per chance for obedience when he felt like it!

He was well known in our village, at Bangor-on-Dee racecourse where we always walked the course before racing, and where car park steward Bill Jones fashioned an excellent Black Labrador walking stick for me.

Merfy loved water – the River Lune at Kirby Lonsdale was his favourite. He sniffed at many a badger dung pit, badger day nests and fox poo which he loved to roll in. He gained fame again a couple of years ago by discovering the human remains of a “missing” person.

More recent members may wonder what all this got to do with badgers? Well, as part of our 20/£25 initiative (5 mile sponsored walk in Tatton Park – he loved the meres), he was instrumental in raising £2645 for group funds in the years 2006 – 2013. Whenever I returned home there was always a large, handsome, black face at the window except for 15.10.14

The following day I lost the best pal I ever had.

Merfy 2000 - 2014

Brian H Rhodes

SUBSCRIPTION INCREASE

Dear Members,

Our membership subscriptions have not changed for a number of years and after some discussion we decided that it was necessary to make an increase.

This was put to members at the AGM in May and it was agreed that from 1st January 2015 membership would be £15 per annum for a single member and £20 per annum for a couple or family.

I hope that all our members will consider this a worthwhile increase to ensure that we can continue to protect all our badgers in the Wirral and Cheshire.

Best wishes

Diana Wanless
Membership Secretary

Chester RSPB Group

7.30pm November 19th

Ben Hall

‘Moments in Nature’

at

St Mary’s Centre, St Mary’s Hill CH1 2DW

Join Chester Local Group. Free evening parking in grounds car park.

For further information, please phone 01244 335670 or see

www.rspb.org.uk/groups/chester

Inspiring everyone to give nature a home

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity. Registered in England and Wales no. 327080, Scotland no. SC048746.
This issue marks the first chapter of a serialisation of an article “The Mysterious Boar and an Aborted Badger Release” by Malcom Ingham.

Malcolm was originally a Countryside ranger at Wirral Country Park. He then became Wildlife Officer and he ran the Wildlife Rehabilitation Unit for many years with his wife Ann who was a veterinary nurse. They were involved in the hand rearing & rehabilitation of several orphan badger cubs over the years. They also had a resident rescued badger “Basil” for several years. Malcolm assisted in many badger related incidents from snares to diggers. He also acted as Expert Witness in court cases and assisted Merseyside Police with several “Bird” prosecutions too. He was promoted to Head Ranger before he retired (about 4 years ago).

The Mysterious Boar and an Aborted Badger Release

– Part 1

by Mal Ingham

Spike the young boar in his hammock in the badger enclosure.

It had been almost two and a half years since we soft released our four badgers, Toby, Millie, Cassie and Kippy in an old disused sett in private woodland in North Wales. Despite a few minor unforeseen hitches in the early days it had gone well, so well in fact that we were still monitoring the sett two years later and even on occasions, still having contact with Kippy.

But they were now truly wild badgers and no longer required any support from ourselves.

Since the release we had been kept busy rehabilitating many other animals from foxes, hedgehogs, numerous birds of prey and of course caring for the occasional injured badger. Despite the success of the release and the unforgettable experiences it gave us, it wasn’t something we wished to do on a regular basis, it’s very, very time consuming and potentially fraught with many obstacles. It entails a tremendous amount of pre-release planning and preparation and that’s after you have eventually found a suitable release site, which in itself is rather like looking for a needle in the proverbial haystack, and that’s only the beginning!!

The real totally and utterly time consuming part begins as soon as the badgers are introduced to their new home. At this point it can all go wrong very quickly and turn into an utter disaster.

Ann & I have literally turned nocturnal and lived in the woods in order to monitor our badgers and to be on hand if anything unexpected were to happen and this goes on for a long time with our contact gradually diminishing as they become totally independent and familiar with their new home and its surroundings. These were animals that had been hand reared from a very young age and never had the opportunity to interact socially with their own kind and as such we preferred to release a little family group of young badgers that had all been hand reared in similar situations and allowed to live and interact together for a period of time prior to the reintroduction.

Despite being in no great hurry to attempt to do it all over again fate was to intervene when one day we were asked by the Wirral & Cheshire Badger Group if we could take in three young badgers consisting of a boar and two sows. These animals had found themselves in captivity through similar circumstances and had been hand reared by various people who could no longer keep them due to a lack of suitable facilities. We had a very large purposely built badger enclosure with sleeping boxes connected with pipes leading into the enclosure itself plus a network of pipes and small chambers allowing them to leave the enclosure and enter a fairly large area of rough grassland enclosed by badger proof fencing.

This allowed these hand reared badgers to live in a fairly natural environment in preparation for their eventual reintroduction to the wild.

And so it came to pass that once again we found ourselves caring for these three individuals and searching for that elusive ideal release site which had to meet as much as possible the following criteria i.e. be in ideal badger habitat with an old disused natural sett on private land with the land owners permission to come and go at will for a prolonged period of time. If and when this was found, then to discover if at all possible, firstly how long has the sett been inactive, how far away is the nearest active sett and if it’s so ideal, why aren’t there badgers in the vicinity any longer? Basically to gather as much information about the sett and the general area as possible, any short cuts here and it can all go pear shaped very quickly!

Little did we realise just how pear shaped !!!!

The badgers arrived and soon settled into their new home, we christened the young boar Spike and the two sows Jessie and Lucy and we began in earnest our search for a suitable release site. We searched, and we searched! But all to no avail. Time was moving on, the badgers were getting bigger and older and it was looking like they were going to be with us for some time to come.

Eventually Brian Rhodes contacted us to say that there was a possible release site around the Warrington area that just might fit the bill. We arranged to go out and have a look and indeed it did meet some of our criteria in that it consisted of an old small disused sett in a strip of woodland in reasonable surroundings, and even though it didn’t meet all our expectations, it was by far the best we had seen so far and as such we began to look into the history of the area and scour the woodland and its surroundings for any sign of badger activity, we found absolutely nothing, to all intents and purposes badgers had not frequented the area for a long time and the badger group had no records of any setts close by.

It was looking good!
**BADGER CULL NEWS**

The pilot badger cull continued in Somerset and Gloucestershire, with the 2014 cull starting at the end of August and continuing until mid-October. The targets set for each area appeared to be very low (minimum of 316, maximum 785 in Somerset and minimum of 615, maximum 1091 in Gloucestershire) with no real justification for these targets. No report has yet been published by DEFRA confirming the results of their population study, which allegedly took place following the 2013 badger cull. Worryingly it is anticipated that the numbers of badgers may have been further decreased following the dreadful floods seen in both Somerset and Gloucestershire.

**The Badger Trust Legal Challenge 2014**

In August 2014 the Badger Trust launched a legal challenge over the lack of independent monitoring during the 2014 pilot badger culls in Somerset and Gloucestershire. The Judicial Review argued that “Liz Truss and Natural England have unlawfully failed to put in place any Independent Expert Panel for the continued culling of badgers in Gloucestershire and Somerset in 2014. The Trust contends that the use of such a Panel to oversee the design of data collection, its analysis and interpretation was promised by the Secretary of State. Without such a panel, there can be no proper assessment of the safety, effectiveness and humaneness of the culling operation, something that would be needed before any lawful decision could be taken to continue with further culls around the country”.

Unfortunately the challenge failed at the end of August, and the Badger Trust took its challenge to the Court of Appeal in October. The Badger Trust put their case to the Court of Appeal on October 9th however a verdict was not forthcoming until October 29th, where, disappointedly, the appeal was rejected. From the Badger Trust statement, issued October 29th “The Trust had understood that the Secretary of State had promised that an IEP would oversee the monitoring and analysis of the results of the culls while she was still considering a wider roll out. However, although the IEP had concluded that the first year of the pilot culls had been an abject failure and therefore the Secretary of State rightly decided not to roll out culling more widely, she abandoned the use of an IEP for the second year of the pilot. The Trust challenged this decision on the basis that the Secretary of State’s promise amounted to an enforceable legitimate expectation and accordingly any decision to roll out more widely after the second year of the pilots would be unlawful. The Court of Appeal rejected this argument, noting that the Government’s policy could be “said to be characterised by a tone of optimism as to the likely success of the pilot scheme in the first year. This optimism proved to be totally unfounded given the failure of the first year of the culls to achieve sufficient standards of effectiveness, humaneness and safety, despite the then Secretary of State’s premature announcement to the contrary. While the Trust respects the decision of the Court of Appeal as a matter of law, as a matter of policy, it calls upon the Secretary of State to confirm she will not roll out culls more widely given the failure of the pilot culls”.

 Needless to say this is extremely disappointing for all campaigners and the threat of a wider roll out of the cull to other areas of England is still a very real risk.

Unverified reports state that whilst Somerset just managed to reach its very low minimum target of 316 badgers, Gloucestershire only reached a figure of 253 badgers (41% of the minimum target) during the 6 week cull, although we wait for confirmation of the total numbers killed. My husband and I, along with my sister and father, spent a number of weekends in Gloucestershire on Wounded Badger Patrol for the second year running, and we will be presenting our experiences in a short talk at the Members day on November 22nd 2014.

*Nicole Copping*  
**Editor**

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**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

I can’t believe that it was March 2012 when I first put my name to the Newsletter as its editor. I took the role not really knowing what it entailed, but was willing to give it my best shot, now here I am, handing over the reigns to my successor Nicole Copping.

I thoroughly enjoyed gathering the articles and encouraging members to write them! I now just cannot give the post the time it deserves and I would have hated for it not to have the opportunity to evolve and grow with a fresh set of eyes and ideas.

It couldn’t be in better hands, and I know that Nicole will equally give it her best shot too, hopefully with the support and encouragement from our members she will be inundated with stories and badger tales crying out for her editorial skills!

Good Luck Nicole and Thank You.

*Jane Cullen*

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**Badger Trust Annual Report on Badger Persecution 2013**

The Badger Trust annual report on badger persecution for 2013 was published at the start of October, showing a rise in badger persecution when compared to 2012 (697 incidents in 2013 compared to 353 in 2012). The types of incidents have been analysed and it has been found that nearly 200 incidents reported in 2013 involved sett interference, the most common incident reported. Shockingly, badger baiting accounted for the second most reported type of incident with 151 incidents reported during 2013.

Of the counties where badger incidents were reported Cheshire accounted for 14 incidents. Somerset saw the highest number of incidents during 2013 (54), with a number of counties reporting just one incident. In Merseyside 2 incidents were reported during 2013. The report makes an interesting read, analysing the types of incidents reported and the time of year these incidents seem to occur. It also details incidents reported and successfully prosecuted. A link the report can be found on The Badger Trust website or here: [http://www.badgertrust.org.uk/news/posts/2014/badger-blame-game-is-leading-to-huge-increase-in-persecution.aspx](http://www.badgertrust.org.uk/news/posts/2014/badger-blame-game-is-leading-to-huge-increase-in-persecution.aspx)

*Nicole Copping*  
**Editor**
A very warm welcome to Cubs’ Corner, the page especially for our younger members.

**Bizarre Beds**

Autumn is here with us once again, bringing the cold weather, dark evenings, and a return to school-things that most of us can happily do without! But there are many good things about autumn that more than make up for the miserable bits. Hallowe’en has been and gone, with its scary pumpkins, crazy outfits and trick or treat sweets. Bonfire night is just around the corner, with crackling fires, fizzing fireworks and chewy treacle toffee- and the excitement of Christmas isn’t too far ahead.

But best of all, Nature is busy putting on an amazing show for us in parks, gardens, woods and fields, window boxes and flower. Trees are blazing in every shade of red, yellow, orange and brown as their leaves snow down all around us. Brilliantly coloured toadstools are erupting from the earth and on tree stumps everywhere you look. The sky is streaked with stunning colours at morning and evening, and hordes of birds are invading our gardens in search of food as the first frosts begin to bite.

The badgers that I watch each evening are happily organising their bedding for cosy winter sleeping arrangements- with surprising results. Badgers are very clean animals and change their bedding regularly. Mine always get an early Christmas present of a big bale of straw to keep them warm over winter; and they drag it gratefully into the sett, shuffling backwards, hugging it to their tummies as they go. But as they move the old bedding out of the sett, some interesting objects can be thrown out with it.

This year we have had old compost bags, pea netting, a Sainsbury’s bag for life, and several glass and plastic dog bowls that once contained badger food- but disappeared into the bowels of the earth. Cubs seem especially fond of stealing bowls and even childrens’ footballs to decorate the sett- and I often find bigger objects jammed tight in the sett entrances where the cubs have tried to drag them in and got them stuck fast.

**A Tasty Snack.**

At the moment, while the weather is still quite mild, there is lots of natural food around for our badgers to enjoy- such as worms, beetles, fruit and slugs. But as the weather gets colder and the ground freezes, making it hard for badger claws to dig up food, a few tasty morsels put out at dusk for badgers visiting your garden or school field can help to fill a furry tummy and keep out the cold. Badgers will enjoy dog biscuits/ mixer, tinned dog food, dry bread, dried fruit, peanuts and peanut butter sandwiches. There’s no need to spend a fortune- badgers are very happy with value range food! If you are really lucky, you may get a glimpse of a beautiful badger popping in to your garden to eat- a treat for the badger and for you too.

**Keeping Busy.**

While you are out and about enjoying the glorious autumn, why not make use of the colourful leaves, the spiny chestnut casings, the prickly beech nuts and the glowing berries to make a natural collage or sculpture? Take a bag out with you the next time you go for a walk and collect a range of natural materials. Then find a nice open space and use them to make designs or patterns. A spiral of conkers could be a curly snail for example, and bunches of coloured leaves could make a miniature bonfire and firework display!
LUSH FUNDRAISING AND AWARENESS DAY

We held a very successful fundraising and awareness day in Warrington town centre in August hosted by Lush.

We painted lots of badger faces, gave out many badger balloons, held a raffle with prizes kindly donated by Lush and Lush charity pots were sold in store.

Even though our badger was a little in awe of Minnie & Mickey Mouse we raised a wonderful £405!!

Many thanks to all our volunteers and everyone at Lush.

Diana Wanless

Goodbye Roy

It is with sadness we report of the sad loss of Roy Thomas, our contact for the Congleton area of Cheshire, who passed away in the summer.

Roy was a long serving member and good friend of the group, committed to protecting our beloved badgers. He served them well.

RIP Roy.

CONTACT NUMBERS

Chair                Jane Cullen         01925 572312
Vice Chair           Paul Cassidy        07763896972
Treasurer            Marion Roberts      07745101433
Northwich            Mike Taylor         01606 883076
Chester              Neil Copping        01352 740051
Wirral               Lesley Brockbank     0151 648 5225
Woodlands            Eamonn Ritchie      via PO BOX No 19
Sett Visits/North Cheshire  Brian Rhodes  01925 656188
Northwich            Jim Marshall        01606 77149
Kettleshulme/Disley/Strines  Debbie Bailey  07549657679
Macclesfield         Kim Creasey         01625 573945
Tarporley            Sandra Colville     01829 260501
Sandbach             Guy Lingford        01270 582985
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PO Box 19 Warrington WA2 8TG - Membership - Diana Wanless

All contributions to Jane Cullen PO Box 19, Warrington WA2 8TG
Or by Email to nla_dasilva@hotmail.com
By 1st March, July and November for inclusion in those months Newsletters

Emergency Numbers
RSPCA Regional Control 0300 123 4999

Wildlife Hospitals
Stapeley Grange (RSPCA) 0300 123 0722
Lower Moss Wood 01565 755082

Police Headquarters Numbers
Rachael Krueger - Merseyside Wildlife Officer 0151 777 5441
Cheshire 0845 458 0000
Greater Manchester 0161 872 5050

Internet
Wirral & Chesire Badger Group www.wcbg.org.uk
Badger Trust www.badgertrust.org.uk

Search for: wirral and cheshire badger group

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Wirral and Cheshire Badger Group Vaccination Program – A valued volunteer’s experience

Wow, the year has gone fast! Looking in my diary it was the 25th of January when the Wirral and Cheshire badger group held their first badger vaccination meeting at the Frodsham community centre.

A cage trap was on display on a table and Jane was giving a talk. Jane explained the importance of Cheshire as an edge zone and the badger group’s intention to start vaccinating badgers against bovine TB and ended the talk by asking for volunteers. It was going to be a big challenge, but a win-win situation for the farmers and badgers and a better solution than the disastrous badger cull currently underway in Somerset and Gloucestershire.

The first stage of the programme saw a series of training days teaching the volunteers how to survey the land for badger activity, which included tracks and signs and map reading skills. I enjoyed these sessions and it was good to meet and get to know the other members and volunteers better whilst out surveying at Chester zoo and Foxhill. These days provided essential skills and the aim was to train as many people as possible.

Following much organisation and planning by Jane and the badger group the vaccination team soon had a number of tenant farms to survey on the Adlington Hall Estate near Macclesfield.

A number of sett surveying days were organised to cover all the farms and estate land. On one such day seventeen volunteers were split into four groups to survey the area, then the maps were put together to show the big picture including active setts as well as signs of badger activity and badger movement.

The teams braved all conditions: roasting hot sun, persistent heavy rain, wasp and nettle stings and many early morning starts! I was very impressed with the dedication of all the volunteers.

Things were moving quickly and soon three volunteer vaccinators were trained and it was time for pre-baiting and training for the volunteers to dig in the cages. The pre-baiting occurred every night for 2 weeks, with the traps being positioned at the start of the second week to ensure the badgers would get used to them. Camera traps were also set up to help identify the number of badgers in each area. The Friday night before the first vaccination day saw the three vaccinators, Marion, Neil and Tina, travel to the sites to set the traps (only the trained vaccinators can do this).

With a dedicated team at Adlington Hall I didn’t think I would be needed so it was a nice surprise when I received an email from the badger group asking Gail and myself to lead a field team as the badgers had been taking the bait of peanuts quickly, and it was now time to vaccinate.

Arriving at the farm at 5.30am we all had a team briefing, disinfected our boots for bio-security and then Gail and myself were handed a radio and a map of our area to cover. Then donning our head torches we went into the fields to see if any badgers had been caught. It was pitch black, with the only light coming from a crescent moon as we walked to first cage shining our torches onto the marker flag. The first and second cages were empty but as we approached the third cage a pair of eyes reflected back and a cheer went up over the radio as we had our first badger. After looking at all the cages we had a total of three in our area and it was time for Tina and Marion to come and vaccinate them.

Tina and Marion had been trained well and were very professional as we watched them vaccinate, clip the fur and stock spray the badgers. We then went to watch Neil who also did a very professional job as he vaccinated the 6 trapped badgers in his area, which had been identified by Diana and Jane.

We returned the following morning and repeated the process, vaccinating another 4 badgers. The weekend went well and the maiden voyage was a success!

It has been a very rewarding experience taking part in the vaccination programme with everyone and to be doing something positive against the demonisation of badgers and the badger cull. I am looking forward to my next email from Jane and the badger group whilst carrying on volunteering and building on my experience.

Paul Hazlehurst

New Committee Meeting Venue for 2015

We are always looking for ways to reduce our costs any way we can, so when we were offered the use of Fiddler’s Ferry Education Resource Centre for free, we couldn’t refuse!

For security reasons there are parking requirements and we must provide numbers for all attending our events, so if you wish to attend any meeting, please email your details to info@wcbg.org.uk and we will forward the details on to you.