Humbug

Calderdale Badger Protection Group
Newsletter

Issue No.1 - November 2024

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Coming Up…

Group Meeting

Tuesday, 26th November

Elland Craft & Tap
7pm- 9pm

Gig for the Pigs 'n' Badgers



Friday, 15th November

Contacts

24 Hour Emergency Hotline
(07894) 497544

www.calderdalebadgergroup.org.uk

Email:
info@calderdalebadgergroup.org.uk

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Calderdale Badgers



Calderdale Badgers at Parliament



Lobbying our MPs



Jimmy

PROTECTING BADGERS IN CALDERDALE AND BEYOND

The Statistics

- 90 Road Traffic Collision deaths so far in Calderdale (2024)
- 68 deaths at the same time last year
- A 32% increase!
- Up to 50,000 Badgers die on UK Roads every year
- 15 Live Rescues by our members in 2024 (compared to 4 last year)
- Vet bills in excess of £1750



Life and Death on the Road

Our obsession with cars continues to take its toll on our badgers. All too often, we build our roads and houses across their ancestral pathways with deadly consequences. A nocturnal search for food or a mate or territory leads to disaster. A badger is no match for two tons of speeding metal when you're blinded by headlights.

As ever, our volunteers go out to witness the aftermath, to check and record and, where possible, move them to a more peaceful, dignified spot where nature can take care of them. Lee diligently keeps handwritten records of them all, as he has for a few years. At times, it seems like a constant reminder of how badly we're all failing the natural world, especially during the RTA peaks of spring and autumn.

But we also have our successes, which is why we keep doing it.

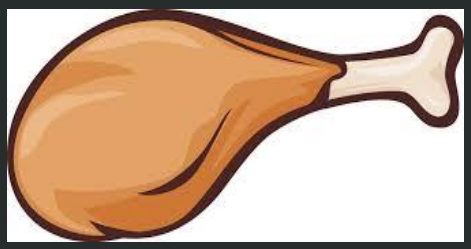
This year has been…unprecedented. That word is often misused in the media but, in this case, it is no exaggeration. You might think that this is the result of our relentless attack on their world, a sign that we're sleepwalking into our own corner of a global disaster. But there's a more optimistic, positive explanation…

We have what is called in modern parlance a "strong online presence"- A website and email accounts, Facebook, Instagram, X (that's Twitter to you and me). More and more people see and hear what we're doing and talk to us. They are our eyes and ears in Calderdale and well beyond. Even the Police and the out of hours staff at Calderdale Council call us.

But the hub of our Rescue Service is our 24 Hour Emergency Hotline. Julie, Sophie and- for the last few months, Carrie- answer the phone day and night and try to make sense of the sometimes confusing calls. And it's not always the callers that are confused- sometimes our rescuers take time to become alert enough to respond and it's our Hotline holders that have the unenviable job of coordinating our response.

We're responding more **quickly** and we're getting **better** at it**,** so we get to more live badgers than we have ever done. And because we get to them quickly, sometimes we can help. Each badger has a story of their own- read on….











Rescue Feature

"The Survivors"

Supporting a Clan through Hard Times

The scene of an accident can bring distress and despair. This was especially so in spring when we were called about a mother and cub killed in the road near Sowerby Bridge. The mother had taken the brunt of the collision in a vain attempt to protect her cub. All we could do was check and move the poor victims to a more peaceful spot.

The caller was sad- she regularly saw this family heading out on their early evening foraging missions as she walked her dog and would miss them. Each night, the attentive sow would cross the road with her cub and then wait for the *two latecomers* to cross with her before heading into the field searching for a feast of worms. Suddenly the situation had become more urgent- two more cubs had lost their mother and the outlook for them was bleak.

We were doubly fortunate, though. The sett (previously unknown to us) was very close by and easy to locate. Trail cameras told us that the cubs were alive and well, foraging independently and had other adults to show them how to be badgers. Better still, we were able to call on the expert advice of Pauline Kidner, the founder of Secret World Wildlife Rescue and renowned badger expert.

Every night for a few weeks a team of our volunteers kept an eye out for the clan and left a badger banquet for them according to Pauline's special recipe. The lucky survivors were treated to a platter (actually an upturned washing-up bowl) of wet & dry dog food, peanuts, peanut butter sandwiches- occasionally they even received some cooked chicken and pieces of fruit. The camera footage proved that the regular meals were a favourite part of this clan's day!

This "Support Feeding" was intended to help the whole family to gain weight and thrive in difficult times. It coincided with a dry spell which would have made their usual foods difficult to come by so it would have been especially welcome. But of course they need to live natural lives without interference from us, so the meals were gradually tapered off and then stopped. We'll probably never know if the orphans and their family are doing well but we've done something to try and make up for the death of two of them. Where there's life, there's hope.

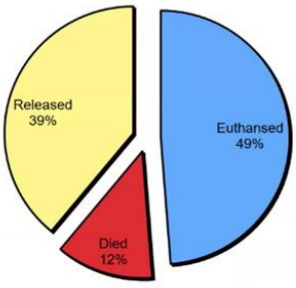
Rescue Feature- "The One That Got Away"

One Friday evening back in April we were called to a badger in a car park in the centre of Halifax. It was under some bushes and seemed quite happy to play hide-and-seek as we tried in vain to extract it with net or grasper. Eventually though, he tired of the game and ran off through the streets, closely followed by Tiegan and Sophie brandishing their various items of rescue kit (and not so closely by the older and slower Ian).



The sight of a badger running through traffic, followed by this motley crew, drew a bit of attention from the early evening drinkers. It appears that this environment wasn't alien to him. Across the road, he sped along the footbridge and then headed home up Southowram Bank leaving us gasping and empty handed. Obviously he didn't feel the need to be rescued on this occasion. Sometimes the most successful rescues end with an empty cage.

Success or Failure? It's not always Black & White



Based on 123 adult badger casualties at SWWR

We know that, even if we successfully retrieve an injured badger, things don't always go the way we'd want. In fact, Secret World Wildlife Rescue estimate that nearly 60% of them don't make it.

Sadly, Calderdale Badgers' experience is no exception to this.

Steve, Elaine, Carrie & Will, Ian & Cath, Liz & TJ and Jude have all had the distressing experience of being forced to have a badger put to sleep for welfare reasons this year. It's always sad, but it's never the wrong decision. And it isn't a failure, even if it sometimes feels like it. Without our rescuers, several sick or badly injured animals would have met a much more difficult and distressing end to their days.

Planning Group Bulletin by Jake

An update about Planning Group along with information about what we do and how you can help.

We continue with our work monitoring applications submitted to Calderdale Council. On average, there are 25 applications submitted each week. The majority of these require no action, as badgers are not affected.

We have 14 active cases at present:

Two cases involve discussions regarding mitigation plans.
We have carried out four surveys at sites affected by applications
We have made comments following survey on three applications
There are six cases where follow-up is needed with two needing a survey.
One case has been particularly complex, and has involved challenging an ecologist and Natural England. Lisa has put in a lot of time and effort here, over several years, in an effort to protect these badgers.

We had a productive meeting with Calderdale Council Biodiversity Team and our working relationship continues to be positive.

Those of you who attended the recent training session given by Tris Pearce will hopefully have some insight into how the law on badgers and the planning system interact, but we thought it might be helpful to explain some of the basics to the group.

While badgers do have some specific protection under legislation, there are limitations. Badger setts are covered but not foraging grounds. The law does make it an offence to disturb or damage setts but this is not absolute. A landowner can apply for a licence from Natural England to carry out works that will affect a sett, up to and including removing the sett and relocating the occupants to a new artificial sett. Furthermore, although you will come across the idea that there is a *'rule'* that there should be a 30 metre exclusion zone around a sett for mechanical works and 10 metres for hand-tool work, this is not specified in the legislation. It is in fact a *guideline* issued by Natural England. This means, unfortunately, that breaching the guidelines is not de facto a wildlife crime, though it *may* be depending on the circumstances.



In terms of planning applications, therefore, the mere use of the land by badgers will not normally be grounds for an application to be refused. Even if there is an active sett, this need not necessarily prevent an application being passed- *if* the applicant puts forward what are considered to be reasonable proposals to mitigate the effect of the development. As noted above, if Natural England are prepared to grant a licence for sett closure and the setting up of an artificial sett, this is lawful, and would mean that permission could be granted.

We do hear from residents opposed to developments who will cite badger sightings as grounds for objection, in the belief that this should prevent the scheme from going ahead. Sadly, this is 'folk law'. The real position is that there is far less protection than people may believe.



So, you might ask, if developers can move setts and build on foraging grounds, *what is the point of engaging with the planning process?*

First and foremost, identifying setts so that they are dealt with properly. While closure and relocation is not ideal, it is better than having setts destroyed because they were not known about. While developers are required to submit an Environmental Impact Assessment on larger schemes, these can be inaccurate.

We use a combination of our existing records and surveying to check that setts have not been missed and if they have been, we flag this up with the council. They can then require the developer to mitigate the effect on them as a condition of permission being granted.

If the presence of badgers using an area is known, this may not be enough to stop a scheme but it does mean that the developer can be required to reduce the risk that the works on site pose to badgers. This means things like covering holes at night and keeping to the Natural England guidelines on sett disturbance.

Where permission has been given with stipulations, we try to ensure that these are kept to, and contact Calderdale Council if there are breaches. In particular we try to ensure that any artificial sett is fit for purpose in terms of design and location.

We know that planning can be an emotive issue and that there is concern about the amount of development that Calderdale is being asked to deliver. This will mean an increase in contacts asking us if we can intervene.

If there are concerns about a planning matter, please be realistic about what we can do (as outlined above) and try to check on the Calderdale Council online Planning Portal that there is actually a planning application and that the period for consultation is still open. We have enquiries about cases where there is no application, and others where permission has already been granted. If you want us to look into a case, please quote the application number, or the address with postcode, and as much information as possible about why you think badgers may be affected.

Finally, to deal effectively with this area of work, we need people to *volunteer to carry out surveys*, especially in the "Lower Valley" (The eastern end of Calderdale) where the bulk of housing developments are happening. You only need to know the basics to be able to give an initial assessment. Keep an eye out on the "Badger Appers" WhatsApp group for our requests and *shout out if you think you could help!*



Rescue Feature

"Going Back Home to Mum- Monitored Natal Return"

To many of us, the abbreviation MNR is a new thing. So for our group to have used this technique not once, but *three* times this year is a surprise. Monitored Natal Return means (roughly) returning a cub to its own home (sett) and monitoring to make sure things go well. With younger cubs, this can be a very complex process involving long periods of time sitting around waiting for the mother to appear and take an interest in her cub before opening a remote-release cage to reunite them.

Fortunately our three MNRs involved older cubs who were no longer dependent on their mothers' milk. Nevertheless, these all required careful thought and attention to detail. We may be an amateur group but our members take pride in a professional approach to their work!



The first was a rescue at the end of April and is a tribute to the way badger groups help each other (as well as the badgers). A cub was seen sitting around in open woodland during the day, looking very vulnerable to any predators. Fortunately a local resident realised that this isn't normal and decided to seek advice. This was a complicated process in itself and the resident went above and beyond their call of duty in order to get help. The woodland was in a suburb of Leeds and at the time there was no badger rescue service in the area. By sheer persistence, the caller got hold of Claire Hogan of South Manchester Badger Group who set in motion a chain of phone calls which ended with our very own Cath Baker grabbing some kit and heading over there. She rapidly retrieved the lost boy, Jimmy, and headed over to Derbyshire High Peak Badger Group where the vastly experienced Debbie Bailey was waiting with an experienced vet to check on him. After a lengthy discussion and further assessment, it was decided that Jimmy was fit for MNR and it was all systems go!

Cath and Lisa from Calderdale Badgers joined a member of the newly-formed Leeds Badger Group to release Jimmy back home. Trail cameras later confirmed that he was happily foraging with his mum and a sibling. And the caller gave them a helping hand by giving temporary support feeding to the family. A perfect result!



Late June brought us another cub rescue closer to home. Blossom was discovered by a passing walker, out in the open and struggling to move. New members (but experienced animal rescuers and rehabilitators) Liz and TJ sprang into action to pick her up. She was severely underweight, dehydrated and very weak- her outlook was bleak to say the least. But after a couple of nights at Donaldsons Vets Animal Hospital for Intravenous fluids and observation, Liz & TJ took her in for a week of rest, food and TLC. The difference was amazing! So Blossom too was released back home. Her obvious excitement at arriving back on home ground confirmed that we had correctly identified her sett and we were able to release her, where she confidently trotted off into the darkness and into the welcoming paws of her clan. Once more, a dedicated team of our volunteers were looking out for her and "support-feeding" the whole clan for a while to give Blossom and her family the best possible chance.

Calderdale Badgers' volunteer Sophie is often out and about doing all things badgery, but it was her partner Danny who found the third cub in our trio. It was near home, so Sophie was soon on the scene. We named her Bessie after one of Sophie's rescued ponies. She looked poorly- curled up, breathing heavily, cold and dehydrated. Once more, Donaldson's treated her at their hospital. Things were touch and go at times, but she pulled through. After a period of rehab in the capable hands of TJ & Liz, she was well enough to go home.



Actually, Bessie wasn't technically a Monitored Natal Return, even though her story looks very similar to Blossom and Jimmy before her. It was now mid-July and by this time of year cubs are older and more independent, so when it comes to taking them home we know that they can be released where we found them (exactly like an adult badger) rather than back at their sett. Bessie was old enough -and hopefully wise enough- to find her own way home. This was a big relief, as we had no idea where her home sett actually was! Once more all went well- Bessie was obviously excited to be on home territory and pottered off happily to be reunited with her clan.

National Day of Action – A Personal View by Ian

3rd September 2024



Recently, the Badger Trust (in the form of our amazing Groups Rep, Sally Jones) organised a "National Day of Action" to make our views known on the government-sponsored killing of badgers.

The centrepiece was a day of events in London- handing in a huge petition to DEFRA, holding a demonstration in Parliament Square and lobbying our MPs to call for an end to this awful policy.

For some of our committed members this was an opportunity to represent us and our badgers in a show of strength. Take a bow Cath, Jude, Tiegan & Carrie. They made the long trip to London to be our voices for the day!

So why had it come to this?

They say that a week is a long time in politics and the relentless pace of the last few months has been exhausting to try and follow, hasn't it? Things happen quickly to change our plans. We've all heard of the concept of "Spin" which often seems to be a cover for dishonesty. An alternative term is "Strategic Lying". And there's plenty of that going on from all sides of the political spectrum. Which brings me to Government Policy on the Badger Cull. What is it, exactly? No, really- *What is it*??

21st March. Daniel Zeichner (now Minister for Food Security and Rural Affairs) said in parliament that Labour would stop the culling of badgers. His boss, Steve Reed (now Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) quickly backtracked at an event hosted by the National Farmers Union. He told them that culling would have to continue at least into the "foreseeable future". So, maybe a *little* bit more culling then?

Then came the full-on election campaign.

29th June. Mr Reed confirmed that a Labour government would "allow" or "honour" all existing cull licences. So, quite a lot of badger-killing…but only for a *little* while. I'm now losing patience with the use of the word "cull" to make it sound nicer than "kill". And I can't see much sign of "honour" either.

22nd August. Just seven weeks after the General Election victory. It appears that even this watered-down policy wasn't quite the end of it. More news leaked that DEFRA were "consulting" on a new round of badger-killing licences in the "Low Risk Area" of Cumbria. If you've ever tried to participate in these consultations (I did), you'll quickly realise that the only people they're consulting are already loading up their ammunition. Now we're onto killing *a lot* of badgers and doing it for *even longer*. But they're still committed to ending the cull. Sort of. Eventually. Maybe. Always look on the bright side.



23rd August. The long-awaited documentary, "Brian May: The Badgers, The Farmers and Me" was aired for the first time. If you've not watched it yet, please do. It's not perfect. It's not unbiased. But it's a triumph. For the first time we have a well-made, well-justified, passionate case for ending the tragic and pointless killing of our badgers to counter years of misinformation propagated by DEFRA and the NFU.

30th August. The Mother of All Strategic Lies. "Government announces TB Eradication Strategy refresh to end the badger cull". The BBC were quickly there to keep us abreast of the huge news. "Government announces plans to *end badger culling in England*…"

Cue the wild celebrations. At last, they've gone and done it! Maybe Brian May's influence has finally shamed them into doing the right thing? Job done. Put down the placards, badger costumes and fake blood, Sir Brian. Take a well-earned break.

"…*within five years*". Sorry, what? "*Yes, we're aiming to stop within 5 years*". "Aiming"? "Five Years"??

In a statement announcing the end of the cull, the Government had actually *extended* it beyond their term of office. So that's where we were at the beginning of September- lots more "ineffective" (the Government's word, not mine) killing of badgers till the end of this parliament. Then, if we vote for it again, they just *might* honour their promises. Don't hold your breath, though.

I felt forced to become a reluctant demonstrator. *But*- just to be clear- I am *not wearing a badger head.* I was there to bear witness and show that the silent majority are watching what is done in our name. That's my story anyway- no costumes, no placards, no shouting. Thankfully, the others were more vocal.



Pauline Kidner & Chris Packham at the Demonstration

The demo was a much more genteel and middle-class affair than the ones I'd attended in the 80s. But it was powerful and inspiring. We were treated to speeches by (among others) Rosie Wood the Chair of the Badger Trust and the inimitable Chris Packham. They were forthright and direct – above all, they were right. This has to stop. And it has to stop NOW. A personal favourite moment was when Pauline Kidner of Secret World Wildlife Rescue appeared from within a badger costume like a contestant on the "Masked Singer".

Then it was on to parliament. I often doubt the value of lobbying but in Calderdale we have 2 newly elected MPs (Kate Dearden and Josh Fenton-Glynn) in a newly elected government and maybe a fresh chance to influence policy. Unlike many of our fellow lobbyists we did in fact get to speak to our MPs. They listened politely and attentively and made notes. We are assured that they will take up our case with their ministers. We can but hope….and then keep pressing for a change in policy. So I'll put aside my cynicism for a while and carry on bearing witness.



Carrie, Josh Fenton- Glynn MP, Cath and Jude

As an aside, I can thank Kate for listening amiably in the Central Lobby to my incoherent rambling and to Tiegan's tirade about badger genocide without interruption. But I feel cheated, even bitter. It was a hot, tiring day. We were thirsty and hungry. Cath, Jude and Carrie (from the posh end of the Valley, as I call it) were taken to the MP's restaurant and given lunch by Josh. In return he received an articulate, well-informed lesson on why killing badgers is wrong along with reams of homework to complete. Well done, Cath Baker. I know you'll make sure he completes all the tasks you allocated to him. But I can't help feeling that I might have done better with a sit down and a full stomach.

Rescue Feature

“Old But Not Forgotten - Caring for a Senior Citizen”

Maggie the elderly badger had taken to living in a woodstore. Far from being upset, the owner of the store had started feeding her but he worried that she looked frail and injured, so he called us. After picking her up, Jude took her to the vets. She was old, but otherwise in reasonable condition. They treated her for an old bite wound and gave her a dose of antibiotics and some pain relief. After recovering from the sedation, we took her back to the woodshed to live out her life back “home” in the woodshed under the watchful eye of the caller.

(Postscript- Sadly, Maggie disappeared a short while later- her advanced years had finally taken their toll).

A Pitstop for Victor



In October, we were called by the manager of a country estate North of Leeds about a badger cub trapped in a deep pit. Although the owner of the estate wanted to avoid any publicity, estate staff made every effort to get help for the prisoner. Worryingly, their difficulty in finding a rescue service (the RSPCA among others could not attend) meant that he had been in his dungeon for at least 2 days without food or water and potentially with injuries sustained as he fell.

When Ian hurried to the scene, he was unsure of what he’d find or whether the badger could be reached. In the event, fortune favoured “Victor” and his rescuers. Although he’d fallen 20 feet he appeared to be mobile and alert but very frightened. With the loan of a long ladder, a length of rope and a bit of muscle we quickly caught him and lifted him out, cage and all.

Some veterinary practices can be reluctant to see badgers, but luckily Holly House in Leeds isn’t one of them. They gave Victor a thorough check-up (miraculously he was uninjured from his fall), cleaned up a bite wound and released him into our care to recover from sedation. It is important, especially for young badgers, that we get them back home as soon as possible so, after 24 hours to rest and refuel, Ian and his wife Cath took him back to the scene* of his unwelcome accident. Although reluctant to leave the comfort of his blanket-nest, he quickly recognised the familiar smell of home and trotted off along a well-worn path into the woods ready for his next adventure.

(*Estate staff had made efforts to block access to his erstwhile cell to avoid any repeat of the situation.)

Rescue Feature

A New Family for Orphan Annie

Back in June Calderdale Badgers had possibly it's most complex and long-running rescue ever.



Weighing the Patient

Annie was reported to us by passing cyclists having a seizure at a roadside near Shibden. Sophie, Tiegan & Elaine attended and soon had her at Donaldson's vets for treatment. Two days later, Basil was picked up by Elaine, Cath, Liz & TJ in the same area after being found hiding under a trailer. He too needed veterinary treatment.

For three weeks, these two cubs were looked after separately by various group members in their own homes whilst we planned their future.

It was a steep learning curve as we got to grips with the smelly business of keeping two feisty, black-and-white bundles clean, healthy and well-fed. And what a privilege it was for those of us lucky enough to have been part of it!

Despite an extensive search and camera trapping in the area, sadly we could find no trace of the cubs' sett or clan. It is likely that these two were siblings, orphaned when their mother died nearby. They were too young to survive alone without a clan of their own and there was no hope of a successful release back home, so it became a race against time to find places in an orphan group at a specialist rehab centre.



Pauline Kidner

Possibly the most experienced centre in the country is Secret World Wildlife Rescue in Somerset and thanks to Cath's contacts there we were lucky enough to bag a couple of spots for our orphans. But there were a lot of hurdles for them to clear before they were finally accepted there...

First they had to prove that they were fit enough to live successfully in the wild. Camera footage showing them moving and behaving normally, all limbs in full working order, normal eyesight, eating and drinking, gaining weight. It is a harsh reality that any sign of weakness would condemn them to suffering a distressing end to their lives if released into the wild and we would be unable to continue with our plan for them. It also meant that we had to minimize our contact with them- a tame badger is in no position to survive in their world!

Secondly, we can't move badgers around the country without first proving that they are free of bovine tuberculosis (bTB). As a result, we took them both to the vets for blood sampling under sedation, which is a risk in itself. A positive result would force us to apply for a licence to put them to sleep.

Needless to say, their carers had a few sleepless nights as they followed all the necessary steps and waited on the outcome….



Arriving at Secret World



The New Clan

At long last, on 3rd July, we finally got the go ahead to move them to Secret World and jumped into action. To keep them apart we made the 5 hour journey in two cars- Tiegan & Carrie with Basil and Ian & Cath C with Annie. It was an exhausting return trip but worth every bit of our effort as we saw them reunited with each other in a spacious, purpose-built pen.

Since we said our final goodbyes to the cubs they have gone from strength to strength as they met their new family (all orphans like themselves) and formed bonds that will help them when they're free again. Two further negative bTB test results have followed before they finally moved to an artificial sett at a secret location.

And now we've had final confirmation that all of the fences have been removed and they're finally living as wild badgers again! Watch this space for trail camera footage and tracking information from their post-release monitoring….

Vetting the Vets

Q: What makes a "good" vet & rescuer and how can we help each other to improve?

A: Talking and listening

We're fortunate to have Donaldson's Vets 24 hour emergency service so close to Calderdale and they are our "go to" practice when we have an injured badger. They've treated and cared for quite a few of our badgers recently. But they're not perfect and *neither are we.* Like us, some of their staff are more experienced than others but we're all trying to do our best when it comes to our badgers.



Liz and TJ, who have recently joined us, are experienced animal carers and their expertise has been invaluable this year in caring for several of our cubs. As a result of our experiences and ongoing training from Secret World Wildlife Rescue, Liz is developing a set of guidelines for rescuers, rehab carers and vets (in addition to the excellent Badger Trust / Secret World Emergency Guide for Vets). We hope these will help us to ensure that we give all of our badgers the best possible care. We've already had a very positive and enthusiastic response from a meeting with Donaldson's and we hope to publish the guidelines soon for further discussion within the group. If you're interested- ask us about them!

However, we have learnt a great deal from our contacts with vets inside and outside Calderdale. Vets are often reluctant to see and treat badgers. This can be for a variety of reasons:

- **Fear. Many vets *never* see badgers. They are unsure of what to do, how to handle or treat them safely. And they don't know us or what we're capable of! The guidelines we carry with all our rescue kits can help and these have often been gratefully received. And the advice of our rescuers can also be welcomed.**
- **Staffing. Many practices are busy and short-staffed and finding the time to deal with something out of the ordinary (like a badger) is difficult.**
- **Badgers and bTB. As a result of widespread misinformation about the risks and the reality, practices can be unwilling to see badgers. We have to remember that, for many of them, a substantial amount of their work involves farm animals and they wouldn't want to jeopardise their business!**

Having said that, we have had the pleasure of meeting some enthusiastic, kind and helpful vets. Wendy Lane Vets in Littleborough, Holly House in Leeds and Avenue Vets, Bingley all deserve an honourable mention!

Of course, good veterinary care costs money. Donaldson's fees have often been discounted and our costs compare *very* favourably with other badger groups' reported bills. But the sheer number of rescues this year means that our costs have outstripped our fundraising (Further news on that elsewhere). The good news is that Badger Trust have given us a generous emergency grant (£750) towards our costs which is a huge help. Many vets also have funds set aside for treating wildlife, so where our members have used vets for badger rescues outside our area they have generously completed the work without charge.

Other News



- **We recently welcomed the renowned badger ecologist, Tris Pearce to Calderdale. Tris comes with a long and illustrious pedigree. Some of you will perhaps have read his late father's (George E Pearce) book "Badger Behaviour, Conservation and Rehabilitation". He delivered a comprehensive and fascinating day's training on Level 2 - Badgers and Development. It was quite a coup for Lisa to attract a speaker of his standing so congratulations to her on the success of this event.**
- **Lisa continues to be heavily involved in Calderdale Badgers' Planning Group, now ably assisted by Jake, Phil, Andy, Kim and Steve in the background. (See Jake's report on current Planning group news). In order to focus her efforts on what is a busy, integral part of this group's work, she has now stepped back from her role as Crime Liaison Representative but continues to support Kim and Carrie who have bravely agreed to take up the reins.**
- **After some unsuccessful attempts to vary the format of our Group Meetings, we are going back to meeting once a month. This will now be on the last Tuesday of each month 7-9pm. Venues will change to give everyone a chance of attending a meeting closer to home. Keep an eye out for emails from membership.**
- **As always, we are hoping to encourage more of you to try out different things in the group. Please ask at our meetings or drop us a line if you see anything that you are interested in. Currently our needs include helping with sett surveying particularly to help with Planning Group's work and helping with stalls and fundraising to support our work. Everyone has something to offer and if you need a little support to feel confident enough to volunteer come and have a chat to us at group meetings. (It's fine if you just want to support us from the sidelines- this is *your* group too!)**
- **Keep an eye out for exciting news- we're currently working on setting up our own badger rehabilitation facility in Calderdale. We hope that this will end long, stressful journeys for our badgers and their rescuers to find a place for them to recover from illness or injury. More to follow in the next newsletter…**

EVENTS



- **15th November at the Fielden Centre, Todmorden 7-10pm. Music (from Daniel Bath & Stephen Shulman) and bar.**
  Proceeds between Full of Joy Sanctuary and Calderdale Badgers.
- **30th November. PAWS at Todmorden Community College 11.30am- 4.30pm. Fundraising Stall.**
- **23rd Nov "Light up the Valley" Mytholmroyd Community Centre. 12- 7pm. Stall.**
- **1st December Feline Woodcraft, Todmorden (To Be Confirmed).**
- **8th Feb. Ceilidh. Todmorden Community College 7-10pm.**

We're always looking for volunteers to help with stalls and events!! And if anyone knows of Christmas Events in Calderdale where we could have a stall, please let us know asap.

SALES & MERCHANDISE

Christmas Cards

This year's ever-popular, exclusive Calderdale Badgers Christmas Cards designed by Fran Lloyd are now on sale at meetings or contact Cath Baker via WhatsApp or email membership@calderdalebadgergroup.org.uk.



At £5 for a pack of 10, they are bound

to sell fast, so get your orders in early!

T-Shirts

We are about to order the first batch of a new range of T-Shirts featuring a variety of designs from Jennie Smith, Nature Photographer and part of the Bridestones Rewilded Project and from member Philip Pattinson's son-in-law.















Size Guide: XL = 18, L = 16/14, M=14/12, S =10, XS =8, roughly! All are Organic and Fair-Trade.

These are available in a variety of designs and colours, priced at £20. Hurry and contact Cath Baker asap to pre-order!!! (Note: The orange boxes visible on the pictures are just designer's guidelines and do not appear on the actual T-shirts).