

BadgerNews

THE NEWSLETTER OF GWENT BADGER GROUP | WINTER 2020



Rowena Mary Jones



Gwent Badger Group is saddened to report the death of Rowena Jones, following a stroke, on 1st October 2020. Several members of the group attended a service for Rowena at Gwent Crematorium. Donations in her memory were sent to All Creatures Great and Small, an animal rescue centre at Llanfrechfa. Rowena, who was a member of GBG for many years, was a countrywoman at heart and lived in an idyllic part of Monmouthshire when she was younger, namely Pear Tree Cottage at Llanfair Cilgedyn where she kept cats and cared for her parents, both of whom had suffered strokes. Rowena had a strong creative streak and often drew and painted,



Rowena enjoying time at the GBG Reserve

especially horses, which she adored. She was a member of the South Wales Shire Horse Society who have their annual show in the summer at Bailey Park, Abergavenny. GBG have had a stand there for many years. Whilst Rowena lived at Pear Tree

Cottage she met Malcolm Jones of GBG who arrived to be the gardener for the house. Thus began a firm friendship which lasted over twenty years, based on mutual interests, especially wildlife. Rowena would often accompany Malcolm to the Group's reserve where they fed the badgers, looked out for other wildlife like foxes and owls and maintained the reserve. She was also present at Committee meetings and events. Rowena had a kind and gentle nature and always wore a smile on her face. She will be sadly missed.

GBG and Amazon Smile



GBG is now signed up to Amazon Smile. This means that if you choose to shop with Amazon and select GBG as your chosen charity at smile.amazon.co.uk you will get the same shopping experience but 0.5 per cent of the net purchase price of eligible purchases will go to GBG. Remember you have to use smile.amazon.co.uk.



Subscriptions for 2021



As 2021 approaches may we take this opportunity to remind members that at the AGM held in 2019 subscriptions were raised to:

- ◆ Family membership - £20
- ◆ Individual members - £15
- ◆ Senior/Junior members - £2.50
- ◆ (plus any voluntary donation to help cover costs).

While most indeed raised their contributions to the above for 2020, a significant proportion did not do so. Please try to make sure that GBG receives the correct subscriptions for 2021.

Thank you.



Registered Charity No. 507651

Following the passing of the 1973 Badgers Act the Gwent Badger Group was formed in May 1974 as a small group of people interested in uniting their efforts to enforce the Act locally and estimate its effectiveness. The Group aims to protect and study badgers, educate the public and where necessary offers assistance in dealing with the problems badgers may cause.

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Gwent Badger Group News Roundup



Whilst in lockdown the group has not been able to have its usual meetings and events nor an AGM. However, behind the scenes several members have taken it in turn to regularly visit the group's reserve at Usk, checking on the resident badgers, feeding them and keeping on top of any maintenance issues. Mr Gunter, a group member, handmade several sturdy signs to warn any potential trespassers on the reserve that cameras were in use.

The group has also attempted to keep a phone line working for emergencies and a variety of calls have been reported over the past few months including several badgers in distress.

Member Dave Cooksey responded to a report of an emaciated badger seen near a boarding kennels in his locality of Caerphilly. Sadly the badger was discovered to be just skin and bone when taken to a vet in Newport (Alex Lewis) so it was too late to save it and it had to be euthanased.

In Monmouthshire a report came in from a couple living at Chepstow of

a badger coming into their garden which appeared to have some sort of injury. The female badger was taken to Marlow vets and checked over then taken to Secret World. Unfortunately it transpired that she had a congenital neck deformity which was causing her pain and distress. Nothing could be done so she too was euthanased.

This may seem a gloomy report but we are grateful to the vets and charities such as Secret World who work with us to end pain and suffering where there is no hope and prolong life where there is. Lastly on a lighter note, a caller reported that badgers in the garden of her house near Abersychan had been causing havoc by undermining an annexe. They are indeed extraordinary engineers. GBG offered advice and the case is ongoing.

If you have any badger stories please tell us. If any members would like to help at the reserve please contact us.

We thank you for your support in 2020 and look forward to a brighter and better 2021 where we can meet up as a group.

Product For Leatherjackets



Whilst GBG does not usually encourage references to products in Newsletters, we thought we would mention a product, that could possibly be useful to some readers, called Nemasys. It has not been tried and tested by us.

Every year the group receives a couple of calls or more from annoyed homeowners whose gardens have

been dug up by badgers. The badgers are looking for tasty leatherjackets under the lawn and this treatment claims to destroy the leatherjacket grubs but must be applied correctly in the Autumn and Spring using a watering can with a rose attachment with large holes in it to make for easy dispersal. Anyway, research it and make up your own mind about it and please tell us if it works or not!

www.gwentbadgergroup.org.uk