

# Hare Today



The official newsletter of the Hare Preservation Trust

Issue No. 25

## Salad grower's helping hand for wildlife from the NFU website.

Not many commercial growers can claim to have water voles, brown hares, kingfishers and grey partridges among their crops but salad grower and arable farmer William Fleming of Golden Plain Salads Goodend Produce Limited is creating and managing habitats for these species and many more at Southend Farm, Donnington. William is the 2007 winner of the Chichester Branch of the National Farmers' Union's annual contest for conservation management on productive farms.

Judge Colin Hedley, a Hampshire farmer and environmental consultant, was delighted when he found threatened grey partridges at Mr Fleming's farm. He said: "Southend Farm

has productive soils and grows crops to very exacting standards for supermarkets. It is nothing short of inspirational to see so many wildlife species thriving on a commercial enterprise. Particularly notable is the healthy population of water voles, one of our most threatened mammals."

Conservation projects at Southend Farm include pond creation, hedgerow planting and the growing of bird cover crops to provide nesting sites and feeding grounds for farmland birds. Measures have been funded voluntarily and through green farming schemes such as Environmental Stewardship. William Fleming also opened his farm to the community on Open Farm Sunday in June.

Mr Hedley said, "There is concern among environmentalists that wildlife conservation will become a low priority for farmers, with increasing world demand for food and energy crops. However, all the entrants particularly William Fleming, have clearly shown that wildlife has been central to decision-making on their commercial farms." National Farmers' Union South East environment adviser John Archer said: "Farmers are very often the unsung heroes of the countryside. The majority of commercial farmers habitually undertake conservation work for free and willingly enter into green farming schemes, benefiting biodiversity and historic landscape features in a big way."



### Snippet 1:

New York obviously has a love affair with the hare. The NY Department of Parks & Recreation and USP displayed a huge hare sculpture by British sculptor Barry Flanagan in June 2007. 'Large Left Handed Drummer' was located on the Union Square Park's southeast traffic island. The bronze sculpture, which is very characteristic of Flanagan's work, depicts a dancing hare playing a drum.

## HT24 Omission

The wonderful 'What a tasty morsel for a hare' picture I used in HT24, should have been credited to the professional photographer Ken Lewis. Mia culpa and many apologies. *The Editor*

## Scotland says no to banning snares

Animal welfare organisations have today condemned the Scottish Government's decision to continue to legalise the cruel and indiscriminate practice of snaring. In the first test of the SNP Scottish Government's commitment to animal welfare, Minister for Environment, Michael Russell MSP, today announced to the Scottish Parliament that he does not plan to prohibit snares. He has instead opted to introduce regulations, which animal welfare organisations do not believe will stop the wide scale animal suffering or prevent the capture of non-target animals including protected species.

The decision contradicts overwhelming public support for a total ban and comes almost a year after the close of an official public consultation, which revealed a majority of more than 2:1 in favour of a total ban. In recent weeks alone the Minister has received almost 5,000 letters and emails from concerned individuals who want to see an end to the use of these cruel and unselective traps. For instance evidence has come to light that thousands of

mountain hares, a protected species, were caught in snares in 2006/2007, showing a culture of complete disregard for the law. Proposed regulations include compulsory fitting of crimped stops, ID tags on snares and proposals for training. Advocates for Animals' Political Director, Libby Anderson, said: "By not banning snares the Government is failing to advance animal welfare and flying in the face of public opinion which was firmly behind a ban. We will continue to campaign for a ban on these cruel and indiscriminate traps."

League Against Cruel Sports' Scotland Campaigner, Louise Robertson, added: "This is not the end - we will continue to campaign for a ban on snares." The campaign for a ban on the manufacture, possession and use of snares is led by Advocates for Animals and the League Against Cruel Sports and supported by the Hare Preservation Trust, Hessilhead Wildlife Rescue Trust, International Otter Survival Fund and Scottish Badgers and sponsored by the Marchig Animal Welfare Trust.

## Men admit illegal hunting

Two owners of lurcher dogs have admitted hunting hares on a farm in the Isle of Axholme. Police were called to a farmer's field just before 10.00am on December 8.

There were two four wheel drive vehicles present but they drove off before the arrival of the officers, who subsequently saw a lurcher-type dog with a hare in its mouth. The dog was being followed on foot by its owner Robert Smith. The dog had been let out of one of the

vehicles by accident and Mr. Smith couldn't get her back.

Smith said "All I was concerned about was finding my dog. If I wanted to course hares I could do it in my own back garden" Another man Ambrose Watson was also charged, although his dog was on a lead when the police arrived. District Judge Curtis said it was an accidental rather than a deliberate offence but still fined them each £100, with £60 costs.

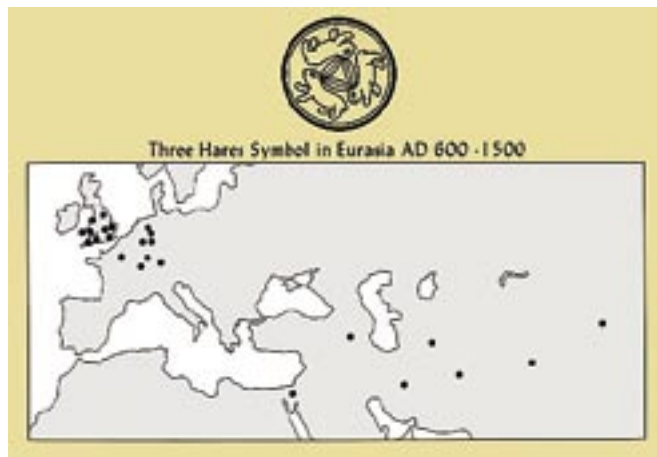
# Ancient hares in all their variety

The three hares symbol is very ancient and has been found across the world. In ancient times the hare was a very magical creature and is thus associated with the Goddess, the moon, and fertility. To learn more about the symbol visit the site at [www.chrischapmanphotography.com/hares](http://www.chrischapmanphotography.com/hares) and it's Three Hares Project. This project is



researching and documenting the ancient symbol of three hares running in a circle and joined by their ears which form a triangle at the centre

of the design. The symbol is a puzzle for each creature appears to have two ears yet, between them, they share only three ears. (This example is from Corfe Mullen Dorset.) The Project has revealed the motif to be an extraordinary and ancient archetype, stretching across diverse religions and cultures, many centuries and many thousands of miles. This map shows sites associated with the three hares



across Eurasia. The easternmost marker is Dunhuang in China and the clusters in Western Europe and in Britain can clearly be seen. It is part of the shared medieval heritage of Europe and Asia (Buddhism, Islam, Christianity and Judaism) yet still inspires creative work among contemporary artists.

This hemp Ritual Robe was made recently in British Columbia, Canada. It is made with undyed handwoven hemp from the Hmong Hill Tribe and fully lined with a softer cotton fabric. The hares and the hawthorn



branches are applied and embroidered using wool felts, cotton thread, as well as brown linen for the hares.

The Dreihasenfenster (the Three-Hare Window) was added in the 16th century to



Paderborn cathedral. A poem goes with it: "Der Hasen und der Löffel drei, und doch hat jeder Hase zwei." [The hares and ears are three,

and yet each hare has two [, you see].] This example of the Three Hares symbol, comes from an ancient church at South Tawton on Dartmoor. The Celtic carvers liked symbols with a strong earth connection. The hare is a grounded animal, it has a long



symbolic association with fertility, regeneration, and new life. The so-called Easter bunny is believed to be the hare of the Goddess Eostre! Parish churches in Devon are a rich source of the three hares roof boss. Twenty-nine bosses from Devon are known in total, of which nineteen are medieval and of wood. The

example below is from Chagford.

The three hares motif may have travelled from east to west along the Silk Road and through the medium of textile. In the medieval period, precious silks from the



Orient, many woven with gold thread, were used in western churches for wrapping holy relics, for vestments, as altar cloths, palls for shrines and as linings in holy books. It is known that designs from these silks influenced medieval artists and church craftsmen. In Exeter Cathedral, the tomb of Bishop Walter Bronescombe, who died

in 1280, is painted with a representation of an oriental textile. The capture of Constantinople by crusaders in 1204 also released a wealth of oriental artistry into the West. However they travelled, the journey of the three hares is a truly remarkable one.



Stained glass - The Castle Inn Lydford

## Snippet 2:

Whilst the Bardic Arts on-line shop is a little 'new age' for most tastes, this T-shirt design by Cerri Lee, has beautiful detailing and a stylish representation of our main man. Available in black, green, purple and natural (illustrated) go to <http://www.bardicarts.com/tshirts.htm> for further details.



## ..and finally

Every time she wears it, (and not just amongst HPT members) people ask the Editor where she got her unusual hare necklace and earrings. The set is by the artist Nick Hubbard and they are cast in silver with a gold heart on the necklace and a gold moon and star on the earrings; all came from the Jane Moore Gallery in Leamington Spa tel: 01926 332454.



**HARE PRESERVATION TRUST - Working for the preservation and welfare of hares**

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