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A round up of News and Events – July 2010

1. Deputy Prime Minister's Laws & Regulations for Repeal
2. Have Your Say On European Animal Welfare Policy
3. Advice
4. Member Discounts
5. Show Dates
6. Prize Draw
7. Do we have your correct Email address?
8. UCSW Merchandise

1. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S LAWS AND REGULATIONS FOR REPEAL

The Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, has launched 'Your Freedom' giving people an opportunity to engage with the Government online by suggesting laws and regulations that should be repealed. Mr Clegg has asked people to concentrate on three areas:

- Laws that have eroded civil liberties
- Regulations that stifle the way charities and businesses work
- Laws that are not required and which are likely to see law-abiding citizens criminalised.

This is an important opportunity to get our message to Nick Clegg, particularly regarding the Hunting Act. Visit the 'Your Freedom' website <http://yourfreedom.hmg.gov.uk/repealing-unnecessary-laws/repeal-of-the-hunting-act-2004> to 'rate' the repeal of the Hunting Act and add your comments in support of repeal. You will have to register first and can then use this link to return to the right page.

As a law which has absolutely eroded the liberty of those who hunt, which a Government Inquiry confirmed had no purpose and which has seen many ordinary law abiding citizens having to fight criminal charges, the Hunting Act should be the first law on the list for repeal. However, whilst Mr Clegg never voted on the Hunting Act, as he was elected to Parliament in 2005 after it became law, he has said that if there was a vote on its repeal: "I would vote to keep the legislation as it is" and 35 of his Liberal Democrat MPs have signed an EDM saying that they would do likewise.

2. HAVE YOUR SAY ON EUROPEAN ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

The European Commission has commissioned a public opinion survey on European animal welfare policy and it is important that all those with an interest take part. This can be found by visiting <http://www.ghkint.com/surveys/eupaw/>. Called "Evaluation of the EU Policy on Animal Welfare" the survey closes on 31 July 2010. Question 11(i) asks whether or not it is important that the EU is involved in animal welfare policy for wild animals. The UK branch of European hunting federation, FACE, of which the Union of Country Sports Workers is a member, believes Member States should decide what animal welfare rules should apply to wild animals, not the EU. Answering Question 11(i) "strongly disagree" will make it clear that animal welfare in respect of wild animals should remain a matter for individual Member States.

When participating in the survey, apart from the first page, you do not have to answer any question if you don't want to. Your response can be submitted whether you answer one or all the questions posed.

3. ADVICE

The UCSW is here to help those employed in country sports with their employment, housing or other job related problems. If you need help or would just like to talk through a work issue, please call the office on: Tel: 01295 712719.

4. MEMBER DISCOUNTS

The UCSW have organised discounts for members on a range of products:

- **Membership to C³** It's benefits include insurance – see enclosed leaflet. Over the last few years, UCSW members have been asking if the Union can offer insurance. As a result UCSW has been looking at the different insurances available for country sports people. It did not want to add compulsory insurance on to UCSW membership in a time of financial uncertainty, thus incurring additional costs for its members who did not want extra insurance. Optional membership to C³, which includes insurance, is the best way to meet UCSW member needs.
- **Webury.com** – UCSW Trade member – is offering UCSW members a 10% discount for items on their website www.webury.com. To find out how to take up this offer email the UCSW: office@ucsw.org. Webury.com is a family run business, deeply rooted in the countryside. They claim to be Europe's largest Driza-Bone ® stockists, and their expertise in Wellington Boots is second to none, with prestige brands Aigle (including the Equestrian ranges) and Le Chateau. Quality items to suit Gardeners to Gundogs, Campers to Coffee-holics, Foodies to Fashionistas, "there is something for everyone".
- **Special rates for websites, logos, brochures and photography from EquineIT.com** for UCSW members. Logos from only £75 and websites from only £250. Contact Ian Piper on 07811 450158 and mention that you are a UCSW member.
- **Utility Warehouse Discount Club** – Help us, Helping you.... please see enclosed pink leaflet.

5. SHOW DATES

Below, we have listed the shows that the UCSW will be attending during the middle part of this year's show season. For more details on these and all the other shows (dates and links to show sites), please visit our website: www.ucsw.org Do come and visit us!

July 13 – 15 Great Yorkshire Show, Countryside Arena
July 21 Festival of Hunting, Peterborough
July 23 – 25 CLA Game Fair, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire – Stand Number P1357

The Union of Country Sports Workers will be on Stand Number P1357 at this year's CLA Game Fair. Don't miss the ferrets, gundogs, farriery display, gunsmithing, British Traditional Molecatchers Register (BTMR), new cartoon cards by Caroline Hill (including our 2010 exclusive Christmas card) and a possible solution to your insurance needs, as well as other member benefits and information on the UCSW. We look forward to seeing you there.

6. PRIZE DRAW

Please return all Prize Draw tickets to the office no later than Wednesday 15 September. 1st Prize - £200, 2nd Prize - £100 and 3rd Prize - £50. The draw will take place at the Midland Game Fair on 19 September.

7. EMAIL & POSTAL ADDRESSES

As we are using email more and more for relaying information, please make sure we have your current email address – and if you have changed your email or postal address recently, do let us know! Contact the UCSW office or email us on: office@ucsw.org

8. UCSW MERCHANDISE

The UCSW holds various items of UCSW branded stock including: ties, baseball caps, polo shirts, sweatshirts and enamel membership badges which can be viewed by looking on the website under Merchandise: <http://www.ucsw.org/Merchandise.htm>. There are also a number of fun/gift items such as sporting notelets, badges and car stickers, 'hunting' mouse mats, jute bags, etc.

Merchandise can be purchased through our website with a credit card using the secure Paypal system or send in your request noting which item/s you require together with a cheque (made payable to "UCSW") to the office including a donation for p&p or enclosing a stamped addressed envelope for all orders. Thank you.

We would like to thank all our members for their support through their membership, fundraising and donations, without which the UCSW would not be here. Please encourage your friends who are involved in country sports, whether workers or supporters, to join us – together we can be stronger...