

feedback

Your views
and opinions

We welcome your letters and feedback email jonathan.keeble@archant.co.uk

This is not the time for a kill

A mass cull of deer in the Ashdown Forest is being demanded to cut the number of car accidents involving the animals. But I feel very strongly that this is not the answer.

I believe it is the motorists' responsibility to slow down on country roads, especially at night. The number of vehicles on the roads is increasing, so really the answer should be a cull of cars, or a reduction in their numbers entering the forest. I don't see why the deer should suffer because of a problem that man has created.

Ashdown Park rangers recently reported that they attended 266 incidents involving deer last year, compared with just 100 in the year 2000. They say there were even more in 2007 and only a shortage of staff prevented them getting to many more accidents last year.

Dr Hew Prendergast, from the Conservators of Ashdown Forest, has said that the situation has become so serious that drastic measures such as culling are needed.

This view does not make sense. Between Nutley and Duddleswell where Dr Prendergast has allowed sheep to roam across the road he has erected signs, cattle grids and the speed limit has been reduced to help keep the road incidents down – so

why not apply this same simple logic to other areas of the forest?

Ashdown Forest has the same habitat status as the New Forest but is managed completely differently. Deer are part of the natural habitat management of Ashdown Forest for the same reason that Natural England has recognised that deer are a valuable tool in managing the New Forest. The A31 is a very busy road which crosses the New Forest but per car there are fewer accidents mainly thanks to underpasses being built.

Despite an offer to build an underpass by one landowner in Ashdown Forest, the idea has been completely ignored. Until such safety measures are put in place the 40mph limit should be extended across the whole area and enforced.

Culling is an easy but short-sighted answer. You will never stop animals from crossing roads and causing accidents, but we can reduce the chance of these accidents by slowing traffic and using preventative measures. Slowing traffic will also help save the lives in other non-animal accidents on the forest roads, too, which a cull certainly would not.

**Trevor Weeks, Wildlife
Rescue Ambulance Service**

What a site

I was prompted to write after reading Nigel Blair's February letter about dumping sites on the Downs, which reflected my concern about landfills generally. If Hampshire is able to landfill only 16 per cent of its rubbish, why is West Sussex still sending 65 per cent? We don't want landfills with huge lorries pounding our roads, attracting vermin and reducing property values.

I will be strongly objecting to the proposal for Laybrook brickworks on Goose Green Lane near Ashington and if we are to have any chance of saving our stunning environment, I encourage everyone in the county to do the same.

To find out where and when to send letters of objection, please log on to www.nolaybrooklandfill.co.uk

**Clare Roberts
West Chiltington**

Two lives

The top magazine of choice in my Storrington hairdressers is *Sussex Life* and in February I noted with interest the story of the gentle creature Lutfi. This Lutfi reminded me of another gentle Lutfi that I met in hospital in East Jerusalem, where I recently spent four months with the World Council of Churches.

Thanks to the rules of this disputed territory, my Lutfi cannot live with his wife and children because they have different permits. Both Lutfis have big sad eyes, but the four-footed Lutfi has much more freedom than the sick human Lutfi. To find out more about the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme for Israel and Palestine see www.quaker.org.uk/eappi

Audrey Gray

Write in and win Champagne

If you'd like to see your letter printed on this page write to *Sussex Life*, 28 Teville Road, Worthing, West Sussex BN11 1UG or email jonathan.keeble@archant.co.uk

Each month the writer of the Letter of the Month will receive a bottle of Montaudon Reserve Premiere courtesy of Harvey of Lewes.
www.harveys.org.uk/wine

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