

New website aims to show MPs the support for hunting

A NEW website has been set up to show MPs and other politicians the amount of support there is for hunting in the UK.

The website – <https://huntingkind.com> – has been set up by Ed Swales, 52, who has had a lifelong interest in hunting, shooting and other fieldsports, and has kept ferrets, lurchers and terriers.

Ed, who spent 12 years in the Army before working internationally as a security consultant, was born in Newcastle and brought up in Northumberland where he still lives.

The website allows supporters to register their interest and to download a flyer which can then be sent to their MP.

Asked why he felt the need to set up the website, he said: "I'd say it was a reaction to the increasing frustration that nothing effective was happening to stem the tide of the erosion and banning of rural activities and rural life.



that it was possible for common sense and the scientific evidence for wildlife management to be accepted by politicians.

"The cancel culture taking hold of a society and finding that our way of life might end, when in reality it is actually only a tiny proportion of the animal rights extremists disproportionately influencing an uninformed public.

"Rural folk were losing the will to represent their cause properly and more worryingly, were losing hope

"Having been hugely encouraged by meeting like-minded people in Budapest at the International Festival of Hunting and then getting involved in the campaign to reject the anti-hunting bill in Northern Ireland, I witnessed at first hand that today's politicians, when considering important matters such as cultural heritage, minority rights, the rural economy and proper animal welfare, will make the right decision.

"They just need to be engaged with positively and shown the depth of support from rural Britain to find a solution that works."

He added: "Hunting folk are constantly under-represented by seeing hunting only promoted from a shooting perspective. This is such a flawed strategy as we have witnessed with shooting now facing unprecedented pressure. We aim to represent hunting from hunting's perspective without wishing to detract from the aspirations of any other organisation but simply, we're done with being the sacrificial goat."



THIRTEEN pedigree gundogs were electrocuted in a tragic accident during Storm Dudley, which hit parts of the UK last month.

At around 4pm on February 16 a tree blew down taking a powerline which fell on the kennel block at Cuckavalda Gundogs, near Ampleforth, North Yorkshire, electrifying the runs. Sadly, 13 dogs – 11 Labradors and two Cocker Spaniels were killed.

All the dogs were aged between seven months and six-years-old.

Cuckavalda Gundogs, which has an international reputation, is run by Jack Peckitt and his wife Anna.

A full investigation is underway by Northern Powergrid.

A statement posted on the Cuckavalda Gundogs Facebook page, said the dogs were 'beautiful creatures' and 'all taken far too young'.

It added: "Jack, Anna and Tom would like to thank everyone who have shown their concern and given help."

A Northern Powergrid spokesman said: "Storm Dudley

13 GUNDOGS KILLED DURING STORM DUDLEY

caused a tree on a customer's land to fall and bring down a section of overhead power line onto kennels which were situated directly under the section of electricity network.

"Sadly, a number of dogs in the kennel were electrocuted."

Tributes to nine-year-old who died while pheasant shooting

AN INQUEST has been opened into the death of a nine-year-old boy killed by a falling tree while out pheasant shooting.

Jacob Gallon, from Longton, Staffordshire, was on a pheasant shoot at the 400-acre Heath House Estate in the Staffordshire Moorlands when the tree came down in Storm Malik on Saturday, January 29. The Gladstone Primary Academy pupil

was pronounced dead at the Royal Stoke University Hospital later that afternoon. A 72-year-old man was also injured in the tragedy.

An inquest is today expected to be opened and adjourned into Jacob's death at Stoke-on-Trent Coroner's Court on February 15. A full inquest will take place on March 25.



Family friend Sarah Thursfield has launched a fundraising appeal for Jacob's parents and siblings.

She said: "Jacob tragically lost his life after being hit by a fallen tree on January 29. He was out on a pheasant

shoot with some family and friends doing what he loved and did almost every weekend.

"His passing came as a massive shock to not only his loved-ones but

hundreds of family, friends, teachers and people who didn't even know him.

"Let's try to show this beautiful family a bit of love and support. RIP beautiful boy, you'll be sadly missed."

Jacob was also a member of the Ten Count Boxing Club, in Bentilee.

Owner Max Maxwell said: "He was a good lad - a big, strong nine-year-old."

"When we found out what had happened it was very sad. It seems surreal, we couldn't really believe it. Everyone at the club is devastated."