

## ***Foxhunting: past, present, future?***

### ***Transcript of interview extract for Juliette Baxter***

#### **Juliette Baxter**

Rural dweller

#### **Interview date**

05.06.2006

#### **Brief description**

Describes feelings towards hunting

#### **Duration**

2mins 31 secs

#### **Interview extract**

Juliette Baxter: Uh, I suppose my position is not distinctly one way or the other. I grew up in a village and I was a very horsy child, as most teenage girls are. And I spent most of my teenage years on top of a horse and I was aware of the local hunt. Our local hunt was the Pycthley Hunt which used to come past our garden on quite a regular basis, because we were on the outskirts of the village, so I was aware of the hunt. But I was also aware of my mother's attitude to the hunt. When she heard the hunt coming she used to let her German Shepherds out of the garden so that they would mix with the pack and cause and create chaos [laughs]. And they did, everything used to go berserk and there would be barking, and she loved it and she enjoyed disrupting the hunt like that. The hunt didn't like it very much obviously but obviously I learned that from quite an early age, was that that to her hunting was not acceptable and she used to stand and give the huntsmen a little piece of her mind on those occasions. So I suppose I grew up believing that it was not right and we also looked after several animals when I was a child that my mother had taken in, whose parents, had um, been killed in hunts. We had two baby deers and we had various other injured animals that had been

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taken in. We had a baby fox at one point, so she used to pick up the pieces I suppose that had been left behind, but then I do also appreciate that it is a way of life in rural areas and people are very attached to it and it does provide them with social occasions. It provides work in some cases and I know it is very much part, particularly around this part of the country, its part of the local community. Although having said that when I was living in Sheffield and that's badger-baiting territory, um, and I did have quite a lot of discussions with our local policeman because we had a badger set at the bottom of our garden where I lived for my second and third year, so obviously that's a completely different side which is a less acceptable side to hunting animals. Round here it tends to be a lot to do with the social occasion and I know that is important to people, but personally I think there are better ways of having a social occasion and there are better events to use it for. So you know I don't, I wouldn't like to say I was ravingly anti hunt or ravingly pro hunt but I personally don't believe that there's a need for it but I know a lot of people feel very strongly that they wish to do it, so.

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