



MoleMatters Issue 28
September 2011

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Procter Pest-Stop supports the Guild and supplies traps (at very competitive rates) to Guild members. Find contact details on our website.

The MoleMatters

Newsletter of the Guild of British Molecatchers
Committed to traditional molecatching skills and welfare of the mole

Is there anybody out there?

By The editor of The MoleMatters

This is driving me MAD!

If I had any, I would be tearing out my hair!

Here is my problem.

This newsletter goes out each month to over 500 different

email addresses. Some recipients are full members of The Guild and either professional or amateur molecatchers, others are supporters and/or those simply interested in receiving information about The Guild and all things mole.

And yet, and yet Each month I wait in vain (mostly) for a response to the content of the previous month's newsletter or for new content to come flooding in.

Just as The Guild is run by molecatchers for molecatchers, this newsletter is published for you (AND THAT INCLUDES YOU) – it is a place to air your ideas, suggestions, success stories, failures and anything else even vaguely relevant to The Guild or other Guild members, supporters and subscribers – not to mention anything pertaining to moles and molecatching in Britain or elsewhere. Go on, boast a bit! Tell us something! Show us something! Start a discussion! Talk to us!

In other words - **GIVE VENT!**

500 people just might be interested in what you have to say.

If what you have to say is decent and relevant, it will be published.
(We reserve the right to edit submissions)

Make a note. This is the email address you need:

molematters@guildofbritishmolecatchers.co.uk

I look forward to hearing from YOU





Tip of the Month By Mumble

In these new times of “mend and make do” I have begun to wonder whether I could make myself a genuine moleskin waistcoat. And, having wondered, I have, as usual, done nothing about it – Where have I heard that before? Why am I suddenly thinking of my partner?

Anyway, having been stung out of inaction (at least temporarily) I put down my glass of red and my book (Travels with My Aunt – Graham Greene if you really want to know) and got down to some serious internet research.

The first prerequisite is, as you would expect, a goodly supply of undamaged mole skins. Well, that at least should prove possible. Next, again fairly obviously, comes the requirement to cure the skins and this is where I have already come unstuck. There appears to be very little good information available online discussing home curing of pelts and such information that I have managed to find appears to be somewhat contradictory.

In the interest of all concerned, I don't particularly want to go around stinking of

Nude Molecatchers' Calendar – an update

Help raise money for the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

Thanks to the members who have already rather bravely volunteered to pose for our calendar for this great cause.

We are still short of a few bodies to have a complete 12 month set. Discretion and decency are guaranteed (private parts covered) so come on, give it a go!

Please e-mail Martin, the membership secretary on calendar@guildofbritishmolecatchers.co.uk



Nowt So Queer As Folk!

By Martin Noble

If, like me, you advertise your molecatching service at Game Fairs, Farmers' Markets and the like you will probably meet some very unusual people. I am always amazed at how divorced some town dwellers are from the ways of the countryside.

I often hear “the mole must have dropped from the sky to get into my garden” and “no way is a mole that size able to fly tip that amount of soil”.

This summer I met a gentleman who says he will never need a molecatcher in his garden and that he will never need to use traps. The gent in question uses his faithful trowel/bucket and a bag of Post mix concrete! His method, when a molehill appears on his lawn, is to find the hole and pour in the concrete mix. End of mole!



I believe he has been doing this for some years now and no longer needs a lawnmower. Anybody interested in a second-hand lawnmower?

Honest advertising – Honest dealings.

We have been hearing some rather disturbing stuff about molecatchers who are not members of The Guild and who use some pretty sharp practices. We relate a few here so that you can avoid them if you employ a molecatcher and to reinforce to members of The Guild that these practices are simply not acceptable.

rotting mole so I think this step is really quite important to get right.

So, instead of giving you a tip this month, I am asking you for your tips on curing moleskins (I can be contacted by email to the MoleMatters Team address at the end of this newsletter). Any help would be appreciated, especially if you have successfully made items of apparel from skins.



Now, where did I put that corkscrew?

No mole, No fee?

People are being sucked in to employing molecatchers by a “no mole, no fee” advertisement but then being charged a set up fee.

What these "molecatchers" are doing is saying £10 per mole in a “no mole, no fee” advertisement – potential customers call them and are informed of the cost for catching the moles - £10 per mole. However, they are then told that there is a set up charge which is not refundable. Some charge as much as £50 as a set up fee which makes a single mole £60. If the mole is not caught then they have still been charged the set up cost.

Can this really be considered “No mole, No fee”? We think not. Our advice is to offer a genuine “No mole, No fee” deal which means that if you don’t catch, you don’t get paid. Don’t get involved with hidden charges. Instead rely on your professionalism and expertise to produce results; the results that your clients expect.

Cold Mole!

There are molecatchers who keep a dead mole in the freezer and having done their “work” knock on the door with the thawed mole in hand claiming to have caught the said mole as requested. The mole is thrust forward accompanied by an offer to dispose of it. Ninety nine times out of a hundred the answer, from the lady of the house, will be “yes please”. The mole is popped back in the pocket for the next call or returned to the freezer.

This is clearly fraudulent and could lead to prosecution.

Fat Foxes!

The molecatcher who charges £150 per mole!

Armed with a plastic bucket full of traps this molecatcher has never produced a mole, only an invoice. On the odd occasion when he was asked to produce the mole, he said he had thrown it over the hedge or taken it away to feed the foxes!



This is clearly fraudulent and could also lead to prosecution.

Email your thoughts and comments on this article for possible publication to:
molematters@guildofbritishmolecatchers.co.uk

www.guildofbritishmolecatchers.co.uk

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To contact the MoleMatters editorial team email
molematters@guildofbritishmolecatchers.co.uk
