

The MoleMatters

Newsletter of the Guild of British Molecatchers

Committed to traditional molecatching skills and welfare of the mole



MoleMatters Issue 31
December 2011

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EDITOR'S NOTE

More photos next month please for the "Image of the Month" spot. Keep your letters, comments and queries coming too.



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

Our very best wishes at Christmas to all our members and supporters, whatever you are doing and wherever you are in the world.



The Guild's Accreditation Academy levels recognised by BASIS

Recognition by BASIS for our accreditation process is being backdated to the beginning of 2011 so if you are Basis Registered on the prompt scheme for continued professional development and you have achieved accreditation at any level during this year, you can claim your points.

BASIS Registration Ltd have now agreed to award 3 points for each level a person completes if they are on the Basis prompt scheme for continued professional development.

Our training course still attracts an award of 10 points.

This means that the entirety of the Guild's training and accreditation process (however you decide to tackle it) is BASIS awarded.

All BASIS registered members who have completed any level of accreditation or attended the mole course in 2011 should contact accreditation@guildofbritishmolecatchers.co.uk or training@guildofbritishmolecatchers.co.uk as appropriate with the dates they attended and/or the levels they have achieved so that these details can be sent to BASIS and your points awarded.



Tip of the Month By Mumble

Well ... Seasons Greetings to you all!

I have a few short tips for this month.

Don't drink too much over the holidays.

Don't eat too much over the holidays.

Don't take a blind bit of notice of the above!

Do however consider the mole and how well it has served you (if you are a professional molecatcher) in the last year and ...

Do consider what, if anything, you might do to improve your trapping techniques in the New Year and how you might better serve your customers while, at the same time, being true to the tenets of The Guild – Committed to traditional molecatching skills and welfare of the mole.

Now, exactly where did I put that corkscrew?

Did somebody just mention Mince pies?

Merry Christmas!

For those that aren't in the know - BASIS prompt is a scheme that the pest control industry works on to confirm and identify that people are maintaining standards in their work. Professional development points are required each year to encourage study and provision of recognised standards and levels of service.

TRAINING COURSE BARGAIN

(‘cos it's Christmas
and New Year)

The January training course (14th) is **only £60.00** (conditions apply).
Be quick – only a few places are available at this price.

With the new BASIS awards for accreditation and the start of a new year, the Guild is pleased to offer some limited places on the first training course of the year at a reduced rate of £60.00.

If you are considering professional development through the BASIS scheme or are already on the scheme, why not take advantage of this offer to kick start the year?

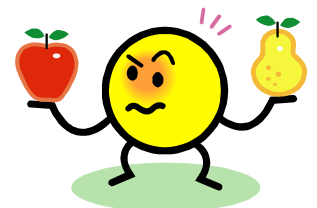
If you are not on the BASIS scheme, the offer also applies to full members of the Guild under the Guild's continuing promise to provide support to its members without ever profiting from them. In these difficult times, when everything seems to be rising in price, that's a bit of a help.

Start your journey through the accreditation process.

Apply by emailing accreditation@guildofbritishmolecatchers.co.uk

Remember this from last month?

We asked for your opinion on a few decisions that need to be made early in the New Year.



In summary:

Which charity to support?

How much should we be asking you to donate for membership?

What more can the Guild do for you?

We have had an amazingly good response to date – there are a few days left for you to give your opinion so, if you haven't already done so please fill out and submit the form you will find by clicking [here](#)

HELP REQUIRED BY MOLECATCHERS



Can you help to answer this molecatchers' question? If so, send your answer to the MoleMatters' email address at the end of this newsletter.

Guys,

I started a job several days before going on holiday, confident that I'd finish before I went away. Things went to plan - caught 3 moles on the 1st day, 2 moles on the 2nd day, no moles and no mole activity on the 3rd day. Went to check and remove traps on the 4th day - new molehills had appeared in a previously cleared area. Agreed with client to lift traps and return after holiday.

Reset same traps 2 weeks later (Duffus traps). 14 days later, I hadn't caught. No traps were filled in, or set off, but mole activity evident in surrounding areas. I changed all traps for new ones; the mole then started to fill them in but not set them off.

Whenever I made good an area after moving a trap, new molehills appeared where the traps had been. 7 days after setting new traps, still no catch. Any ideas on why I'm not catching this mole after 25 days??

Thanks!
Peter

The responses we have already received indicate that the vast majority are happy for the Guild to continue to support the Make-a-Wish Foundation and that the minimum donation should remain at £20.00 so these two issues are closed. Please remember that it is at your discretion to donate above the minimum £20.00. Also remember to gift aid your donation. It costs you nothing and the charity benefits more.

Got something to say/show/discuss in this newsletter?

We want to hear from you.

This is the email address you need:

molematters@guildofbritishmolecatchers.co.uk

Image of the Month

This month's theme is "Molecatcher's Delight"

Unfortunately, there were no entries suitable for publication this month.

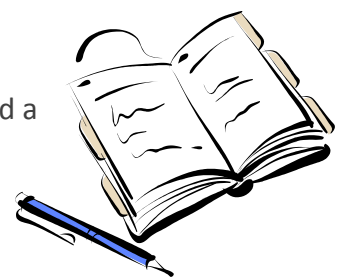
The January issue will feature your images on the theme of "Mountains out of Molehills". All legal and decent submitted images will be published. (Ed.)

Please send your entries (including an image title) to:

molematters@guildofbritishmolecatchers.co.uk by the 15th January 2012

New roles within the Guild

The Guild's organisational team has been enhanced by the appointment of a **National Coordinator (Publicity, Projects and Social)** and a **Youth and Schools Section Organiser**. Both posts are to be filled by Andy Denholm from County Durham.



As you are aware, the Guild is run entirely by volunteers for no personal gain so I am sure you will join with us in wishing him well in these new and exacting roles and in offering him any assistance that he might ask for.

If you are a full member and feel able, like Andy, to volunteer to help out with running the Guild, the email address you need is:

volunteer@guildofbritishmolecatchers.co.uk

Andy, these pages are at your disposal if ever you want to talk to the molecatching community at large (Ed.)

HELP REQUIRED BY MOLECATCHERS

Email us your question for inclusion next month. (The email address to use is at the bottom of this newsletter – it's too long to fit onto one line of this column!)

And
finally:

We
hope
all our
readers
have a
really
good
2012

Help questions answered

Opinions expressed in answering help questions are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the opinion of The Guild of British Molecatchers.

Even more on Trapline traps.

A reply from Martin Benton, Andover.

I have been using Trapline traps with great success for some time now. It doesn't matter where you place them, main runs or feeding runs a guaranteed mole every time. However I went on the mole course with Jeff Nicholls on the 19th November and he was very scathing about them and after listening to him I can see why.

His main argument being that because the mole is so strong around the area it is caught the mole does not die straight away. Has any work been done on the efficiency of these traps ie is it an immediate kill? I would not want to use a trap that causes undue suffering. The other thing is the cost, with VAT and postage they are nearer £8 each and as you have to use 2 traps per run that's £16 a time. Mind you there are no repeat visits, virtually guaranteed, which cuts down on the fuel costs. If anyone has any info it would help in my decision to use them or not.

Email your thoughts and comments on this response for 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
