

Hamilton Bloodhounds

Good evening, I'd like to introduce myself. I'm James Chadwick, Master and Huntsman of the Hamilton Bloodhounds, based here in Easton. I live at the kennels in the middle of the village along with my wife Tegen and daughter Hettie.

We have 38 Bloodhounds in kennels in total. 31 Adults and 7 Puppies. Along with the 4 horses.

We have 45 riding members along with another 56 non riding members. A very healthy membership for our size. We also have a very large group of around 40 runners which take turns being tracked by our hounds every Wednesday and Sunday. We have just finished our season (29th March) which will resume again on the first weekend of September.

During the summer we are very busy attending a lot of local events, for example the Suffolk Show, Hadleigh show, Open farm Sunday and many more! (17 in total).

We also run our own summer events; summer rides, puppy show and open day (July 5th - you're all invited), summer drinks party, clay shoot and more!

We have a few summer projects going on this year, re-thatch of the house, resurfacing of the kennel entrance and a new fence for the newly acquired paddock down near the pub car park.

Many of you might be interested to know that we should not be affected by the new trail hunting ban, we hunt the clean boot which is a sport in its own right, and completely separate. We have our own governing body, the MDBA (Masters of Bloodhounds and Draghounds Association), which is not to be confused with the BHSA (British Hounds Sports Association), which is the trail hunts.

We have been working closely with those in parliament and the new law. I was actually there last week speaking to MPs about what we do. We have also done some filming work with CNN again to promote and educate about clean boot hunting, something we try and do all the time, but helps us get the word out further and wider.

We are always happy and willing to help and support the village where we can, for example attending the May Fair, but if there is anything else we can help or attend do shout. Even if it is to visit the kennels and see hounds, do give us a shout. For more information do follow us on our social media pages, instagram and facebook, or visit our website www.hamiltonbloodhounds.co.uk.