

Sunday, 21st Oct. 2012 – Outing to Tewin Orchards, Nr. Welwyn Garden City, Herts.:

Five members of OWLS set off on a damp and drizzly evening to Tewin to see badgers. We arrived just before dark, knowing that someone on the site would have placed food out for the animals just close to the hide which was a converted pigsty. We shut the door of the hide, sat down quietly and waited. The only noise to be heard was from a nearby rookery.

We did not have to wait long before a Muntjac appeared from the woodland across the grassy area – a male and then the female came, and another male. Then the foxes arrived gradually until there were three of them, sometimes fighting and making a lot of noise. After a while the first badger came out from the undergrowth at the side of the hide, then another and another until at one time there were eleven badgers feeding in front of us whilst we sat and watched from behind the glass. Meanwhile the Muntjacs and foxes continued to come and go throughout the time we were there.

The wild animals had almost finished eating all the food when something disturbed them and they scattered and left the area. We decided it was time to leave and struggled to find our way back through the trees in the dark to Siggy's car. We finished the evening with a drink at the local pub before leaving for home. It was an amazing evening and we all enjoyed it very much.

Tanya Welford