

*They hang the Man and flog the Woman*

*That's steals the goose from off the common*

*But let the greater villain loose that steals the common from the  
goose.*

-----

Folk lore may be, but true to life it is. The greater villains? The charities or the persons setting up a charity, they are the greater villain.

Of course this fraudulent act is supported by local and central governments as anyone that has fought to preserve and protect common lands and the rights to unimpeded access,( as the 2000 crow act implies access from all points of view) can substantiate.

I became interested in common land law and rights of access to all open spaces such as common land and open countryside ancient rights of way over such lands in 1968, which has served me well ever since, it all started with me entering on fields that was a hive of rabbit population, these fields were well used by lads with ferrets and running dogs, so as I had neither then I took my 12 bore.

Shortly on arriving I bowled over my first rabbit, and as it was to be the only rabbit before the police were called by locals saying that I was poaching, one of the women said that they feed the rabbits and that the pellets had “gone” up her back, “What size shot are you using tony said the officer” 5’s I said, well missus if you had pellets up your back you would not be standing said the officer, who’s fields are they he asked and we were given the address of the farmer living some two miles away, so that’s where we went, his words were do him and that was that.

A visit to the cop shop and a statement was given and a date for the Magistrates, my shot gun and the rabbit were held over for the trial but as the rabbit was causing a stink it was binned and not presented as evidence that I had shot one.

Now, new legislation had created in that year of 1968, called the 1968 theft act, schedule (1) of that act was the charge against me, so I visited our local council for further information and it read very interesting, and on my court date I referred to the act in mitigation, this act, mainly schedule (1) would get me out of the theft/poaching charge.

The act “it will be deemed a criminal offence for any person that does not have consent of the land owner to take any game or fish that does not have a natural route of escape”, now you may think well birds can fly over the hedge or fence, or fur can jump or go through fences, gates etc. or fish can escape via a river, but if the fish are locked in a lake or pond, then they become “possession” and prosecution under schedule (1) can proceed.

With Fur however, should the fence be in good order, or the fields are enclosed with gates, then criminal proceeding under the section of the act can go ahead, however, these fields were open and the 1968 schedule (1) was dead in the water, and that is what I pleaded in court, the arresting officer confirmed to the court also that that was the case, my shot gun was returned, apologies for the rabbit, and I was set free, all of the locals preferring charges against me that had taken time off from work, went away broke.