**Unplucking the pheasant truth**

Game shooting can be done all over the country, but it is not liked everywhere.

Over 35,000,000 birds, mostly pheasants, are bred purely to be shot every year! This may sound unfair, but, as we mentioned in the video, we believe in the Field to Fork Concept. The Field to Fork Concept is a method that ensures all birds that are shot get eaten. ‘Embsay and Eastby’ shoot completely agree with this concept. On our shoot we strive to ensure the hunt is sustainable, in that we do not overstock the birds. This means that we are never in a situation where so many birds have been shot and can not be disposed of into the food chain. In other words, we eat what we shoot to make sure that nothing goes to waste.

The shooting community frequently share recipes to use the meat and shares the crafts to employ using the beautiful feathers, over social media. Game is both healthy and tasty, and there are many traditional and modern recipes available to try. The end result is not in the field, but in the kitchen, with family and friends gathered around the table. We do not agree with people who kill the animals and let them go to waste. We do however agree with using every piece possible of the animal.

There is a difference between the type of people who kill the animals for sport and do no think about the consequences, and the type of people who respect the animals and who perform sustainable shooting.

So, I (Purdey) started shooting this year, I’m twelve at the moment. However, I have been a beater since I was eight years old. My dad (Justin) explained, “I started shooting when I was a teenager about thirteen, fourteen with some other members of the family, who were older cousins, and really just started shooting for the fun of it…” People who start shooting usually start at a young age, but sometimes people just start when they want to!

If you don’t fancy shooting you could try out beating! Beating is a key part in shooting as the beaters scare the birds towards the shooters, to get shot.

Also, to add to how wonderful shooting and beating are in the community of shooting is a lovely one! When I first came, I was welcomed with a warm smile and a nice warm drink. In the middle of the shooting and beating we have a break called elevenses. This is a great rest as we are all tired from walking around and shouting at the top of our voices to scare the birds down towards the shooters. We have a cup of tea and some biscuits, usually there is a lovely cake as well! This is a twenty-minute rest so we can restore our energy and feel ready to go.

At the end we are all very tired, so we either have a pie or sausage roll, and also every other week we go to the local pub for a nice warm lunch. It’s lovely when we all have lunch together because we all sit together, regardless of our age groups and just have a nice chat.

Overall, I think shooting and beating is a great sport if you want to be outside and if you want to keep fit! It’s really fun and you make lots of new friends instead of sitting inside on your phone!

Thank you for watching and reading our report about shooting and beating, we hope you have learnt a thing or two about it!