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Britain's finest publisher of countryside books

2023/24



© David Mason from *Everything You Wanted to know about the Countryside but didn't dare ask!*

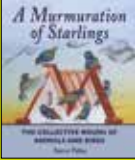


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We hope you enjoy browsing our 2023/24 brochure. Your books will be delivered promptly and well packed by our wonderful new distributors, BookSource, in Glasgow.

As well as our £5 discount on all orders over £40, please see our **special 3 for 2 offers** on pages 2 and 5 and our **'last chance to buy'** titles on page 19.

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Perfect Little Gift Books...

| | | |
|--|--|--|
|  <p>A Murmuration of Starlings A flock of birds, even a skein of geese – but a cete of badgers or a grist of bees? These fascinating collective nouns are explained and illustrated by Steve Palin in this thoroughly researched little book. Hardback £8.99 112pp 168x143mm 50 colour illustrations</p> |  <p>A Box of Frogs Cat among the pigeons, big fish in a small pond, a kangaroo court – these idioms have inspired the joyous paintings in Palin's book, each paired with his short explanation of how the term came to be used. Hardback £9.99 144pp 168x143mm Over 50 colour illustrations</p> |  <p>Anniversary Book Steve Palin's illustrated guide to which gifts, modern and traditional, mark which particular anniversary. From flowers, gemstones, practical or luxurious gifts, to large or small love tokens. Hardback £8.99 96pp 168x143mm 43 colour paintings</p> |
|--|--|--|

Buy Murmuration and A Box of Frogs, get Anniversary book free. Ring Merlin Unwin Books on 01584 877456 or use code FREEBOOK at checkout if ordering via www.merlinunwin.co.uk



Horse Racing Terms
An illustrated guide
Rosemary Coates
No longer will you be out of the loop when the talk turns to • Steeplechasers • Maiden Stakes • A Weaver • Gone to Post • Bumpers • On the Nod • An Each-way Bet...
Hardback **£8.99** 144pp
168x143mm 100 original watercolours



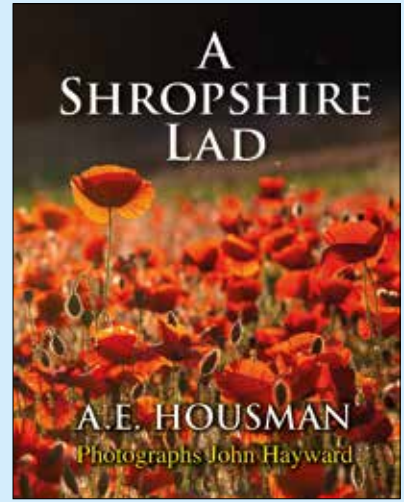
The Pocket Guide to Essential Knots
21 essential knots for everyday use indoors or outdoors.
Knots for a wide range of functions, from home to work, hobby to play activities. No knot-tying jargon, no technical terms – just simple step-by-step instructions and outstandingly clear line drawings.
Paperback **£5.99** 80pp
152x105mm
119 line illustrations



My Friends Who Don't Have Dogs
Anna Levin
'A compelling collection of reasons to love your mutt, however many shoes it chews. Illustrated with heart-stirring pictures of some of Britain's nine million hounds taken by their owners, this little book is a passionate reminder of the joy of dog-love.' – **Daily Mail**
Hardback **£9.99** 168x143mm
128pp 66 colour & b/w photos



Wild Flowers of Britain Margaret Erskine Wilson **Bestseller**
Over 1,000 British and Irish flowers are represented in this book and today it still serves Margaret Wilson's original purpose – it is an easy way to learn the names of our delicate and beautiful wild flowers, as they appear.
'An exquisite little book, perfectly sized for a walker's rucksack. Her work is remarkable for the joy with which she captures the plants. Reading it makes you want to rush out and explore the countryside yourself.' – **Daily Mail**
'This unique tome is top notch.' – **The Field**
Hardback **£9.99** 176pp 168x143mm 148 watercolour paintings of wild flowers



A Shropshire Lad

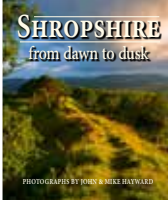
A. E. Housman
A new, full colour photographic edition of *A Shropshire Lad*.

The enduring appeal of this lyrical English poem, first published in 1896, lies in its exploration of the universal themes of loss, nostalgia and love. Certainly its international popularity today is undiminished.

The rural landscape of the beautiful Shropshire countryside, from the bucolic Clun valley to the bleak hills of Stiperstones, is sympathetically captured by one of Shropshire's finest photographers, John Hayward.

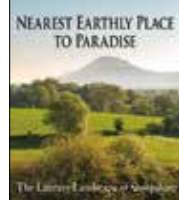
This is the only photographic edition of *A Shropshire Lad* in which the county's stunning landscapes, which have scarcely altered since Housman's day, have been matched with the stanzas on each page.

£20 Hardback 128pp 246x189mm Colour photos throughout




Shropshire from dawn to dusk
Mike and John Hayward
The dedication needed to catch that shot of hot air balloons over Old

Oswestry hill fort in early morning, or sunset at the highest point on the Long Mynd, cannot be over-estimated. Captures the Severn Valley Railway steam enthusiasts at Highley, to the idyllic cricket ground at Burwarton, to the priest blessing the dodgem cars at Ludlow's May Fair.
Hardback **£20** 192pp 260x214mm
164 colour photos




Nearest Earthly Place to Paradise
Shropshire's lovely landscape matched

with Salopian extracts from John Betjeman to Tom Sharpe, from AE Housman to Phil Rickman. 'A collective love-letter to Shropshire'
– **Shropshire magazine**
Hardback **£20** 128pp
260x214mm 60 colour photos
ribbon bookmark



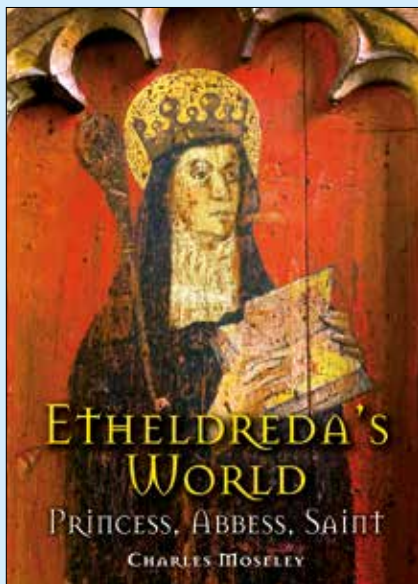
The Pennines
Backbone of England
HELEN SHAW

The Pennines Helen Shaw
Captures the breathtakingly beautiful UK spine that is just a few minutes' drive from many of our homes.
– **Manchester Evening News**
Hardback **£14.99**
192pp 214x230mm
200 colour photos



A String of Pearls Margaret Wilson & Helen Shaw
'This new illustrated anthology from Margaret Wilson compiles the best literary extracts inspired by the Lake District. Each extract is accompanied by beautiful, handpicked photographs of local landscapes taken by Helen Shaw.' – **This England**
Authors include: Bill Bryson, Beatrix Potter, William Wordsworth, Val McDermid, Hugh Walpole, Patricia Nolan, Simon Armitage, Margaret Forster, Alfred Wainwright, Hunter Davies, James Rebanks, Norman Nicholson, Melvyn Bragg, S.T. Coleridge, Charles Dickens...
Hardback **£20** 260x214mm 128pp Ribbon marker Full colour throughout

Shortlisted for Lakeland Book of the Year



Etheldreda's World

Princess, Abbess, Saint

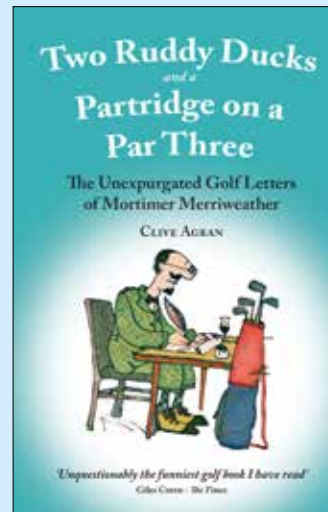
Charles Moseley

By any standards, Etheldreda was a remarkable woman in a time of remarkable women. Far from being the wishy-washy figure of so much stained glass, she was – had to be – a tough operator.

Great saints are not pushovers. She got her way. She changed the map in the Not-Yet-England of her time (c. 636 AD-679 AD).

What was it like to be a Princess then, an Abbess in a land where the old gods were still honoured by many? What power did women in her position wield? What did it mean to be revered as a Saint?

£12.99 Hardback 112pp 210x148mm Black and White illustrations



Two Ruddy Ducks and a Partridge on a Par Three

Clive Agran

The Unexpurgated Golf Letters of Mortimer Merriweather

'Unquestionably the funniest golf book I have read'

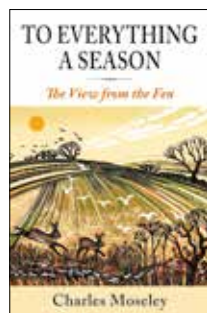
- Giles Coren, The Times

'...hugely entertaining book' - Golf Monthly

Once described as the worst golfer never to have won a major, Mortimer Merriweather is a complex character with virtually nothing to show for 60 years of golf at the lowest level.

Decades of abject failure to strike the ball properly undoubtedly fuelled his frustration and led ultimately to him venting his ire on individuals, companies and organisations connected with the game of golf in this remarkable series of 100 letters.

£9.99 Paperback 160pp 198x129mm Black and white illustrations



To Everything a Season

Charles Moseley

There was not a page I did not enjoy.

- John Lewis-Stempel

A fenland village and its wildlife, traditions and the wise locals who work the land today and in generations past are celebrated in this beautifully crafted work by Charles Moseley as he follows the turning seasons.

£15.99 Jacketed hardback 224pp 216x138 mm Illustrations by Eric Ravilious



Hero of Kumaon

The Life of Jim Corbett

Duff Hart-Davis

Corbett was the hero of hundreds of impoverished local families in the remote Indian region of Kumaon when, throughout the 1920s and 30s, he answered their pleas to rid them of the man-eating tigers and leopards.

If you're after arresting, adrenalin spiking adventure, look no further. - BASC magazine

Hardback £15.99 216x138mm 272 pages
Specially designed endpapers



Man-eaters of Kumaon

Jim Corbett

This classic book, which has thrilled many a youth with its spell-binding accounts of tracking and despatching man-eating tigers, is **the only edition available with those unforgettably vivid Raymond Sheppard**

illustrations. Head and tail bands, special endpapers, a hardback to treasure.

Hardback £20 272pp 216x138mm
33 Sheppard drawings



The Stalking Party

'Unusual, gripping whodunnit....

A thoroughly entertaining read. Having picked it up, you will not be

able to put it down until all is at last revealed.'

- British Deer Society

'A fast-moving and sinister thriller'

- FieldSports magazine

Hardback £14.99
256 pages 216x138mm



Death of a High Flyer

'If you need a page-turner this Christmas, Hart-Davis' tale of social change,

new money, pheasant shooting and murder fits the bill nicely.'

- Shooting Gazette

Hardback £14.99 256pp
216x138mm
map and line illustrations



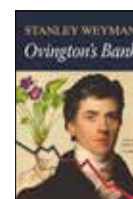
Death of a Selkie

DCI Robb, on holiday with his troubled teenage daughter Marina, have their trout, salmon, sea fishing and diving

idyll interrupted in a way they could never have imagined. Twisting and turning like a foul-hooked fish, this sporting thriller highlights the tension in a Scottish coastal region.

Hardback £14.99 288pp
216x138mm map illustration

Buy two D.P. Hart-Davis' sporting thrillers and get one free. Ring Merlin Unwin Books on 01584 877456 or use code THRILLER at checkout if ordering via www.merlinunwin.co.uk



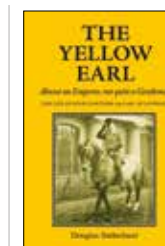
Ovington's Bank

Stanley Weyman

A forgotten masterpiece from peerless storyteller Stanley Weyman.

'One of the finest masters of the narrative gift the English

novel has known.' - Hugh Walpole
Hardback £15.99 416pp 234x156mm

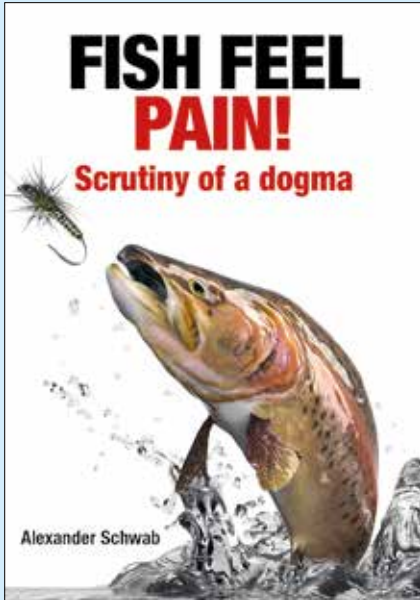


The Yellow Earl

Douglas Sutherland

The 5th Earl of Lonsdale was perhaps the most famous English Lord in the world by the 1880s. His reckless spending of a vast fortune, his womanising, his love of gambling, horses, hunting and boxing rocked Edwardian aristocracy and has endeared him to risk-takers and bon-

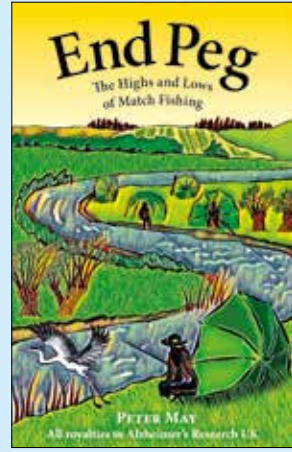
viveurs the world over ever since.
Hardback £20 288pp 234x156mm 104 b/w photos



Fish Feel Pain
Scrutiny of a dogma

Alexander Schwab
For the last 20 years, the notion that fish feel pain has become the broadly accepted orthodoxy worldwide. But does this claim, seized upon by the anti-fishing lobby, stand up to scientific and philosophical scrutiny? The answer matters a great deal to the 3 billion people worldwide who depend on fish and fishing for their livelihood.

£15 Paperback with flaps 256pp 210x148mm Colour illustrations



End Peg Peter May
The Highs and Lows of Match Fishing

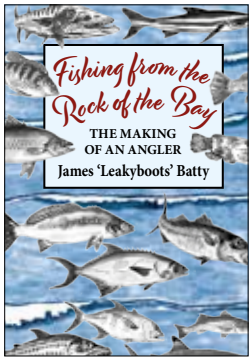
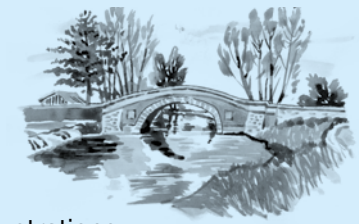
Match anglers are not antisocial loners who sit for hours on riverbanks not catching much and looking miserable. As Peter May conveys in this captivating little book in which he competes in his local club's 10 fishing matches throughout a season, there is excitement, there are cunning tactics, lasting friendships, highs and lows, unexpected challenges and surprising rewards.

If you love fishing, you'll love this book. If you haven't got a clue about what we are doing most Sundays of the year, there is plenty for you to enjoy too.

Very well written by an obviously talented author: this won't be the only time I read it.

– Keith Arthur, fishing journalist and radio presenter

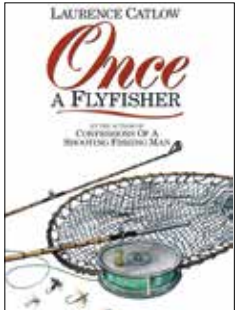
£14.99 Hardback 192pp 216x138mm Black and white illustrations



Fishing from the Rock of the Bay James 'Leakyboots' Batty

An angling autobiography with a difference...
 • 'It's quite a trick to remove a hook from your own bottom without leaving a messy scar. If I were a swimsuit model that sandeel might have ended my career.'
 • 'The great thing about anglers – especially when we meet fellow anglers – is that we don't try to hide our nuttiness. Pointless, I'm holding a rod, so are you, game over. We both know we're talking to a person who's a few bananas short of a bunch.'
 • 'My lovely bait looked as if it had been attacked by a very small hussar with a sharp sabre and an anger management problem.'

Jacketed hardback £20 288pp 234x156mm 26 b/w fish illustrations



Once a Flyfisher Laurence Catlow

Forthright, at times extremely funny, unexpectedly moving and always thought-provoking. 'Witty, illuminating and moving'
 – Daily Telegraph

£17.99 Hardback 288 pages 234x156mm 10 wood engravings



The Song of the Solitary Bass Fisher James 'Leakyboots' Batty

Some bass-fishers obsess over conditions – too flat, too rough, too something. James Batty offers ideas as to how to catch bass in any weather or sea-state. His book isn't just about the hows-and-whys of bass fishing, it is about a lot more

and it will make the reader laugh – a lot.
 Hardback £16.99 192pp 216x138mm black & white photos & illustrations



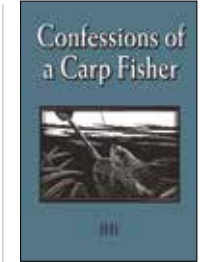
The Secret Carp Chris Yates

gold-blocked cover
 Hardback 176pp 234x156mm 55 illustrations by Clare Yates £20



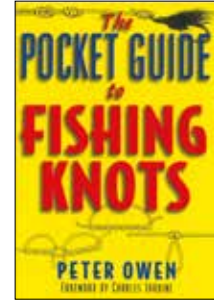
Falling in Again Chris Yates

gold-blocked cover
 Hardback 224pp 234x156mm 50 black & white illustrations £20



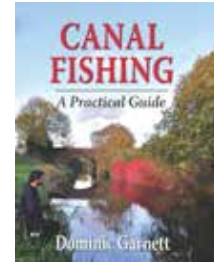
Confessions of a Carp Fisher BB

Hardback 192pp 234x156mm 33 BB illustrations £20



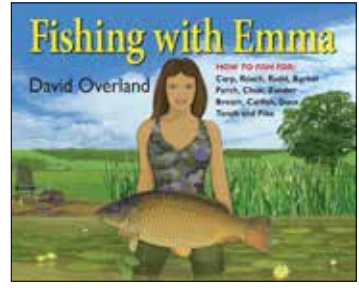
The Pocket Guide to Fishing Knots

A clear, step-by-step guide to tying 24 of the key coarse, sea & game knots – Water Knot, Surgeon's Loop, Nail Knot, Blood Knot, Improved Clinch Knot, Double Turle, Palomar, Bimini Twist and many more!
 Paperback £5.99 80pp 152x105mm 151 line illustrations



Canal Fishing Dominic Garnett

An excellent reference guide, with ticket details and tips for many waters
 £20 Hardback 224pp 246x189mm 250 colour photographs



Fishing with Emma David Overland

How to coarse fish and have fun
 £9.99 Paperback Colour cartoon strip throughout 205x255mm 96pp



Venison

The Game Larder

José Souto & Steve Lee

- over 50 innovative international venison recipes
- venison butchery and cuts • deer from hillside to table
- smoking and curing venison recipes
- over 200 stunning recipe and venison photos

'It covers everything from the species of deer to the stalk, the shot, the butchery and the subsequent succulent feast. Souto is a chef who knows his stuff.'

'The recipes vary from the simple to the adventurous. This is a super collaboration between writer and photographer – well laid out and beautifully illustrated. It bridges the gap between hunter and home cook and will prove a delightful addition to the kitchen book-shelf.' – **The Field**

£30 Hardback 256 pages 276x216mm Colour throughout

New Section



Mushrooming Without Fear

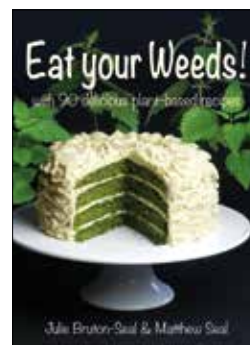
Alexander Schwab

- This is the only beginner's book on mushrooming which teaches a safe method.
- It doesn't attempt to identify the confusing hundreds of mushrooms which grow in the UK, most of which are inedible or some even poisonous.
- Instead it helps you find the handful of delicious mushrooms you should focus on. The edible mushrooms here are photographed from every angle.
- And you have to tick every ID box for that featured mushroom: if you can't tick a box, don't eat it.
- Then you are totally sure you have the right mushroom to cook.

This book delivers the key to mushrooming without fear. You'll never be uncertain again.

£20 Hardback 160pp 246x189 mm Over 300 colour photos

Make your own herbal remedies with Julie Bruton-Seal and Matthew Seal



Eat Your Weeds!

'A fascinating new cookbook which celebrates weeds and invites you to see them in another light. It takes inspiration from around the world with 90 plant-based recipes. It contains a wide variety, both savoury and sweet, for food and drink, snacks or main meals.' – **Norfolk Life magazine**

'Inspires us to take our culinary skills up a notch and experiment with the free and delicious food from our gardens. It's a comprehensive and beginner-friendly manual for eating weeds. All steps are covered, from foraging, to safely identifying the weeds, to the preparation and flavours to expect. You're left with the confidence and tools to experiment with weeds in a variety of main dishes, snacks, desserts and drinks recipes.' – **Plantlife magazine**

£25 Hardback 256pp 246x189 mm Over 300 colour photos



Feathers

the Game Larder

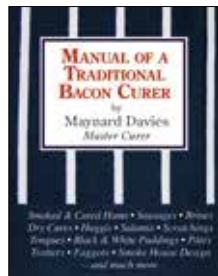
José Souto & Steve Lee

Steve Lee's stunning photographs showcase more than the 55 modern, international recipes from master game chef José Souto

and his culinary friends – they impart the beauty of game birds in the field, from source to plate.

- how to pluck, clean, de-bone, butterfly, crown, truss, fillet and stuff game birds
- step-by-step butchery
- smoked, barbecued and outdoor recipes
- new ideas for shoot lunches
- 55 modern, international, simple and sophisticated recipes from sloe gin game pie to pheasant tikka to smoky pigeon breast salad, grouse risotto and game and chestnut sausages.

Hardback £25 256pp 276x216mm Colour throughout



Manual of a Traditional Bacon Curer

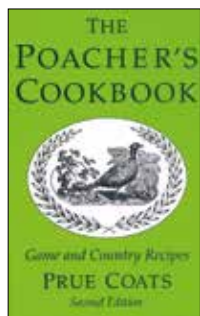
Maynard Davies

How to cure your own bacon and make sausages from start to finish.

'The Master Curer shares his experience and all his recipes... speciality meats, including all manner of pressed tongues, faggots, polony, haggis,

puddings and potted meats. Once you have read this book you might never want to go to the supermarket for bacon again.' – **The Landsman**

£30 Hardback 240pp 246x189mm 175 colour photographs



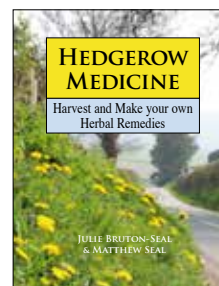
Poacher's Cookbook

Prue Coats

'I think Prue Coats is the greatest game cook today.'

– **Clarissa Dickson Wright**
'Attractively laid out and interspersed with poaching anecdotes and wood engravings by Barbara Greg.' – **The Field**

Hardback £11.99 192 pages 216x138mm 40 wood engravings



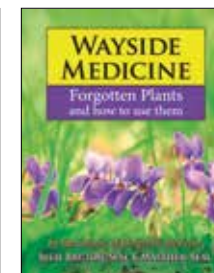
Hedgerow Medicine

Britain's hedgerows abound with forgotten remedies for countless health problems.

Here are clear instructions about which plants to harvest, when, and over 120 recipes showing how to make them into teas, vinegars, oils, creams, pillows, poultices or alcohol-based tinctures.

'Contains enough information to save the NHS a fortune.' – **This England**

Hardback £20 224pp 246x189mm 250 colour photos

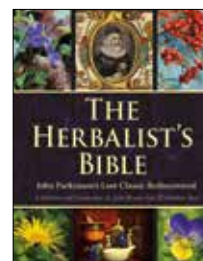


Wayside Medicine

'The recipes are enormously varied – lots of imagination and obviously tried and tested by the authors.'

– **The Herbalist**

Hardback £20 246x189mm 224pp 200 colour photos



The Herbalist's Bible

Herbalist to King Charles I, John Parkinson was a master apothecary and herbalist.

'A fascinating glimpse into a world when plants were the only remedy. Even today, 40% of all drugs used are of plant origin. A fabulously illustrated look into a world where plants have more to offer than just the beauty of their blooms.'

– **Gardens Illustrated**

Hardback £25 256pp 246x189mm 250 colour, 55 b/w illustrations



Ashforth's Curiosities of Horseracing David Ashforth

The curiosities are arranged in themes so that readers can dip in and out, as the mood takes them. The collection should leave them with a benevolent view of an intriguing sport, if they didn't already have one.

Owners, jockeys, the horses, racecourses, officials, prizes, trainers and staff, racing journalists, betting, bookmakers, punters, skulduggery — one of Britain's best loved racing journalists David Ashforth has found the stories to capture the readers' attention on all these topics and more.

An indefatigable researcher as well as the wittiest man writing about racing'
- Robin Oakley, The Spectator

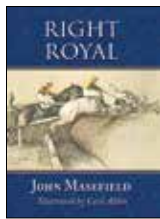
£20 Jacketed hardback 256pp 234x156 mm over 100 photographs



The Byerley Turk Jeremy James

This is the true story of the most remarkable horse in history. *'Reads like a flamboyant historical novel!'* — **Irish Times**

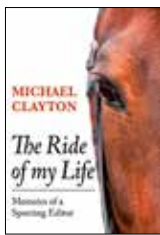
Hardback **£20** 424 pages with endpaper map of epic journey 234x156mm



Right Royal John Masefield

The great racing ballad by the Poet Laureate John Masefield. Superbly illustrated by Cecil Aldin. **Limited edition**

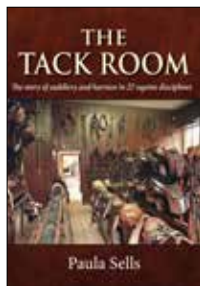
Hardback **£20** with special endpapers and bookmark 96 pages 246x189mm



The Ride of my Life

Michael Clayton worked as a reporter of horseracing, show-jumping, carriage driving (disastrous!) and with almost all the hunts of Britain, Ireland and the USA. He talks frankly about his involvement with the Royal family and their horses, his roving hunting brief, and all the colourful characters of the equine world he got to know first-hand.

Hardback **£20** 288pp 234x156 b/w photos



The Tack Room

Paula Sells shows in this sumptuous book how the tack used in 27 different equine disciplines has become specialised for each one — and she writes about the people who work in those fields.

Hardback **£30** 256pp 276x216mm 210 colour photos



Racingman's Bedside Book

Brilliant pieces by Evelyn Waugh, Philip Larkin and Jeffrey Bernard, et al.

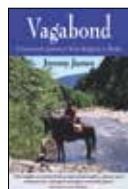
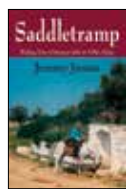
Hardback **£18.95**



A Short History of Foxhunting

Clayton and Jackson An easy, concise and lively account of how this sport has flourished through centuries of change. Covers the UK, Ireland and USA.

Hbk **£14.99** 144pp 216x138mm 30 drawings

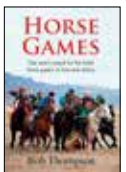


Vagabond

Jeremy James From Bulgaria to Berlin on horseback. Hb **£16.99** 224pp 234x156mm b/w photos

Saddletramp

A horseback journey from central Turkey to the author's hometown in Wales. Hardback **£16.99** 224pp 234x156mm b/w photos

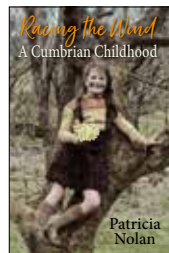


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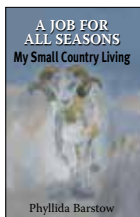
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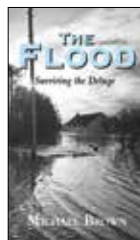


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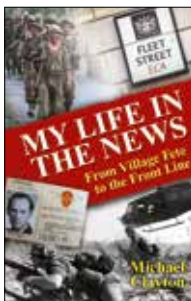
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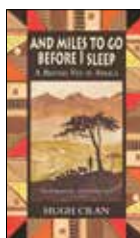
Michael Clayton

Journalist and editor Michael Clayton worked his way up from local newspaper to BBC war correspondent, with radio and magazine experience in-between.

Those who know Michael well as an urbane figure of the horse world and the Shires will be particularly gripped by the man he reveals here.

His writing is as flawless and engaging as ever, conjuring up the satisfaction and camaraderie of a golden pre-Twitter, pre-press release age when print journalism was proper seat-of-the-pants fun. - Country Life

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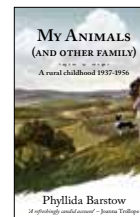


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Hugh Cran

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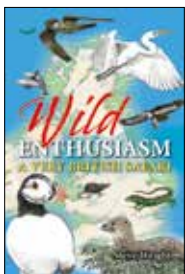
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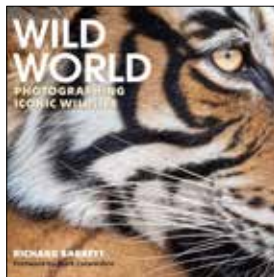


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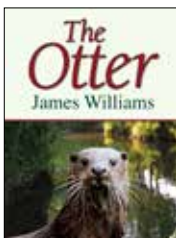
Africa's Wild Dogs

Jocelin Kagan

There are only about 6,600 wild dogs left in Africa today, yet these critically endangered creatures have cast a spell on top wildlife photographer and naturalist Jocelin Kagan. World experts

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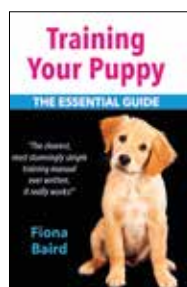
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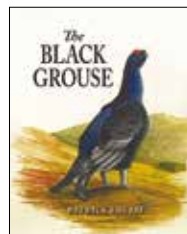


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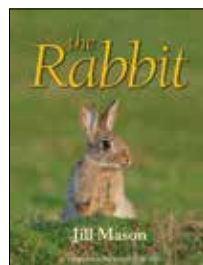
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The Rabbit Jill Mason

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120 photos



The Temptation & Downfall of the Vicar of Stanton Lacy

Peter Klein

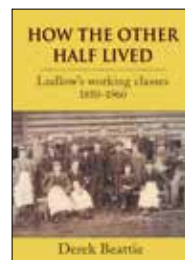
Over 300 years ago, the charismatic Reverend Robert Foulkes arrived at his wealthy parish of

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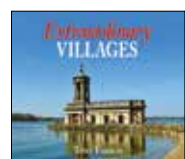
Ludlow's working classes 1850-1960
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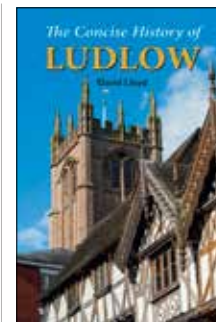
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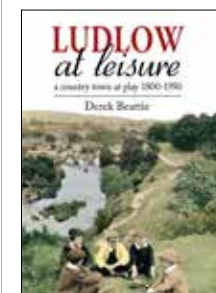
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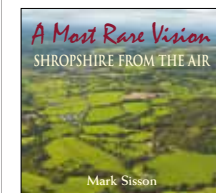


Ludlow at Leisure A country town at play 1800-1950

Derek Beattie

A very lively, highly illustrated account of Ludlow, a traditional, thriving town in middle England, which shows how the local people, rich and poor, amused themselves when not at work: from cockfighting to cycling clubs, from

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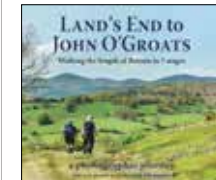


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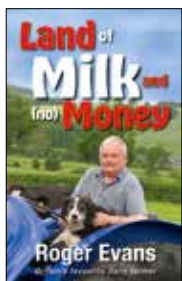
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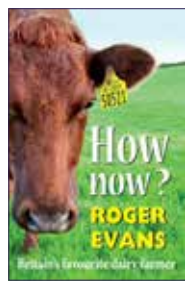
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Life down on the dairy farm as recorded by Shropshire farmer Roger Evans: the highs and lows, the laughter and the fascinating wildlife. Not to mention the dogs and the turkeys.

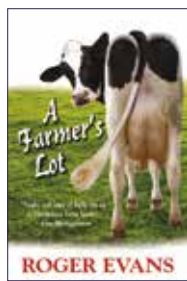
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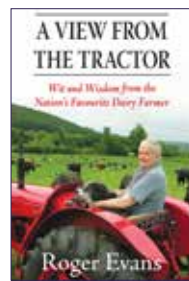
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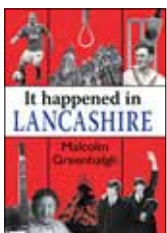
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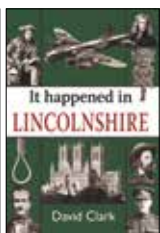
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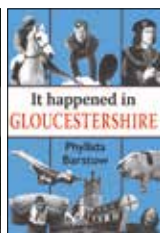
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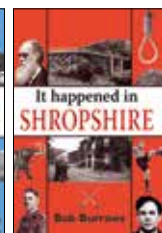
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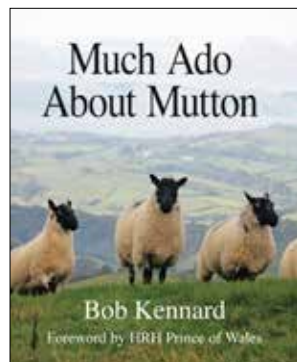
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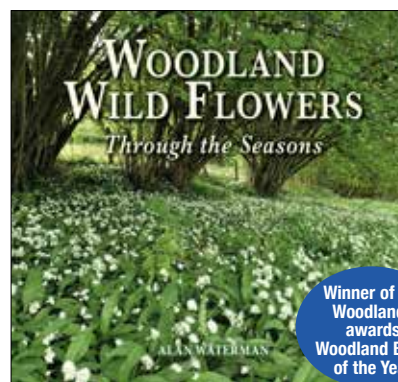
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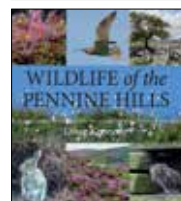
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As director of a Field Study Centre, Alan Waterman has taken thousands of students and keen amateurs on woodland natural history walks. This book represents his life's work conveying the joy and fascination of our wild woodland plants to the general public.

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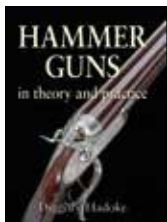


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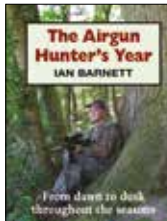
Manfred Neuhold

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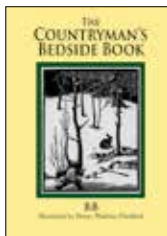


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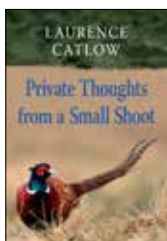


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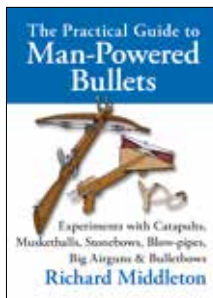
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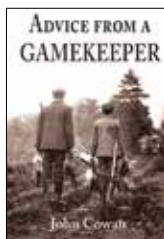
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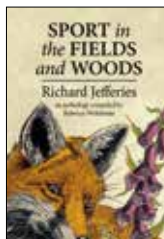
without realising it. If only my physics master has been like him. Enjoy the fun, the simply explained physics and the author's infectious enthusiasm. – **Sporting Shooter**
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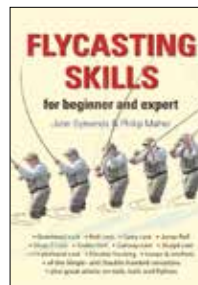


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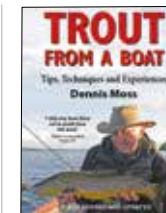
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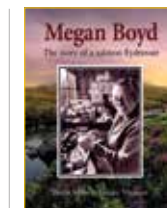
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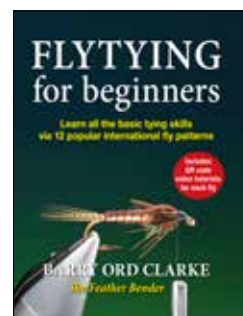
Barry Ord Clarke
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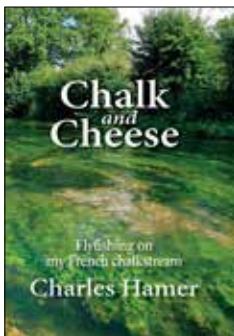
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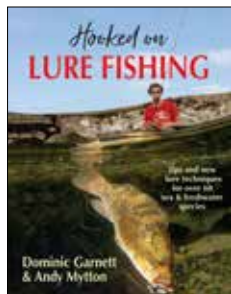
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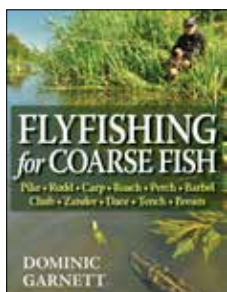
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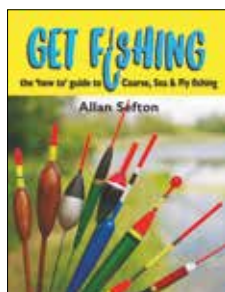
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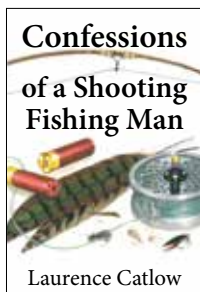
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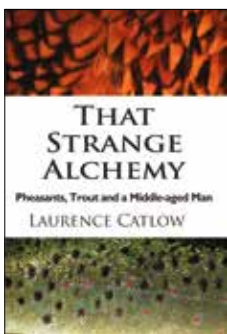
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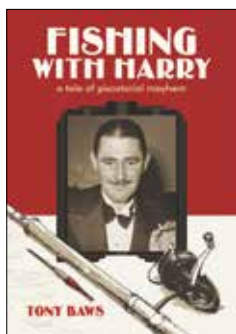
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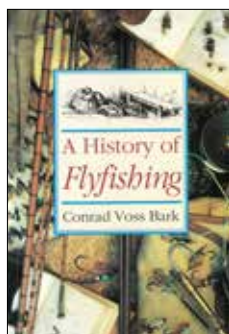
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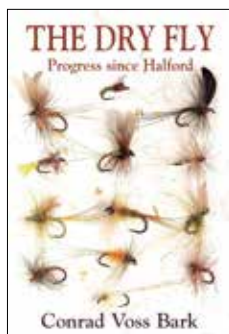
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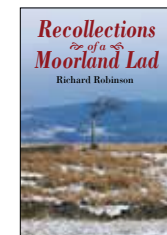


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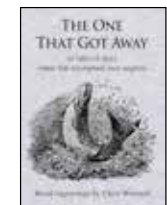
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