

MERLIN UNWIN BOOKS



Britain's finest publisher of countryside books



2023/4

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Change of Distributors

Dear Booksellers

We are independent countryside book publishers who have been trading for over 30 years from our offices in Ludlow, Shropshire.

The last year has been very challenging for us as we made the decision to change distributors from Marston Book Services to BookSource in Glasgow. This costly transfer of our 75,000 books and around 120 titles had become a necessity for us, because we are as committed to an efficient supply chain to all our customers as we are to producing high quality books.

The move from Marston to BookSource last summer has already proved worthwhile and we are delighted with their prompt and efficient service.

We can provide you with any sales material you might need, posters and showcards etc. We send out multiple review copies of all our new titles and are proud of the amount of publicity we get.

Please continue to support us by stocking our titles, all available on sale or return.

Best wishes from us all at Merlin Unwin Books, Ludlow.

Who we are:

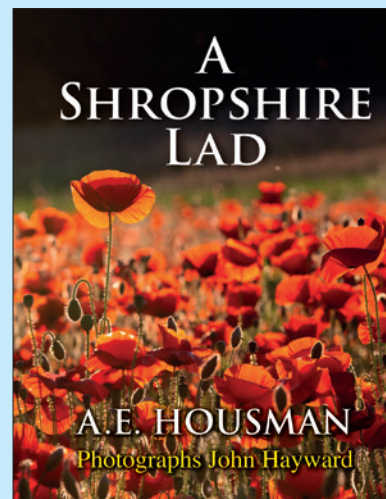
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Joanne Potter	Operations Director
Lydia Unwin	Marketing Manager
Joanne Dovey	Design Director

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NEW BOOK NEW BOOK NEW BOOK



A Shropshire Lad A. E. Housman

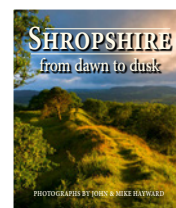
Our new, full colour photographic edition

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 ISBN: 9781913159658

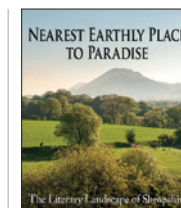


Shropshire from dawn to dusk

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 col photos ISBN: 9781913159160

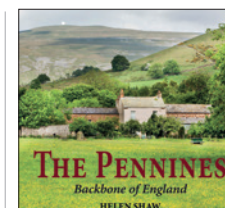


Nearest Earthly Place to Paradise

Shropshire's lovely landscape matched

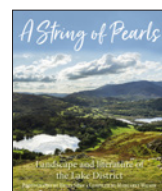
with Salopian extracts from John Betjeman to Tom Sharpe, from AE Housman to Phil Rickman. 'A collective love-letter to Shropshire'

– **Shropshire magazine**
Hardback **£20** 128pp
260x214mm 60 colour photos
ribbon bookmark
ISBN: 9781906122522



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
ISBN: 9781910723951



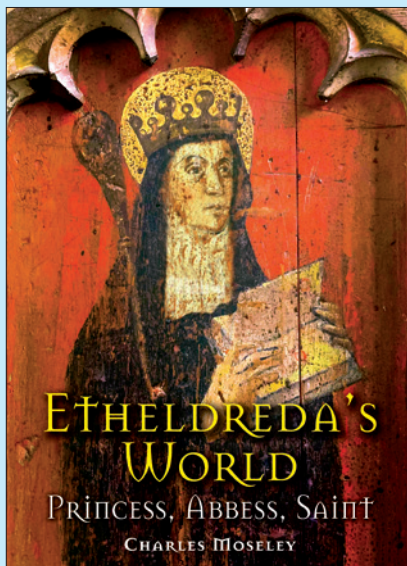
A String of Pearls Margaret Wilson & Helen Shaw

'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 ISBN: 9781913159245

**Shortlisted for
Lakeland Book of the Year**



Etheldreda's World Princess, Abbess, Saint

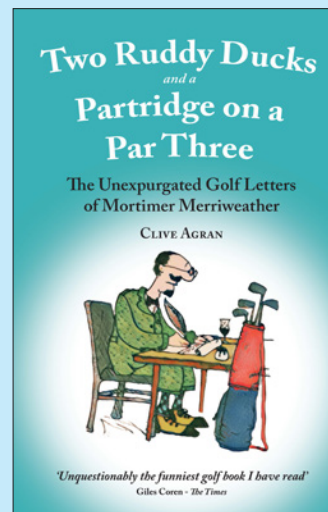
Charles Moseley

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
ISBN: 9781913159665



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

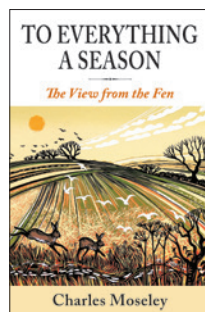
'...hugely entertaining book' - Golf Monthly

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.

ISBN: 9781913159702

£9.99 Paperback 160pp 198x129mm Black and white illustrations



To Everything a Season

Charles Moseley

There was not a page I did not enjoy.

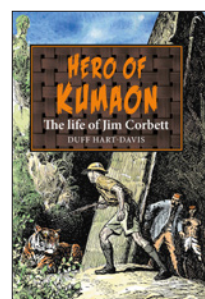
- John Lewis-Stempel

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
ISBN: 9781913159368



Illustrations by Eric Ravillous



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 ISBN: 9781913159269



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 ISBN: 9781910723432



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
- FieldSports magazine

Hardback **£14.99**
256 pages 216x138mm
ISBN: 9781910723043

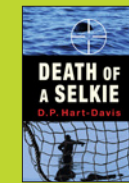


Death of a High Flyer

'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
ISBN: 9781910723814



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
ISBN: 9781913159290



Ovington's Bank

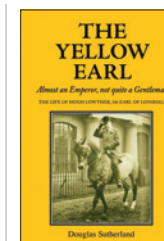
Stanley Weyman

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
ISBN: 9781910723821



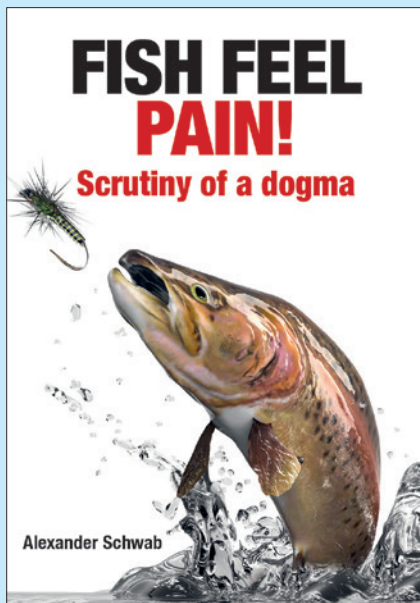
The Yellow Earl

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
ISBN: 9781910723036



£15 Paperback with flaps 256pp 210x148mm Colour illustrations

Fish Feel Pain! Scrutiny of a dogma

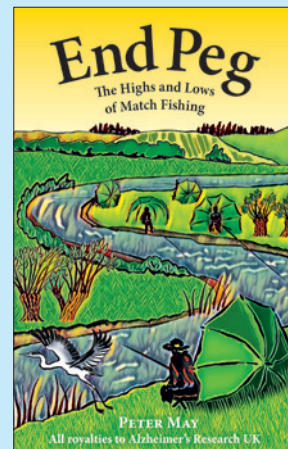
Alexander Schwab

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.

ISBN: 9781913159733



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

ISBN: 9781913159672

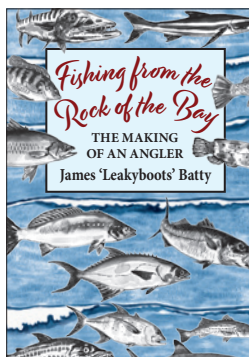
End Peg Peter May

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.

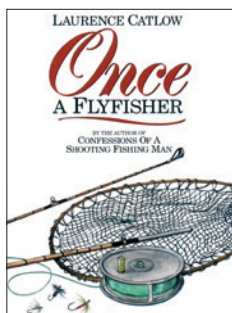


Fishing from the Rock of the Bay James 'Leakyboots' Batty

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.'

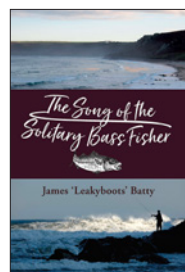
Jacketed HB **£20** 288pp 234x156mm 26 b/w fish illustrations
ISBN: 9781913159344



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 ISBN: 9781873674482

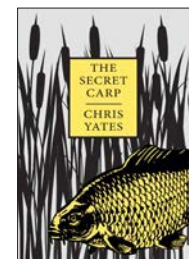


The Song of the Solitary Bass Fisher James 'Leakyboots' Batty

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

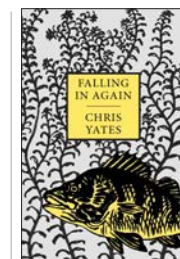
and it will make the reader laugh – a lot.

Hardback **£16.99** 192pp 216x138mm black & white
photos & illustrations ISBN: 9781910723791



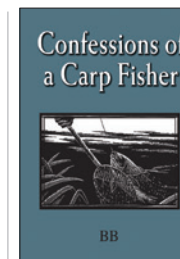
The Secret Carp Chris Yates

gold-blocked cover
Hb 176pp
234x156mm
55 illus by Clare
Yates **£20**
ISBN: 9781873674284



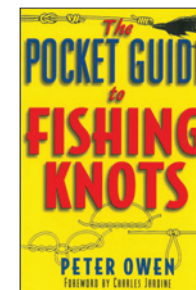
Falling in Again Chris Yates

gold-blocked cover
Hardback 224pp
234x156mm
50 black & white
illustrations **£20**
ISBN: 9781873674284



Confessions of a Carp Fisher BB

Hardback 192pp
234x156mm
33 BB illustrations
£20
ISBN: 9781873674628

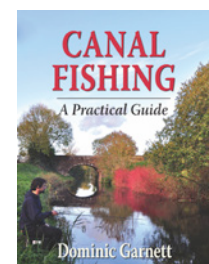


The Pocket Guide to Fishing Knots

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 Turtle, Palomar, Bimini Twist and many more!

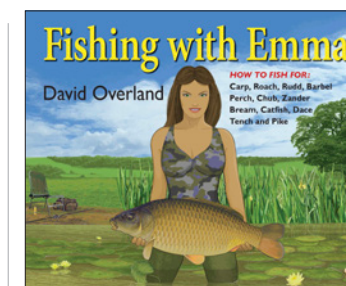
Paperback **£5.99** 80pp 152x105mm
151 line illustrations
ISBN: 9781873674345



Canal Fishing Dominic Garnett

An excellent reference guide, with ticket details and tips for many waters

£20 Hardback
224pp 246x189mm
250 colour photographs
ISBN: 9781906122645



Fishing with Emma

David Overland

How to coarse fish and have fun

£9.99 Paperback
Colour cartoon
strip throughout
205x255mm 96pp
ISBN: 9781906122508



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 ISBN: 9781906122966



Feathers

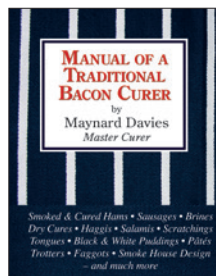
the Game Larder
José Souto
& Steve Lee

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 ISBN: 9781910723739



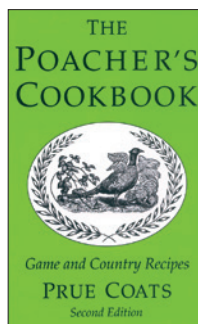
Manual of a Traditional Bacon Curer

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 ISBN: 9781906122089



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
ISBN: 9781873674611

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.

ISBN: 9781913159504

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

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

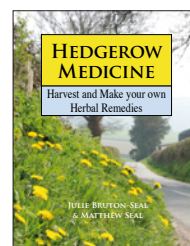


Eat Your Weeds!

'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
ISBN: 9781913159375



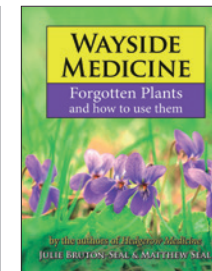
Hedgerow Medicine

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**

HB **£20** 224pp 246x189mm 250 col photos
ISBN: 9781873674994

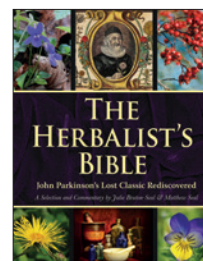


Wayside Medicine

'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
ISBN: 9781910723357



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 ISBN: 9781906122515



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.

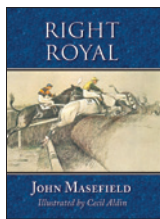
An indefatigable researcher as well as the wittiest man writing about racing'
- Robin Oakley, The Spectator

£20 Jacketed hardback 256pp 234x156 mm over 100 photographs ISBN: 9781913159467



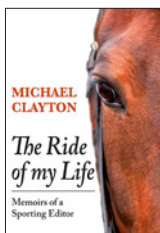
The Byerley Turk Jeremy James
 This is the true story of the most remarkable horse in history.
'Reads like a flamboyant historical novel!' **- Irish Times**

Hardback **£20** 424 pages with endpaper map of epic journey
 234x156mm ISBN: 9781873674765



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
 ISBN: 9781906122607

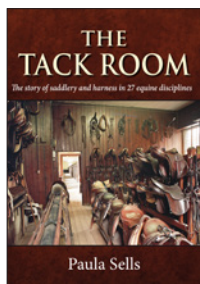


The Ride of my Life

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

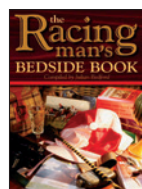
of the equine world he got to know first-hand.

Hardback **£20** 288pp 234x156 b/w photos
 ISBN: 9781910723210



The Tack Room Paula Sells
 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
 ISBN: 9781910723777



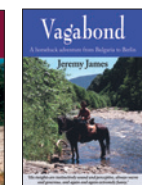
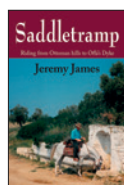
Racingman's Bedside Book

Brilliant pieces by Evelyn Waugh, Philip Larkin and Jeffrey Bernard, et al.
 Hardback **£18.95**
 ISBN: 9781873674697



A Short History of Foxhunting

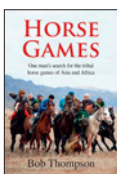
Clayton and Jackson
 An easy, concise and lively account of how this sport has flourished through centuries of change.
 Covers the UK, Ireland and USA.
 Hbk **£14.99** 144pp 216x138mm
 ISBN: 9781906122577



Vagabond
 Jeremy James
 From Bulgaria to Berlin on horseback.
 Hb **£16.99** 224pp
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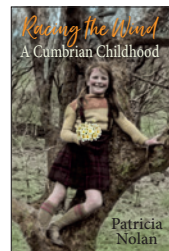
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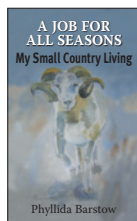


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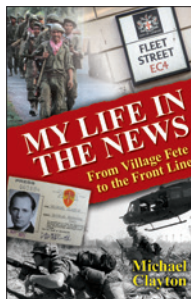


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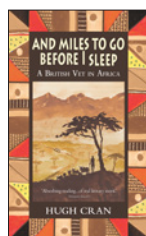
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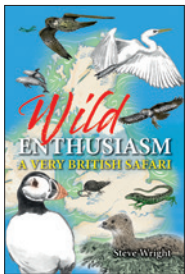
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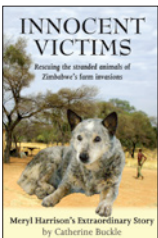


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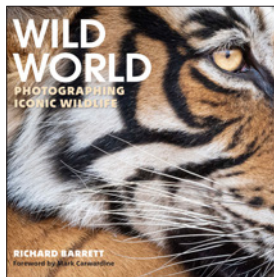
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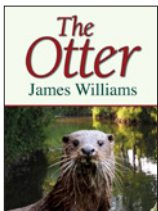
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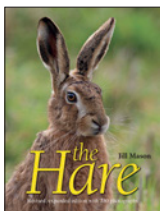
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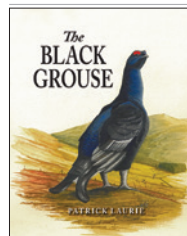
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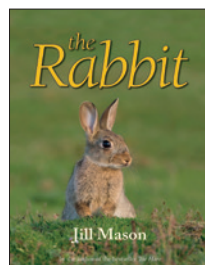
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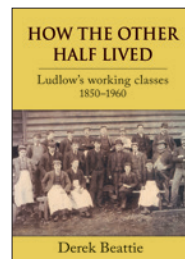
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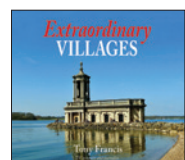
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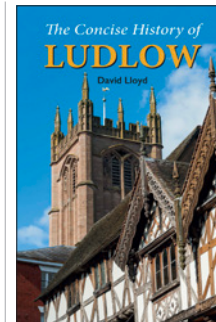
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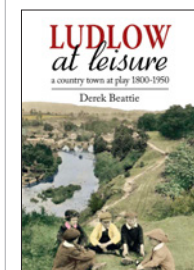
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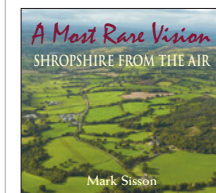
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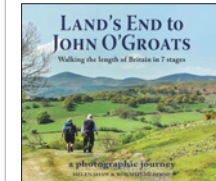
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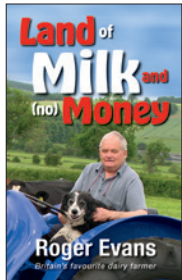
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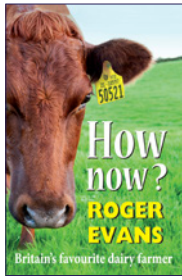
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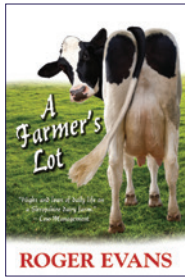
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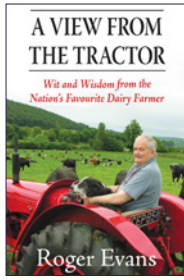
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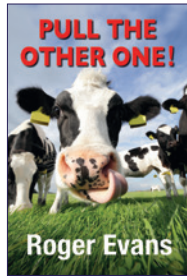
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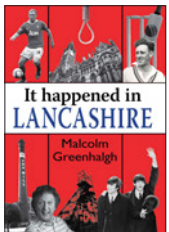
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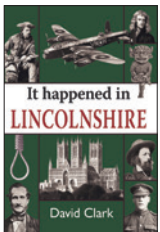
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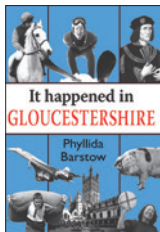
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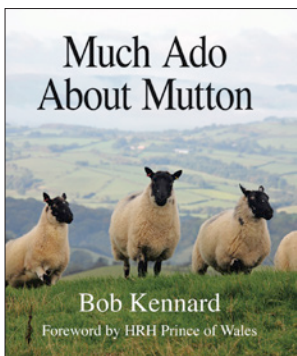


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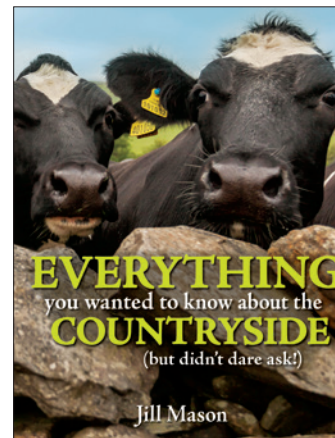
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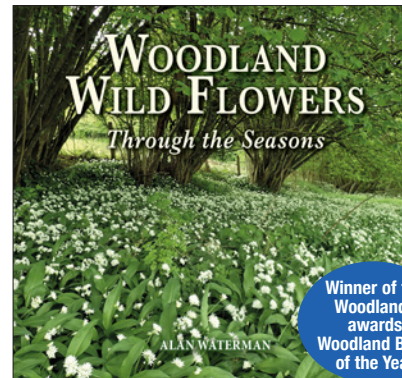
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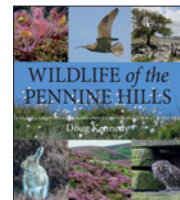
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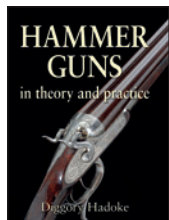
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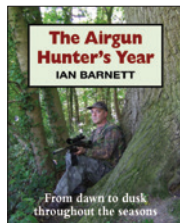
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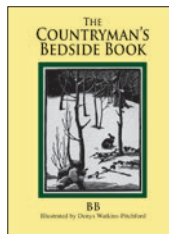


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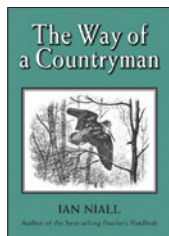
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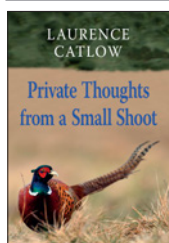


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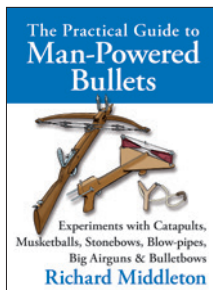
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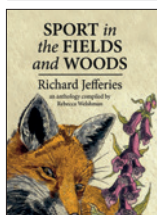


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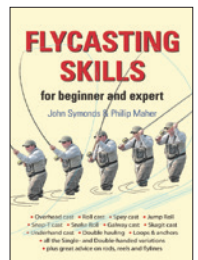


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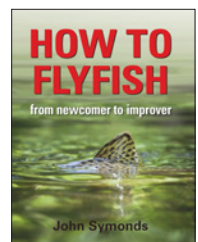
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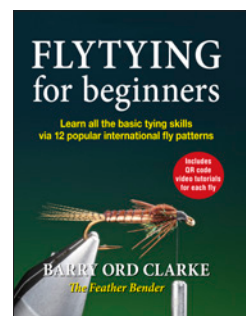
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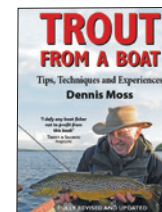
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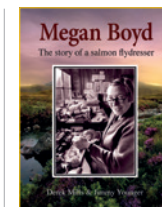
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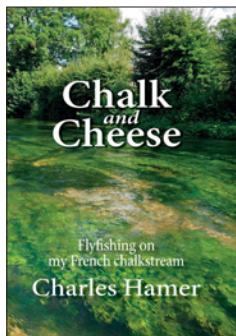
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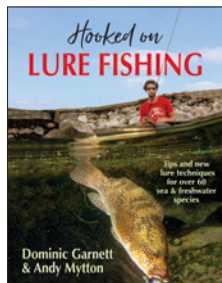
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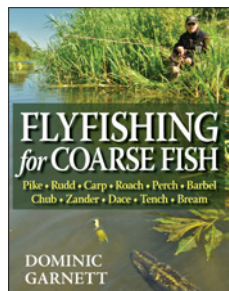


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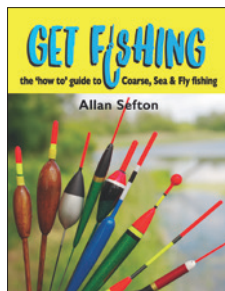
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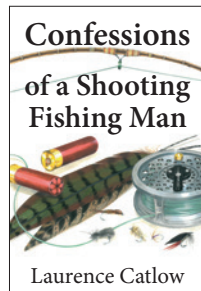
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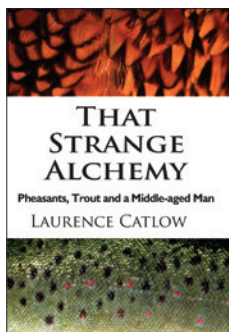
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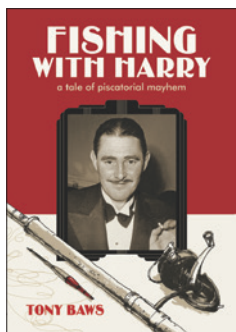
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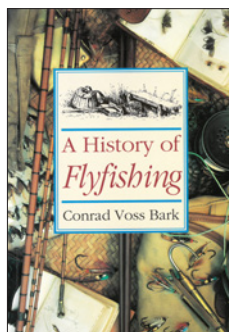
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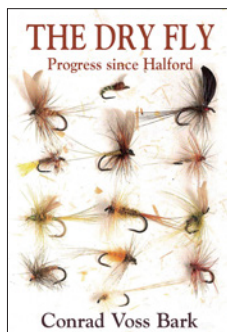
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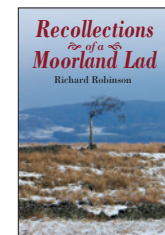
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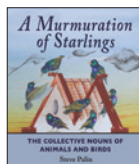
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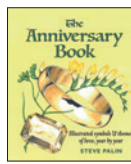


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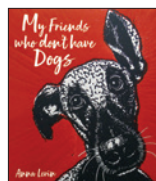


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