

COUNTRYSIDE

AUTUMN 2015
£3.50 (when sold)

ALLIANCE

countryside-alliance.org.uk

The
Minister for
Rural Affairs
writes for
you

HUNTING SIDE SADDLE

Celebrating
“daring and
elegance”
in the field

TOP GUN

New Chief
Executive
Tim Bonner
on our mission

SCOTTISH AIRGUN LEGISLATION

What you need
to know

Moorland Rules

*Staff from the iconic London
restaurant visit a grouse moor*

The magazine of
**COUNTRYSIDE
ALLIANCE**

CORDINGS

19 Piccadilly London W.1



2015 WIN A PEG — COMPETITION —

A superb days shooting for two guns at Ripley, North Yorkshire, worth over £4,000. Prize includes luxury accommodation.

Second Prize - £500 worth of Cordings clothes

Third prize - £200 worth of Cordings clothes

— Enter online at www.cordings.co.uk or in store —

19 Piccadilly, London W1J 0LA Phone 0207 734 0830 ½ a minute from Piccadilly Tube Station.



Contents

AUTUMN 2015



Photo: www.hamishmittchellphotography.co.uk

EDITOR'S LETTER

There is plenty of good news to report this issue. As Tim Bonner takes over as Chief Executive (p16), The Countryside Alliance Foundation assumes the running of the wonderful Casting for Recovery UK & Ireland, the fly fishing programme for ladies with breast cancer (p36). Not only that but the Countryside Alliance Awards, aka the Rural Oscars, are back in 2015 and await your nomination (p14).

We welcome new Defra Minister Rory Stewart to our pages (p50) as he writes about his love of the countryside and, in something of a first, Olympic Dressage medallist Carl Hester is to give recently retired Champion Jockey AP McCoy a dressage lesson at our own Cheltenham Countryside Race Day in November (p28).

The elegance of riding side saddle is celebrated on p25 while the Chef and team from the famous Rules restaurant in London marked the start of the grouse season by touring a grouse moor just ahead of the Glorious 12th (p12), the better to understand the wild and delicious meat they are serving.

“Carl Hester will be giving AP McCoy a dressage lesson at Cheltenham.”

It's not all good news, however. Jamie Stewart reports on Scottish airgun legislation (p30). Also of concern were the summer's events around the Hunting Act and the SNP u-turn, but we put your mind at rest that our campaign for repeal is still in high gear.

To complete this issue we feature a rural crime survey (p10), working dogs (p38) and the delights of the Arundell Arms (p46).

Jill Grieve, Editor
@CAupdates

➔ IN THIS ISSUE

4 News

Our new season shooting badge and sweepstake card, Fishing 4 Schools update, our new website and Hunting Newcomers' Week

10 Bringing down rural crime

Police & Crime Commissioner Julia Mulligan writes about the results of a recent survey

12 Know the Rules

Chef and his brigade from Rules restaurant visit a grouse moor to enrich their knowledge

14 The Rural Oscars are open for business

The 2015 Countryside Alliance Awards need your vote

16 Tim takes the reins

New Chief Executive Tim Bonner will continue on Barney's path

20 Our updated hunt country map

George Butler's new offering will enhance any sporting art collection

22 Park Hill Farm

Shropshire's Rural Oscars Champions share their farming and education secrets

25 Elegance aside

The Side Saddle Association's Sally Lane is on a mission for hunting's heritage

28 Cheers to Cheltenham

Carl Hester will be giving AP McCoy a dressage lesson at our Countryside Day on Friday 13th November

30 Airgun legislation in Scotland

Scottish Director Jamie Stewart updates you

32 The Facts of Rural Life

Author Charlie Pye-Smith introduces his new book

35 Game survey results

Jack Knott reports on our survey's findings

36 Casting for Recovery

The unique medical fly fishing charity joins The Countryside Alliance Foundation

38 Dogs with Jobs

Jim Barrington visits the West Midlands Police Dog training centre

41 Seasonal game recipe

A mouthwatering grouse recipe

43 Point-to-Pointing

Peter McNeile urges hunts to gain sponsorship and visibility to boost their events

45 Feedback

Letters to the Editor

46 Top sport at the Arundell Arms

Tim Bonner and family have a sporting time of it on the Devon/Cornwall borders.

49 Autumn events

Including Countryside days at Aintree, Ffos Las and Cheltenham Racecourses

50 My Countryside

Rory Stewart MP, the new Minister for Rural Affairs writes about his love of the countryside

COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE

Acting Chairman
Lord Mancroft

Chief Executive
Tim Bonner

Editor Jill Grieve

Publisher
BPG Media

Membership hotline
020 7840 9300

24-hour legal hotline
0871 919 3505

Insurance hotline
0871 919 9172

Campaigns
020 7840 9250

Events and fundraising
020 7840 9298

PR and media
020 7840 9220

Countryside Alliance Ireland
info@caireland.org
02892 639911

Scottish Countryside Alliance
infosca@scottishcountrysidealliance.org
0131 335 0200

By post
Countryside Alliance,
1 Spring Meads
Tinworth Street
London SE11 5AN

Fax
020 7793 8484

Website
countryside-alliance.org

Email
info@countryside-alliance.org

Advertising
Charlie Coups
ads@bpgmedia.co.uk
01476 859838

Countryside Alliance magazine is published four times a year on behalf of the Countryside Alliance by BPG Media 01476 859849 www.bpgmedia.co.uk



Review

Round-up of the stories that matter to you



Welcome from our Chief Executive



It is a great honour to be welcoming you to this issue as Chief Executive of an organisation for which I have worked since

2002, and supported for as long as it has existed. I extend great thanks to Sir Barney White-Spunner for his commitment and passion during his tenure as Executive Chairman. Barney leaves an impressive and high profile legacy and I know he will continue to support our efforts across our campaigning and fundraising. I also inherit a great team of staff and volunteers and look forward to continuing to work alongside everyone who appreciates our aims.

You can read on p16 my thoughts about the countryside and the Alliance's place within it, but I can be straightforward from the start: we are fighting the right battles and campaigning in the right areas. Our commitment to the rural way of life will remain the same whether defending hunting, safeguarding shooting interests at home and in Europe, pushing for superfast broadband and rural mobile signal, backing our farmers with honest food labelling or trying to get game meat onto the national menu. All of these issues are of benefit to everyone who loves the countryside, as are projects like Fishing for Schools and Casting for Recovery, of which we should all be proud.

I look forward to meeting even more of our members and supporters as I begin my new role in earnest, but in the meantime I wish you a sporting season and hope you enjoy this issue of our magazine.

Tim Bonner
Chief Executive
Follow Tim on Twitter
[@CA_TimB](https://twitter.com/CA_TimB)

POLITICS AND HUNTING

Scottish MPs and the hunting vote that never was

SNP u-turn sees hunting used as a political football yet again

In early July the Government was due to introduce amendments to the Hunting Act under a free vote, which would have represented a significant improvement. The amendments would have removed the arbitrary two dog limit in exempt hunting, making it legal to flush and shoot foxes using packs of hounds. If the changes had been passed it would have been legal to manage foxes and some other wild mammals using packs of hounds, a significant improvement for many farmers and hunts, whilst moving the law into line with Scotland.

For political reasons the Scottish National Party decided to break their often repeated commitment not to vote

“...amendments to the Hunting Act... would have represented a significant improvement.”

on the Hunting Act which only affects England and Wales.

As recently as February, SNP Leader Nicola Sturgeon said: “The SNP have a longstanding position of not voting on matters that purely affect England – such as foxhunting south of the border, for example – and we stand by that.” Ahead of the Westminster vote, however, the SNP said they would be voting against the proposals to remind “an arrogant UK government of just how slender their majority is”.

In the face of the SNP's u-turn the Government postponed the vote. This was the correct decision. This is now clearly a constitutional issue rather than one about wildlife management or animal welfare, and we look forward to the Government bringing the amendments back to Parliament in due course. Our thanks to those who lobbied their MP on this, especially the many Welsh farmers who also wrote to Nicola Sturgeon expressing their views and explaining with great dignity why they hoped she would have supported hard-pressed rural livelihoods.



SPONSORED BY

ROXTONS
FIELD SPORTS

For all your sporting requirements

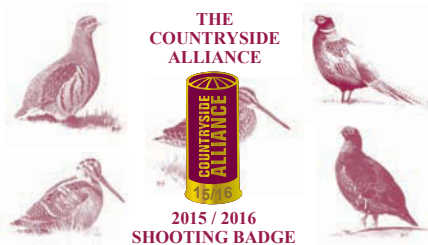
t: +44(0)1488 689 788
e: info@roxtons.com
www.roxtons.com

GAME SHOOTING

Buy your new season shooting badge and sweepstake card

THIS SEASON'S shooting badges are available now, so please support our campaign and buy yours today. This year's must-have colour is burgundy, and the badges are available in two formats – the £100 season badge in

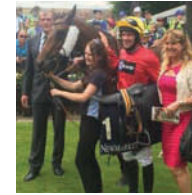
solid colour and the £15 supporter badge in a camouflage version. Our new season shoot sweepstake card also echoes this year's colour with some stunning sketches by Ben Hoskyns. Our shooting badges and the sweepstake are once again being run in association with Pol Roger Champagne, and a bottle will be sent to all who raise £1,000, and for each £1,000 thereafter. To order your badges and sweepstake cards please go to www.countryside-alliance.org or contact caroline-brough@countryside-alliance.org or telephone number is 0207 840 9298.



The Quarter

OUR HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST THREE MONTHS

JUNE



- **The Midsummer Blast** took place at Minterne House while our Newmarket Countryside Day saw Huntsman Daniel Cherriman claim Race

for Repeal victory for the Pytchley Hunt.

- **Caffè Nero** angered many by boycotting milk from farmers within the badger cull zone. Consumers boycotted them back.

JULY



- **The game of Eat Wild**, the new Hunt Country Map and a visit from Dogs for the Disabled puppy Hazel (pictured and also featured in a previous issue) were popular at the CLA Game Fair at Harewood House.

- **We launched a new "Shooting Campaign update"** – contact jack-knott@countryside-alliance.org for a copy or call 0207 840 9200.

- **Holyrood Magazine reported:** "The debate over land reform has become a lightning rod for wider feelings of disenfranchisement."

AUGUST



- **The Countryside Alliance** teamed up with Country Life magazine to launch a competition to find "Britain's Best Sporting

Pub". Nominations have flooded in from across Britain and results will be announced in Country Life at the start of the hunting season.

- **The Countryside Alliance** vacated the Old Town Hall Kennington after 16 years in favour of smaller premises at Vauxhall

SHOOTING

Taking a strong line, with FACE, on the EU Birds and Habitats Directives

Our working relationship with The European Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation (FACE) is strong and has had cause to develop even further this year. FACE's lobbying work for our way of life goes to the heart of Europe and the work of the group is essential to our success in the UK. Brussels' world of EU Directives is complex and convoluted but with over seven million hunters in Europe, FACE certainly packs a large punch for a comparatively small organisation.

The biggest challenge for FACE this year comes in the shape of the much publicised Fitness Check on the EU Birds and Habitats Directives.



Since the Directives were introduced they have seen success for nature and shown due respect to shooting, in particular the cultural heritage of shooting which is so vital to so many of us. Overhauling the Directives will result in nothing less than a free-for-all, with a number of industries interested, and would certainly be a significant threat to shooting. With a number of large industries keen to see the Directives weakened and conservation bodies keen to see them become stronger, shooting could easily end up in the cross-fire. Restrictions on huntable species, introduction of further restrictive legislation and decreasing derogations are just a few examples of the devastation that could occur. Thanks to the many of you who consulted online while the Fitness Check was open to comments. It is now closed, but rest assured we have made strong representations and will report back in due course.

TATTERSALL SHIRTS

ONLY **£20** SAVE **£30**
(WAS £50)

We are delighted to offer Countryside Alliance magazine readers a unique opportunity to purchase any Tattersall shirt from our superb collection for just £20 each, saving £30 on the original price of £50.

Combining traditional English check designs with seasonal colours, our range of long-sleeve Tattersall shirts are classic yet contemporary style at its best. Made from luxurious 100 per cent brushed cotton, each shirt is impeccably tailored and completed with coordinating contrast details to the cuffs and collar lining. Machine washable at 30°. Pair your Tattersall shirt with one of our country ties – now only £15 each. All Samuel Windsor clothing includes a 30-day no quibble worn or unworn guarantee.

Sizes (to fit chest): Small (up to 37”), Medium (38-41”), Large (42-45”), X Large (46-49”), XX Large (50-52”).



BVS100RO STERLING



BVS100DA DARLINGTON



BVS100ED EDEN



BVS100LA LANCASTER



BVS100SE SEVERN



BVS100CU CUMBRIA



BVS100RO STERLING

WOOLLEN TIES

£15 EACH
(WAS £30)



BVT57 PHEASANT



BVT58 FOX



BVT59 AIRFORCE



BVT61 RED



BVT62 OLIVE



BVT63 CORN

Samuel Windsor
tailored quality ~ outstanding prices

0871 911 7044* QUOTE 54094

*Calls cost 13p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.

www.samuelwindsorshoes.co.uk/54094

Post to: Samuel Windsor (54094), PO Box 87, Brecon, LD3 3BE

ITEM DESCRIPTION	CODE	SIZE	QTY	TOTAL
			P&P	£5.45
			Total	

PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH. Offer subject to availability. Please allow up to 7 working days for delivery. If you are not completely satisfied with your purchase then return the item to us within 30 days, worn or unworn, and we will refund you, no questions asked. Any unsuitable item can be returned using our returns service – details supplied with every order. Please note a signature is required upon delivery.

Our 'was' pricing refers to the original selling prices offered on our website www.swshoes.co.uk, and in our retail store between June 8th and September 8th, 2015 (items sold at 'was' prices represent the lower proportion of sales).

54094

I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to SAMUEL WINDSOR OFFER (54094). Please write your name and address on the back of your cheque. Alternatively, please debit my Visa/Master Card/Switch/Maestro card:

Mr/Mrs/Ms: Initials: Surname:

Address:

Postcode:

Tel No:

Card No:

Switch Issue No:

Valid from date:

Expiry date:

Security Code*:

*Last 3 digits on back of card



HUNTING

Welcome back, Newcomers' Week

THIS YEAR'S HUNTING

Newcomers' Week will take place from 17th – 24th October.

The initiative works well in assisting hunts keen to attract new subscribers. Not only have newcomers enjoyed a day in the field, several hunts have thought laterally and included an additional event, for example a kennels visit or pub evening with a short explanation about how a day's hunting works. Such an event gives hunts an opportunity to both welcome and inform those who may have misconceptions about hunting and those who take part.

The Countryside Alliance can help with publicity so participating hunts should send details of anything being planned so that we can offer appropriate publicity. Any photos will also be very much appreciated. Literature-wise, our 'How, what, when and where' guide to hunting is specifically designed for people who are new to hunting and may like to know more about it, as well as our stickers which prove very popular with the youngsters. The full range of hunting literature is listed on our website. For more information please contact beverley-thomas@countryside-alliance.org

Photo: www.nigehutchinsonphotography.co.uk

LAND REFORM

Concerns over threat to sport shooting

THE SCOTTISH COUNTRYSIDE

Alliance has highlighted the potential impact on rural employment, business and environmental sustainability through the removal of sporting rates relief.

Amongst other measures, the Land Reform (Scotland) Bill proposes to reintroduce sporting rates for sporting shoots and deer forests throughout Scotland. Rural Scotland has benefited from a huge financial and environmental input from those involved in the management of wild and released game, and the management of our wild deer. A large volume of game shooting in Scotland can only be described as recreational, run on a business footing with many running at either break-even or at a loss. This additional tax burden, equivalent to an increase of up to 58% on employment-related tax burdens,

could result in the end of sport shooting in many areas with little or no alternative employment opportunities, leading to job losses and potential land abandonment. The measures would place a financial strain on the many businesses supported by sporting enterprises such as game dealers and processors and those serving the food and hospitality sector.

The economic value of the conservation work undertaken by shoot providers in Scotland is estimated in 2014's Value of Shooting report as £35 million and this far outweighs the amount which would be levied by Sporting Rates. If shoots close, this private investment of time and money into conservation work would not continue, and would be impossible to replace without considerable Government expenditure.

BOARD ELECTION AND AGM

2015 AGM & BOARD ELECTIONS

Our thanks to all members who voted in the 2015 board elections. At the Annual General Meeting on 15th September we were delighted to announce that Johnnie Arkwright, Jamie Foster and Tim Vestey were the three successful candidates and have been duly elected to the board. They take up their appointments immediately and are elected for a three year period.



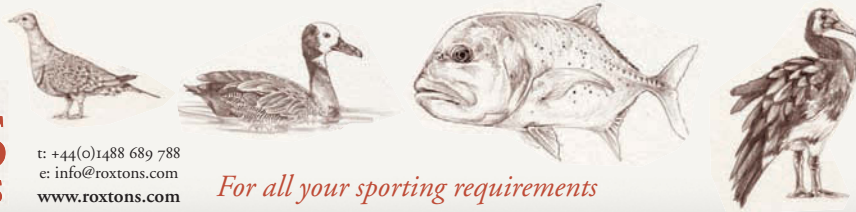


Photo: www.riverginsphotography.co.uk


SHOOTING

Defra supports existing gamebird code

THE COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE is pleased to note that Defra-funded research into the use of raised laying units, published in late July, supports the existing Defra Code for the Welfare of Gamebirds Reared for Sporting Purposes, used by the British gamebird industry.

The research shows that the current Code of Welfare of Gamebirds Reared for Sporting Purposes, as was proposed by the working group set up by Defra, is fit for purpose.

Adrian Blackmore, director of shooting for the Countryside Alliance, said: "The welfare of gamebirds is of paramount importance and any decisions taken regarding animal welfare should be based on sound science. We are pleased that this rigorous research approves current best practice and shows that egg-laying in raised laying units can meet animal welfare standards when undertaken properly.

"We shall closely review the results of this research and welcome the further research that is to be undertaken."

FISHING

Fishing 4 Schools' sunny success

ON 1 JULY more than 100 pupils from seven schools across Northamptonshire, Leicestershire and Cambridgeshire gathered at the beautiful Eyebrook reservoir in Leicestershire for a Fishing 4 Schools (F4S) open day.

Just about every facet of angling was on show for students of all ages and abilities, in what was an opportunity for youngsters to try spin and fly casting, learn to tie knots and make imitation flies using fragments of feathers and fur. Pupils also learned to make a float, about fish biology and how it swims and feeds and finally got to cook trout.

Andy Miller, estate manager at Eyebrook Trout Fishery said: "To see the 100 plus local school children enjoying and participating in the many

fishing activities was a joy!"

There are plans for other such days in the region, to link with local schools and regional education facilities and specifically demonstrate the unique qualities of angling to young people of all abilities, even those with profound learning disabilities.

Fishing 4 Schools director Charles Jardine said: "The day was an unparalleled success in extremely hot conditions. It was amazing to see so many young people, some with special needs, engage with the nation's favourite sport and do so on the same level. I know I speak for the entire team of dedicated coaches when I say that we are inspired by days like these and the students' enthusiasm. Amazing!"


LEADING ON LEAD

Second lead shot report has science on its side

TWO LEAD AMMUNITION Group (LAG) reports have now been presented to Defra. The first, tabled by Chairman John Swift, is the same report over which we raised over 170 comments and with which we refused to be associated, hence the resignation from the LAG. A second report has been tabled by the four ex-members of the LAG. As well as the Countryside Alliance this new group includes the Gun Trade Association, National Game Dealers Association and the Country Land and Business Association, with the support of the British Association

of Shooting and Conservation. We will release the full report once Defra has indicated it is happy for us to do so.





MAGNEHEALTH™
RELIEF FROM PAIN

FREE
PILLOW PADS
or PILLOW COVERS

Relief from Pain (& restful sleep)

Natural, drug-free pain relief whilst you sleep with a 60 day money-back guarantee for additional peace of mind.

Mattress Toppers - from £149.00 (cotton) or £235.00 (wool)

- Available in a choice of **Quilted Cotton** or warm cosy **Merino Wool**
- Easy to care for and fully washable
- Durable North facing magnets for maximum benefit

Pillow Pads and Pillow Covers - from £24.50.

- **Free** with the purchase of a Mattress Topper, call now for details
- Aid sleep, reduce headaches, neckaches and migraines
- Can be used with your normal pillow

Arthritis, Muscle and Joint Pain, Fibromyalgia, Poor Circulation, Insomnia and Stress can all be improved by the daily use of MagneHealth products.



To order your
MagneHealth products
or to learn more visit
relief-from-pain.co.uk
or call
01989 721010



(Magnetic therapy is not recommended if you are pregnant, have a pacemaker or are undergoing cancer treatment).
WHITE CLOUD, PO BOX 8, NEWENT, GLOUCESTERSHIRE GL18 1WU

LGS

LONDON GUN SERVICES

GUN STORAGE

With 24/7 accessibility in our dedicated facility. Collection and delivery options.

GUN SALES

The best handpicked new and used shotguns plus gun fitting services and advice from former World Champion and former Team GB member, Tom Ward.

GUN CABINETS

Full range of Brattonsound cabinets, surveys, installations in London.

GUN REPAIR

Our Gunsmith has over 30 years' experience working on all makes, models and types of shotguns.

CARTRIDGE SUPPLY

Hand-selected at competitive prices with delivery to your door options available 24/7.

SHOTGUN HIRE

Call for availability and prices.

VALUATIONS

Written valuations for insurance purposes.

VISITOR PERMITS

We can arrange and sponsor overseas visitors wishing to shoot in the UK.

IMPORT & EXPORT

Any gun door to door from almost any location to almost any location in the world.

AIRPORT & HOTEL

We work with all London airports and many London hotels, providing secure movements and storage of your guns.



London Gun Services
9 Sleaford Street
London SW8 5AB

Next Day
Trackable
Delivery

Free Gift
Wrap &
Message

at home in the country

INSPIRED BY THE BRITISH COUNTRYSIDE



Home Accessories and Gifts that last a Lifetime in the Country



Enter code "ALLIANCE" for 10% discount - Expires 15th Nov 2015



01484
865359

www.athomeinthecountry.co.uk

Christmas is coming!

Call us on +44 (0)207 622 1200
info@londongunservices.co.uk
www.londongunservices.co.uk

Tackling rural crime

→ **JULIA MULLIGAN**, Police and Crime Commissioner for the North Yorkshire Police area, reports on the findings of a recent crime survey by the National Rural Crime Network, of which the Countryside Alliance is a part.



When most people think of rural crime, stereotypes can spring to mind – thefts of livestock, heating oil and agricultural machinery, petty vandalism; crimes that don't take place that often and can seem trivial. But in truth the crimes that are committed in villages and the countryside are the same ones that plague towns and cities, and are just as serious in their consequences, if not sometimes more so.

The true extent and impact of rural crime is poorly known and understood, so the National Rural Crime Network (NRCN) was set up last year to try to remedy this lack of information and find ways to tackle rural crime more effectively. It comprises 30 Police and Crime Commissioners from across England and Wales, plus rural stakeholders, including the Countryside Alliance and national crime prevention charities.

Earlier this year the NRCN launched the largest ever survey into crime and anti-social behaviour in rural areas. More than 17,000 people responded, of whom a third had fallen victim to some type of crime in the past three years.

The survey, which featured on BBC 1's Countryfile programme, took place with support from the Home Office and has provided a wealth of information that will be used to improve Government and local policy.



Julia Mulligan has extensive experience working with the public sector, including the police and partner agencies. Julia was elected as Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire in 2012. Follow Julia on Twitter @Julia_Mulligan

However, as a Police and Crime Commissioner for a predominately rural area, the results do not make easy reading.

The top-line is that rural communities have a poor perception of the performance of their local police force and see the police as being out of touch with them and the impact that crime has on their lives. Just 38% of people rate their local force as good or excellent. Among rural businesses this figure was just 32% and satisfaction levels dropped to just 23% when people were asked whether they thought the police could solve crime. This contrasts with national satisfaction levels that show 63% of people rating their force as good or excellent.

Perhaps not surprisingly, given this poor perception of the police, rural crime goes unreported, with as much as a quarter of crimes not reported to the police. Worryingly, the main reason for not reporting an incident was that the victim felt the police would not be able to do anything. It seems we have a vicious circle of a lack of confidence leading to lack of reporting, leading to increasing fear of crime and disillusionment in the police.

The cost of crime to the rural economy was another startling finding. Our survey suggests that rural communities suffer losses of around £800m each year due to crime. This is a staggering amount and dwarfs previous estimates. What's more, the emotional cost of crime is perhaps even greater. Fear of crime is increasing and is a particularly serious preoccupation for farmers and young working families – especially those who have been targeted in the past.

It is quite a disappointing picture. So what can be done? The National Rural Crime Network's plea to rural communities is that they must report all crime and anti-

social behaviour. If the police are to meet the needs of rural communities and set appropriate policing priorities, they have to know what's happening.

We must form more effective partnerships between the police, rural communities and other authorities and work together. The survey also indicated that community cohesion is strong and increasing. People are pulling together to make their communities stronger. The police and other agencies need to tap into this much more effectively. It represents a real opportunity to improve services and increase confidence. I know from my own area that when this is done well, people feel far safer and are more satisfied with the services provided.

Finally, the Government is currently reviewing the national funding formula for policing. This comes on top of further cuts estimated to be between 25–40%. It is therefore vital that the police better target their resources, but this does not mean diverting them away from the countryside to the towns and cities. This survey has shown clearly that doing such a thing risks alienating a significant sector of our society yet further. We are also calling for the review of the Government's funding formula to recognise the real costs of policing rural areas. Providing services across vast, sparsely populated geographical areas is challenging and costly. The funding formula needs to reflect this.

This survey has given us a stark insight into how people feel in rural areas and the crimes they suffer. It is vital that everyone with responsibility for keeping communities safe heeds its warnings, capitalises on the opportunities and pulls together to ensure people living and working in our countryside are kept safe and feel safe. ●

UP TO 50% OFF SHETLAND JUMPERS

FREE P&P AND RETURNS

£90 NOW **£50**

OR BUY 2 FOR **£45** EACH

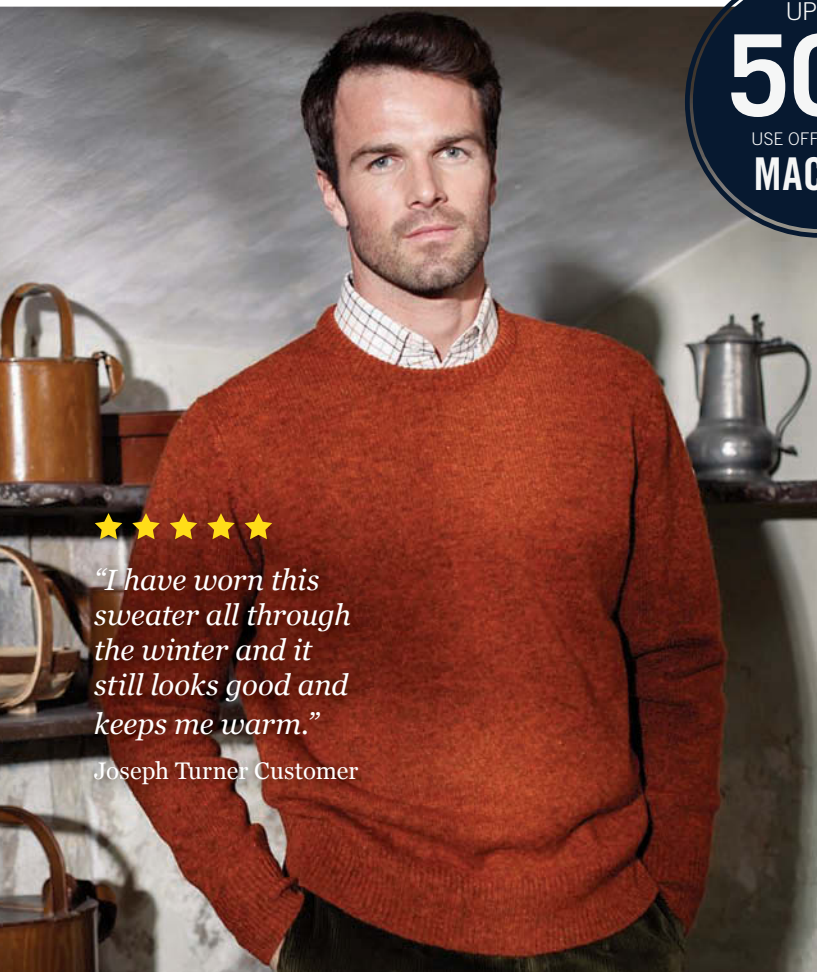
BUTTON NECK PRODUCT CODE: **MKSHBN**

CREW NECK PRODUCT CODE: **MKSHCR**

Using wool from Shetland sheep, renowned for the quality of yarn they produce, ensures our jumpers are naturally warm and snug.

Both styles are available in all colours

- 100% pure Shetland wool
- Available in crew neck and button-neck
- 5-gauge knit
- Hand wash or dry clean only



"I have worn this sweater all through the winter and it still looks good and keeps me warm."

Joseph Turner Customer



Green

Cobble

Rust

Blue

To fit chest sizes (inches): **M** 37-40
L 41-44 **XL** 45-48 **XXL** 49-52

**HURRY OFFER ENDS ON
31ST OCTOBER 2015**

EASY WAYS TO SHOP

VISIT:

www.josephturner.co.uk/MACA02

OR CALL AND QUOTE CODE **MACA02**

01845 575 100

OUR GUARANTEE

Your items will be despatched within 48 hours of receiving your order, subject to stock. If you're not entirely satisfied with your products, you can return them to us by FREEPOST within 60 days for a hassle free exchange or refund.

Call centre opening hours: Monday to Friday 8.30am - 6.30pm and Saturday 10.00am - 3.00pm

The Rules of grouse management

→ **ADRIAN BLACKMORE** explains why staff from Rules restaurant headed off to a grouse moor ahead of the Glorious 12th.



Rules, London's oldest restaurant, and one of the most celebrated in the world, specialises in classic game cookery for which it is renowned. Dedicated to providing the traditional food of this country at its very best, it has been at the forefront of serving grouse for generations. In over 200 years, the restaurant has been owned by just three families, with the most recent owner being John Mayhew who bought it in 1984. He is also the owner of the Lartington Estate in Co Durham, and each year different members of staff are invited up to the North of England so that they can learn about game management, and the best ways in which it should be served.

In early August, the Senior Management team from Rules visited the Newbiggin & Hunstanworth Estate on the Durham/Northumberland border to see where the red grouse that it serves each season comes from. Whilst some of the team had visited grouse moors before, and were extremely well versed in game management, for others it was their first opportunity to hear from those responsible exactly what goes into the management of this totally wild game bird; a bird that is unique to Britain, and the distribution of which is restricted by heather moorland that is managed for shooting.

The Newbiggin & Hunstanworth Estate consists of three moors: Newbiggin,

Nookton, and Hunstanworth, which together total some 5,000 acres. The visit for Rules, which I was delighted to organise, covered the environmental, economic and social importance of grouse shooting to the British uplands. Head keeper Rob Mitchell, and Darren Jaques, who is responsible for the management on Nookton Moor where the visit took place, explained the crucial management of the habitat that is carried out, which includes the rotational burning of small patches of heather to provide food and cover that benefits not just grouse, but also all those other species of ground-nesting birds that share this habitat to breed. It is that management which has helped conserve this unique landscape, where elsewhere it has been totally lost.

Ground nesting birds are also particularly vulnerable to predation, especially by foxes and stoats, and the ways in which these are legally controlled

were explained and, in the case of one unfortunate stoat, seen! For many in our remote uplands, grouse shooting is also the main economic driver, and Rob Mitchell explained the considerable casual workforce that is employed on each shoot day, whether it is as beaters, pickers-up with their dogs, flankers, or loaders for the guns. And as neighbouring moors will try to de-conflict their shoot dates well in advance of the season to ensure that there are sufficient available on each day, it is not unusual to find some people out on the fells for anything up to six days a week during the height of

"FOR OTHERS IT WAS THEIR FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR FROM THOSE RESPONSIBLE EXACTLY WHAT GOES INTO THE MANAGEMENT OF THIS TOTALLY WILD GAME BIRD."



Adrian Blackmore is the Director of Shooting for the Countryside Alliance. He was previously the Countryside Alliance's Moorlands Director, promoting and defending grouse shooting and its associated integrated moorland management.



The senior management team from Rules with Adrian Blackmore (front left), John Mayhew (Centre), Daphne Scott-Harden, owner of the Newbiggin and Hunstanworth Estate, and Rob Mitchell and Darren Jaques (front right)

Photo: Verity Johnson photography <http://verityjohnson.zenfolio.com>

There's a recipe from our Game-to-Eat campaign's new grouse booklet on p41



the shooting season. But it goes beyond the financial benefits. Grouse shooting in our uplands is not about landowners, employees or individual interests, it is about whole communities - and of course the red grouse. For Rules, the visit was summed up perfectly by Ricky McMenemy, its managing director: "The opportunity for us to get out on a grouse moor, especially so close to the start of the season, is a rare privilege. All the team came away with much more appreciation and understanding of the work the guys at the estate have to do, and to hear them talk with such passion



Adrian Blackmore explains the importance of grouse shooting to our rural communities in the uplands.

"IT IS DUE TO SHOOTING THAT RED GROUSE ARE NOT ON THE ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST."

about their work was really special. It was not just the birds that impressed us but the importance of the shoot to the flora and fauna and local community. We came away with a really positive feeling about the grouse we serve in our restaurant."

Paradoxically, it is due to shooting that red grouse are not on the endangered species list, and the numbers of many of those birds that share its habitat during the breeding season remain at the high levels they do. The management on which grouse rely continues regardless of whether or not there is a sufficient surplus of grouse to shoot in a season, and the income from letting days is essential to help offset the considerable cost of that management. With all the factors that can adversely affect their

About Rules

In over 200 years, spanning the reigns of nine monarchs, it has been owned by only three families . . . just before The Great War, Charles Rule, a descendant of the founder, was thinking of moving to Paris; by sheer coincidence he met Tom Bell, a Briton who owned a Parisian restaurant called the Alhambra, and the two men decided to swap businesses. (During the war Tom Bell was an officer in the Royal Flying Corps, and left the running of the restaurant to Charlie, the Head Waiter, who had served Charles Rule for many years.)

In 1984 Tom Bell's daughter sold Rules to John Mayhew, the present owner. Today Rules seats around 90 people and employs 90 staff. Visit Rules: 35 Maiden Lane, Covent Garden, WC2E 7LB 020 7836 5314 www.rules.co.uk Follow on Twitter @RulesRestaurant

population, there can be some years when no shooting can take place, and that has sadly been the case this season, with the bad weather in May and early July being responsible for many moors having to cancel some or all of their shooting. This will have a significant impact not just on moor owners, but on many upland communities where numerous individuals and businesses will have been seriously affected. ●



The control of predators benefits ground nesting birds.



Rob Mitchell explains how a grouse drive works.

Countryside Alliance Awards 2015 NOMINATE NOW!!

Following the special 10th anniversary Champion of Champions running last year, the Countryside Alliance Awards are back in 2015! The Awards, also known as the Rural Oscars, are THE rural business awards to win and give a voice and a platform to the best of our produce, enterprise, heritage and communities — they are open to public nomination now.

The Awards are supported by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Farmers Guardian magazine, the Daily Telegraph, Hunter Boot and Sillfield Farm.

In 2015 we have amended our four categories for nomination in order to salute the contribution tourism makes to the rural economy.

The Awards are open from now until late October, with judging then taking

place and a grand final held at Parliament in Westminster early in 2016.

Please note that these awards take place across England and Wales only, Scotland runs the Scottish Rural Awards which are a separate competition.

Nominate as many businesses as you please — your local favourites need your support in order to tell their story. Nominate via this form, by letter, email or online at www.countryside-alliance.org



Nominate here



I am delighted to nominate

Address of business:

.....

.....

in the 2015 Countryside Alliance Awards

Phone number:

In the following category

- Local Food & Drink
- Village Shop/Post Office
- Butcher
- Tourism enterprise

Email address and website if known:

Please return this form by 2nd November to Countryside Alliance Awards, 1 Spring Mews, Tinworth Street, London, SE11 5AN, call 0207 840 9340 or email your choice to awards@countryside-alliance.org

EMMA WYATT GIFTS

Emma Wyatt Gifts design and make impressive range of gifts, tableware, awards and trophies.



P to P awards, game bird tableware for shoot parties. Bespoke and personalised orders a speciality.



For more info
www.emmawyattgifts.net



CREATE A CABIN

DIY MODULAR BUILDINGS



FARM SHOP



FOOD PREP ROOM

BUILD YOUR OWN



OFFICE



MILK TANK

DELIVERED READY TO ASSEMBLE
INSULATED METAL PANELS
MADE TO MEASURE
ASSISTED BUILD

**10%
DISCOUNT**
for all members of
the Countryside
Alliance

01227 389 895

sales@createacabin.co.uk
www.createacabin.co.uk

The Anevo Health Pod

After a day in the fields, saddle or on the river...let us help you plan the perfect restorative therapy for your guests or self.

The Anevo Pod offers the very latest surround system far infrared technology - as used by elite athletes. In 30 minutes you will emerge rejuvenated, supple and energised ready for the next event!



Suitable for any relaxation area, the Pod includes mood enhancing LED chromotherapy - perfect for winter blues! Easy plug and go timer with self clean ozone programme at the touch of a button.

Affordable, natural and economical to use, why not call us today or visit our website for more information?

0845 257858

www.anevohealth.com

The Countryside Alliance - the next chapter begins

→ In July it was announced that after nearly three years Sir Barney White-Spunner would be stepping down from his role as Executive Chairman of the Countryside Alliance. Campaigns Director **TIM BONNER**, who joined the Countryside Alliance team slightly ahead of the Liberty & Livelihood March in 2002, has since assumed the role of Chief Executive



Photos: www.hamishmitchellphotography.co.uk

Tim Bonner takes the reins at an exciting time for the Countryside Alliance. This Autumn, not only do we have a new hand on the tiller, we have also moved offices, closing an important chapter in our history after 16 years in Kennington's Old Town Hall. As a fresh chapter opens at our new offices by the Thames, Tim may have a new role, but his commitment to continuity in the campaigns he has managed for several years remains, as well as his determination to drive the organisation forward. "This appointment is a huge honour, but most of all a huge responsibility" he said. "I am constantly aware of the hundreds of thousands of Countryside Alliance members and supporters who rely on us to give them a voice. The Alliance will always focus on the core political and campaigning work it does best, but must also change to face new challenges."

Chairman, Lord Mancroft, said: "The Board was able to appoint an exceptional internal candidate in Tim Bonner who will provide continuity whilst pushing forward the evolution of the Alliance and its campaigns. We remain committed to providing a voice for rural minorities however controversial the issue."

Lord Mancroft continued: "Barney has brought much needed stability to the organisation and wrestled with some of the most intractable issues facing the British countryside. He leaves hunting in good

"I AM CONSTANTLY AWARE OF THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS WHO RELY ON US TO GIVE THEM A VOICE."
TIM BONNER

heart - if a bit frustrated by the vagaries of the SNP, shooting in a much better place than he found it and a Government far more engaged on a range of rural issues than when he arrived. He has also started restructuring us so that we are fit to face the challenges of campaigning in the digital 21st-century world. We are hugely grateful for his efforts."

Barney White-Spunner said: "In a world which sees issues primarily through an urban lens, it is vital that we have a vibrant organisation to speak up for those who live and work in the countryside and ensure that

our interests are properly represented. This is as true of broadband and mobile phones, of proper local services and housing, as it is of hunting and shooting. They are all part of the complex whole that constitutes the rural community and its economy. It has been a great privilege to lead the Alliance and to be able to give something back to a world which has been so much a part of my life."

Here, we look at the campaigning priorities that will keep Tim and his team busy on behalf of everyone who loves the countryside.

Working hard for the future of shooting

Shooting is worth £2 billion annually to the rural economy and supports 74,000 jobs. Over 600,000 people shoot and over 2 million hectares are

actively managed for shooting in the UK, creating proven conservation benefits and preserving important habitats. Yet shooting faces regular threats, whether through restrictions on the guns we use, the ammunition we fire, the birds we rear, the land we use, or our very presence in the countryside we love. We work to promote and protect the enormous contribution traditional shooting activity makes to the economy, communities and the environment.

Our public opinion research drives our campaign and ensures that we know which buttons to press to address public and political opinion. Our hugely successful Game-to-Eat campaign, which has increased sales of healthy, environmentally friendly game by more than 60%, is a direct outcome of our research and hard work.

The Countryside Alliance has the experience and the expertise to fight the big battles for the future of shooting in Westminster, Brussels and the devolved parliaments, as well as in the national and local media.



Photo: Emma Richardson www.emmarichardsonphotography.co.uk



Photo: Emma Edgar: www.facebook.com/PhotographyByEmmEd

The only organisation working for the future of hunting.

The Countryside Alliance fought a long and successful campaign to expose the damage the Hunting Act would do to the rural economy, traditions and local communities without any evidence to justify it on grounds of animal welfare. Our campaign has guaranteed that, ten years after the Hunting Act came into force on 18th February 2005, it is widely acknowledged to be a bad law. It is no accident that the law has been exposed for what it is: bad for the rural economy, bad for rural communities, bad for animal welfare and a waste of police resources.

Thanks to our determined efforts working with hunts, the vast majority have managed to adapt to the legislation whilst continuing to offer a legal wildlife management service and retain the support necessary to sustain the infrastructure of hunting and the jobs that go with it.

There have been only a handful of successful convictions under the Hunting Act involving hunts. However, it cannot be right that a large section of law-abiding citizens continue to be targeted by animal rights groups and forced to live in fear of malicious prosecution. We continue to oppose the Hunting Act and promote legal hunting for all the benefits it brings to individuals, the environment and the rural economy.

A voice for food & farming

The Countryside Alliance champions British farmers and producers, knowing that food and farming are central to the character and wellbeing of rural Britain.

Farmers play a valuable role, not only in producing food to some of the highest standards in the world, but also in shaping and maintaining the landscape and communities for which Britain is renowned.

Our food & farming campaign highlights the importance and value of clear food labelling and assured food procurement to enable consumers to make informed choices and have confidence in the products they are buying. Our Game-to-Eat campaign provides a wealth of information on

the benefits of eating British wild game, where to buy it and how to cook it, nutritional facts, step by step guides to preparation, recipes and newsletters.

The Countryside Alliance Awards, aka the Rural Oscars (see p14), which celebrate and highlight good quality locally sourced produce, have become *the* rural business awards to win and they are dominated by farmers, producers and butchers. Eleven years in and with a media reach in the millions, cross party support and the backing of Defra, the Awards are a strong platform from which to champion farming's contribution to communities, enterprise and the rural economy.



Photo: www.cspphoto.co.uk

Broadband and mobile connectivity

Broadband and mobile signal are as important to rural households and businesses as other essential services such as water and electricity. For rural economies to grow, there needs to be a proper commitment to the delivery of mobile and broadband networks in the countryside sooner rather than later. Our campaigns team is working closely with stakeholders, including suppliers and relevant government departments, to ensure the countryside is fit for the digital age and doesn't continue to suffer from the urban bias which for so long has plagued its service provision.

The Government has promised that 95% of UK premises will have superfast broadband - more than 24mbps - by 2017 and a roll out of 4G services to 98% of the population. This will still leave many rural homes without superfast broadband or a mobile phone signal, which is unacceptable. Our campaign will keep the pressure on to see that the hardest to reach areas are also well served.





The Countryside Alliance Foundation

The Countryside Alliance Foundation is a charity which informs the public about the countryside and the natural environment.

The Countryside Alliance Foundation's flagship project is Fishing 4 Schools, a scheme run by world-famous angler Charles Jardine which teaches young people the unique skills of fly fishing, offering them a gateway into the natural world. Through short courses at schools across Britain, Charles and his team have enhanced the syllabus for many young people. In 2012 a "Fishing 4 Schools Champions" awards scheme was set up to

honour the achievements of those who had excelled on the course, but not just in a "how big was my fish" way. Fishing 4 Schools is as much about encouraging youngsters, building confidence and helping them to be courteous and thoughtful to those around them as it is casting a line.

In 2015 The Countryside Alliance Foundation took over the administration of Casting for Recovery UK & Ireland (CfR), a unique and wonderful project it has funded for many years. Casting for Recovery offers all-expenses-paid fly fishing

and counselling retreats for ladies who have (or have had) breast cancer. CfR offers a winning combination of fly fishing, time spent in a beautiful setting and, crucially, the support and camaraderie of other ladies who understand how they feel, all hosted by a team of qualified counsellors, medics and fly fishing instructors at some of the most beautiful locations in the UK and Ireland.

You can donate to the work of The Countryside Alliance Foundation online at www.countryside-alliance.org/donations-and-legacies/

An online countryside

Our work on broadband and mobile connectivity relates directly to the countryside's ability to make its voice heard online. While this magazine continues to be a popular part of our membership offering, the reality is that communications, as well as businesses, are increasingly managed online, from news and views, to campaigns, and lobbying. The popularity of our website and weekly e-newsletter are enhanced by our social media presence and our e-campaigns, which have already caught the eye of opinion formers and have had notable successes including on lead shot and



hunting. The campaigns team now boasts a digital manager who is able to advise us on how best to inspire our supporters to log-on, not to just to hear our views on rural issues of the day, but also to take action for the countryside when necessary.

"THIS APPOINTMENT IS A HUGE HONOUR, BUT MOST OF ALL A HUGE RESPONSIBILITY."
TIM BONNER

Discover more about the Countryside Alliance and its work at www.countryside-alliance.org. You can join 110,000 others and sign-up to our weekly e-newsletter via our website. Follow us on Twitter @CAupdates and find us on Facebook and Instagram.



THE BLACKFACE MEAT COMPANY






Fresh Scottish Beef, Lamb, Mutton, Venison & Game delivered fresh to your door.

Get 10% off your order, quote "Countryside Alliance 15"

www.blackface.co.uk Tel: 01387 730326

The Blackface Meat Company, Crochmore House, Irongray, Dumfries, Scotland DG2 9SF

From your Armas to your Zoli

Currently there are
20,000+ guns for sale on the
guntrader.co.uk website

It is a vast choice of makes,
models and calibres and the
numbers are being added to
all the time.

KEEP PREDATORS OUT

- Fox Busting Netting Kits
- Poultry Netting Kits
- Protection from Badgers & Rabbits
- Garden and Pond Protection
- Bowling Green and Sports Field Protection



KEEP ANIMALS IN

- Horse Kits - Permanent & Temporary
- Poultry Netting
- Pig Systems
- Dog & Cat Containment Systems
- Cattle Fencing
- Sheep Three Reel Systems



CALL 01620 860 058

info@electricfencing.co.uk
www.electricfencing.co.uk



The Electric Fencing Specialists

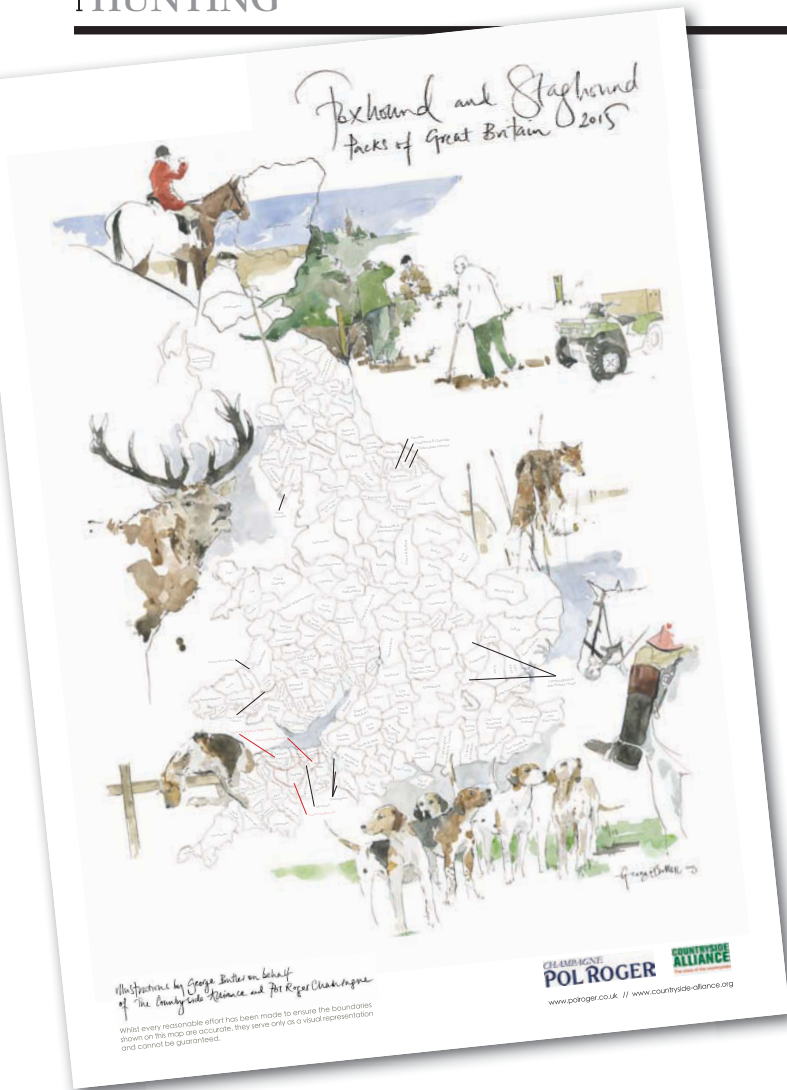


The place to buy and sell shotguns and rifles

Hunting's heritage mapped out

→ A new hunt country map by George Butler has updated a collectable favourite.

JILL GRIEVE traces the history of mapping hunt countries.



There is something evocative and arguably even tribal about sporting art. Whether the colour, motion, characters and humour depicted by Snaffles, a humorous rendering of an out-of-control Jorrocks from a Surtees or a modern piece such as huge canvas of a hound by Tania Still, the unifying theme is that sporting art stirs the blood. Hunt country maps also take their place as an important part of sporting art's history, often being that vital piece that makes it onto the wall of the smallest room. The allure of the hunt country map has certainly spilled into the digital age, as early demand for our new map by George Butler has proved.

When I unearthed a dusty 1992 edition hunt country map from a cupboard in the Countryside Alliance's Kennington headquarters in early 2015, I put a photograph of it on Facebook and asked our supporters what they thought. Thousands of people from around the world responded with the level of glee usually reserved for memories of our marches and rallies, asking where they could get one. We hope to reproduce those

1992 maps, but felt a new one was needed both to satisfy the demand and to update the amalgamations and changes that have taken place since then.

The new map depicts stag and foxhound packs and has been created by talented young artist George Butler in association with Pol Roger Champagne. George considers himself fortunate to have grown up in the British countryside, but his work has more recently taken him into war zones, chronicling the conflicts in parts of the Middle East. George says: "For me, drawing in different parts of the world is about describing different people, who they are and where they are from – at their most vulnerable or at home. It's about recording a part of the story which is ordinarily overlooked for an audience, and using drawing as the unthreatening process for that. The countryside is no different in that sense, a majority of the land lived on by a minority of the people, farming customs, traditional customs and unpopular customs for some but nonetheless people – kind, honest and open people.

"I like the challenge of putting a map together like this on one page, the key is

to not do too much. But the typical characters are my favourites. I think maps are a wonderful way of understanding a concept, they are something people can relate to and by definition can depict areas personal to different people. I hope the illustrations do them justice too."

George's work displays some powerful and evocative scenes, meaning his rendering of fox, hound, stag, horse and huntsman have the style and dynamism needed for the latest addition to the BFSS/ Countryside Alliance collection. Indeed, Robin Hanbury-Tenison, founding Chief Executive of the Countryside Alliance, has

"...A MAJORITY OF THE LAND LIVED ON BY A MINORITY OF THE PEOPLE, FARMING CUSTOMS, TRADITIONAL CUSTOMS AND UNPOPULAR CUSTOMS FOR SOME BUT NONETHELESS PEOPLE – KIND, HONEST AND OPEN PEOPLE." GEORGE BUTLER

said of George's work: "George Butler's extraordinarily sensitive pictures of life in all its forms tell us more about the world than most photography can."

Looking into the history of the hunt map, the 1850 Hobson's Fox Hunting Atlas was created based on the engravings of John and Charles Walker who were publishers of several atlases. In 1837 they had produced 42 English county maps upon which the atlas is based. Hobson's Fox Hunting Atlas was created using the Walkers' lithographic plates of each county, and features relevant to fox-hunting were added, including hunt country and the locations of meets. When Hobson retired, Walker's Fox Hunting Atlas took over in the late Victorian era.

The British Field Sports Society produced a series of small-scale hunting and fishing maps in the 1930s, alongside the range of recruitment posters we now call our Heritage collection. The maps have long since disappeared but the poster collection is still available to buy from our website. The poster range charts the various threats to hunting over the decades and encourages sportsmen and women to unite for their sports, as well as encouraging an "everyone is welcome" attitude that is still reflected in events such as Boxing Day meets and Hunting Newcomers' Week.

The hunt country maps most familiar to many of us come from Baily's Hunting Directory, aka The Hunting Man's Red Backed Bible of the Chase, founded in 1897 and quickly becoming as indispensable as Baedeker and Who's Who. The advent of Baily's and its maps was very of its time with maps being published by individual country to assist sportsmen. Railway travel had opened Britain up as never before and there began the trend for sporting tourism, which is still alive and thriving now. Sportsmen were keen to travel widely to experience different hunt countries, and could look to the

"THE BRITISH FIELD SPORTS SOCIETY PRODUCED A SERIES OF SMALL-SCALE HUNTING AND FISHING MAPS IN THE 1930S, ALONGSIDE THE RANGE OF RECRUITMENT POSTERS WE NOW CALL OUR HERITAGE COLLECTION."

directory and its maps for information about country, staff, how to get to meets and the minutes of the MFHA AGM. Baily's Hunting Directory was first compiled by Mr Cuming, who confessed himself "indebted to The Field, whose records have materially assisted me." Joined-up maps of Britain came much later. Former Countryside Alliance Executive Chairman Sir Barney White-Spunner was for many years Editor of Baily's and recalls, "in the older directories there was a fold-out map at the back of the directory. At first they were printed into a gatefold at the back and then became loose leaf maps inserted into the directory with the purpose of being taken out and displayed. I have always loved maps of all descriptions and I used to have an original BFSS map on which I would shade in all the packs with whom I had hunted. I think many others do the same and so a hunting map is something akin to a game book, you can record your sporting memories for all time."

Michael Clayton, who was a hunting correspondent for over 40 years, writing first for The Field, and later for Horse and Hound as Editor, writing "Foxford's Hunting Diary", is enthusiastic, saying: "Hunt country maps are a wonderful part of our heritage,

emphasising just how much foxhunting in particular helped to shape the British countryside, mainly through the planting and maintenance of coverts.

"Here in Leicestershire, and Rutland where I live, the judicious siting of coverts still dominates the landscape. All these are well recorded in hunt maps, and wherever possible I used these in describing runs I enjoyed with well over 200 packs throughout the British Isles. Ordnance Survey maps are useful, but of course they don't indicate hunt boundaries, a vital piece of information, whether you are a hunt follower – or a scribe trying to report whether hounds did in fact hunt into a neighbouring country. Like so much else associated with hunting, hunt maps made a valuable contribution to our enjoyment and knowledge of our greatest heritage: the British countryside, now being eroded all too fast by bricks and mortar, new roads, and high speed railway projects – plus the march of wheat and oilseed rape over former lovely old turf. I still look at my hunt maps today as invaluable guides to the countryside I knew."

We no longer see the loose-leaf hunt country maps from Baily's, and so the Countryside Alliance decided to step in to commission and publish a new map, both to meet popular demand and to update hunting Britain in 2015. The new map from George Butler has a place in hunting's story – it is the first major piece of art created under the Hunting Act and it offers a modern twist on a traditional favourite, while still fitting in alongside more vintage offerings. Whether you want your Butler map for the smallest room in the house or beautifully framed in a more prominent position, please do buy one, whether a numbered and signed one or a simple poster. Your map will not only enhance your home and continue over 150 years of art history, it will remind you of days spent in the field and, most importantly, the days yet to come.

George's website is www.georgebutler.org and you can follow him on Twitter @george_butler

This article was first published in *The Field* and is reproduced with their kind permission. ●

The new hunt country map is available online now. Numbered and signed copies are priced at £70 (limited to 100) while ordinary maps are priced at £50. www.countryside-alliance.org



Park Hill Farm – lessons will be taken outside today

→ Shropshire-based Park Hill Farm won the Countryside Alliance Award for Enterprise in 2011 and earlier this year took the Champion of Champions title in the 10th anniversary awards, easing ahead of other innovative businesses from around the UK. **JILL GRIEVE** finds out why this farm pulled in the popular vote.

Park Hill Farm in the beautiful countryside of the Staffordshire/Shropshire border has been in the Darlington/Pimlott family since 1955. Its grassland nestles against a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) woodland and current owners Pat and John Pimlott use this setting to run not just a working farm rearing exceptional native breed meat, but also as an educational centre for all ages to learn about food and farming in a fun and dynamic way. The farm is accredited with the Sensory Trust, meaning farmers John and Pat can use the sounds, smells and sights of the farm as an educational resource.

As our former Chairman Kate Hoey MP said when Park Hill first won in 2011: “This worthy enterprise champion is so, so much more than a farm. Regular free-of-charge open days concentrate on reconnecting the next generation with where food comes from and how farming works in an accessible way.”

The Pimlotts run 25 free school days each year, which form the bulk of the 40 schools days held annually, something the family started to do in 2008. Usually, Pat will take a group of 15, as will John, and each will tour the farm pointing out the sights and inviting questions before meeting at the end. With each day rounded off by a barbecue, Pat says the tours are very popular and youngsters are in their element getting muddy and learning about where their food comes from. Kids, it can be said, are not squeamish, but welcome every detail about a farm animal’s life.

Visitors can meet the animals – first up in our case was Kenzie the friendly sheepdog, cows, pigs, sheep and the hilarious Kibby and Kevin, the Kune Kunes John rescued when their owner realised they weren’t micro pigs. Tractor and trailer rides are also on offer as is pond dipping.



“THE FARM IS ACCREDITED WITH THE SENSORY TRUST MEANING FARMERS JOHN AND PAT CAN USE THE SOUNDS, SMELLS AND SIGHTS OF THE FARM AS AN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE.”

When classes reach the pond, Pat asks them: “What do you think lives in my pond?” “Crocodiles!” say some, while others think sharks are lurking in the Shropshire waters. The truth, while safer, is rarely as exciting as the youngsters’ imaginations.

The tours themselves encompass traditional school subjects, with maths (“How many cows can you see?” “How many months old is the lamb that was born in March?” “How big was the bale we measured?”) alongside sensory questions such as “What did the pig feel like?” and general knowledge picked up on the walk including “What is a baby duck called?” A

Beatrix Potter Trail also yields its own quiz, and Pat and John ask broader questions including “Do you think farming helps the wildlife at Park Hill?”

There is a frustration, however, that forming bonds with local schools is entirely dependent on whether a teacher “gets it” and understands what they are trying to do. Teachers often move on quickly too meaning Pat and John have their work cut out keeping relationships with their local schools going. They must be doing something right, however, because when the 10th anniversary Countryside Alliance Awards opened to





“PAT ASKS CLASSES, “WHAT DO YOU THINK LIVES IN MY POND?” “CROCODILES!”

times, selling our own free range beef, pork, gammon, sausage and bacon on farmers markets, at agricultural shows and events. We also cook up hot beef, home-made sausages, burgers and bacon baps at special events – fairs, open days, weddings, 21sts, etc.”

The produce is so popular (“If we had cows with 20 ribs that would be great, the rib eyes are a best seller”) that a local box scheme has just been launched. While readers from outside of Shropshire may like to join the box scheme, the parameters are strict – Pat and John do the deliveries themselves, and will only deliver

up to a 20-mile radius of the farm. Pat and John have also used their marketing nous to cater with flexibility, operating a credit system on the food boxes so people can mix and match their favourite cuts up to the value of the box. With the current craze for high protein diets, the Pimlotts are marketing their lovingly reared, high welfare meats to appeal to those who are not just body conscious but ethics conscious too.

If you could bottle and share the enthusiasm, knowledge and commitment shown by the Pimlott family towards farming’s future, it would be the best of ideas. Here are farmers who lead by example, don’t want to grow beyond the business size they are running now, and essentially just want to share their love of farming with others. ●

public nomination last Autumn, batches of nominations wrapped in elastic bands came pouring in from schools and clubs in the area, with strident demands that Pat and John win first prize because of the wonderful time they had at Park Hill.

When I visited Park Hill in July, a French student had just gone home having been on the farm for a few months carrying out work experience. Other local youngsters come to help out too, often not wanting to move on to any other sort of placement.

Pat and John are extremely welcoming both with placements and tours, and those with special educational needs often blossom under their guiding hand.

One nomination for Park Hill declared that the team “reaches out to us townies” and it is to the Pimlott family’s immense credit that they have put their hearts and souls into promoting farming in an inclusive, open way. Questions are encouraged, no matter how basic or seemingly silly.

The quality of the produce certainly helps the process of reaching out to the general public. Where John’s dad was a dairy farmer, now Pat and John sell only meat born and bred at Park Hill and it is incredibly popular. Alongside the total traceability, the traditional rearing approach eschews chemicals, and meat from the Hereford or South Devon cross breeds is hung for 21 days to ensure great marbling and therefore great taste. As Pat says, “We are staying true to our traditions and have also moved with the



For more information visit
www.parkhillfarm.co.uk
Email beef@parkhillfarm.co.uk
Park Hill Farm, Hales, Market Drayton,
Shropshire. TF9 2QA. Tel 07966
460312. Follow on Twitter @ppimlott



Photos: www.kirossphotography.co.uk



The Hunting Stock Market

For all your hunting needs and wishes....



www.huntingstockmarket.co.uk

First choice for quality hunting stocks (ties), hunting shirts, gloves, breeches, coats, waistcoats, hats and hat repairs, saddlery, whips, gifts and accessories.....

E-mail enquiries@huntingstockmarket.co.uk
Tel 01258 817533 Fax 01258 817137

**Push. Click.
It's that quick.**

EasySet Mole Trap

Revolutionary EasySet Mole Trap.
£17.50 each

Mole Catchers Kit

Everything you need
for only £95.00

Accessories also available separately.

www.beagleproducts.com
or call us on 01223 927216

Endorsed by
Master Mole
Catchers in
the UK



DRIVEWAY INTRUDER ALARM

0814



A wired Beam Type Infra-red device.
An alarm to give security and knowledge.
An automatic door buzzer for your
gateway. External silent and noisy
options.

New Radio Paging option

Not to be confused with passive infra-red systems

Not
All Visitors
Are welcome

Fit a Driveway Intruder alarm

www.drivewayalarm.co.uk

Email: sales@drivewayalarm.co.uk

Tel: 01233 634191

Sutcliffe Electronics, 15 West St Hothfield, Ashford, Kent. TN26 1ET

TUFFIES.CO.UK

The **NEW, RAISED** bed from Tuffies. Your dog will be 15cm off the floor, 20cm high sides for draught exclusion. Buy with or without liner or cushion. The real Doggy Arm Chair for house, kennel or garden patio.

T: 01888 563288





Daring and elegance: The Side Saddle Association

→ **SALLY LANE**, Hon. General Secretary of The Side Saddle Association, explains why the Association remains the leader in the art of side saddle riding in the UK and worldwide.

Horses have been ridden side saddle for centuries, as the side saddle was, for a long time, considered the only way for a lady to proceed 'properly' on horseback. The 1930s were its heyday, with the emphasis as much on elegance and style as on technique, horsemanship and courage. Ladies were not alone in practising the art as grooms rode side saddle to train and keep their ladies' horses fit.

The 1939-45 War meant shortages and the emergence of a less affluent society. Many who might have inherited side saddles and habits from previous generations now chose to ride astride. However, riders and spectators began to miss the beauty and elegance which side saddle riders had contributed to the pre-War equestrian scene. Conscious that the side saddle rider was becoming extinct, in 1974 Valerie Francis and Janet Macdonald formed the Ladies' Side Saddle Association (now known as the Side Saddle Association) to recapture and preserve the traditions of the earlier years, when riding side saddle was in its heyday and daring and elegance its chief characteristics.

THE SIDE SADDLE ASSOCIATION TODAY

The Association is divided into areas in the UK which offer everyone the help they need and the opportunity to compete, attend clinics and learn the elegant art of side saddle. There is a structured exam system and registers of approved instructors and judges to ensure standards are maintained.



Sally Lane has been the Hon. General Secretary of the Side Saddle Association since August 2013. She has ridden all her life and enjoys hunting, team chasing and showing.

Contrary to popular belief, riding side saddle is as safe, if not safer, than riding astride. Most equestrian disciplines are open to side saddle riders and few horses fail to adapt to side saddle. Aspiring side saddle riders find the skills are different, but no harder to acquire. You will find that most breeds and types of horses and ponies are willing to carry a side saddle, but you are recommended to seek specialist advice from a qualified Side Saddle Association Instructor to get your horse or pony properly introduced to side saddle.

Seminars and training sessions are run throughout the year to enable our members to continually develop their skills, in order for them to take part in a wide range of disciplines including Hunting, Hunter Trials, Ridden Hunter Classes, Retraining of Racehorse Classes, Team Chasing, Equitation, Dressage, Showjumping, Quadrilles and demonstrations, to name a few of the activities our members participate in.

Janet Senior, Chairman of The Side Saddle Association, said: "Side saddle is a unique art and way of riding; it uplifts the rider, giving a feeling of grace and elegance and you feel connected to a bygone era which links the past to the future. Every side saddle rider I have ever worked with or met is drawn to that time and place when side saddle riding was in its prime. The Side Saddle Association is now run by the most passionate group of volunteers you could meet — they continue to follow in the founders' footsteps and they are determined to protect our heritage, dedicated to



"SIDE SADDLE WAS, FOR A LONG TIME, CONSIDERED THE ONLY WAY FOR A LADY TO PROCEED 'PROPERLY' ON HORSEBACK."

building and developing side saddle riding for all".

Many Side Saddle Association members hunt and are enthusiastic supporters of the countryside and related pursuits. The season commences with a gathering at the Quorn Opening Meet, organised by Emma Brown, from Seagrave in Leicestershire. Emma is an avid side saddle rider and is fearless riding aside across country, both hunting and team chasing. Emma was instrumental in starting the side saddle meet trend and the Quorn Hunt was proud to promote side saddle elegance for the fourth time in 2014 at the opening meet in October. The Quorn regularly gets sideways riders out, including Emma, on a Monday and Friday. Boxing Day meets are favoured for ladies to attend sideways and are increasing in popularity.

The Quorn has achieved 46 ladies riding sideways all at one time. Ladies came from all over the country and abroad and the sight was incredible. Last year 19 ladies attended the Opening Meet including some for their first time ever hunting. The majority of the hunts can accommodate jumping and non-jumping routes so the ladies can decide what they wish to do, however most (after a little stirrup cup) go jumping and build their confidence.

Emma Brown said: "I'm proud to keep this passionate way of riding popular and our presence within the hunting

FEATURE SIDE SADDLE

field creates an exceptional opportunity for photos, hunting features and talking points for the ladies on their days out as well as the hunt followers and members of the public.”

To celebrate the increase in the number of members hunting side saddle, the Side Saddle Association is introducing a SSA Hunting Button for the forthcoming season onwards. The button, designed as a bottom button for a waistcoat and sponsored by Emma Brown, will be awarded at the Association’s AGM to those members who meet the required criteria.

Many hunts are now hosting side saddle meets and last season this included the Atherstone, Bicester with Whaddon Chase, Cheshire Forest, Dunston Harriers, Farmers Bloodhounds, Grafton, Pytchley, Quorn and Waveney Harriers.

Side Saddle Association members who regularly hunt aside include Emma Brown, Amy Bryan Dowell, Laura Elliot, Lucy Burton, Lucy Holland, and Lydia Robinson. Additionally there is much enthusiasm amongst our Welsh members.

Trish Daly hunts every week side saddle with the Cwrt-y-Cadno Farmers Hunt, crossing challenging terrain with mountains and forestry. Trish has hunted side saddle for four seasons and regularly visits other packs including the Quorn, Pembrokeshire, Tivyside, Llandeilo Farmers plus, in Ireland, Ballymacad and the legendary Meath Hunt. Sue Davies (nee Yeoman) regularly hunts with the Llangeinor Hunt (based in Bridgend) and the Mid Glamorgan. Rhianwen Rosser has ridden out side saddle with the Banwen Miners Hunt since she was a child and is planning this season



to ride side saddle at the opening meet of the Glamorgan Hunt from Fronmon Castle. She will also be out with the Ross Harriers, Carmarthenshire, Vale of Clettwr and Banwen with days planned with the Radnorshire and Golden Valley. Helen Thomas hunts regularly with the Tivyside who have hosted a side saddle meet for the past two seasons and also with the Pembrokeshire. She also visited the Quorn for their side saddle meet last season.

Maureen James, President of The Side Saddle Association said: “Having been a member of the Side Saddle Association since the very early days, the last 40 years have seen the revival of the art come on in leaps and bounds, particularly where the standard of side saddle riding and fitting of side saddles is concerned.

“However, the main concern in terms of sustainability and ongoing development lies in being able to provide those who wish to take up side saddle with suitable saddles. Most of our members ride on saddles dating back to the 1920s and 30s. With the help and encouragement of the Society of Master Saddlers, courses to teach saddlers in the art of side saddle making and repairing have proved invaluable, and several new side saddles have been made for the competition hosted by the Worshipful Company of Saddlers. We are fortunate that there are still a few Master Saddlers from the era when side saddles were made in numbers who worked for the most famous makers such as Champion & Wilton, Owen and Mayhew & Company. They now impart their knowledge to a younger generation. The Association also does its best to host seminars for saddlers as well. Unfortunately it takes many more man hours to make a side saddle compared to an astride saddle.

Maureen continues: “To me it is important to preserve this way of riding, not only for historical reasons, but many women find that it is easier to ride side saddle than astride as you are so much stronger in your seat, and lighter with your hands. Indeed, the reason I took up riding side saddle was because I had a horse that was too strong for me in the 1960s and it was suggested that rather than sell a good horse I should try a side saddle on her. She was unable to use her strength against me when ridden side saddle and I had 11 seasons hunting without a stop or a fall on her. To me there is nothing so elegant as the sight of a correctly turned out side saddle rider on a good looking horse.”

Last year the SSA celebrated its 40th Anniversary and is proud of its achievements in ensuring that the elegant art of side saddle has been sustained and developed into the 21st century.

Jane Holderness-Roddam, CBE LVO, Patron of The Side Saddle Association said: “I have ridden side saddle since I was a child and it is great to see this form of riding becoming even more popular. There are more and more riders taking up this most elegant art and their skills are amazing, whether at shows, dressage, jumping and even cross country riding in many different forms. It is something that can be done by anyone at any age as I did from the age of three!” ●

To find out more please contact Sally Lane, the Hon General Secretary: Tel: 01455 208345, email: secretary@sidesaddleassociation.co.uk, website: www.sidesaddleassociation.co.uk

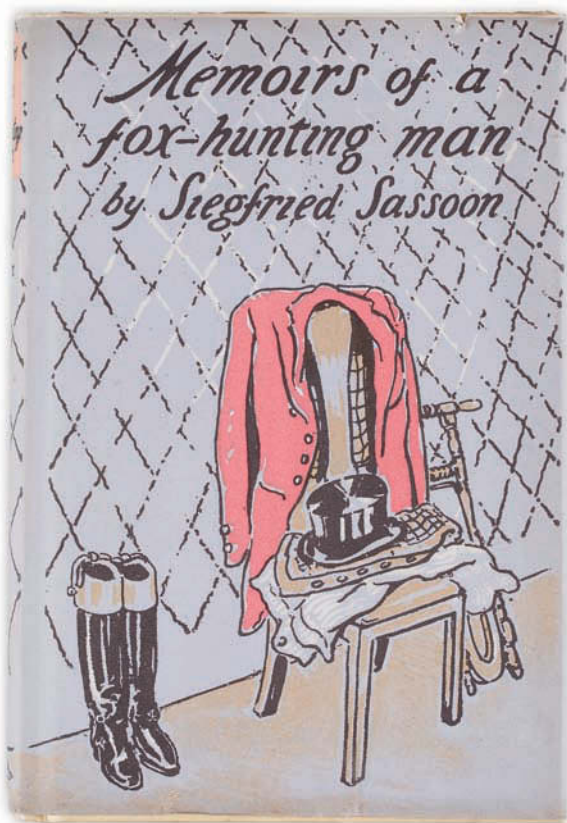


FORTNUM & MASON
EST 1707

fortnumandmason.com

Hampers, champers
and glorious gifts





THE SPORTING SALE

Wednesday 14 October at 11am

Viewing: 11 to 14 October

ENQUIRIES

0131 240 0916
henry.baggott@bonhams.com

Bonhams

22 Queen Street
Edinburgh EH2 1JX

SASSOON (SIEGFRIED)

The Memoirs of a Fox-hunting Man
SIGNED LIMITED EDITION
£800-1,200

Bonhams

bonhams.com/sportingart

Beautifully British.




TIMELESS
CHESTERFIELDS
by SAXON

Experts in the finest Chesterfield Sofas, lovingly hand crafted in our workshop.
Visit www.TimelessChesterfields.com or Call 01204 368413

Cheltenham Countryside Race Day: where AP will meet Carl and Charlotte



Photo: trevor-meeks-photography.co.uk for Horse & Hound

→ AP McCoy will be given a dressage lesson from Olympians Carl Hester and Charlotte Dujardin at the popular Countryside Day at Cheltenham this year.

CHARLOTTE COOPER finds out more.

Britain's undisputed champion jockey of all time, AP McCoy, may have changed codes from Flat to National Hunt racing very early on in his career, but no-one could have predicted the gargantuan leap from racing to dressage that the 41-year-old Irishman will make at the Cheltenham Countryside Race Day on 13 November.

AP will substitute his usual thoroughbred mounts for an 18hh warmblood, to take part in a crash course in high dressage with the Posh and Becks of equitation, London 2012 medallists and Rio 2015 hopefuls Charlotte Dujardin and Carl Hester.

This will be the first time AP has ever attempted "horse dancing", as he termed it, but don't be tempted to think the two Cs will let him start off small, with a bit of leg yielding and a few flying changes – AP will be on a very steep learning curve.

"I'm afraid we are going to throw him in at the deep end," said Carl. "We are going to have to entertain people for 15 minutes so he will be trying to do some very advanced moves. The horses are very well trained. As long as you put your legs in the right place



Photo: Kit Houghton

they will do something... exactly what that will be remains to be seen!

"I don't know AP well but obviously, like everyone else, I have been watching his career for years. He is an incredible athlete and I think he will be amazingly good. When you watch him ride it is very obvious that he knows how to balance a horse. We will need him to do it at high collection rather than full speed, but he should be able to transfer that skill to the arena. It will be interesting though to see how he gets on going really, really, slowly, in something like a canter pirouette or where the horse's feet are just marking time on the spot."

AP, however, is much less confident about his dressage diva potential. "I think it was (British equestrian team world class performance manager) Yogi Breisner who talked me into it," he said. "I've known Yogi for a long time and obviously it's for a good cause – the British Olympic team and the Countryside Alliance – so I agreed, but dressage is not something that I have had any great desire to do before.

"Dressage takes a lot of patience and I'm not overly patient. I like things to happen quickly. I don't think I have the talent, patience or skills for this. I just hope I will not embarrass myself too much. I can't dance myself, so I'm not rating my chances

of making a horse dance!"

But even if AP doesn't know what he's doing, his horse should do as Carl plans to bring a top class competition horse to Cheltenham – and it could even be one of his top rides.

He said: "I'm not sure yet which horse Tony will be riding but it will be an international Grand Prix horse. It all depends on which horses we have around in November. We will either borrow one from a friend or bring one of ours that isn't on its holidays.

"How it will work is: Charlotte will ride the horse for five minutes and I will commentate on that and explain that this is what it should look like. Then Charlotte will give AP the lesson with me telling everyone what's going on. I think that would be best as everyone has heard me yapping on quite enough and it means that

"THE LAST TIME I HAD A REAL GALLOP WAS THE COUNTRYSIDE RACE DAY BEFORE THE LONDON OLYMPICS. WE WERE ALL GIVEN HUNT HORSES AND WE GALLOPED UP THE STRIP AND BACK AGAIN." CARL HESTER



we all get involved."

So if AP's willing to give dressage a go, has Carl ever thought of riding in a race? "I very nearly did," he said. "(British Olympic eventer) Tina Cook asked me to take part in a charity race a few years ago and I said yes and was quite looking forward to it, but in the end I thought, blow that! Actually, the last time I had a real gallop was the Countryside Race Day before the London Olympics. We were all given hunt horses and we galloped up the strip and back again. So I can say that I have galloped up to the finish line at Cheltenham - albeit on a horse that was thudding away into the floor!"

His dressage lesson aside, AP is looking forward to his visit to Cheltenham. "As a racecourse, Cheltenham is very different from everywhere else," he said. "The setting makes it very special but the racing is what makes it exceptional. The Grand National may be the most famous race but the Gold Cup is the absolute pinnacle of our sport. It's the one I always wanted to win" (and did in 1997 on Mr Mulligan and again in 2012 on Synchronised).

And now that McCoy has retired from the racecourse, dressage is not the only horse sport he'll have time for.

He said: "I've not hunted for a long time because I was too frightened for my safety, but I've a lot less to be worried about this season. I hope to have a few days out if time allows. Marcus Armytage (former jockey and racing journalist) is very much involved in hunting these days, so I think I'll see if he will take me along with him at the Old Berks."

And both Carl and Charlotte are looking

"I JUST HOPE I WILL NOT EMBARRASS MYSELF TOO MUCH. I CAN'T DANCE MYSELF SO I'M NOT RATING MY CHANCES OF MAKING A HORSE DANCE!" AP MCCOY

forward to a time when they and their horses can get out into the hunting field. When I asked Carl if his and Charlotte's



2012 Olympic rides, Valegro and Uthopia, would enjoy going hunting, his answer was "God, yeah!"

"We are not precious about the horses," he added. "I used to event and I really enjoyed that time, and Charlotte did working hunter classes, so we are happy to take them up into the hills and let them have a canter. Both Uthopia and Valegro can jump. Uthopia is a graded sport horse stallion

so he had to pass the jumping part of the grading, and Valegro is also jumping-bred. I think we will do something fun with them once they have stopped working and I would not count a day's hunting out.

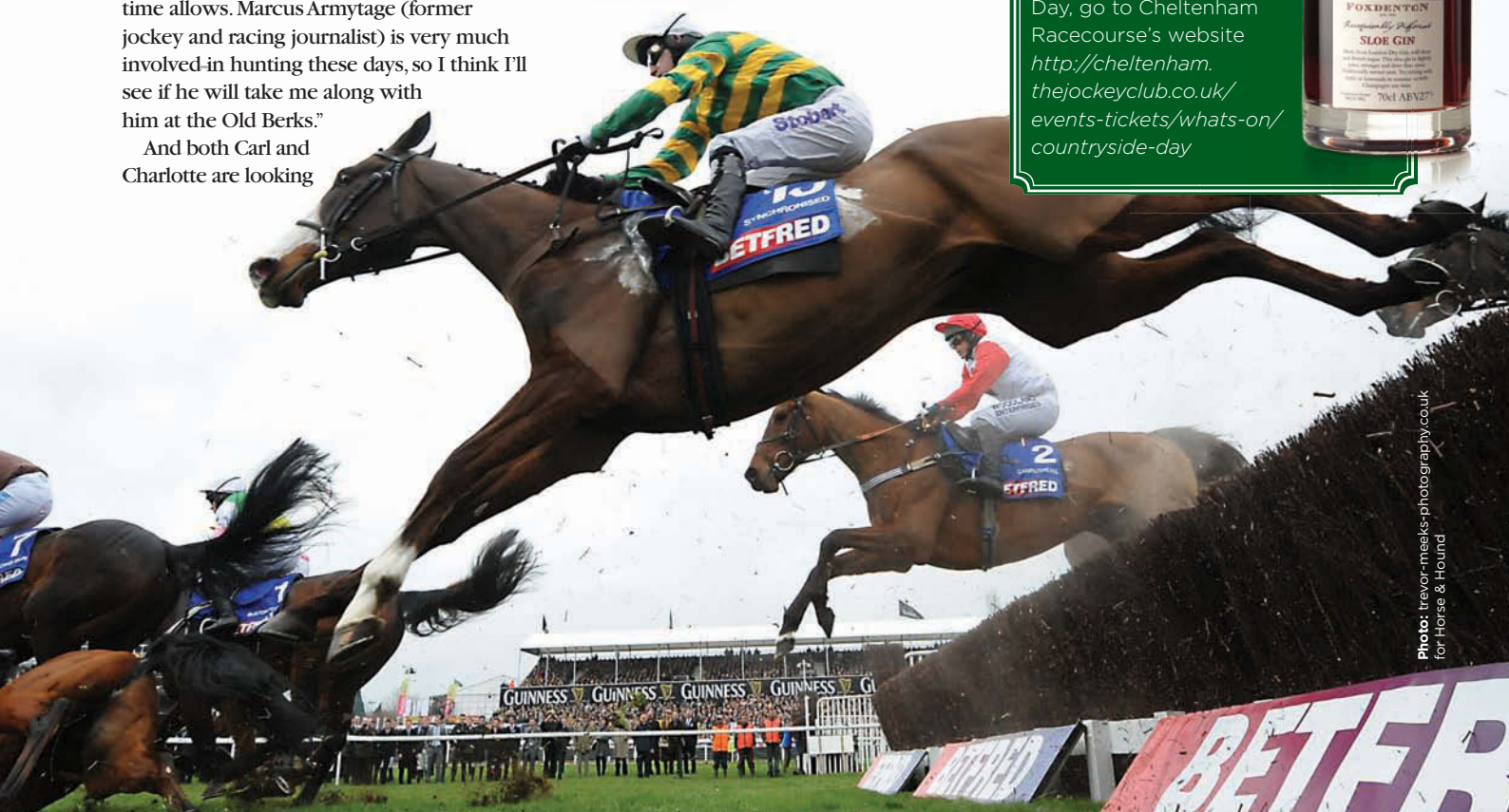
"But it has been a while since I last went hunting. It was about 25 years ago when I was eventing and based at Bourton-on-the-Hill in Gloucestershire. We used to go out with the North Cotswold and the Heythrop. It was great fun, and that stays with you." ●

Top-class racing, Christmas shopping, hunt parades and music from the Chip Shop Boys are all part of the fun at the Cheltenham Countryside Day on Friday, 13 November, in aid of the Countryside Alliance and Equestrian Team GBR. Part of the Open Meeting, the Countryside Day could be said to mark the start proper of the jumps season.

In addition to AP's dressage lesson with Carl and Charlotte, local hunts will parade on the course after the second race, and there will be six high-quality races. The feature event will be, as ever, the Glenfarclas Cross Country Chase.

Foxdenton Gin is supplying 16 bottles of its sloe gin - sized from a mini bottle to a Goliath (a gallon) - for the draw. And even if you are not lucky enough to win you can ensure your hip flask is well topped up this season as they will have a stand in the Food Hall during the Open Meeting.

The annual Morgan raffle will also take place at Cheltenham, with one lucky ticket buyer winning a classic car worth £32,000 - built to their own specifications. Tickets are still available from the Countryside Alliance website. For tickets to the Countryside Day, go to Cheltenham Racecourse's website <http://cheltenham.thejockeyclub.co.uk/events-tickets/whats-on/countryside-day>



What now for airgun owners in Scotland?

➔ In light of the recently passed Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act, Director of the Scottish Countryside Alliance **JAMIE STEWART** assesses where we stand now. A fuller Q&A is online.



Photo: Paul Doyle/Alamy

The Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill was passed on 25 June 2015 by 92 votes to 17, and by the time of reading should have Royal Assent. The Bill was passed after a complex and muddled debate which jumped between scrap metal, alcohol licensing, taxi and private car hire and sexual entertainment venues. Only 12 of 129 MSPs refused to endorse the Bill as it stood, but those MSPs who backed the Bill did so even after describing it as “far from ideal”.

We worked hard with our colleagues at BASC Scotland and members of the Scottish Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties to submit numerous amendments to the air weapons sections, but to no avail. Scottish Justice Secretary Michael Matheson commented earlier this year: “We have a long standing commitment to reducing gun crime, and the licensing of air weapons has been central to that aim. It featured in our manifesto in 2007 and 2011, and the powers to regulate on air weapons were finally devolved to this Parliament in the Scotland Act of 2012. We have acted on this new power, consulting widely with experts and the public. Our proposals have not always been universally welcomed but we believe they strike the right balance between respecting the interests of those people who shoot legitimately for work, sport, pest control or leisure, and the need to ensure that those who misuse guns do not have access to them.”

For our part, the Scottish Countryside Alliance is saddened and frustrated by the passing of the Bill. We have consistently made the case that responsible firearms

holders are safe and that crimes involving air weapons were on a steep decline. We feel that the sensible majority is being punished for the illegal actions carried out by the criminal fraternity.

Offences involving air weapons have fallen by 75 per cent in recent years. This reduction has been attributed to education by Scottish Government and shooting organisations and enforcement of existing legislation by Police Scotland. Ironically and a little worrying, Police Scotland intends to slash the number of firearms licensing officers from 34 to 14 at a time when a new licence regime for airgun licensing will likely place an increased pressure on a service already overstretched since Scottish forces merged in 2012. This will surely have a negative impact on the grants and renewals of section firearms and shotgun certificates, placing law abiding firearms holders at risk of breaking the law.

There will now be a lead-in period and public information campaign before the full regime comes into force, so that those with airguns or planning to purchase or use airguns in Scotland are aware of their new obligations. There is no need to apply for an airgun certificate at this time. If you have an unwanted airgun that you would like to get rid of then you should contact your local Police Scotland firearms licensing department for advice: www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/finance/service-fees-and-charges/firearms/. ●



Photo: Ferenc Ungor/Alamy

Frequently asked questions:

I live in Scotland and already have a shotgun certificate/firearms certificate. Under the proposed rules, would I be expected to apply for a licence to own an airgun?

Yes. The intention is that those with an existing shotgun/firearms certificate will need to apply for an airgun licence when their existing certificate expires. When renewing an existing shotgun or firearms certificate, an applicant would inform Police Scotland through the application process that they also wish to apply for an airgun licence.

Will the proposed licence change how and where an airgun could be used?

The ‘good reason’ test required under the proposed airgun licence will determine what and where an airgun could be used. For instance, pest control will be recognised as a ‘good reason’ for having an airgun licence, as will target shooting. However, the Scottish Government have expressed their concern about “plinking” (the term used for the practice of target shooting within gardens or other urban or highly populated settings). Scottish Ministers do not believe that target shooting in such an environment should generally be acceptable unless the applicant can satisfy the Chief Constable as to the safety and other arrangements in place to ensure that shooting can be carried out without risk to the public.”

What would the penalty be under the new licensing regime for possessing an air weapon without a licence?

Under the proposed legislation anyone guilty of the above could face imprisonment for up to two years, or a fine, or both.



Jamie Stewart has been Director of the Scottish Countryside Alliance since 2012. A key part of his role is lobbying the Scottish Government and working alongside rural stakeholders.

Think Silky!
when you want Quality and Innovation

Silky Fox Handsaws
www.silkyfox.co.uk • 01981 590224
Visit silkyfox.co.uk to find your local stockist

Lejeune
CAR MASCOTS

LOUIS LEJEUNE LTD.
01353 740444 www.louislejeune.com

GAME FEEDING EQUIPMENT
... THE KEEPERS FRIEND

Fred with Chudleigh

With over 40 years experience in game keeping, ring & speak with Fred today.

Looking for game feeding equipment?

- Automatic feeders & timers
- Lamps & battery supplies
- Remote camera systems
- Fox traps & vermin controls
- Drums for food & water

View online shop now!

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable season

FREE DELIVERY on all automatic feeders & cameras **Quote CA1** when ordering!

Tel: 01403 822471
Email: info@game-keepers.co.uk
Web: www.game-keepers.co.uk

Game Feeding Equipment is a trading division of
RUDGWICK METALS LTD
Rudgwick, West Sussex

PETER CHRISTIAN
Gentlemen's Outfitters

SPECIAL OFFER TO READERS
COUNTY WEIGHT
CORDUROY TROUSERS

ONLY
£50
or 2 for £90
+ £5 P&P

Waist: 32 34 36 38 40
42 44 46 48 50
52 54 56
Leg: 27 29 31 33
Code: MT08

Cotton Corduroy Trousers, beautifully made in the finest quality thick corduroy. Warm, smart and hard wearing - woven in 8 wale, deep pile cotton corduroy to retain their colour and shape wash after wash.

- 100% Cotton corduroy
- Pleated front
- French bearer fly
- Expanding comfort waistband
- Free returns service and money back guarantee

ORDER NOW QUOTE 19W38
01273 493 393 *Mon-Sun 8am-10pm*
peterchristian.co.uk/caw

A Division of Hills of Bramley Ltd Co Reg No 04767802

The Facts of Rural Life

→ CHARLIE PYE-SMITH introduces an important new book that is available now.



Photo: David White

Last year, the Veterinary Association for Wildlife Management (VAWM) asked me to write a book which would address a number of concerns about the management of the countryside. These included the loss, or potential loss, of many vulnerable species; the consequences of ill-thought through legislation; the failure to recognise, or even understand, the need to proactively manage certain species; and the simplistic vision of the countryside frequently portrayed on television and in the popular press. The result is *The Facts of Rural Life: Why we need better wildlife management*.

There is scarcely an acre of Britain which is truly wild. Farming, forestry, hunting and urbanisation have all had a profound effect on our flora and fauna. Most of our apex predators, including wolf and bear, have been lost, and as a result medium-sized predators like foxes and badgers, as well as several large herbivores, now have few or no natural enemies. "We live in an artificial world of our own creation," says Prof Nick Sotherton, director of research at the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT). "We are now in the position of the apex predators, and we need to make decisions about which species to control, and where and when to intervene."

Based on extensive field research, *The Facts of Rural Life* draws on the experience of farmers, gamekeepers, huntsmen, conservationists, vets, scientists and others involved in researching and managing wildlife populations. It has separate chapters on managing deer, foxes, badgers and alien species. It also investigates the controversial clash between grouse shooting and hen harriers, and the benefits of good



Photo: David White

"THERE IS SCARCELY AN ACRE OF BRITAIN WHICH IS TRULY WILD. FARMING, FORESTRY, HUNTING AND URBANISATION HAVE ALL HAD A PROFOUND EFFECT ON OUR FLORA AND FAUNA."

predator control on shooting estates for a wide range of species.

If there is just one message to come out of the book, I hope it is this: that decisions about wildlife management – whether they are to do with controlling badgers or wild boar, foxes or grey squirrel – should be based on good science and hard evidence. Wherever possible, I have drawn on scientific research by organisations like the GWCT. Guardian columnist George Monbiot recently described the GWCT as a "greenwashing" agency for the shooting industry. This is nonsense. True, shooters provide much of its funding, but the GWCT research which I have used as evidence has been published in peer-reviewed journals. This is what makes it credible.

To give just one example, the GWCT undertook an eight-year experiment on the moorlands in Northumberland which looked at the impact of predator removal. This found that the breeding success of grouse, meadow pipit and wading birds such as golden plover, lapwing and curlew was three times higher when foxes and crows were removed than when they were not subject to any form of control. This is a good example of scientific research which illustrates the importance of good wildlife management, which in this case involves predator control.

Wildlife management encompasses a wide range of activities. It might involve

culling foxes so partridges, lapwings and other species thrive; or shooting deer where they are damaging crops and young woodlands; or exterminating alien predators which threaten native wildlife. A whole suite of non-lethal practices also fall under the heading of wildlife management – these are not the subject of the book – but we need to accept that the effective management of wildlife often means culling certain species in order that other, often much rarer species can thrive. Unfortunately, effective management is sometimes thwarted by inflexible legislation that prevents the control of certain species.

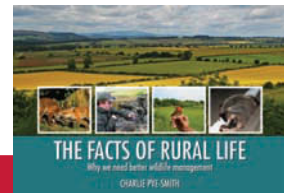
I hope readers will find the book entertaining as well as enlightening. It is full of human interest stories, and it will take you on a journey through many of the loveliest parts of our countryside, from Exmoor to the Scottish Borders, the Sussex Downs to the Lake District, the Welsh Valleys to pastoral Hertfordshire.

The book, which is beautifully illustrated, was launched in June 2015 by Sir Nicholas Soames and Kate Hoey, two MPs who are widely respected for their knowledge of rural affairs and commitment to the countryside. This is what Sir Nicholas had to say: "I am wholly confident that the book will provide guidance for the Government, for opinion formers and above all that it will prove useful for conservationists, landholders and the poor, wretched practitioners who strive against the odds to improve or maintain biodiversity in our truly marvellous and much put-upon countryside." ●



Charlie Pye-Smith

is a journalist and author specialising in issues relating to agriculture and the environment. His love of countryside comes from a childhood spent exploring on the edge of a Yorkshire wool town.



The Facts of Rural Life is published by the Veterinary Association for Wildlife Management (VAWM). Copies can be obtained from Brian Fanshawe, Old School House, Ashley, Tetbury, Gloucestershire GL8 8SX (£10 per copy or £8 each for five copies or more).

Mackrell
Turner
Garrett

SOLICITORS FOR RURAL BUSINESSES AND LAND OWNERS

Mackrell Turner Garrett is a multi-award-winning, full service law firm, which has been based in London since 1846.

Despite our central location the firm has many years' experience working with rural businesses, land owners and farmers to ensure their legal needs are met. As a firm we offer a diverse range of personal and commercial services to a wide-range of clients.

Our commercial services for clients include:

- Commercial agreements
- Standard terms and conditions
- Supply contracts
- Succession planning and estate planning
- Company disputes
- Mediation and arbitration
- Employment law
- Property and land disputes
- Conveyancing
- Company and commercial law advice

We also provide full service advice for individuals and companies in areas ranging from Employment to Family, Property to Wills & Trusts and crime and regulatory disputes.

For further information contact us now on **00 44 (0) 20 7240 0521** or email nigel.rowley@mackrell.com

www.mackrell.com



Firelighting without Fuss

- NO Paper
- NO Matches
- NO Sticks
- NO Chemical Firelighters



The CLEAN, SIMPLE, EFFICIENT way to light a solid fuel fire - and it's exceptionally fast and economical too!

The award winning Grenadier electric firelighter is guaranteed to light all types of solid fuel.



Use it

- on the hearth
- with the barbecue
- with the garden incinerator

GRENADIER

Tel: 01829 741649

email: enquiries@grenadier.co.uk

www.grenadier.co.uk

INNOVATIVE SHOTGUNS MADE WITH PASSION IN ENGLAND



- 100% ENGLISH MADE (IN-HOUSE)
- BESPOKE 'TRUE' SIDELOCK FOR UNDER £20,000.00
- ASSISTED OPENING
- PATENTED BARREL TECHNOLOGY
- NEGLIGIBLE RECOIL & MUZZLE FLIP
- PROOFED FOR MAGNUM STEEL

WWW.LONGTHORNEGUNS.COM ADMIN@LONGTHORNEGUNS.COM
PH 01772 811215

State of the art heating

Our new Invincible® heater range boasts a unique solid clay core design, combined with precision temperature control and intelligent power management. This means you can keep your home at the perfect temperature (and could also make your heating bills look a lot prettier too).

The Invincible® range is made to order in the UK and can be built to an almost unlimited range of sizes, colours and finishes to suit your home. We will design and fit the entire system and can even connect it to green energy. **Cutting edge technology, working beautifully.**



For a **FREE** brochure call us on **0800 158 8270**
Questions? Call Suzanne on 0800 158 8272
www.sunflowltd.co.uk

SUNFLOW

Experts in electric heating,
 manufactured in Britain

Digital Add-on Night Vision Scope

Arrow is a small compact digital night vision scope designed and manufactured by Starlight Night Vision Ltd, it will be offered as a complete add on package that will fit existing rifle scopes. Arrow will be available in various levels of performance with the entry level capable of seeing fox sized targets clearly at 200 yds, higher performance detectors and boards can be fitted to extend this range. IR illuminators will be optional. Arrow will use your scopes magnification up to approx x16 as a maximum.

 **BRITISH**
 Manufacturer and Supplier
2 YEAR GUARANTEE



COMPACT

Small size, barely affects eye relief.



LONG BATTERY LIFE

Runs for 4 hours or more with rechargeable Li-Ion batteries.



EASY ADJUSTMENT

Screen brightness adjustment for instant control.



GREAT ACCURACY

Precision high contrast eyepiece.



WATER RESISTANT

Able to cope with the elements.



TOUGH

Made from impact resistant ABS.



EASY VIEWING

Specially designed eyepiece lenses.



SWITCHABLE

Can be used on multiple models of rifles.


£579.99

Arrow with Starfire IR

£699.99

Arrow with Dragonfly

Tel: **01942 884378 | 01942 876790**
 Web: www.starlightnv.co.uk
 Email: starlightnv@zen.co.uk

 Like us on Facebook
facebook.com/starlightnv.co.uk
 240 Elliott St., Tyldesley, Manchester England M29 8DS



Game market has nothing to grouse about

→ Our Game-to-Eat campaign's **JACK KNOTT** reports on the cheering results of his recent game dealer survey.



Bringing game off the moor at Whitfield, Northumberland.

Photo: Verity Johnson <http://verityjohnson.zenfolio.com/>

The wild game market is a mysterious place. Those who work there are experts in plucking, gutting and skinning, but until now have been novices in modernisation, promotion and publicity. We believe, however, that changes are afoot. Where once a game dealer might have been slightly wary of an email, we are now seeing an increasing number of fresh and informative new websites – with some even making the giant leap to Twitter and Instagram.

Self-promotion is contrary to the country way, where grit and hard work are the order of the day. Marketing via the internet using strong brands and characters has been an increasing occurrence of late though, with game outlets putting a massive effort in, bringing a modern twist to a traditional market and proudly promoting their wares. Changes in the law and online shops have enabled wild game to become accessible year round, meaning this is a year-round, seven-day-a-week market. With this new accessibility and visibility, the Countryside Alliance's Game-to-Eat campaign decided it was the right time to highlight the great work being done and increase our knowledge of the game dealer's world. Compared to other markets such as chicken, lamb, beef and pork we know wild game is a small one – but we still need to know all about it in order to promote it and continue its journey



Jack Knott has worked for the Countryside Alliance's Game-to-Eat campaign for the past two years. His love of wild game prompts impressive game cooking experiments which are much appreciated by his colleagues. Follow Jack on Twitter @GametoEat

"IT IS NICE TO SEE THAT GAME DEALERS ARE NOT ONLY MOVING FORWARD TECHNOLOGICALLY, BUT ALSO IMPROVING PROCESSING TECHNIQUES WITH A STEADY NUMBER INCREASING THE RANGE OF PRODUCTS THEY HAVE ON OFFER."

towards being an established part of the national menu. To have an idea of how the market is doing and where our game is heading will enable us to further increase its value and stature, and (hopefully) provide some useful positive publicity. For this reason we undertook the first ever Game Processors' Survey.

Over the summer of 2015, we distributed the survey and gathered responses from 45 game dealers in the UK on the amount of game they process and their personal views on the market and current trends. The results, we are pleased to announce, show general optimism throughout the market with growth and diversification resonating throughout the comments.

Some of the results give cause for encouragement. An average of 89% of responses showed business for every species increasing or staying the same, and with this game dealers have increased what they pay shoots for their quarry (an average of 91% have increased the amount or stayed the same), with stratospheric increases for pigeon, woodcock and squirrel, wildfowl and rabbit (average 98%).

Although there was general positivity surrounding the responses, a few targeted questions brought out responses which should make all shoot managers stop and think. A case in point is the reduced price paid for smaller breeds of pheasants, such as the American strains. Second is

the opportunity to get paid more if the shoot handles the game correctly. One game dealer reported that on average only one in ten oven-ready birds are truly high quality but if the game is handled correctly that can easily go up to two or three out of ten. This will produce more money for the game dealer which is then passed on to shoots. Improved prices will, of course, also see the market strengthened with game becoming both more valuable and more valued.

This year's survey was a successful exercise and means further research will start to track trends to be used to the market's advantage. But for now it is nice to see that game dealers are not only moving forward technologically, but also improving processing techniques with a steady number increasing the range of products they have on offer, whether oven-ready, breasted, stuffed, minced or diced. There are plenty of options, giving customers choice and more convenience than ever before. A newcomer to game would much rather handle a pheasant breast wrapped in Parma ham, stuffed full of goodness, than try to roast a whole pheasant. And an expert should be keen to try a partridge burger or pheasant Kiev over yet another roast.

The enthusiasm within the wild game industry is palpable at present, bursting with new ideas and being well received by a public demanding more and higher quality foods. So I say let's continue this forward momentum, continue to keep game innovative and enticing, and do our little bit to enhance shooting's credentials. ●

Contact Jack for a selection of free game recipe leaflets - jack@gametoeat.co.uk or phone 0207 840 9217



“For health to jump from rock to rock”

→ **JILL GRIEVE** reports that Casting for Recovery has joined The Countryside Alliance Foundation to welcome many more ladies with breast cancer to the beautiful sport of fly fishing.

Readers of the Countryside Alliance magazine will be well aware of the beneficial charitable work we do, especially on the angling side. Fishing 4 Schools, run by the legendary Charles Jardine, goes from strength to strength in offering youngsters an alternative to classroom learning by getting them onto our waterways.

In the spring, The Countryside Alliance Foundation announced that Casting for Recovery UK & Ireland, the unique and wonderful fly fishing charity for women with breast cancer that it has been funding for many years, had merged with it to become one of its flagship projects. The merger is excellent news all round as it secures a long term future for a charity that has until now been 90% reliant on volunteers. The Countryside Alliance Foundation is very proud to be taking this wonderful charity forward.

The programme, which involves taking ladies profoundly affected by cancer away on an all-expenses-paid retreat featuring counselling and fly fishing as complementary activities, has already hosted over 30 retreats across the UK and Ireland and seen hundreds of ladies benefit from a slightly quirky but fun and supportive initiative. The Countryside Alliance Foundation (TCAF) felt it was a natural step to take over the running from the founding directors, both of whom have demanding full-time jobs, and put the programme into the structure of its existing charitable framework. TCAF has therefore inherited a devoted and passionate supporter base of counsellors, and medics, casting instructors, fishing guides and helpers, as well as

contacts with beautiful venues across the UK and Ireland. While the administration may have changed, the ethos of Casting for Recovery has not and the aim is still to provide fun, supportive and instructive weekends in exactly the same way as before.

It is to the massive credit of founding directors Sue Hunter and Sue Shaw that the charity has come as far as it has. Sue and Sue have been tireless in their commitment and have developed Casting for Recovery into a professionally run, supportive and widely admired programme. Sue Shaw remains on board as a casting instructor. We look forward to utilising her knowledge, enthusiasm and experience as we develop the programme further into new areas of the UK where we aim to host many more ladies. Sue Hunter, meanwhile, has retired from her UK job and moved to the Republic of Ireland to fish all day, every day, a lifestyle many supporters will envy.

I have been involved with Casting for Recovery since it began and am enjoying getting to grips with the planning and execution alongside colleagues who had never previously met the charity. We are all pink ladies together now and are committed to taking Casting for Recovery into the next phase. Our retreat programme for 2016 will be open to applications in the Autumn. Ladies who have, or have had, breast cancer are eligible to attend, subject to medical clearance, and places are allocated by ballot.

The title of this article, “For health to jump from rock to rock,” is part of a poem that is important on retreat. It is read to the ladies by a member of retreat staff at the water’s edge on the final morning, just prior to each lady meeting her fishing

lady angler Margot Page and recounts her experience of cancer. In “Little Rivers: Tales of a Woman Angler”, Page writes: “I ache for sunlight. For health to jump from rock to rock. I want to heal.” The poem always strikes a chord with the ladies and is an appropriate way to remind them that they have now become anglers.

For more information, visit www.castingforrecovery.org.uk or email cfr@ca-foundation.org

What former participants say:

Fabulous weekend shared with the most fantastic people! Laughter, tears, giggles, humility, gratefulness and shrieks of joy catching the most beautiful rainbow trout in the pouring rain. Yet NOTHING could dampen our spirits! Glimpses of sunshine and blue skies added to the pure joy of sharing a ‘heartfelt connection’ with so many others. Kimbridge is a place like no other for me, and I will never forget it... Or finally, as the whistle blew to stop fishing after hours of being soaked... my beautiful rainbow trout, leapt onto my line... as he knew how much I wanted him!

Had the most amazing time with wonderful people. Saying thank you to all the lovely people involved in making this possible isn’t enough. I am hooked on fly fishing and feel very privileged to have been there. You are all angels in disguise xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

A special BIG THANK YOU to the volunteers and everyone else involved in Casting for Recovery for making it happen. Everyone was so friendly, kind and the food was delicious. Thank you to Garry who was my fishing guide on Sunday for having so much patience but was worth it in the end. I caught a whopper.



Sue Hunter and Sue Shaw, founders of Casting for Recovery UK & Ireland

“SUE AND SUE HAVE BEEN TIRELESS IN THEIR COMMITMENT AND HAVE DEVELOPED CASTING FOR RECOVERY INTO A PROFESSIONALLY RUN, SUPPORTIVE AND WIDELY ADMIRER PROGRAMME.”



DUNSTERHEAT

DUNSTER HEAT LTD. SPECIALIST WOOD BOILER SUPPLIERS SINCE 2001

Reduce your heating costs

and utilise your wood with a fixed guarantee for up to 20 years...



- Wood burning central heating & hot water systems
- RHI Grants available for Commercial & Domestic
- Easy to install and operate

01984 640 656 www.dunsterheat.co.uk

Biomass heating system installers and accredited suppliers of Vigas Boilers & Akvaterm Accumulators.



Hunting
Memorabilia
and
Accessories



Phone
0771 7153459

www.geegecollectables.co.uk

Come and meet us at Cheltenham Open Meeting
13th -14th-15th November

THE FIELDSTICK

www.thefieldstick.co.uk

Handmade
in Devon



Keep your
kit cleaner
& drier out
of the mud.

Empty Case Collector



Magnetic
cartridge
holder.



An anchor point
for your dog.

Tel: 01409 259 811 / 07811 730 455
Email: paul@thefieldstick.co.uk



Made in Britain
Since 1990



Garages • Outbuildings • Barns • Complexes • Offices • Studios • Pool Enclosures • Boat Houses • Residential • Commercial



The oak used in our frames is sourced from sustainably managed woodlands



MAKING HISTORY

TEL: 01544 260727

EMAIL: info@radnoroak.co.uk

WWW.RADNOROAK.CO.UK

Police Dogs on the front line

→ **JIM BARRINGTON** continues his “Dogs with Jobs” strand, visiting the West Midlands Police Dogs Training Centre and finding out about the diverse roles dogs fulfil.

While the image of the police dog has changed over the decades, the tasks these animals are required to perform is ever changing and even more dramatic. Although dogs have been used by humans in numerous ways over many centuries, their employment by police forces really started in the 1800s. Originally used more as a weapon or perhaps a companion on a lonely beat, the modern-day police dog is now almost as versatile as the officers who care for them...and they have to be, in order to face a wide variety of new threats and challenges.

The West Midlands Police Dog Training Centre is just one of the places where the dogs learn their trade.

Everything here has been built with the welfare of the dogs in mind – even the shape of the kennels is designed to allow the animals to see each other and not be ‘wound-up’ by fellow dogs they can’t see.

PC Terry Arnett joined the police force in 1987, following in his father’s footsteps, and has been with the dog unit since 1996. He showed me around the centre, which breeds and trains the dogs for the various duties they need to perform. Breeds vary and, as expected, include the German shepherd, but also Spaniel and Malinois – each having the special qualities required to meet the tasks they are set. Dutch shepherd dogs are a newer addition to the team and are still being tested. Those tasks now include detection of explosives, drugs, human remains, clothing and property, as well as crowd control and apprehending individuals. While each of these roles requires careful and thorough training, some cannot overlap with other tasks for very clear reasons. A

“THE GUNDOG BREEDS, USUALLY SPRINGER SPANIELS, ARE EMPLOYED TO DETECT DRUGS, FIREARMS AND CASH (THE SMELL AND INK USED IN PRINTED MONEY IS UNIQUE). SPANIELS AND LABRADORS ARE ALSO USED TO FIND EXPLOSIVES...”

search dog successfully detecting drugs poses no danger to its handler; an explosives dog finding his ‘quarry’ obviously requires a very different response and remedy.

Puppies are passed to volunteer walkers at about 6-8 weeks old, aiming to socialise the dogs during the period their brains are developing, giving them a range of outside experiences and creating a more stable animal. At about 15 months of age the dogs are brought back and allocated to a handler, who, in effect, becomes the owner for the animal’s working life and becoming part of the officer’s family. Then the real training begins, though it’s true to say that learning skills is an ongoing process throughout the dog’s working career. The welfare and contentment of the animal with a particular handler is paramount.

Broadly speaking, German shepherds are used for tracking, apprehending offenders, crowd control and supporting firearms officers. The gundog breeds, usually Springer spaniels, are employed to detect drugs, firearms and cash (the smell and ink used in printed money is unique). Spaniels and Labradors are also used to find explosives and other forensic work including victim recovery.

Due to the increase in terrorist threats, the work of explosive detecting dogs has taken on a much greater importance. Mickey, a Springer spaniel, was in a training exercise when I visited the centre. Clearly enjoying his work, he also showed just how quickly he could find the suspect package, which could easily have been mistaken for what appeared to be a lunchbox.

Terry explains the balance he and his fellow officers are seeking to reach, “Clearly

a dog, especially one to be used in crowd control or apprehension of a suspect, must have the willingness to go into a potentially dangerous arena, but equally it must know when not to go headlong into a hopelessly hazardous situation.” This is a crucially important aspect in the training a dog receives and the subsequent bond between handler and dog reinforces that understanding as time goes on.

Inevitably, given the kind of work these dogs are expected to do, there will be some unhappy incidents, though they are rare. Terry tells of German shepherd Stig, who suffered a screwdriver stabbed into his head when apprehending a suspect. Luckily, Stig survived. An extensive operation using search and rescue dogs to find a missing child in winter, though sadly unsuccessful, nevertheless is remembered by Terry for the warmth, generosity and support from the local people.

During their time as police dogs and afterwards, the welfare of these animals is uppermost. Ideas and training methods are exchanged and shared with other charities, such as the Dogs Trust and Guide Dogs. When retirement comes, there are various charities around the country, all relying on the generosity of the public, offering a good home for these animals who have been as dedicated as any officer.

One particular dog means much to Terry. JJ is named after paratrooper Jeff Docherty, a friend who was killed whilst serving in Afghanistan. At a graveside service in memory of Jeff, JJ was a very welcomed guest – a perfect indication that these dogs are something far more than just another police tool. ●



PC Terry Arnett with a recruit



Jim Barrington is animal welfare consultant to the Countryside Alliance and has long been fascinated by the work and assistance dogs are able to provide to humans. Follow Jim on Twitter @jimbarrington

Working Dog Foods

Keep your gundog in top condition this season with our pick of working dog foods.

Give Your Puppy The Best Start in Life With Chudleys Puppy/Junior

This newly enhanced wheat and gluten free recipe, in an appetising angular kibble, provides puppies and growing dogs with all their nutritional needs at the most important stages of growth and development. Free from artificial ingredients and with the benefit of Chudleys unique blend of antioxidants, Puppy/Junior is available in 2.5kg (£5.49) and 12kg (£19.99) bags.

For the full working dog range call Chudleys on **0845 345 2627** or visit www.chudleys.com



Wagg Worker

Wagg Worker offers a complete dry dog food ideal for all working dogs. Each tasty, crunchy biscuit contains optimum levels of protein and carbohydrates to provide energy for active dogs. With added antioxidant vitamins, and citrus extract for a strong immune system, this food is a nutritious yet affordable option for working dogs.

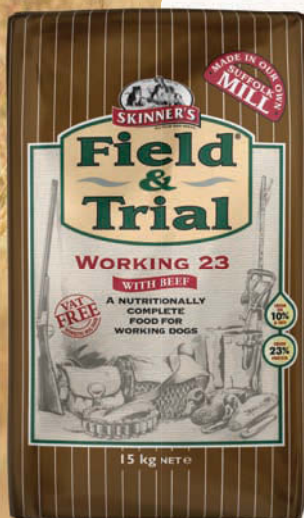


www.waggfoods.com - 01845 578111

Skinner's pet foods

Field & Trial Working 23 is ideal for working dogs. Beef meat meal and a blend of cereals are combined with the vitamins and minerals essential for good health and for sustained stamina in the field. It contains everything needed to keep your working dog in the peak of health.

www.skinnerpetfoods.co.uk
01379 384247



Natural Instinct is passionate about pets

It's raw food diet for dogs and cats follows the motto "you are what you eat". Their wholesome and delicious meals are the no stress, no mess way to feed raw. For dogs in active work, their Working Dog range contains a slightly higher percentage of protein and added Vitamin C to support their hardworking lifestyle. All recipes in the Working Dog range are complete, no need for supplements.

For more information on our products contact retail@naturalinstinct.com or visit the website www.naturalinstinct.com

Benyfit Natural – Complete Raw Dog Food

Benyfit Natural is a complete raw dog food that is formulated for working dogs by an owner and breeder of working dogs. This genetically appropriate diet of uncooked meat, bone, offal, vegetables, oil, kelp and herbs is designed to give your working dog all the necessary vitamins, proteins, minerals and amino acids. Benyfit Natural is the right choice for keeping your working dogs fit and healthy now and in the future.



For further information on our range of products please call on **0844 800 1004** or order online at www.benyfitnatural.co.uk



HJ Hall
Sock makers since 1882



HJ212

HJ Hall
Family sockmakers since 1882

See our extensive range including The Bootsock, Commando, Indestructible and Rambler.

RECEIVE 15% OFF ANY PURCHASE

(enter COUNTRY at checkout, £15 minimum order)

www.hj.co.uk



HJ832

Sporting Kit™



STORE OPEN DAY
Sunday 25th
October 2015



Discover our range of country sports performance clothing selected for quality, comfort and style for the great British outdoors.

- Mens, Ladies & Kids Clothing
- Footwear • Accessories



AIGLE

ARIAT

Seeland



Shop online or in store
www.sportingkit.co.uk

01299 851767

sales@sportingkit.co.uk

@SportingKit

Like us on Facebook

Cedarstone Ltd, Callimore Farm,
Rushock, Droitwich, Worcestershire, WR9 0NS

Wiltshire Game & Country Fair

Saturday & Sunday September 26th & 27th

BOWOOD ESTATE

Bowood, Calne, Wilts SN11 0LZ



Where the
Countryside
Comes to life



FEATURING

- Clayshoot by Clay Targets 40 Bird Sporting, Pool Shoot Instructional Stands
- ATEO Air Rifle & Pistol Range
- Gundog Clinic & Displays
- Gundog Multiscurry Open • Working Test
- Lurcher Showing & Racing by Lure Crazy
- Terrier Showing & Racing
- Parade of Hounds
- Beagles • Otter Hounds
- Blood Hounds • Fox Hounds
- Fundog Show • Ferret Racing
- Angling Tuition with the Angling Trust, & Salmon & Trout Association
- Angling Demonstrations on the lake

A large Country Fair with four action packed arenas presenting country sports & pursuits at their very best.

Admission: Adults: £12.00
Over 65's £11.00 Child £4.00

Advanced tickets available. Please view the website for more details

www.livingheritagecountryshows.com

Telephone: 01283 820 548





By Game-to-Eat
Development Chef
LEE MAYCOCK

Lee has worked with our Game-to-Eat campaign for many years. Not only does he deliver game workshops at catering colleges, he also runs a "Young Game Chef" competition which is contested by those who have done a course. Follow him on Twitter @LeeMaycock1

GET INVOLVED
Recipe of the quarter



{ A fresh Autumn dish }

Grouse with pearly spelt

This recipe features in our popular new recipe leaflet which is a grouse special issue. If you would like a copy, contact the campaign's Jack Knott on jack@gametoat.co.uk

Serves 4

YOU WILL NEED...

- 4 grouse
- 50g diced onion
- 100g pearly spelt
- 500ml vegetable stock
- 20g chopped fresh garden herbs
- Cornish sea salt
- Milled black pepper

PREPARATION METHOD

- Season and sear the grouse in a hot pan and cook for a few minutes on each side
- Roast in a hot oven (200°C) for 10 minutes. Set aside and rest for 10 minutes
- Sauté the onion in a little oil and add the spelt, adding the stock until cooked
- Season well and fold through the chopped herbs
- Remove the breast from the grouse and serve on top of the spelt herb risotto



FOR MORE GAME RECIPES PLEASE VISIT
WWW.GAMETOAT.CO.UK

FOLLOW THE TEAM ON FACEBOOK AND ON TWITTER @GAMETOAT

game-to-eat

TIRED OF COLD FEET?

WATERPROOF LEATHER HUNTING BOOTS WITH CLIMATE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY THAT PROTECTS YOU AGAINST THE COLD AND WET.

MEN'S UP TO SIZE 13

FROM **£250**



FEATURES INCLUDE:

- CALF WIDTH FROM 13 TO 19 INCH
- MADE TO MEASURE AVAILABLE
- CLIMATE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY
- HOOF PROOF TOE PROTECTION

EQUITECTOR
MORE THAN JUST A BOOT

PERFORMANCE • COMFORT • PROTECTION

To order visit at:
www.equictector.com
or call: **0208 0904029**

Wellie™
Web



STORE OPEN DAY
Sunday 25th
October 2015

We stock a wide range of quality wellington boots for all the family. Whether you are looking for boots for work, gardening, country pursuits or for the kids we will have a wellington to meet your needs.

Ruined your good shoes at the Game Fair?

Protect your shoes with

TINGLEY

Rubber Overshoes



Other styles on our websites.

Sole UK Importer

Leslie  Sutcliffe

LS Sales (Farnam) Ltd. Bloxham Mill, Barford Road, Oxon OX15 4FF
Telephone: 01608 68 38 55 • Email: orders@lesliesutcliffe.com
www.tingleyrubber.co.uk • Equine: www.lesliesutcliffe.com



Shop online or in store
www.wellie-web.co.uk

 01299 851767

 sales@wellie-web.co.uk

 @WellieWeb

 Like us on Facebook

Cedarstone Ltd, Callimore Farm,
Rushock, Droitwich, Worcestershire, WR9 0NS



Photo: Sarah Farnsworth
<http://sarahfarnsworth.zenfolio.com>

Point-to-points charge ahead

➔ Point-to-points have plenty to shout about, but they need sponsorship, visibility and the confidence to take the sport forward, writes **PETER McNEILE**.

It's autumn again, which means that all over the UK, in a time-honoured tradition, secretaries of Point-to-Point meetings are dusting down their files and gathering together to discuss how to finance their local point-to-point and to raise funds for hunting.

There's plenty to shout about in the pointing world, which endures despite not having access to the betting revenues that oil the wheels of the professional sport. Up and down the UK, 185 fixtures are staged by the sheer perseverance and ingenuity of volunteer organisers for whom steeplechasing is their passion. Last season, some 400,000 spectators attended – no small number. The sport is remarkably robust, despite only eight races among 1,200 worth £1,000 or more, so it's clearly not money that motivates its participants. Prize money is barely enough to cover travel costs.

Over the years, pointing has launched numerous horses and riders into mainstream racing. Tom Scudamore, Richard Johnson and Sam Twiston-Davies all started in the sport, which has proved a fruitful nursery. To the untrained eye, there is little difference in the quality of the sport seen at Garthorpe or Andoversford to Ascot or Carlisle.

Pointing offers access to a focused demographic comprising a largely affluent set of land, property and rural business owners that sets it apart. In recent

“THE SPORT HAS A LOYAL FOLLOWING BUT ALSO UNDERSTANDS THE NEED TO BE CREATIVE TO ATTRACT NEW INVESTMENT TO PROTECT THIS UNIQUE ASPECT OF BRITISH RURAL LIFE.”

research, the data uncovered a gender-neutral audience of homeowners, average household income greater than £50,000, readers of the serious papers, among whom 40% owned a 4WD vehicle, 82% owned a horse and 60% a dog. This is a set of people among whom Countryside Alliance members can promote their own businesses to good effect.

No surprise then that brands like Subaru, Bonhams and AGA have formed strong alliances with the sport. The range of opportunity is very broad, from national series to individual events, from print to online and outdoor marketing, direct mail, data capture, e-commerce and ticket inventory to engage lapsed or current customers.

As a case in point for what can be achieved, last autumn, Subaru embarked on a national campaign in the sport. Working with the Point-to-Point Authority, 26 qualifying races ended with a national final at Stratford Racecourse, winning Subaru brand recognition at national and local level, where dealerships have been able to engage local customers. Early results indicate a greater brand footprint, an increase in after sales activity and new vehicle sales tracked back to racecourses. Following the close of the 2014-15 season Paul Tunnicliffe, Managing Director of Subaru (UK) said “We have enjoyed exceptional visibility everywhere. Dealers have felt their

involvement was worthwhile and it has enabled us to make some useful contacts”.

The sport is seeking other brands which can see the value of connecting to this audience. “Sponsors help us to tell the story of the sport,” remarks Point-to-Point Authority Chief Executive Clare Hazell. “We all need to collaborate to improve our visibility, and involve more people in owning, riding, sponsoring or simply enjoying the sport as a great day’s family entertainment. It’s a simple enough proposition, but one we’ve been reticent to promote until now.”

If you run a business that promotes itself through outdoor events like county shows, partnering pointing will engage you with your audience and give you great visibility. ●

Team chasing is the younger cousin of racing, a hybrid born fewer than 30 years ago that provides similar access to the rural audience. Across some 17 fixtures, largely in the middle England hunting shires, some 50,000 spectators and participants enjoy fast and furious competitive sport across open country in team time trials. This is a highly inclusive sport that caters for novice and experienced riders alike.

Brands are increasingly identifying with the sport, reaching their audience through events, social media and brand engagement. To find out more visit www.teamchasing.co.uk/sponsors or call Peter McNeile on 07850 091523.

Get involved via www.teamchasing.co.uk/sponsors or call Peter McNeile on 07850 091523.



Peter McNeile is a business and marketing consultant with the Point-to-Point Authority and British Team Chasing as well as with York and Punctestown Racecourses and Blair Castle Horse Trials. He previously worked at Cheltenham Racecourse.

For further information on how to involve your business in point-to-point racing, visit www.pointtopoint.co.uk/faq_getting_involved or call the Point-to-Point Authority on 01793 781990.

BIOFLOW BEATS JOHN'S BAD BACK!

BIOFLOW PRODUCTS MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR FAMILY FRIENDS AND PETS!

For 3 years, agricultural worker, John Dunston was unable to work or even to climb the stairs to go to bed. He tried osteopathy, acupuncture and was taking strong pain-killers but nothing eased the pain of his badly damaged spine until his wife, Pat, bought him a Bioflow magnetic therapy wristband.

Pat found out about Bioflow from a friend whose Jack Russell suffered from severe arthritis and had been unable to move freely. Pat was amazed that when the dog started wearing a Bioflow magnetic collar he was back to running around like a pup. She felt that Bioflow must be worth a try for John and bought him an Elite wristband.

Although not totally free of pain, John is now back at work full time and is able to live a normal life. Pat, her horse and her spaniel, now all benefit from wearing Bioflow products for different problems.

Over 3 million people and animals in Britain now use Bioflow products to help with a wide variety of problems.



www.magneticpower4u.net

0114 2307844 - 07817671259 - jennyryan@magneticpower4u.com
Jenny Ryan, 16 Den Bank Crescent, Sheffield S10 5PD



CLIVE REES & ASSOCIATES

SOLICITORS & CROWN COURT ADVOCATES

If you are summonsed for poaching, Hunting Act offences, Animal Welfare Act offences, Protection of Badgers offences Offences relating to "wild" cage birds and "wild" animals or if you want to appeal refusal of a shotgun or Firearm, or a wrong decision by a Magistrates' Court anywhere in England & Wales:

I am your man.

(Legal Aid may be available subject to means)



Clive Rees Lib., MH.

Ground Floor,
Metropole Chambers
Salubrious Passage
Swansea, SA1 3RT
Phone 01792 474201
or 07969 378750

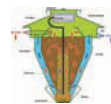
Email:
clive@clivereessolicitor.com

Lexcel Quality Mark Accredited.
Authorised & Regulated by the
Solicitors Regulation Authority.

The Septic Tank Store.co.uk



4 population units through to 1000 population



Full packages from supply to installation. Bespoke systems, deep inverts, pumped outlets.

For quality advice and great service look no further.
T: 0845 0945 603

knollands
septic tanks & drainage

E: info@theseptictankstore.co.uk

Dog Rocks

STOP pet urine burn marks... naturally

STOP pet urine burn marks
20% OFF Code: CA2015



JUST ADD TO WATER



100% Natural | www.dogrocks.co.uk | +44 (0) 1628 822243



SCH
(SUPPLIES) LIMITED
MANUFACTURERS & SUPPLIERS
OF ESTATE & GARDEN MACHINERY

Contact us today for a free brochure
full of British land machinery –
Trailers, trolleys, carts, leaf sweepers and
much more

Call 01473 328272
sales@schsupplies.co.uk
www.schsupplies.co.uk

➔ **PLEASE SEND** emails to news@countryside-alliance.org and letters to Editor, Countryside Alliance magazine, 1 Spring Mews, Tinworth Street, London, SE11 5EH - for a chance to **win a £50 Chudleys voucher**

{ RURAL VOICES }

Your letters

Send us your grassroots views

Win a **£50 CHUDLEYS VOUCHER**

to spend in any Chudleys stockists



“Significant and positive step” on hen harriers

DESPITE POOR WEATHER THROUGHOUT THE breeding season, there are six successful harrier nests fledging 18 new chicks. An additional seventh nest - which was close to fledging young - unfortunately failed late in the season, due to natural causes.

Hen harriers remain the most endangered breeding birds in England. News of this year's successful nests follows the disappearance of five male hen harriers, which resulted in the failure of their nests.

Six nests is a small number, but it is actually more than we have

seen in total over the past three years - which is a significant and positive step forward. Obviously, we need to see many more pairs of these iconic birds nesting successfully and we are actively looking at how we and our partners can build on this positive outcome in the future.

The nests range across the north of England, in Northumberland, Lancashire, County Durham and two in north western England. Dedicated staff from Natural England, Forestry Commission, RSPB and the Moorland Association have



Editor's choice

worked tirelessly with volunteer raptor workers, landowners and their staff to help bring about these results.

ROB COOKE
Director of Terrestrial Biodiversity, Natural England

Editor's note - This news prompted the Countryside Alliance and others to renew the call for Defra to publish and implement the Hen Harrier Joint Recovery Plan. We await.



Congratulations to Rob Cooke; winner of the £50 Chudleys voucher.

www.chudleys.com

BT to invest a further £129m in rural broadband



BT HAS JUST ANNOUNCED IT will make up to £129m available to local authorities to reinvest in further rural superfast broadband coverage, on top of the £3bn it has already committed to commercial and rural rollout.

People in urban and rural areas know high-speed broadband is a necessity for homes and businesses. That's why BT continues to invest heavily in its superfast broadband network, which now passes 23m premises. Nine out of 10 households and

businesses in the UK can now access BT's fibre broadband and we are working with the government to increase coverage to 95 per cent of the country by the end of 2017.

But the remaining 5 per cent, mostly in rural areas, needs a solution too, and the extra £129m made available through co-funded rural broadband contracts, between BT, government and local authorities, will help reduce it. The public has taken up fibre in larger numbers than expected - which is good news for areas not reached yet. It

means additional funds can be released, which will enable us to go even further at no extra cost to the taxpayer, and earlier than expected a real UK success story.

BT will now work with local bodies to identify where these funds can be provided to enable increased fibre coverage. And we will still continue to work to find solutions for all remaining areas.

TIM O'SULLIVAN
BT Group Director of Public Affairs
BT Centre, London

“Rat Control for Gamekeepers” course

AS YOUR MEMBERS MAY BE aware, the use of professional rodenticides to control rats will become subject to new regulations early next year.

Gamekeepers wishing to continue using the products will need to hold proof of competence as part of the industry's new stewardship regime.

One-day courses leading to official certification are being overseen by BASIS Registration Ltd and are being held all over the UK.

The first set of dates has attracted a huge level of interest - an illustration that gamekeepers have recognised the changes as a positive step and are taking the need

for proof of competence seriously.

More dates will be announced soon to ensure everyone can be fully certified ahead of the deadline for product authorisation.

The 'Rat Control for Gamekeepers' course, jointly owned by the Countryside Alliance and created alongside the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use, has been approved by the Health and Safety Executive and is overseen



by BASIS Registration Ltd.

Members of the Countryside Alliance are entitled to a special price of £150 plus VAT a discount of £50 on the cost for non-members - whichever course they attend. Courses can be booked directly through the organisations running them.

Some courses have already taken place, but yet to come are courses on October 12 at Loddington, Leicestershire and November 6 at Loddington, Leicestershire, both run by the GWCT. For more information, call Lynda Ferguson on 01425 651013.

ROB SIMPSON
Managing Director
BASIS Registration Ltd.

A sporting hotel for the 21st century

→ The sporting hotel of the 21st century has more to offer more than just sport. The Arundell Arms in Devon is blazing a trail, as **TIM BONNER** and his family discover

We all know what a fishing hotel is, don't we? Steeped in habit and history with a focus on the practical needs of the fisherman including, in reverse order of importance, a bed, food, a bar, storage for wet kit, waders and rods, and water on which to cast. Whilst the image of fly fishing has changed, and the fishing holiday has been rebranded as 'destination fishing', the image of fishing hotels has remained stuck firmly in the (early) 20th century.

For one man, however, accepting that his famous fishing hotel was doomed to increasingly faded grandeur and continued decline into closure - as has been the fate of so many others - was not something he was willing to contemplate. Plenty of people would have, and probably did, question Adam Fox-Edwards' sanity when he took on the Arundell Arms in Lifton on the Devon/ Cornwall border from his legendary mother Ann Voss-Bark who had welcomed fishermen to her hotel for 50 years. It was not just that careers as an RAF pilot and then in the city hardly seemed the best preparation for the rigours of beat bookings and housekeeping rotas, but also because he was trying to buck a seemingly



fixed trend. The fishing hotel had been consigned to history and there seemed no way of resurrecting it.

To Fox-Edwards the answer was relatively straightforward to articulate, if not to implement. The Arundell Arms had to offer more than just fishing and the comfort of tradition, acquaintance and habit which had sustained such establishments in the past. It had to offer something for spouses and offspring, as well as fishermen, and it had to offer fishermen the sort of hotel experience that has become the norm in establishments that do not simply cater for the obsessive angler.

To put this model to perhaps its ultimate test, a good portion of the Bonner clan descended on the Arundell Arms in early August. The demands were various: Tom (14) and I planned to catch every fish within a 20 mile radius, Annie (8) wanted nothing but to spend as much time as possible the saddle, whilst my wife Ebe and Ollie (2) were intent on doing as little as possible especially if it involved fishing or riding.

We arrived in time for a short evening session on the River Lyd just a few hundred yards from the hotel where the river helpfully passes the village playground which kept the youngest Bonner happy whilst Tom, myself and even Annie had half a dozen pristine little brownies.

Unfortunately, the forecast for Wednesday, especially on the coast, was not helpful so the planned attempt on an Arundell



"THE ARUNDELL MACNAB... HAD TO BE ABANDONED FOR FEAR OF LOSING TOM IN THE SURF."



Tim Bonner is Chief Executive of the Countryside Alliance. A lifelong sportsman, it is apparent that the younger Bonners are chips off the old block.



Macnab – a brown trout, sea trout and bass – had to be abandoned for fear of losing Tom in the surf. The beautiful little River Ottery, just over the border in Cornwall, was in perfect condition, however, and as long as the rain kept sedges hatched the little trout rose to take them.

Meanwhile, Annie Bonner was cantering around the nearby riding school in ever faster circuits in preparation for an afternoon ride across Dartmoor. Horse riding holidays with Liberty Trails is one of the Arundell Arms' new ventures and local girl Elaine Michelle Prior has plans to make Dartmoor the riding destination in the UK. She already offers riding safaris, cattle drives and bespoke riding adventures on the moor. Not content to stop there, however, she has plans for a 'Dartmoor Derby' based on the famous Mongol version, but offering rather superior food and accommodation, for 2016. Whatever she thinks, Annie is not quite ready for the full tour of Dartmoor, but she did have a fabulous ride out onto the misty moor as the cloud base



Photos: www.hamishmitchellphotography.co.uk

“THERE WERE FISH IN ATTENDANCE, AND THEY LET US KNOW THEY WERE THERE, SPLASHING AND ROLLING IN THE DARKNESS, BUT THAT NIGHT THEY WERE NOT GOING TO TAKE A FLY.”

descended and proper Devon rain set in. The weather did nothing to dampen her spirits though and a huge smile was fixed on her face for as long as it took to get her fed, bathed and into her bed.

Another new offering from the Arundell Arms are massage therapies and beauty treatments which would undoubtedly have caused consternation amongst traditional fishing hotel clientele. There is, however, a powerful argument that any fisherman is

going to be much more likely to persuade his spouse to 'pop down to that lovely hotel in Devon' if it offers spa facilities on top of wonderfully refurbished rooms and a wonderful menu. Certainly it worked for Mrs Bonner, and, if she can be persuaded to stay in a fishing hotel, anyone can.

What Adam Fox-Edwards has done is to reinvent the sporting hotel (shooting plays an important role in keeping rooms full in the winter) in a form that gives the Arundell Arms a future which is important for the entire community in that remote corner of Devon.

After a superb dinner with Adam and his wife Tina, Tom and I ventured out with Adam and guide Alex Jones in pursuit of the sea trout of the magical Lyd. There were fish in attendance, and they let us know they were there, splashing and rolling in the darkness, but that night they were not going to take a fly. It did not seem to matter as we walked back along the valley to the cars at well past midnight. The Arundell Arms had still taken us away from everything but the silence and the fish, as it has done for generations of anglers. ●

The Arundell Arms, family run for 50 years, offers the fishing, shooting, clay shooting, pony trekking and cattle drives, in addition to spa therapies and exceptional food with a 2AA rosette restaurant. The kitchen is led by Master Chef of Great Britain, Steven Pidgeon. The hotel is available to hire for weddings and events. The hotel is dog friendly and also has self-catering cottages for hire nearby. www.arundellarms.com



A NEW CONSEPT

- Septic tank not meeting the required standard for discharge?
- Existing soakaway failed or a method needed to raise effluent to a new high level soakaway?
- Blocked soakaway, drains backing up, obnoxious smells?
- A sewage plant needed but with minimal disruption?

The Allerton **CONSEPT** is the answer!



The **CONSEPT** from Allerton will save you time and money by converting your existing septic tank or cesspit into a fully functioning sewage treatment plant. High grade composite materials and non ferrous fixings ensure a long and trouble free life.

Talk to us and we will help you find the correct solution to ensure you are properly treated!

Freephone:
0800 328 5492

Head Office: Woodbridge Rd,
Sleaford, Lincs
Tel: 01529 305757
E-Mail: sales@allertonuk.com
www.allertonuk.com

Specialists in Sewage and Effluent Treatment Systems

www.kennelmate.co.uk

Dog Beds that Work for Working Dogs



plus full range of
Gundog Training Equipment

Tel 07970 765637 • 01902 798167



Artisan
POSTBOXES & SIGNS
For inspiration browse
www.rockartisansigns.co.uk
or call 01327 351561 for a brochure
CAST METAL MADE TO LAST FROM OUR FOUNDRY



Suppliers of Hunting Attire
and Country Gifts

T: 01398 351151

E: info@huntingmad.co.uk



For great country gifts...

www.huntingmad.co.uk

NOW AVAILABLE, THE NEW

No.10 SWEDISH FOREST KNIFE

ENTER THE WILDERNESS WITH CONFIDENCE

**Tough, Washable
& Low Maintenance**
handle in
Stabilised Curly Birch

Model no. 13118
Blade: Stainless
Sandvik 14C28N
(58-59 HRC)
RRP: £99.95

Standard versions
with oiled handles
from £79.95

No.3 Dangler
Allows the knife to
dangle freely and
can be moved with a
one-handed motion.
Model no. 10101
RRP £14.95

All our fixed blade knives come
with a sturdy leather sheath
made from 3mm thick
vegetable tanned leather



Casström
INNOVATION • CRAFTSMANSHIP • PERFORMANCE

Tel. 01628 330 330 - www.casstrom.co.uk - service@casstrom.co.uk

➔ **MORE EVENTS** Our online listing is updated regularly and can be found at www.countryside-alliance.org/ca/events

{AUTUMN 2015}

The Countryside Alliance's top events this Autumn



William Evans
GUN & RIFLE MAKERS
ESTABLISHED 1810

WIN
A PAIR OF
WILLIAM EVANS
CONNAUGHTS!

THIS IS THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO BE ABLE TO WIN A PAIR OF WILLIAM EVANS GUNS.

William Evans is one of the best known names in gunmaking history. The firm's founder started his career with arguably the best maker of them all – Purdey & Son.

William Evans has been making superb quality guns for more than 130 years.

This new side-by-side sidelock shotgun offers sportsmen and women the opportunity to own a classically-styled 'William Evans'.

The Connaught commemorates William Evans' historic connections with former loyal client HRH The Duke of Connaught, for whom the company made numerous bespoke sporting guns.

The Connaught is a five-pin sidelock design which takes William Evans back to its roots. William Evans are confident that The Connaught is of much higher quality than its competitors. This is exactly what one would expect from William Evans, a company renowned for its superiority.

Tickets are £25 each. The draw will take place on Tuesday, March 1, 2016. The guns will be ready in the 2016 season. An entry form is provided within the pages of this magazine, or you can enter online at www.countryside-alliance.org.

For queries regarding the draw please email events@countryside-alliance.org or call 0207 840 9298.

**Please answer the following question:
Where is William Evans flagship store?**
A St James'
B Oxford Street
C Kings Road

■ 17-24 October Newcomers' week

We will be running our annual Newcomers' Week this year from 17th - 24th October where hunts will take the opportunity to welcome new faces. Hunts keen to get involved should email beverley-thomas@countryside-alliance.org

■ 27 October

Young Countryside Day at Throckmorton Clay Shooting Ground, nr Pershore, Worcestershire (by kind permission of Mr Alan Bewley). 9.00am - 3.30pm. Youngsters up to the age of 15 are invited to explore the countryside, learn about fishing, ferreting, falconry, shooting, gun dogs and much more. Numbers are limited so advance booking only will grant a place.. Book as soon as possible by contacting sara-rutherford@countryside-alliance.org

■ 31 October

A game supper at Glemham Hall. The Countryside Alliance Suffolk Committee invites you to join a special game supper in aid of the Countryside Alliance. 7.30-8.15pm drinks, canapes and raffle in the main hall. 8.30pm supper and auction in the marquee. Carriages at midnight. Tickets £50 in advance only from events@glemhamhall.co.uk or 01728 746704.



The 2015/16 season Hunt Tumblers' Club, in association with Poi Roger opens in November. More online

■ 8 November

Ffos Las Countryside Race Day, Remembrance Sunday.

Gates will open at 11am and the first of seven races will be at 1pm. Tables are already selling fast for the marquee so don't delay, and book your tickets now - prices start at £45 for a two course meal in the Countryside Alliance VIP Marquee, includes entry to the course and the use of a warm marquee for the duration of the racing, right next to the paddock. Further details available on the website.

■ 13 November

Cheltenham Countryside Race Day (see p28)

The day will be raising funds for the Countryside Alliance and in addition, just nine months before the 2016 Rio Olympics, the day will also raise money for the Equestrian Team GBR. There are six high quality races, with the feature event being the Glenfarclas Cross Country Chase over the twists and turns of Cheltenham's unique cross country course, won last year by Cheltenham favourite and winner of eight races at the Home of Jump racing, Balthazar King.

➔ 25 OCTOBER

COUNTRYSIDE FAMILY DAY ft THE OLD ROAN CHASE, AINTREE

The first Countryside Race Day (in aid of the Countryside Alliance) to be held at the iconic Aintree Racecourse will feature the Old Roan Chase National Hunt Steeplechase as well as a charity race over 1 mile 5 furlongs, a hound parade, silent auction, trade stands, falconry, ferrets, the quack pack, shire horses, pony racing and more. Tickets are £25 if bought before 30 September. Lunch tickets for the day, which include entry, are £55. Contact Tracy Casstles for tickets - tracy-casstles@countryside-alliance.org



RORY STEWART has been Member of Parliament for Penrith and the Border since 2010 and earlier this year became Environment Minister.

Last week, I climbed from my cottage on to Knipe Scar. The Swaledale flock and their black droppings were scattered across the flood-plain. I worked my way around a drainage ditch, pushed aside the nose of the Icelandic pony (when I paused on the river-bank, it nipped my thigh), and climbed the fellside. Gorse gave way to bracken, and bracken to grass, and finally at the crest to a bare flat top of worm-holed dry white calcium, in which was hidden (though I could not find it) the traces of an Iron Age settlement. I sat on the small brass plate at the peak, and pulled my knees up against my chest and looked at the land beneath.

Far below on the valley floor I could see the plants, which I had passed on the way up the hill. In the hawthorn hedge, Angelica, bettany, Yorkshire fog, butter cup, lady's mantle, birdsfoot trefoil, and tufted vetch; and beneath the ash trees, yellow hammer, blackbirds, chaffinches, song thrushes, and dunnocks. These were species that could be found in many places. Only perhaps the plain mother ring-ouzel, battling the wind beside me, revealed that I was in Cumbria. But it was the human species above all which defined the genius of the place. For six thousand years at least, men and women had sat where I was sitting, and looked down at settlements beside that same river. As Environment Minister, I want our families to be able to enjoy that same view - the fresh air, unspoilt woodlands, clean rivers and beaches, and my mission is to protect the beautiful, varied and natural landscapes on our doorstep.

What did our ancestors make of Cumbria? A great amphitheatre of twenty million river stones, three miles away, hinted at the imperious ambition of the Stone Age; pollen samples, deep in the peat, showed the first clearance of



Photo: Cressida Inglewood

the forest in the Bronze Age; a dry-stone wall, excavated a mile away, illustrated Iron Age stock management. The first voices that survived, however, were in languages we no longer speak, and they were not agricultural. In a corner of a Welsh medieval manuscript was a 7th century lullaby in the ancient Celtic language of this place, "pan elei dy dat ty e vynyd/dydygai ef penn ywrch". When your dad went to the crag/He

“...it was the human species above all which defined the genius of the place. For six thousand years at least, men and women had sat, where I was sitting, and looked down at settlements beside that same river.”

brought down roebuck, boar and stag/ Speckled grouse from the mountain tall/ Fish from Derwent waterfall... The very first words, however, are on a piece of 2,000-year-old birch, preserved in a bog: "mittas mihi plagas...fortissime...frusta exercias". It is a draft of a letter from a

Roman officer here on the frontier. "Send me some hunting nets... Weave the pieces very strongly together."

Now, 60 generations later, I can still lie and watch the high fellside - an iconic landscape which we rely on for our health, wellbeing and prosperity. From a distance, it was a russet blur of reeds, peat and thin grass - treeless, and apparently empty of humans. But then I saw on the ridge, the silhouettes of horses in an endurance race, cantering past mountain-bikers. I spotted John, rounding the heart-shaped wood, exercising the Ullswater fell-pack. In the village hall below, I knew farmers were arguing with water companies, flood experts, carbon-sequesters and wetland enthusiasts about how many sheep to keep on the fell.

Nearby an ecologist was examining with delight a circle of moss, floating on a 30-foot column of water, which was once a glacial ice-plug. And in the fields, far to the North-West, I guessed Willie - more for show than anything else - was still counting his Herdwick sheep in Cumbric. They tumbled past him, black, chocolate brown and silver, with the hint of a grin on their wide mouths as he chants in a language that no-one has spoken for a millennium, 'Yann. Tann. Tethera'.

It's a small valley, in a small island, containing a thousand individuals of the single human species, and a thousand other species too. The different colours and uses of the land form the patchwork of Britain. The dry-stone walls hold the lines between pasture and meadow, fell and field, sport and field-sport, food and nature. But even the prodigious architecture of those walls cannot contain all the tensions of different human values and imaginations. Those very first Dog Latin words in the peat, however - fortissimo frusta exercias - instruct us to knit "very strongly" our fragments into a single web. And it is because, for generation after generation, we have managed to tease out the differences between our traditions, accept them, repair them, and weave them together, again and again, that this landscape has survived - and remains - the most beautiful place on earth.

I want us to continue to protect our treasured natural assets in the environment, for future generations to enjoy. ●

Rory Stewart was elected as the Conservative MP for Penrith and The Border in May 2010. Appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in May 2015, his brief includes natural environment, floods & water and rural affairs. Follow him on Twitter @RoryStewartUK.



SHOOTING SCHOOL & COUNTRY CLOTHING

BYWELL... A NAME SYNONYMOUS FOR...



BOTH CLASSIC AND CHIC COUNTRY CLOTHING

We have an extensive range of men's & ladies country clothing from beautiful tweed shooting suits to luxury Ladies Handbags. We have everything you may need for a day out in the countryside. Full collections from leading country clothing brands such as Dubarry, Schoffel, Musto, Jack Murphy, Le Chameau, Beretta, Hucklecoat, The Olney Hat Collection.



HIGH GRADE GAME GUNS

A wide selection of high grade game guns. Both new and previously owned, one of the largest selections nationwide, try before you buy on our Simulated High Pheasant or Driven Grouse targets. A selection of our current stock can be viewed on our website. Premium graded dealer of Beretta, Perazzi, Browning, Caesar Guerini and Krieghoff.



MATCHED PAIRS

New and Previously owned matched pairs always in stock for all budgets. Such as Perazzi, Beretta, Browning and English. Why not give us a call to discuss your personal requirements.



COMPREHENSIVE AND IN-DEPTH SHOOTING INSTRUCTION

Here at Bywell Shooting School we cater for the complete novice and experience shot. Both Clay and Game tuition available from our experienced instructors. Simulated High Pheasant and Driven grouse targets our speciality. Corporate and Family events also catered for. To book please give us a call.

MAIL ORDER WELCOME

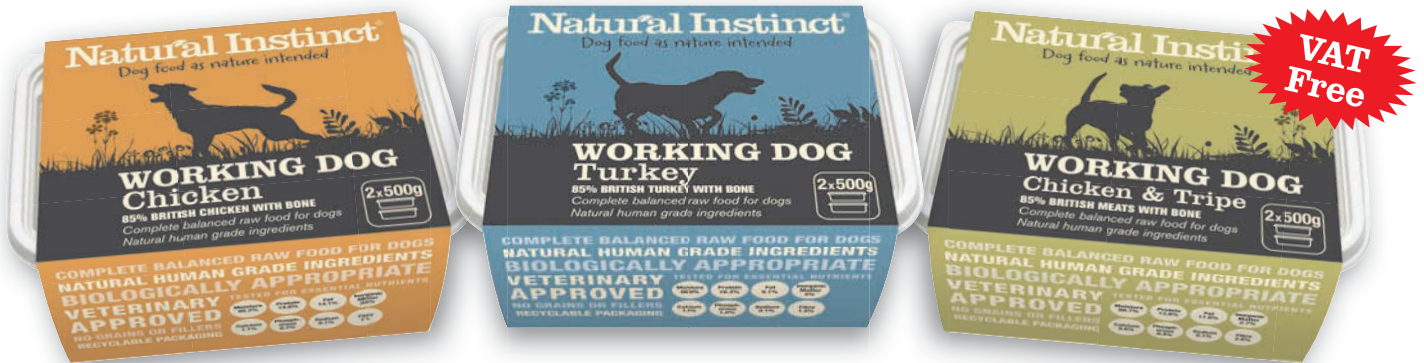
www.bywellshootingground.co.uk www.bywellcountryclothing.co.uk

Tuesday to Saturday 9.30-5.30pm, Bywell Shooting Ground, Bywell Farm, Felton, Northumberland, NE65 9QQ
01670 787827 E • sales@bywellshootingground.co.uk

Natural Instinct®

Dog & Cat food as nature intended

WORKING DOG RANGE



Other recipes available

- ✓ The no stress, no mess way to feed raw!
- ✓ High quality natural raw wholesome meals as nature intended
- ✓ Human grade ingredients
- ✓ Veterinary approved
- ✓ Free from artificial additives, colours, preservatives and fillers
- ✓ Free friendly and professional advice on raw feeding
- ✓ Delivered frozen to your door and also available from wlocal stockists



"I'm so glad that I moved my gundogs across to Natural Instinct in April 2014. It's easy to feed, my dogs are doing so well on it and are looking amazing. They all eat with gusto and are in the best condition ever. They have coats that are commented on wherever we go. I cannot recommend Natural Instinct highly enough and I believe that if you feed it for a month you'll not want to give your dogs anything else"

Lez Graham MA, FCFBA, MGoDT (MT)
Canine Behaviour Consultant, Trained for Life Ltd
Author of The Pet Gundog books

Proudly supporting British produce 

5 Admiralty Way, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3DT
Tel: 01276 608500 • www.naturalinstinct.com

