

DEVONLIFE

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The
FESTIVE ISSUE

WIN

*A Devon
Christmas hamper*

PLUS A festive gift bundle

PLUS A seasonal
shopping trip

The perfect Devon Christmas

»Food »Drinks »Gifts »Festive Celebrations »Party Looks
»Decorations »Town Bands »Christmas Books »Walks
»Grottos guide »Wreath-making »Gardens
»Recipes »Pub guide »Decorations

REVEALED

OUR 2015 FOOD & DRINK AWARDS WINNERS



£3.99

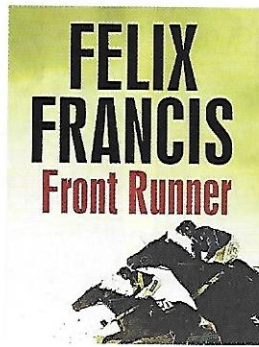
FRONT RUNNER

by Felix Francis

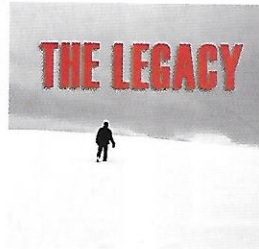
EVEN horizontal rain couldn't diminish the view over a tidal creek on the South Hams. As we sit around his kitchen table with mugs of coffee Felix Francis smiles and says, "Great scenery but it's not all plain sailing for a crime writer these days!" Interesting. "Agatha had bodies and suspects. I've got tweeting, pictures taken on mobiles, the Internet..."

Felix's latest book ties up all loose ends with perfect crime writing professionalism. We see the return of Jeff Hinkley, an undercover investigator for the British Horseracing Authority and a character you can't help but like and, in fact, care about. From attempted murder to blackmail on the racecourse and tax fraud this book really holds your attention. Long may Felix carry on the legacy of his father Dick Francis. "I grew up discussing dad's crime novels over breakfast. It was a family business and it's part of who I am."

Published by Michael Joseph. Hardback £18.99



Adult



THE LEGACY

by Craig Lawrence

CRAIG Lawrence, a modern Major General, draws on his army career and bursts onto the literary scene with a novel that begins with skulduggery in the City and ends in the snows of Devon. Threads stretch from Kathmandu to the Tors of Dartmoor.

I really enjoyed it and it's a great choice to hunker down with as the nights draw in. Inspired by Lee Child, Craig turns out a fast-paced adventure (with Gurkha guest appearances) that has appeal for many ages and covers a range of relationships. As a debut novel it's a good read; intelligent, and the baddies get what's coming-while the goodies find love. Craig is Colonel of The Royal Gurkha Rifles. He has also written the official commemorative book *The Gurkhas: 200 Years of Service to the Crown* in support of the Gurkha Welfare Trust.

Published by FireStep Publishing. Paperback £10.99

CHRISTMAS READING

Devon Life reviewer ANNETTE SHAW picks a selection of good reads

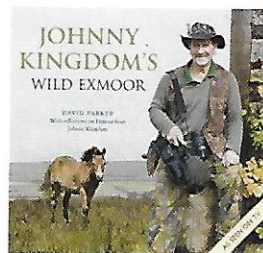
A YEAR ON EXMOOR

by Johnny Kingdom

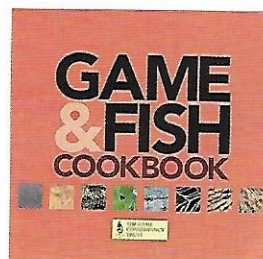
PEOPLE who cook with love make amazing food. Their passion shines through. And so it is with Johnny Kingdom when he talks about photography and wildlife. A countryman through and through he's genuinely thrilled to share his latest filming and you can't help but get swept up in the enthusiasm as did I in his back garden.

In a book to accompany the television series screened earlier this year, Johnny teams up with writer and producer David Parker. The result is a wonderfully rich portrayal of Exmoor throughout the seasons. It's also a personal account with stories like the one about the deer he rescued and christened Bambi. There are recipes, local stories and notes on traditions like wassailing described as, "...an almighty drink up and sing along with guns, bonfires and music..." with the intent of waking up the apple tress. And of course there are Johnny's photographs that show Exmoor in all its glory.

Published by Halsgrove. Hardback £14.99



Non fiction



GAME & FISH COOKBOOK

with the The Game Conservancy Trust.

WHEN the turkey has seen better days and twixmas stretches ahead, what better opportunity to visit a local farmer's market and try something new on a chilly night in late December? With a Foreword by the Duke of Westminster this is a cookery book that will not fail to delight lovers of goose, fish, grouse, pheasant and rabbit to name a few. And maybe make some converts?

Pies, relishes, savoury butters and sauces are all covered. Baked Salmon Steaks in Cream with Lemon Juice and Dill sounded delicious so I headed to the kitchen and field tested immediately. Ditto the Whisky Duck.

At 280 pages it's an excellent reference guide containing not only easy to follow recipes but also notes on the shooting seasons, acquiring game from suppliers and preparation such as trussing and jointing. Guest contributors include Devon's Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall.

Available from Quiller Publishing. Hardback £25.