

On Saturday 24th October, the Pinkfoot Gallery at Cley-next-the-Sea on the north coast of Norfolk was host to the second launch of Art of the New Naturalists.

Of particular significance was a spectacular exhibition of original New Naturalist artwork by Robert Gillmor, much of which had never been seen in public before. The Pinkfoot Gallery produced a superb catalogue featuring many of the pieces of artwork from preliminary sketches, through colour visuals to final linocuts. All of these wonderful artworks were for sale and the Gallery predicted a huge amount of interest and visitors. Three order phone lines were open from 10.00am until 11.30am with doors open at midday,

when the gallery was filled by a very large and excited crowd of New Naturalist and Gillmor enthusiasts. In a very short time nearly everything was sold and the 100 or so copies of Art of the New Naturalists which were being signed by Peter Marren and Robert Gillmor were also completely sold out. It was a huge success and extremely enjoyable with many people chatting for hours enjoying a glass or two of wine.

Sarah from the Pinkfoot Gallery tells me that a small selection of original Robert Gillmor artwork is amazingly still available. To view the images, log on to Robert's New Naturalist webpage at www.pinkfootgallery.co.uk



Sales and Wants

New Naturalist books for Sale

All are hardback copies in mint condition with mint d/j's. All prices include postage.

No 84 **Ireland** first edition, 1999, £100

No 85 **Plant Disease** first edition, 1999, £100

No 88 **Loch Lomondside** first edition, 2001, £75

No 97 **Mosses and Liverworts** first edition, 2005, £75

Christopher Nissen, Batiment F2, Appt. 271, Residence Beausejour, 46 Ave., Clemenceau, 77100 Meaux, France. Tel. 00 33 1 60 09 49 31

For sale

Bumblebees first edition 1959

A very good copy in dust jacket which has a few tears and a couple of small pieces missing. One ex-library stamp to front past-down endpaper, otherwise a good sound copy of a rare book. Bargain price of £200 or near offer.

For further information, please contact Roger on **07527 838 648**.

For sale

NN4 **Britain's Structure and Scenery** 1st 1946 VG in VG d/j £12

NN33 **Mountain Flowers** 1971 Fine in fine d/j £17

NN44 **The Peak District** 1st 1962 Fine in near fine d/j £40

NN47 **Snowdonia National Park** 1st 1966 Fine in fine d/j £43

NN50 **Pesticides and Pollution** 1st 1967 Fine in fine d/j £57

NN63 **British Thrushes** 1st 1978 Fine in near fine d/j £17

NN71 **British Warblers** 1st 1985 Softback Near fine £20

NN72 **Heathlands** 1st 1986 ('Collins' on spine) Fine in fine d/j (usual slight fading on spine) £130

NN82 **The New Naturalists** 1996 Fine in fine d/j £70

NMN1 **The Badger** 1st 1948 Fine in near fine d/j £36

NMNS **The Greenshank** 1st 1951 Fine in fine d/j £140

Postage & packing : £3.00 per volume. Terms : Nett, payment with order
C.F.Steeden 01253 725119 E-mail cf_steeden@tiscali.co.uk

The club has recently been requested to offer for sale a full set of the New Naturalist Library.

All of the books were bought as new when published beginning with Butterflies in 1945. Sadly the owner, who has recently died, threw away all of the dust wrappers from volumes 1 to 48 and from the Monographs. However most of the remaining books are in fine to mint condition. Please contact the club for further information on 01794 320 464 or e-mail tbernhard@btinternet.com

Volumes 1-48, most in fine condition, some slight fading to spines, no dust wrappers. 4 Readers Union copies.

All first editions except: Britain's Structure and Scenery (4th Ed. 1955), The Art of Botanical Illustration (3rd Ed. 1955), British Amphibians and Reptiles (Revised Ed. 1954), Climate and the British Scene (3rd Imp. 1955) and The Sea Coast (Rep. 1954). **£450 for the lot.**

Monographs: 18 books (four missing titles: The Rabbit, Lords and Ladies, The House Sparrow and The Mole). All first editions (except Fleas, Flukes and Cuckoos, Rep. 1952) in near-fine condition, no dust wrappers. **£400 for the lot.**

49 **Nature Conservation in Britain** 1st Ed 1969, Fine, crease to front of d/w, slight faded to d/w spine, £60

50 **Pesticides and Pollution** 1st Ed. 1967, Slight fade to d/w spine, closed tear at foot of front of d/w, £60

51 **Man and Birds** 1st Ed 1971, Fine, £65

52 **Woodland Birds** 1st Ed 1971, Fine, slight fade to d/w spine, £70

53 **The Lake District**, 1st Ed 1973, Fine, £70

54 **Pollination of Flowers** 1st Ed 1973, Fine, £120

55 **Finches** 1st Ed 1972, Fine, £65

56 **Pedigree** 1st Ed 1973, Fine, very slight fade to d/w spine, £130

57 **British Seals** 1st Ed 1974, Fine, very slight fade to d/w spine, £75

58 **Hedge** 1st Ed 1974, Fine, very slight fade to d/w spine, £75

59 **Ants** 1st Ed 1977, Fine, £150

60 **British Birds of Prey** 1st Ed 1976, Fine, usual fade to d/w spine, £60

61 **Inheritance and Natural History** Fine, very slight fade to d/w spine, signed, £130

62 **British Tits** 1st Ed 1979, Fine, £50

63 **British Thrushes** 1st Ed 1978, Fine, fade to d/w spine, £45

64 **Natural History of Shetland** 1st Ed 1980, Fine, fade to d/w spine, £170

65 **Waders** 1st Ed 1980, Fine, £70

66 **Natural History of Wales** 1st Ed 1981, Fine, £110

67 **Farming and Wildlife** 1st Ed 1981, Fine, £85

68 **Mammals in the British Isles** 1st Ed 1982, Fine, slight fade to d/w spine, £95

69 **Reptiles and Amphibians** 1st Ed 1983, Fine, £250

70 **Natural History of Orkney** 1st Ed 1985, Fine, slight fade to d/w spine, £1300

71 **British Warblers** 1st Ed 1985, Fine, fade to d/w spine, £1200

72 **Heathlands** 1st Ed 1986, Fine, slight fade to d/w spine, £295

73 **The New Forest** 1st Ed 1986, Fine, fade to d/w spine, £295

74 **Ferns** 1st Ed 1988, Fine, £700

75 **Freshwater Fishes** 1st Ed 1992, Fine, £700

76 **The Hebrides** 1st Ed 1990, Fine, £750

77 **The Soil** 1st Ed 1992, Fine, very slight fade to d/w spine, £450

78 **Larks, Pipits and Wagtails** 1st Ed 1992, Fine, £550

79 **Caves and Cave Life** 1st Ed 1993, Fine, £400

80 **Wild and Garden Plants** 1st Ed 1993, Fine, slight fade to d/w spine, £500

81 **Ladybirds** 1st Ed 1994, Fine, £650

82a **The New Naturalists** 1st Ed 1995, Fine, £300

83 **Natural History of Pollination** 1st Ed 1996, Fine, slight fade to d/w spine, £200

84 **Ireland** 1st Ed 1999, Fine, £120

85 **Plant Disease** 1st Ed 1999, Fine, £120

86 **Lichens** 1st Ed 2000, Fine, £150

87 **Amphibians and Reptiles** 1st Ed 2000, Fine, £130

88 **Loch Lomondside** 1st Ed 2001, Fine, £125

89 **The Broads** 1st Ed 2001, Fine, £110

90 **Moths** 1st Ed 2002, Fine, £120

91 **Nature Conservation** 1st Ed 2002, Fine, £90

92 **Lakeland** 1st Ed 2002, Fine, £130

93 **British Bats** 1st Ed 2003, Fine, £200

94 **Seashore** 1st Ed 2004, Fine, £80

95 **Northumberland** 1st Ed 2004, Fine, £85

96 **Fungi** 1st Ed 2005, Fine, £75

82b **The New Naturalists** 1st Ed 2005, Fine, £65

97 **Mosses & Liverworts** 1st Ed 2005, Fine, £65

98 **Bumblebees** 1st Ed 2006, Fine, £90

99 **Gower** 1st Ed 2006, Fine, £65

100 **Woodlands** 1st Ed 2006, Fine, £85

101 **Galloway & the Borders** 1st Ed 2007, Fine, £60

102 **Garden Natural History** 1st Ed 2007, Fine, £60

103 **The Isles of Scilly** 1st Ed 2007, Fine, £60

104 **A History of Ornithology** 1st Ed 2007, Fine, £60

105 **Wye Valley** 1st Ed 2008, Mint, £45

106 **Dragonflies** 1st Ed 2008, Fine, £45

107 **Grouse** 1st Ed 2008, Mint, £45

108 **Southern England** 1st Ed 2008, Mint, £45

109 **Islands** 1st Ed 2009, Mint, £45

110 **Wildfowl** 1st Ed 2009, Mint, £45

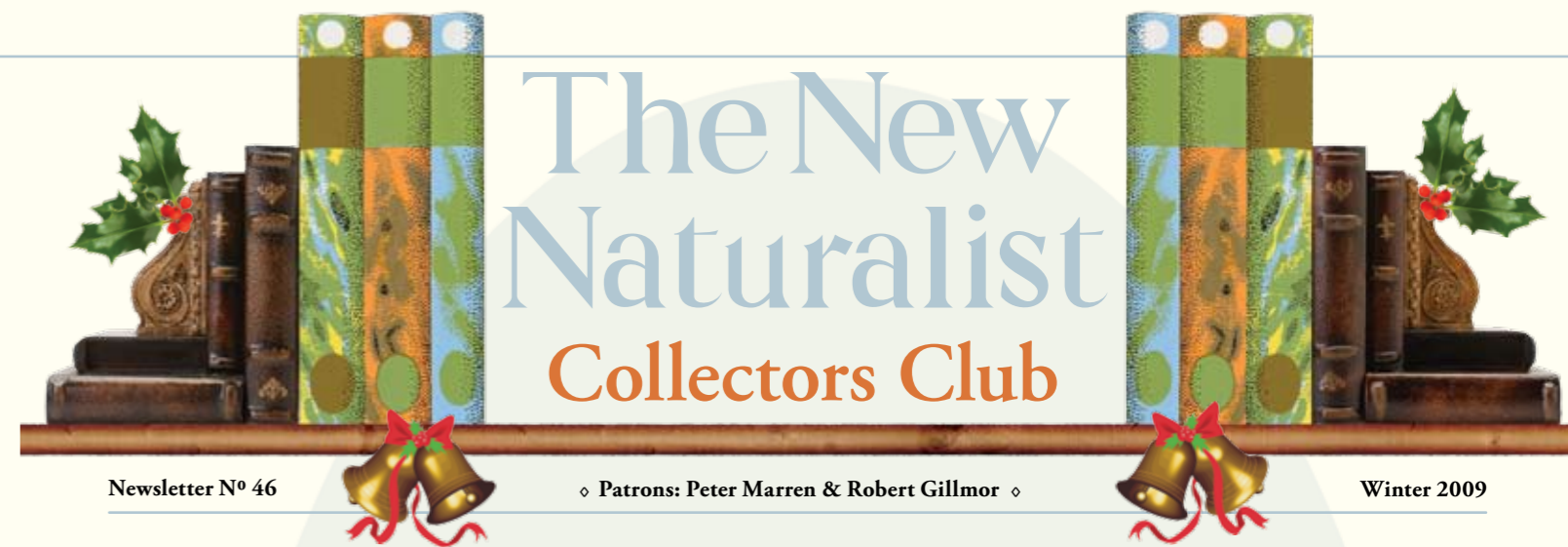
111 **Dartmoor** 1st Ed 2009, Mint, £45



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Newsletter N° 46

Patrons: Peter Marren & Robert Gillmor

Winter 2009

Dear Member,

What a busy year it has been for New Naturalist collectors. The highlight of the year for me was the launch of Art of the New Naturalists by Peter Marren and Robert Gillmor. This special occasion was marked by the club's first symposium which was held at Nature in Art, Twigworth in Gloucestershire on 12th October. After nearly a year of careful planning, the event proved to be a great success with nearly 20 New Naturalist authors attending. I have received two reports from club members who attended the day and I have included an excellent report from Ken Davies in this issue. The second report by David Kings will feature in the spring issue. The symposium was such a great success that we are already in the early stages of planning our 2nd symposium. This will once again be held at Nature in Art and will take place on Monday 6th June 2011. More details will be available next summer. As there was such a demand for the 100 tickets that were available in October, this will be increased to 250 tickets for the 2nd symposium.

Another event to look forward to will be a very special exhibition of New Naturalist jacket designs, featuring original artwork by Clifford and Rosemary Ellis, Robert Gillmor and Philip Snow. This will take place at Nature in Art from 2nd - 28th March 2010. The highlight of this exhibition will be a special talk by Peter Marren and Robert Gillmor on Wednesday 24th March. Full details will be available from the Nature in Art website: www.nature-in-art.org.uk or telephone **01452 731422**. Art of the New Naturalists will also be available to buy and both authors will be very happy to sign copies at the event. Art of the New Naturalists was a tremendous success which, I think, even took HarperCollins by surprise. Advance copies were available at the Twigworth symposium and also at the second book launch at the Pinkfoot Gallery in Norfolk. The book was officially published at the end of October and by then it was already out of print! The first print run was of 3000 copies and Collins were quick to ensure that a 'reprint with corrections' would be available in time for Christmas with a print run of a further 2000 copies.

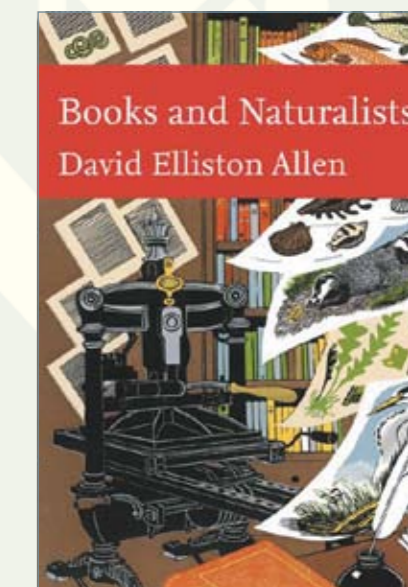
Interestingly, copies which were available at the symposium had a blue band around them which was withdrawn due to a few errors. All copies available after 12th October will have been given a reprinted band, which will make the 150 or so copies that were sold at the symposium particularly rare and collectable.

Stephen Moss has written an excellent article for the Guardian newspaper to be published in mid December which will feature a natural history books round up for 2009. This year's three New

Naturalists, particularly **Dartmoor**, have been given a glowing review but it is **Art of the New Naturalists** that is in first place as Stephen's 'Nature Book of the Year'.

Oliver Rackham's classic NN on **Woodlands** is to be re-issued by HarperCollins as a New Edition bringing the remarkable book to a wider audience. The book will be published on 4th March 2010 in hardback and will be priced at £20. Although basically the same as the NN volume, it will feature a new cover design and will not be part of the New Naturalist library.

HarperCollins have recently decided to cut the number of New Naturalist titles published per year from four to three. However 2010 will still see four new titles as the next volume, number 112 in the series, has been pushed back with a new publication date of 4th February.



Titles to look forward to in 2010:

111 Book and Naturalists
David Elliston Allen - 4th Feb 2010

112 Bird Migration
Ian Newton - 1st April 2010

114 Badger
Tim Roper - 27th May 2010

115 British Climate and Weather
John Kingston - 2nd Sept 2010

All of these books will be available as the usual hardbacks and paperbacks as well as limited signed and leather-bound editions. Myles Archibald at HarperCollins tells me that from next year the leather-bound editions will also be supplied with an optional dust wrapper signed by Robert Gillmor. Myles also recently told me how well the Print on Demand NNs seem to be selling, with the most popular title being **British Bats**.

I am frequently asked about the hard-back print runs and Collins stock levels. Julia Koppitz at HarperCollins has kindly supplied the following information (as at 30/11/09).

Title	Publication date	First Printing	Reprint	Free Stock
Dragonflies	2/6/2008	5,544	0	538
Grouse	1/9/2008	5,025	0	1036
Southern England	3/11/2008	5,124	0	1772
Islands	5/2/2009	5,112	0	1807
Wildfowl	28/5/2009	5,112	0	1900
Dartmoor	17/9/2009	5,100	0	2361

Karen Dobbs from The Folio Society has informed me that there are a few boxed sets of the New Naturalist facsimile editions still available. Club members will benefit from a generous 70% discount off the £750 RRP, plus £5.95 p&p, so the cost would be £225 plus £5.95 p&p. If you would like to own one of these special limited edition sets of NNs 1-10, please contact The Folio Society on 020 7400 4200, quoting the New Naturalist Collectors Club or the code AAYA.

As an added bonus, members who wish to order this set will also qualify for a year's free membership to The Folio Society.

Enclosed with this newsletter will be an application/renewal membership form, please complete this and return it with your subscription. I would like to thank everyone for their generous support during 2009. May I also take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy new year.

Tim Bernhard

NewNatFest at Twigworth : A Personal Reminiscence

9.15am, Monday October 12th. I turn off the busy A38 onto the narrow lane leading up to the splendid Wallsworth Hall. A glorious autumn morning - dappled sunlight through the changing leaves - and the inviting prospect of a day to be spent amongst friends old and new, discussing favourite books, art, and the natural world. This is indeed the perfect setting.

Already in the busy car-park there is friendly chat, cheerful greetings, familiar voices. After registration we wander in all directions ~ some straight to coffee, some to the book dealers with their colourful displays already set up, others to seek out friends or to view the exhibits on display in the galleries. There is an almost tangible atmosphere of excited anticipation. I move over to the lecture hall and leave my papers on a seat in the second row. I note 'reserved' tickets on the row of seats in front ~ Peter Marren, Myles Archibald, Robert Gillmor, Stefan Buczacki, Sam Berry, George Peterken, and others too. This is indeed a gathering of eminent people, talented in diverse fields, and I am privileged to be here. Everyone agrees that Tim has done a terrific job in bringing them all together today. It is still early. I wander out to the room next to the lecture hall and start to examine the 'New Naturalist' books laid out in glass cases. Some of these are from the collection of Peter Schofield, each one inscribed to him by the author. There are cuttings, letters, post-cards and other memorabilia, each one adding a personal touch to the book in question. I immediately

solve one question relating to my own collection ~ my copy of 'The Hawfinch' has an inscription which reads 'To Donald, with birthday greetings, Guy'. I have always harboured the hope that 'Guy' was indeed Guy Mountfort, the author of the book, but I had no proof ~ until now! There, in Peter Schofield's copy, are not one but two examples of Guy Mountfort's signature, and the writing is identical to that in my book! The clincher is the characteristic capital 'G'! A good result already, and the day has not even started yet. There is no time to study all the books in the glass cases ~ but I shall return later!

People are now pouring into the lecture hall, and the rows are filling up. I thought that numbers were limited to one hundred, but there are surely more than that here. I view the audience as they take their seats. Predominantly male, I would say, in the ratio of about 10:1, age-range mainly 40 - 65, but with a few younger and some older. I surmise that some of the younger women might be editors and designers from Collins. Photographers are buzzing about taking photos of people as they come in. My neighbour in the second row introduces himself. He is the author of one New Naturalist and has another in the pipe-line. My other neighbour is a botanist. The TV presenter and wildlife author Nick Baker is to chair the event. As he takes his place in the front row, he turns and we recall the day back in August when he led a cruise on Rutland Water during the Bird Fair. We were hoping to spot the Ospreys which now breed there, but sadly we didn't. However, everyone learned a great deal from Nick about caddis flies and mayflies, which followed the boat that evening.

The preliminaries are few, and we are soon being entertained by Stefan Buczacki, horticulturalist, broadcaster, and the author of many books, including a New Naturalist. He is a terrific raconteur. His book-collecting exploits are well illustrated with pictures, and many of us can relate to his obsessions with 'sets' of books ~ especially those with numbered editions. His favourite NN jacket is No. 21 'British Mammals', and that 'three-eyed spine' is up on the screen, followed by the scary nocturnal fox on the front of the jacket, with his eerie reflection in the greenish pool. As well as the New Naturalists, Stefan enthuses about the 'Britain in Pictures' series, Wayside and Woodland books, the excellent Batsford books with their coloured wrappers by Brian Cook, and many others too. 'We are all bonkers of course', he concludes, and no-one argues.

During the coffee break I spend time having a closer look at the books for sale. As far as I can see, there is at least one copy on offer (and often dozens) of every New Naturalist from No. 1 - 111, plus the monographs. Prices vary from the very reasonable for very good copies of Nos. 1 - 50 (and who needs 'Print on Demand' when these excellent 'originals' are available?) to the astronomical for 'The Golden Thirteen'. I pick up a copy of 'Orkney', and carefully replace it after noting the price tag of £2,500. I decide to see if I can find a copy of No. 24 'Flowers of the Coast' with the numerals on the spine actually clear. There are a few, but barely any better than the one I have, so I don't buy. I chat to a chap who is browsing next to me, and he remarks casually that he has FIVE full sets, all firsts, all first state, all fine! So that accounts for five 'British Warblers', six including mine...only 719 to track down now! I chat to the dealers, and admire their books. There is a lovely copy on one stand of 'Flies of the British Isles' in Warne's 'Wayside & Woodland' series, which I might call back for...

I find the second lecture of the day, by Sam Berry, absolutely

riveting, fascinated as I am by islands, endemics and inheritance. Did you know that Disraeli swapped Heligoland for German East Africa? Queen Victoria took a dim view of that apparently. The lecture is illustrated with views of islands, portraits of luminaries like Eagle Clark, and photos of special birds and animals such as the St Kilda Wren. It's over too soon, but thank goodness I was there to hear it: quite unforgettable.

We file out and make for the buffet. As we go, someone remarks that you can judge a good conference by the length of the breaks for lunch, tea and coffee. The longer they are, the better, as they allow time for the all-important 'networking', informal exchanges, making of new friendships, discussion of the wider issues and pleasant conversations. On that criterion, this symposium is already a great success! Most people take their plates and a glass of wine outside, and stand or sit in the Hall's very attractive grounds, surrounded by sculptures and models depicting various creatures. I like the giant wooden albatross angled in the garden. I overhear a conversation behind me as I sit in the sunshine; apparently someone has discovered a very unusual plant growing over the wall just by a gate, and it has been photographed and identified by an expert among the delegates today. The 'enquiring spirit of the old naturalists' is alive and well!

Raffle tickets are being sold wherever one goes. Everyone agrees that the best prize is the original Gillmor sketch, but I have a secret hankering for the very posh penknife in a box. The book prizes are nice, but most of us have got them already ~ including 'Country Diary of a Cheshire Man' (Collins, 1946), the precursor of A.W. Boyd's 'A Country Parish' (NN9). I buy a strip of tickets and then join the queue in the foyer to buy a copy of 'Art of the New Naturalists' which is being launched today. The colourful books are stacked high near the counter, each one individually wrapped in cellophane and with a blue wrap-around label. A display copy lies open for us to examine before we purchase. I watch the people in front of me as they select their copy from the pile. The chosen copy is examined minutely before it is accepted ~ is that the merest hint of a bumped corner? Or the tiniest flaw in the headband? These men and women ~ connoisseurs all ~ are used to examining their books in detail, and only the very best will do. I get to the front and go through the ritual, and immediately join another queue, book in hand, in the adjacent gallery, ready to receive the signatures of the author and the artist. There is much good-natured chat in the queue. 'Don't throw the cellophane away ~ it will be a collector's item one day', says someone. As we wait, we flick through the book, and there is general approval for the quality of the plates and the scope of the writing. We hope that 'C & RE' would approve. At last I reach the front of the queue and Peter Marren asks me what I would like on the title page. He and Robert Gillmor make the inscriptions, and as I turn away, no doubt with a huge smile on my face, someone takes a photo of the moment. I stand for a while with the book held open ~ as do most people ~ just in case the ink needs to dry, and while doing so I realise I am surrounded by the most exquisite paintings by Peter Scott. And then another epiphany ~ isn't that Jenny Agutter over there above the fireplace, holding a Snow Goose? Suddenly it's 1971 again and I'm watching her and Richard Harris bringing Paul Gallico's delicate novella of Dunkirk to life. Isn't this just the perfect setting for the book signing? I think it is.

The book is carefully stowed in the car, safely out of the sun of

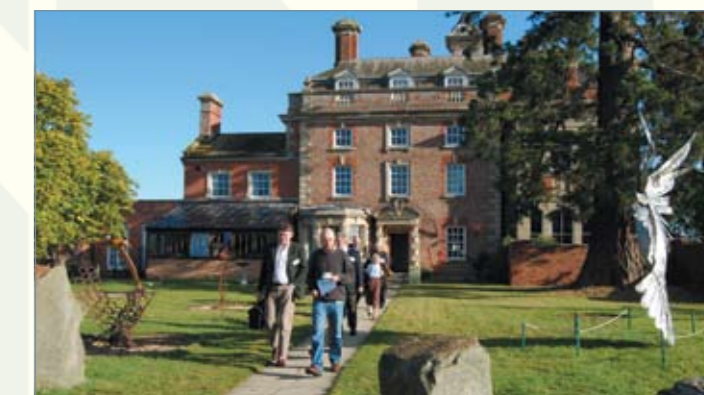
course, before I resume my seat in the lecture hall. Peter Marren and Robert Gillmor give us a fascinating insight into the creation of the New Naturalist jackets from the beginning until now. We even have a world exclusive preview of the creation of the jacket for No. 112 'Books and Naturalists' as Robert takes us, stage by stage, through the process, and he reveals the final design to a round of spontaneous applause. As he speaks, the proofs are in Myles Archibald's car and will be in London tomorrow for final approval. There are questions and discussions. Robert recalls with us the precise instructions he received from Jonathan Mullard as to exactly where he should sit on a Welsh cliff before making his sketches for the jacket of 'Gower' (NN99). The author, sitting next to me, nods his approval of the completed art-work.

Soon it's tea and coffee time again, but this time I take the chance to have a proper look at those books and their associated memorabilia in the glass cases, and then it's back to the book dealers for a final browse around their stands. The last lecture begins, and I am soon caught up in the world of 'Meadows' with George Peterken. We are taken on a journey through pasture and meadow from the Middle Ages to the present day, with frequent stops to admire the flora and fauna along the way. The paintings we are shown illustrate men, women and children at work in the meadow in the past ~ evocative and wistful reminders of times long gone. But then we are up to date again, and we see people of all ages working on George's community meadow project on his home patch not so far from where we are today. I am already thinking of ways we could do something similar in my village! One image in particular stays in my mind; it shows Snake's Head Fritillary flowering in some profusion in North Meadow, near Cricklade. I grew up nearby, and looked forward every year to seeing them.

It only remains now to draw the winning raffle tickets. As predicted, the lucky owner of the first ticket drawn chooses the Gillmor original. The Peter Scott print and the John Gould painting follow. One couple have tremendous good fortune and are both holders of winning tickets; the chap goes for the smart penknife with multiple blades and tools. 'No-one's chosen a book yet', calls someone. The wife of the penknife winner has no option but to choose a book. 'This one?' she asks her husband as she pauses before the table, and having been given the nod, returns with it to her place. The other prizes are soon gone, and Nick Baker finally brings the day to a close. There are thanks all round, especially to Tim, who this time is present in the room to receive our grateful applause.

People linger and chat for a while longer, before we join the last queue of the day in the foyer, where Tim is handing out commemorative mugs to everyone as a souvenir of the day ~ a lovely gesture much appreciated by all. Many people are exchanging e-mail addresses, promising to keep in touch, or to meet up in the months to come. There's just time to have a final word with Jenny Agutter, aka Fritha or Roberta, before heading off, still in brilliant autumn sunshine, after what has been a most rewarding day, in lively company and wonderful surroundings. On my way back to my overnight stop in Wiltshire, I make a slight detour, and pause, just briefly, at North Meadow, Cricklade. Of course there are no Fritillaries, but I know they're there, and I will see them again, soon...

Ken Davies



A further selection of photographs taken at the symposium can be viewed on the club website: www.thenewnaturalistcollectorsclub.co.uk/symposium/symposium-photos.htm.

If you would like to order any of the photos, as a print or on a CD, please contact the photographer Rob Hodgkinson at: hodgyr@hotmail.com or phone 07912 174 612.