

Martin Hayward Smith



(Clockwise from above left) Barn owl at Burnham Norton on West Sands at Blakeney Point, waiting for the storm -

a frosty winter morning; storm brewing over farmland at Barsham; sperm whale carcass - Stiffkey sands, April 2003; Martin Hayward Smith Brancaster beach; Ratty from Wind in the Willows - the rare water vole still is fairly abundant at Cley.

Bracing his feet either side of the door of a light aircraft until he's looking directly at the ground gives Martin Hayward Smith a great adrenaline rush. But face him with a dentist and he's scared! As a cameraman and photographer who travels the world hiking through jungles, walking with lions, clambering among treetops, white water rafting and working in extreme temperatures, coping with a light aircraft in bumpy weather is nothing.

"Many times I'm strapped in and brace myself against the door and lean out. There is a great sense of freedom," he says, adding that his pilots are absolutely excellent. "It is a great adrenaline buzz."

"The only thing I'm frightened of is going to the dentist," admits Martin, 46.

His first book of photographs, *Elements of the North Norfolk Coast*, with words by David North, features stunning photographs showing this well-known part of the county from

very different angles. In it he shoots from above and alongside the landscape, displaying great expanses of sand, cliffs, flints, marshes, creeks, dunes, towns, harbours and woods.

Famous for his wildlife work - Martin is a former *Anglia TV Survival* cameraman - the book includes masses of pictures of birds and animals too. "I am proud of this book," exclaims Martin, adding that taking his seven-year-old daughter Megan to watch it being printed was a very special moment.

The son of former EDP photographer Brian Smith, Martin grew up in Fakenham where he spent as much time in his father's darkroom as possible. "I would rush home from school and be processing in the darkroom," he explains.

Martin adds that he's always been fascinated by cameras, and his distinction in photography at Southampton College of Art followed five years in the Royal Navy. Since then he has worked professionally behind the lens.

While best known for his filmwork and countless TV wildlife programmes, he loves taking pictures. "It is great passion of mine when I have time to pick that up and lose myself in the countryside," he says. He adds that another book is in the pipeline, but this is likely to be a two-year project.

Currently he uses film or transparencies, but is thinking about trying a digital stills camera this year. "They are getting there," he says ●



READERS' OFFER

Elements of the North Norfolk Coast by David North and Martin Hayward Smith is published by *Birdseyeview Books* at £27.95 and is available from all good bookshops.

However, EDP Norfolk readers can purchase signed copies of the book for the special price of £25 (plus p&g) from the publishers. Postage and packing cost varies depending on the gifting/return involved. To place your order please telephone 01263 761450 and mention EDP Norfolk magazine.