

Out now

October issue of EDP
Norfolk magazine

IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE...

CAMERAMAN **MARTIN
HAYWARD SMITH'S**
YEAR WITH HARES

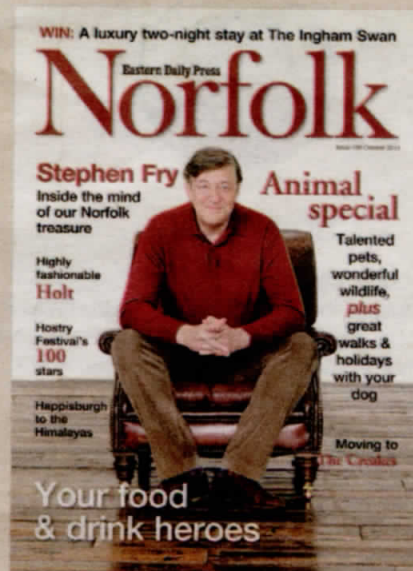
A CINDERELLA TALE
WITH NORTHERN BALLET

RESCUE REMEDY
FOR VULNERABLE WILDLIFE

RAGS TO RICHES -
NORWICH'S TEXTILE HERITAGE
EAT UP IN THE **EDIBLE JUNGLE**

NATURALIST
MARK COCKER'S NEW BOOK

HORSES IMPOSSIBLE!
OUR SCREEN AND STUNT STARS



SUBSCRIBE NOW! **CALL 0844 8480846**



ABOVE: Two hares caught on camera by Martin Hayward Smith.

Wild and wonderful

Norfolk is a haven for animals, insects and birds – it's little wonder so many wildlife photographers and filmmakers make it their home, says Rachel Buller.

He is used to filming wildlife in some of the most remote parts of the world, but few things have brought Martin Hayward Smith more joy than telling the story of a remarkable animal on his own Norfolk doorstep.

His new book *My Year With Hares* tells the story of the iconic creatures through his stunning photographs and excerpts from his personal diary.

"I have always loved hares, ever since I went out on my first ever pheasant shoot as a beater as a small child," he says. "I remember almost tripping over a beautiful brown hare in the field, I don't know who was more startled,

me or him. So many of our mammals are nocturnal or hidden in woodland and there is something magical about seeing these striking lone brown figures in our fields."

For 25 years, Martin has worked as a wildlife cameraman all over world, starting as a member of Anglia Television's acclaimed *Survival* team, before working on countless documentaries, including BBC series' *Life of Birds*; *Living Britain*, and *Natural World*, and ITV's *Wild Britain* with Ray Mears.

He has just returned from three months in the Hebrides, filming otters, seals, sea eagles and basking sharks for

a new documentary and he says that while he loves travelling, there is nothing quite like home.

His north Norfolk house is full of photographs, paintings and artefacts illustrating his love for the natural world, and two rather imperious looking stuffed hares stand guard in his office.

"They were road-kill I found," he explains. "I took them to a taxidermist and then I used them for filming, placing a camera in the space in their chest to get close up shots among the hares. Once they give it a look, they tend to accept it and ignore it."

Martin spent a whole year on the project as he followed the hares



ABOVE: Hares in the field with a combine harvester approaching.

RIGHT: Martin with the hare he hand-reared.

BOTTOM: A blue hare lies in the stubble.

through the seasons – including one of the coldest and longest winters in decades – and he admits he found it hard to walk away at the end.

“It really got under my skin. I was totally immersed in the life of the hares. While every day life was going on around me, I became a hermit and just lived out there with my camera. It wasn’t always the most comfortable experience. I used the portable hides a lot, but I am over six feet tall and these are tiny cubicles. I had to roll out backwards, like a diver tipping back off a boat, and then gradually uncoil myself. It must have looked very comical.

“But I got to know a lot of characters as the hares tend to stay in the same place. I named one No Lugs, as the top of his ears had been cut off by a combine harvester. They are such hardy, tough creatures, living out in the open whatever the conditions; you can’t help but feel in awe of them.”

While working on the project Martin was asked by a friend if he could help nurse an injured, orphaned leveret back





TOP: Leverets peer out of their nest. ABOVE LEFT AND RIGHT: Hares are hardy animals living outside whatever the conditions.

to health. Little Harlene soon made herself at home and inevitably made her way into the book.

"It was a real wrench when we released her, but it was definitely the right time. She was with us for 10 weeks and she was getting too comfortable. She would sleep under the bed and would be sitting on the arm of the sofa, waiting for us when we got home. Then I found her causing chaos in my office, jumping on the keyboard and knocking things all over the floor. We had to say goodbye."

As a boy he would spend his days out exploring the Norfolk countryside, climbing trees, searching for wildlife and sailing on the coast. His father, a press

photographer, taught him how to develop and print films, and that, combined with his love of the natural world, inevitably fuelled his dreams of becoming a wildlife cameraman. After serving in the Royal Navy and then working in the oil industry, he set about fulfilling his ambition.

His work has taken him all over the world, from undercover filming in Ghana about illegal gold mining to the caves of Madagascar where he found himself unwittingly leaping over the open jaws of a crocodile.

"I have been lucky to witness some incredible, magical things," he says. "I was filming polar bears in the Arctic

with Inuit guides and I'll never forget seeing the mother and two cubs for the first time, just playing together. One of the cubs started walking towards us and there was concern the mother would follow, to protect him. It was a very tense situation and I was just filming as much as I could. Thankfully, it turned back and I grabbed my tripod to follow to get more footage, but my Inuit guide touched my arm and said 'Let her go'. I always have that moment in mind wherever I am filming in the world."

My Year With Hares by Martin Hayward Smith, is published on October 18, £27.99. www.martinhaywardsmith.com