



**LOVERS** of mad March hares will be charmed by a beautiful new book devoted to them. Wildlife photographer Martin Hayward Smith lovingly portrays them in the prairies of north Norfolk – and even rears an injured leveret before releasing it into the wild. He says hares were thought to have mystical qualities, with Queen Boudicca releasing one from under her gown to let it show the way to the Roman army. But hares are also toughies – boxing females often try to castrate their suitors. That really is mad.

● *My Year With Hares* by Martin Hayward Smith (£27.95) from [martinhaywardsmith.com](http://martinhaywardsmith.com)