



# BOOKSHELF

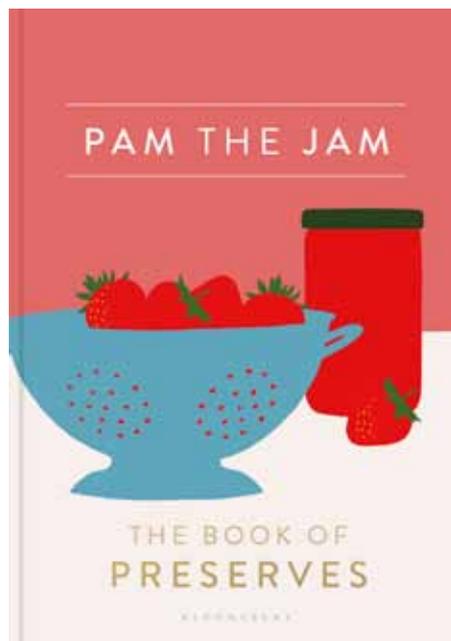
Annette Shaw reviews some of the latest books with a Devon connection

Move over Paddington. This lady puts bacon in her marmalade sandwiches! An invitation to a book launch at Miller's Farm Shop near Axminster that offered fizz and wacky sandwiches was irresistible and truly lived up to the billing.

Pam, sporting a stunning necklace made of tiny glass oranges and green leaves, is the expert that professional chefs consult. A judge at the World's Original Marmalade Awards, she has made preserves for as long as she can remember and is known to many through her work with the team at River Cottage.

The book is an ultimate guide to making jams, jellies, fruit curds, pickles and chutneys. Enticing photography backs up the recipes and techniques like preparing quinces for cheese, or membrillo as it's called in Spain. "What I aim to do," says Pam "is to show new ways with old skills." We had a discussion on reducing sugar content and to

## PAM THE JAM: THE BOOK OF PRESERVES BY PAM CORBIN



prove the point, a plate of scones, clotted cream and raspberry jam appeared – fresh tasting and delicious. "That's only 36% sugar," continues Pam. "In the 1960s we all bought proprietary brands that contained around 70%!"

What Pam does so beautifully is bringing the ancient art of preserving into the 21st century. She talks with passion about adding ginger jam to a dressing for green leaves and a spoonful of herb jelly stirred into gravy or swirled into a bowl of soup.

Meanwhile the trays of sandwiches continued. Egg and chilli jam, a subtle and delicious pickled cucumber to rival any cricket tea...

**Published by Bloomsbury. Hardback £20**

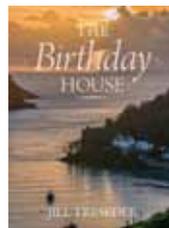


### **STARS: A Family Guide to the Night Sky** by Adam Ford

Exmoor was designated the first dark sky reserve in Europe and this book is a perfect beginning for all the family to learn more.

It's also got quirky interactive pages, like a wheel of gravity that shows a person's weight on another planet. Pluto here we come! Clouds permitting, there are events planned for the Exmoor Dark Skies Festival 14 October (when there is a full moon) until Sunday 3 November. Exmoor National Park web site has all the information.

**Published by Ivy Press an imprint of the Quarto Group. Hardback £9.99**

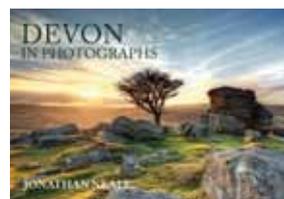


### **The Birthday House** by Jill Treseder

Grief, trauma and family tragedy. Enjoyed isn't quite the right word here. More gripping and read in horror as the inexorable nightmare unfolds.

Set in 1955 and based on a real-life crime, Jill dissects the possible cause of two murders and a suicide. Many of the secrets have no doubt gone to the grave but what she writes does seem plausible, be it the effect on Mrs Harrison, the daily help, or a wife betrayed. A very accomplished novella.

**Published by SilverWood Books. Paperback £6.99**



### **Devon in Photographs** by Jonathan Neale

Photographed by a son of Devon, this is a delightful pictorial guide. In the introduction Jonathan writes: "This collection...is to inspire you to seek out these places and become absorbed by the view..."

Well put. It's the stuff memories are made of. I loved Lynton and Lynmouth pictured from an unusual angle as if flags and flowers are welcoming the cliff railway carriage. Then to Sidmouth and Jacob's Ladder - truly stunning and worth bearing in mind for a Christmas gift.

**Published by Amberley. Paperback £16.99**



### **Britannia's Glory - A Maritime Story** by Maggie Ballinger

As Adolf Hitler said: "Britain enjoys one immense natural advantage. She is completely surrounded by a gigantic anti-tank ditch." Which is why when it comes to matters maritime there's plenty of material.

But this must have been a huge task for author Maggie! You name it and she's found a verse about it. Hallsands shingle beach dropping by 12 feet, Brixham trawlers, sustainable fishing, the origin of the Plimsoll Line and the true meaning of POSH...it's all there and absolutely fascinating.

**Published by Unicorn. Paperback £25**