

THE FIELD

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Field Notes

Salisbury cathedral sounding good again

Salisbury Cathedral's 'Father' Henry Willis organ arrives back this month after a £700,000 restoration that involved cleaning its 4,000 pipes and repairing the mechanics, bellows and reservoir. Designed for the cathedral in 1877 – the £3,500 cost was gifted by local patron Miss Chafyn Grove – the organ replaced an older instrument, parts of which are still in use at St Thomas's church in the city.

A grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund coupled with generous private donations and inventive local efforts, have raised three-quarters of the repair funds needed. Last August, an organ prom was held in the cathedral, there were Behind the Pipes special tours and an auction of promises held in October.

"There was decades of dust in the pipes and they needed cleaning and

repairing. The organ is an extraordinary feat of Victorian engineering and the original craftsmanship demands our respect," said John Challenger, assistant director of music.

While retaining the sound of the English Romantic organ, "What we needed to do is to update some of the mechanics of the wind system for modern use," added Challenger.

The restoration work was carried out by Durham-based Harrison & Harrison, who have cared for the organ since 1978. "Salisbury Cathedral's Father Willis is one of our flagship organs. We work on a lot of his organs but this one is really top of the tree musically, and very well respected," said the firm's Ian Bruce.

Although work was completed in November, the organ has to be 'voiced'



before being played. This will take six weeks and work cannot begin until after the Christmas services. The official dedication will take place on Easter Day 2020, part of a year of events to mark the 800th anniversary of the laying of Salisbury cathedral's first foundation stone.

Advent Processions take place at the cathedral from 29 November to 1 December. Call 01722 555125 or visit: salisburycathedral.org.uk

Around the racing world in 40 paintings

Equestrian artist and former cavalry officer Freddy Paske spent two years visiting racecourses in the UK and abroad for his solo show at the Osborne Studio Gallery in London (4-21 December). In Spain, he went beach racing at Sanlucar de Barrameda



and in Dubai he was a guest of Meydan racecourse to depict the Dubai World Cup.

In St Moritz, he was invited to capture racing on the frozen lake. "The White Turf in St Moritz is an amazing spectacle, something I have been wanting to see for years," said Paske. "The bright Alpine light was incredible, allowing me to capture the horses in a completely different way."

The first race was 'skjoring', where skiers are pulled along by a horse. And cheers went up when a British trainer won the main race.

'Racing Around the World' features more than 40 paintings, priced from £1,000 to £15,000. Contact the gallery on 020 7235 9667, or visit: www.osg.uk.com

In brief

CONSERVING GROUSE

Habitat restoration alone will not deliver viable grouse populations, states the final report on the Langholm Moor Demonstration Project, which has studied moorland management for birds of prey and red grouse over the past decade. The report shows how game keeping benefitted a range of threatened bird species and said new legal predation options may be needed to allow grouse numbers to recover from low densities.

IT'S A HOOT IN DORSET

A record number of tawny owls hatched in Dorset in 2019, according to a survey by local bird experts and Forestry England. When the Milton Abbas nest box monitoring scheme started in 2014, only 13 of the boxes were occupied. This year, 22 were used with a record 66 eggs laid. Survival rates for young birds rose from 66% five years ago to 84% this year. In 2015, tawny owls were put on the amber list of birds of conservation concern.

ARNUP ANIMALS ON SHOW

An exhibition of 60 bronze sculptures of animals by York artist Sally Arnup goes on show at Tennants in Leyburn, North Yorkshire (4 December to 2 January).

Displayed in the purpose-built Garden Rooms, the sculptures will be sold by the auctioneers in early March.

Arnup trained at art schools in London before setting up a studio in Holtby, near York, with husband and fellow artist Mick Arnup. A recreation of the sculptor's studio is included in the exhibition and there are also wax and plasticine models on loan from the family.

For more details on 'Life in Bronze', call 01969 621146 or email: info@tennantsgardenrooms.com



TO CONTACT THE OPENING SHOTS NEWS DESK SEND AN EMAIL TO CAROLINE.BANKES@TI-MEDIA.COM

Ash Millis; Clare Pengell

The Naked, Strewth

A MONTHLY EXPLORATION OF THE BRITISH FONDNESS FOR REMOVING CLOTHES IN A GOOD CAUSE



THE BARELY THERE CALENDAR 2020

Vet students at New Zealand's Massey University are marking their annual Half Way There day by jettisoning their overalls to raise funds for Pet Refuge NZ (www.petrefuge.org.nz). Buy your copy at www.vetcalendar.co.nz. *The Field* has contributed to the cause.

Rachael Varcoe

Mixed fortunes for the hazel dormouse

The hazel dormouse was among the most threatened UK mammal's mentioned in the *State of Nature 2019* report, along with the European water vole, the European hedgehog and the Orkney vole. More than 70 wildlife organisations joined with government agencies for the first time to present

the report. Figures showed 41% of UK species have fewer numbers than when scientific research began in the 1970s, with changes in farming practices and climate change blamed for the demise.

Butterflies and moths were badly hit with numbers down 17% and 25% respectively. Species that need more specialised habitats, such as the high brown fritillary and grayling, have declined by more than 75%.

"Nature is in big trouble but we know how to bring it back. We need a Nature



Recovery Network established in law – one that is locally developed and nationally connected – this would help join up our last remaining wild places by creating vital new habitats," said Nikki Williams, director of campaigns and policy at The Wildlife Trusts.

In Bradfield Woods, owned and managed by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, dormice are doing well due to the deer and conservation management carried out. The wood has an almost unbroken history of coppice management dating back to medieval times. The Trust manages the wood on a 25-year coppice rotation.

"This creates a habitat mosaic of uneven age structure within which dormice thrive," says conservation manager Simone Bullion. Dormice need well-managed woodlands connected by robust hedgerows to spread.

DIARY DATES: DECEMBER

Until 14 Exhibition: A Day at the Races
Melton Carnegie Museum, Thorpe End, Leicestershire.
Tel 0116 305 3860; meltonmuseum.org

30 Nov-16 Dec Africa Exhibition
Rountree Tryon Galleries, Petworth, West Sussex (until 4th in barn in Kirdford). Artists include Emily Lamb and Keith Joubert.
Tel 01798 344207; routreetryon.com

1 Hursley Hambledon Point-to-Point
Larkhill, Wiltshire.
Tel 01730 829313; hursleyhambledon.com

6 Sankta Lucia – Festival of Light
York Minster, Deangate, York (7.30pm, arrive early).
Tel: 01904 557200; yorkminster.org

6-7 Betfair Tingle Creek Festival
Sandown Park, Esher, Surrey.
Tel 0344 579 3019; thejockeyclub.co.uk/sandown

7-8 Westcountry Equine Fair
Westpoint Arena, Clyst St Mary, Devon.
Tel 01392 421500; westcountryequinefair.co.uk

8 Carmarthenshire Hunt Point-to-Point
Ffos Las Racecourse, Trimsaren, Kidwelly, Wales.
Tel 07989617001; ffoslasracecourse.com

10 Holts Fine Modern and Antique Guns
Church Farm Barn, Wolferton, Norfolk.
Tel 01485 542822; holtsauctioneers.com

11 Gavin Gardiner's auction of Fine Modern & Vintage Sporting Guns
Sotheby's, New Bond Street, London W1.
Tel 01798 875300; gavingardiner.com

12 Southams Winter Sale
Eastcotts Park, Wallis Way, Bedford.
Tel 01243 269082; southamsauction.co.uk

12 Christmas Wreath Workshops
Ely Cathedral, Ely, Cambridgeshire.
Tel 01353 667735; elycathedral.org

13-20 Exhibition: 'Art is the Best Medicine'
Fiumano Clase, 21 Wren Street, London WC1.
Works from Jack Whitehall, Annie McGrath, Vic Reeves and fellow comedians exhibited to raise funds for Mental Health UK.
Tel 07789680388; fiumanoclase.com

17 & 18 Young Shots Courses
West London Shooting School, Northolt.
Introduction to shooting for 10- to 17-year-olds.
Price £138.
Tel 020 8845 1377; shootingschool.co.uk

27 Harkaway Club Point-to-Point
Chaddesley Corbett, Worcester. Racing starts at 10.30am, admission £12.50 on gate.
Tel 07795 691835; chaddesleyraces.co.uk

JANUARY ISSUE
FREE: THE NAKED, STREWTH
CALENDAR 2020
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