

The complete lifestyle magazine

September 2011 | £3.80

COUNTRY LIVING

HOUSES • GARDENS • FOOD • CRAFTS • WILDLIFE • TRAVEL • RURAL ISSUES

The return of ROMANCE

DECORATE WITH FLORAL FABRICS, SOFT COLOURS & PAINTED FURNITURE
plus WIN A BESPOKE CONSERVATORY

PURE & SIMPLE HEALTH AND BEAUTY PRODUCTS FROM THE FIELDS OF BRITAIN

FRENCH COLLECTION STYLE, STRUCTURE AND STUNNING PLANTING IN THREE INSPIRING GARDENS

PETS ON PARADE MEET OUR FAVOURITE FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS

Kitchen table
TALENT AWARDS

WE CELEBRATE YOUR AMAZING SKILLS



Late summer flavours

EASY SUPPERS FROM ALLOTMENT PRODUCE, PYO BERRIES ON A CITY FARM & DELICIOUS LIQUEURS WITH FORAGED FRUITS

IS THIS YOUR LUCKY NUMBER?
0215348
9 770951 028224
09 >

discover

LIFE'S SIMPLE PLEASURES

Living landscapes... SAND DUNES

Beyond the shady, silent pine woods planted in the 19th century by the 3rd Earl of Leicester to protect his reclaimed farmland from wind-blown sand, lie the dunes of Holkham Beach. Wind and water have sculpted and whipped the loose sand atop shingle ridges into crested slopes that resemble a desert in miniature. Those bracing themselves against the brunt of the sea and spray are sparse with plants – sand couch grass and sea sandwort are the toughest of vegetation and the

first to establish. Then the long shoots of marram grass are a sign that its roots have got to work, binding the sand and holding the dune together in the fiercest of storms. A haven of sorts, it draws the oystercatchers and ringed plovers to lay their pebble-patterned eggs in the network of roots. In summer, little terns swoop and dive as they fish offshore, bees and butterflies raid the dune flowers and, at dusk, there's a chorus of natterjack toads in the spawning pools. *Lisa Sykes*

A sense of place

NORFOLK

● **The Go-Between** by LP Hartley
(Penguin Modern Classics, £9.99)

The Norfolk landscape is a prominent feature of this novel narrated by Leo who, 52 years later, digs out 'buried memories' about a boyhood summer, in 1900, of cricket matches, teas, picnics and swimming. While staying with his schoolfriend Marcus Maudsley and family at country manor house Brandham Hall near Norwich, Leo has an accident sliding down a straw stack at Ted Burgess's farm and innocently becomes a messenger between the farmer and Marcus's sister, Miss Marian, of the 'grand folks'. With his friend spending most of the holidays ill in bed, Leo goes on errands back and forth, becoming embroiled in the couple's romantic affair, resulting in an awakening which, for some critics, parallels the end of the Victorian age at the dawn of the 20th century.

● **The Birds of Norfolk** by Peter Allard, Don Dorling, Michael Seago, Moss Taylor (A&C Black, £50)

An exhaustive guide to the avian life of the county, from sparrowhawks to spoonbills. Written by a team of more than 30 experts, it also covers the history of ornithology in the area as well as its geography and conservation projects.

● **Building Norfolk** by Matthew Rice (Frances Lincoln, £25)

Illustrated by his own beautiful architectural watercolours, Rice's book explores the historical and geographical reasons for Norfolk's large amount of vernacular construction, from its humblest barn styles to its most stately country houses, all created by 'local people using local materials'.



A PLACE TO STAY

The White Horse, Brancaster Staithe, Norfolk (01485 210262; whitehorsebrancaster.co.uk)

Below the deck, a sedum roof buzzing with bees covers the terraced bedrooms and leads the eye down to the marshland panorama that makes this pub-with-rooms the best location to stay, eat or drink on the north Norfolk coast. The food is as special as the view – mussels from the shoreline beds visible from the windows, as well as other local and seasonal dishes. *Double B&B garden room from £80 per person per night. Lisa Sykes* ▷



For special offers on these books and other titles, visit allaboutyoubookshop.co.uk