

Turf and travel

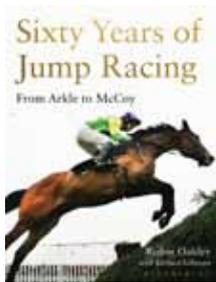
Our round-up of the latest releases

Sixty Years of Jump Racing

by Robin Oakley, with Edward Gillespie

Bloomsbury, £25 hardback; £21.99 eBook

In this beautifully produced book, the Spectator's Turf columnist Robin Oakley chronicles the dramatic changes which have brought the sport's ups and downs – from the development of sponsorships and syndicate ownership, to the near loss of the Grand National, and the growing domination of the Cheltenham Festival. Famous rivalries and memorable races are re-lived and key victories revisited in interviews with the owners, jockeys and trainers who have dominated the sport. With a significant introduction by Edward Gillespie which recaps the sport's heritage before 1966, when it was called 'National Hunt Racing', Sixty Years of Jump Racing encapsulates a majestic history.



The May Queen

by Helen Irene Young

crookedcatbooks.com, £7.99 paperback;

£1.99 eBook

The beginning of the book is set in rural pre-war Cotswolds, where the relatively peaceful world of teenage May, the story's main protagonist, is brought to a sudden end by two very different monumental events, one is the Second World War and the other is the pregnancy and subsequent disappearance of her older, unmarried sister Sophie.

A beautifully written first novel by Helen Irene Young.



Crafted in Britain: The Survival of Britain's Traditional Industries

by Anthony Burton and Rob Scott

www.bloomsbury.com, £25

The magnificent photograph on the front cover sells this book by itself. It's a wonderful celebration of the traditional industries that helped put the 'Great' in Britain. In the post-industrial age, most of the traditions, such as those highlighted in this book, are now sourced outside the UK, so it is heartwarming to see that there are still small pockets where the traditional industries are being kept alive within the British Isles.

This is a truly beautiful book with some awe-inspiring photography.

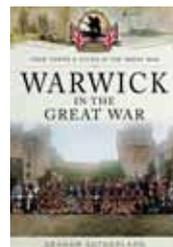
Warwick in the Great War

by Graham Sutherland

www.pen-and-sword.co.uk, £12.99

It is difficult to truly comprehend the enormity of the impact The Great War had on the lives and consciousness of people living in the villages and towns of the Cotswolds. The relatively certain future suddenly turned upside-down by the merciless onslaught of a not-so-distant, mechanised war such as the world had never seen, and until then had belonged within the imagination of Jules Verne.

In this book, as the title suggests, the effects of this terrible conflict on the town of Warwick are documented: the food shortages, the wounded, the prisoners of war and the health of the population are all given separate chapters. This book gives a great insight into the effects of the conflict upon the 'people back home', and deals with how the war was to some extent romanticised by the media of the day.

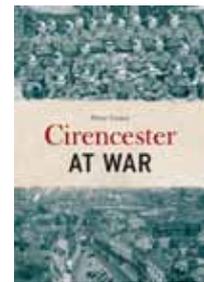


Cirencester at War by Peter Grace

www.amberly-books.com, £12.99

If the Great War had a terrible impact on the towns and villages of the Cotswolds, it was soon to be eclipsed barely two decades later by World War Two. This time the war was not fought primarily by soldiers and sailors in a seemingly distant arena, where only fragile dirigibles with small payloads could do relatively minor damage to the civilian buildings of England. This time it was total war, where the civilian population was now at the mercy of the mechanised might of the Luftwaffe, and only the valiant 'few' of the RAF could offer any defence.

Cirencester at War is a haunting, photographic testimony of the impact the war had on the town, and is a thoughtful insight into a dark time in Cotswold history.



Slow Travel: The Cotswolds

by Caroline Mills

www.bradtguides.com, £12.99

This is the Cotswolds edition of the renowned Bradt Slow Travel Guides. It's set out as with the other Slow Travel Guides, in a way which one can easily get the information they need, making a comprehensive guide for anyone travelling in the area.

The book lists the usual food and drink establishments, and also, by the use of information panels, highlights points of interests in more detail.

Slightly low on the use of photographs compared with other guides, but extremely useful nonetheless.

