

# to the fore



came in making a fine catch; first rabbit in the bag in the first field. In the next two fields the rabbits were lamp shy and it wasn't until the fourth field we got our second race and our second catch of the night.

The wind had all but died except the odd intermittent gust as we entered a large brow-y field with a wood bordering it. A quick flick of the lamp illuminated the eyes of a fox which was sitting at the edge of the wood on the ditch.

This is where a bit of fieldcraft comes to the fore. If we called the fox where we stood he could skirt the brow and remain on the edge of the beam where he could escape to the darkness if he did not come right into the call. Often, early in the year, the foxes may not react as eagerly as they have an abundance of food and are not overly hungry in many cases.

We quietly moved down the fence line to where we knew we could lamp the whole field and the fox could not run out of the beam. Our new position also used the backdrop of a tree to further camouflage us and the wind was now blowing into our faces, it had been at our back as we entered the field which meant the fox could have scented us much easier.

I began calling the fox. My father had the lamp dimmed down low and we could just make out the glare of Reynard's eyes in the distance. At first I used the electronic caller and the fox did not seem keen. After coming out of the wood he paused and sat listening without showing any real sign of further interest before smelling around, unaware of our presence but unmoved by the call.

## Lack of interest

I said to my father this fox has no interest and he suggested I give him a call on my hand. I didn't hold out much hope of this being effective as I assumed the fox had got a fright before on the lamp, hence his lack of interest to the call.

As soon as I began calling with my hand the fox reacted. At first he walked towards us gradually which soon turned to a trot and as he crossed the half way mark of the field he was coming toward us at speed.

I could barely make him out as my father dimmed the light lower. The fox began slowing down and became more cautious as he neared us, perhaps sensing our presence or the lurcher. At this stage the lighter and quieter the call the better as the

fox makes its final approach. If the call is too loud or strong it can spook the fox from coming right in to you.

I had the camera rolling and I could barely make out the fox at about 10 yards away. My father slipped 'Shadow' then gave the fox the full beam. 'Shadow' had him caught in an instant. A really nice dog fox for 'Shadow' and a memorable hunt on our doorstep for us.

Another scan of the field and there were no further foxes to be seen but we gave another call just in case. This is a good example of how a bit of fieldcraft and patience can pay off on the lamp and add to your bag. This was easily a fox that could have slipped the net had we not given ourselves the best chance of success.

If you can get out for a walk around in daylight beforehand it is a lot safer.



## Seasonal game evening with Jose Souto

TO celebrate Great British Game Week, The Dundas Arms in Kintbury, West Berkshire, is hosting a seasonal game evening with game chef and senior chef lecturer, Jose Souto.



Being held on Tuesday, November 20, the evening will begin at 7pm and guests can enjoy a four-course game dinner, dinner party style.

Costing £45 per head, it will include a welcome sloe gin fizz and guests can expect fresh venison, partridge and pheasant as Jose discusses the benefits of British game and the inspiration for this new book, *Feathers: The Game Larder*. Signed copies of the book will be available to buy on the evening.

For more information, or to book, email [info@dundasarms.co.uk](mailto:info@dundasarms.co.uk) or call 01488 658263.

The Great British Game Week is a collaboration between BASC's Taste of Game, Countryside Alliance's Game-to-Eat and the British Game Alliance to push the health and economic benefits of British game to new audiences.



# Get Christmas all wrapped up!

## Some great gifts from the Alliance

THE Countryside Alliance has lots on offer this Christmas including its iconic ties, the design of which has remained a constant symbol of the organisation throughout the decades.

They will easily survive the rigours of a sporting life, whether that be a day's hunting or a dinner party. With the choice of polyester (£19.99) or silk (£29.99), they come in navy, green, maroon, black, burnt orange and gold.



Alternatively, support the Alliance with a quality softshell gilet. Priced at £69.95, they have a robust front zipper and two handy zipped side pockets, a breast pocket and an internal pocket for a wallet. The hem can be adjusted to ensure a snug, comfortable fit.



These are the perfect gilets to display the 2018/19 Alliance Shooting Badge (£100) or Supporters Badge (£15).



Call 01299 851 767 or visit [www.countryside-alliance.org](http://www.countryside-alliance.org)

## A Wicked winter with Scott Country



THE perfect Christmas present for the night hunter, the new Wicked Lights A67iC 3 color gun light from Scott Country is a revolutionary new high-power system for lamping foxes or controlling vermin.

It features a centre axis rotational three in one colour LED system to deliver a bright red, white or green selectable beam with a high-power beam throw that is unrivalled in a switchable colour hunting lamp, with no diodes or pills to change.

Designed in the US using precision machined T6 Aircraft grade aluminium, it delivers a beam well in excess of any targetable distance, for just £249.99.

Call 01556 503587 or visit [www.scottcountry.co.uk](http://www.scottcountry.co.uk)

## Fell Hunting Memories

FELL HUNTING MEMORIES



THE newly released *Fell Hunting Memories* DVD from Countryside Audio and Visual was recorded before the millennium and contains footage that has never been seen before.

For hundreds of years the fell packs have hunted on foot across the spectacular scenery found in the Lake District giving amazing viewing to supporters of these very famous Hunts including Blencathra, Eskdale and Ennerdale, Coniston, Melbreak, Ulswater and Lunesdale.

Priced at £26 plus p&p, the DVD has a running time of 90 minutes.

Call 07747 463797 or visit [www.countryside-video.co.uk](http://www.countryside-video.co.uk)

## Naturally save money this Christmas



NATURAL, no harsh chemicals and multitasking – Ruggles & Stopital's products focus on some specific natural products that go to the body's core and do numerous jobs for no extra cost eg. calm itchy skin and benefits joints simultaneously.

Whether for dogs, cats, horses, farm animals or humans, the gentle, multipurpose and non-invasive product ranges offer body-supportive options for many of today's health challenges.

These include the anti-fly, flea, mite, tick & itching Ruggle-it range for pets, large and farm animals and humans; Protexin probiotics helping gut, immune systems, skin and joints; intensive omega-3 for joints, ligaments, skin and repair; Vitamin D for immune systems, joints, energy and mood; or the organic 'superfood' green barley grass for minerals, joints, immune systems, skin and energy.

Call 01823 259952 or visit [www.karenruggles.co.uk](http://www.karenruggles.co.uk)

## Pain relief from Jenny Ryan



FARMER Judith Hodgson was not only suffering from Reynaud's disease which causes poor circulation and numbness in fingers and toes but had also been diagnosed with a tumour on her spine.

Fortunately, when operated on, the tumour proved to be benign but Judith's back was still very painful and caused her sleepless nights. Her work on the farm was made difficult and uncomfortable.

Having read about Bioflow's magnetic therapy products in *The Countryman's Weekly*, Judith decided to try them for herself, buying a Bioflow Elite wristband from independent distributor, Jenny Ryan, which really helped with the Reynaud's disease.

She then also decided to try a Boost pack for her painful back. This is designed for people who need extra pain relief for areas with severe problems. She now uses this at night and finds she sleeps much better and is less stiff in the mornings.

Judith was so pleased by the results she also bought a Bioflow dog collar for the farm dog, who is also doing much better.

Call 0114 2307844 or 07817 671259 or visit [www.magneticpower4u.net](http://www.magneticpower4u.net)

SUPPLIED / RURAL SHOTS