

COTSWOLDS ADDRESS BOOK

Paintings by Alan Ingham

The Cotswolds are among the most precious and beloved landscapes in Britain, a fact recognised by the designation of the Cotswolds as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. At 787 square miles (2038 sq km), the Cotswolds AONB is the biggest in England and Wales, covering an area that stretches from South Warwickshire and Worcestershire in the north to Bath and North East Somerset in the south. However most of the AONB lies in Gloucestershire, the county with which the Cotswolds are indelibly associated.

What marks out the Cotswolds to so many is the character of its stone and its buildings. The trade in wool brought enormous prosperity to the area and this was reflected in the walls dividing up the pastureland, the farmhouses and barns, villages and towns, churches and country houses, all predominantly built with the attractive local limestone. It was very much this landscape that artist Alan Ingham responded to when he moved to Gloucestershire in 1984. Ingham was one of England's foremost watercolour painters, capturing the beauty, magic and light of Nature in England, especially as revealed in his beloved Cotswolds. Alan Ingham became one of the most eagerly-collected artists in the country.

Address books tend to be well used and have a long life. Along with important contact details, they keep track of the user's friends and acquaintances, tracing their lives over time and from place to place. And, if properly attended to, an address book eventually becomes a journal in itself, and an attractive and permanent keepsake. Whether bought as a gift or for personal use, this *Cotswold Address Book*, with its superb pictorial reminders of the area captured by the inimitable brush of Alan Ingham, will provide years of pleasure.

THE ARTIST

Alan Ingham was one of England's foremost watercolour painters. Following a career as an officer in the Royal Navy and then as a Lecturer, he felt a growing urge in the 1970s to paint. From exhibiting at local galleries and events he progressed rapidly to shows in London, exhibitions at the renowned Granby Gallery in Bakewell and publication in the form of limited edition prints and other media. In 1984 Alan and his wife Rose moved to Gloucestershire where he was captivated by the beauty of the Cotswold villages and farms.

His first book of paintings, *Under a Watercolour Sky* was published in 1996. His second, *Savour the Moment*, published posthumously in 2005, followed every step of Alan Ingham's remarkable career; from the brilliant caricatures of Navy days to the landscape masterpieces of the 1990s when – at the height of his powers – he was able to capture the beauty, magic and light of Nature in England. By the time of his death, Alan Ingham was one of the most eagerly-collected artists in the country.

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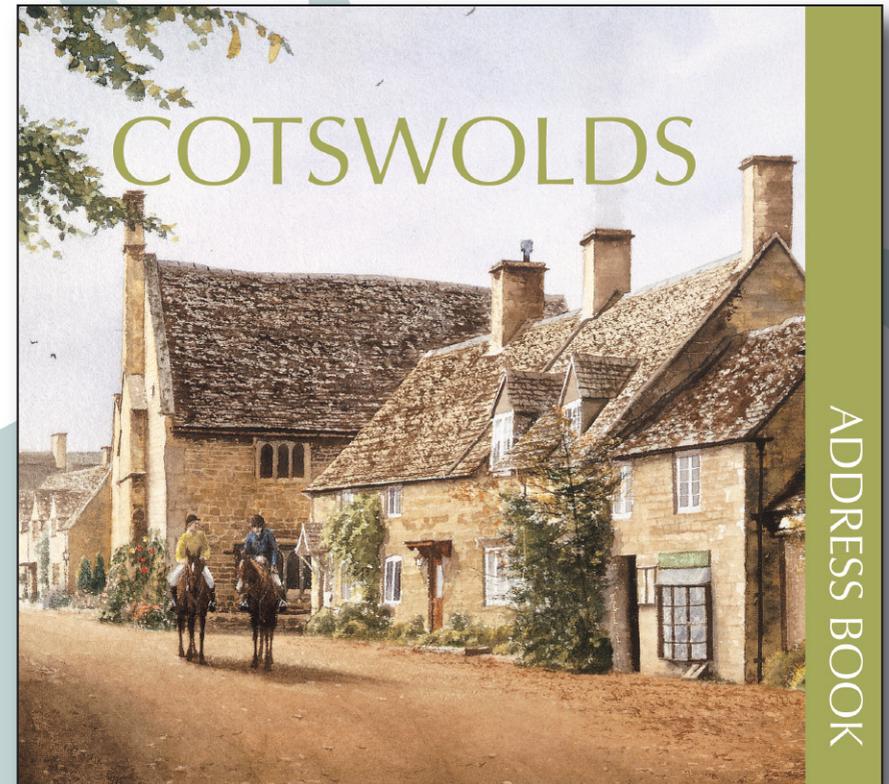
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