

# KENT IN WINTER

Andreas Byrne

Kent is a county of broad views and historic sights, characterful towns and ancient villages. At any time of year the county is charming and picturesque, but in winter frost and snow brings a stunning added dimension to the Kent scene. The magical days leading up to Christmas are transformed as Bluewater Shopping Centre is ablaze with festive lights, Canterbury Cathedral is decorated with a life-sized Nativity and Christmas carols hang in the crisp night air.

And then the harsher days of winter proper set in with freezing temperatures, ice, snow, frost, arctic winds and swirling mists. At times this can be magnificently bleak, but at others sun, snow and bright blue skies are the ingredients for a beautiful and uplifting picture. Wildlife also becomes more approachable as animals and birds stock up on food, and offer perhaps the best opportunity for close contact in the whole of the year. By mid-March the temperatures begin to crawl back into double figures, spring flowers emerge from their thawing slumber, and bursting buds, croaking frogs and longer sunny days herald the end of winter's reign for another year.

All this and more is captured in 140 superbly evocative images by renowned Kent photographer Andreas Byrne to tell the colourful tale of Kent in winter.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Andreas Byrne is a self taught landscape photographer based in New Barn, Kent. Andreas is very passionate about photography and this is his fourth book on Kent published by Halsgrove. He sells his pictures to commercial and retail calendar companies, greetings cards, and is a regular contributor to *Outdoor Photography* magazine. He was highly commended in the BBC Wildlife of the Year Competition 2008.

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The Leather Bottle was a favourite haunt of Charles Dickens and is important in his novel The Pickwick Papers.



The sun filters through the golden willows on to the geese waiting patiently for food by Broadditch Pond.



Right: Thawing snow surrounds a traditional oast house and cottage on Heaverham Road.

Below: Example of a double-page spread.



Rising Sun.  
The pub at Fawkham Green offers a warm inviting refuge from the bitter winter's evening.



Canterbury Cathedral.  
A Christmas tree stands outside the magnificent illuminated cathedral at the winter moon rise.



Time to dust off the sledges and snowboards for the chance to enjoy the winter sports at Castle Hill, not too far from Horsmonden.



Knole House, Sevenoaks is managed by the National Trust. It was built by Thomas Bourchier, Archbishop of Canterbury and dates from 1456.