'T WAS A PROPER JOB

John Greenslade

"Farmer John", as he is affectionately known by many in Devon, has lived and farmed in the heart of the beautiful Exe Valley for more than seventy years. For many years he was a full-time livestock farmer but, after a serious outbreak of T.B. on the farm, he sold the dairy and beef herds. This led to him being able to become involved in many public offices, where he was always promoting the countryside and farming community. His involvement in the Young Farmers movement has been longstanding and he was Devon County Chairman in 1966. His training in this excellent youth movement led him to then becoming a local magistrate for over twenty years, a monthly contributor on Radio Devon, and a trustee of some local charities which promote and retain all countryside events.

This book traces his family and farm history, recalling his earliest memories of the 1940s and '50s, his farming in partnership with his wife and parents and in his later years his award winning conservation projects, with woodland planting and pond creation so that unrestricted walkers can visit and enjoy this beautiful countryside. There is a chapter that contains some amusing poetry written mostly by sister Margaret, with extracts from his mother's autograph book from the early 1900s. Included in the book are many interesting photographs and extracts from life on the farm throughout his lifetime and which will be a fascinating read for all countryside lovers and urban dwellers alike. "Proper Job"!



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John Greenslade is a Devon farmer and broadcaster, known to many through his Radio Devon broadcasts as "Farmer John".

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Above: Way Farm house.

Left:YFC County Chairman 1966.

Right: First tractor – Standard Fordson on spadelogs with binder.

Below: Example of a double-page spread.

'T WAS A PROPER JOB





Our very first pon



Bluebells in spring.

CHAPTER TEN TREES, PONDS, WILDFLOWERS AND WILDLIFE

Suppose we have always had an interest in trees and conservation. In the 1980s when Devon County Council had some spare money, people with land were offered up to twenty five trees to plant in appropriate places. We took up this offer for three or four years, planting up in corners of fields and adjoining pieces of woodland. From time to time, the Devon County Forster came and inspected and made sure they were well careful co. In 1994 we started serious planting of trees, starting with some of the steeper land. We took advices from lackle Scott, who was our Cal Devon FVAG advisor, we looked at what trees greew well on our land already and made these our main types of tree in our plant. Glades and paths were also put into the plan, so we looked at what trees greew well on our first planting we planted oak, ash, wild chery, line, chestnut, with small groups or imple; crab apple, mountain and for the edge of our rides we used hazel, blackhorn, Guelder rose, honeysucke with wayfarer and spindle. These varieties would create a lot of for the birds in late summer and winter. It was decided to plant in way lines, but with groups of fittees is of grands wands were necessary to wait the odge tool tike first two years. Hough an ani-i tractor with engibbours and Bickleigh village that overlooked areas and weeds around a greenhouse effect, giving quicker growth to the saplings. Although not a big

The following year, we did another ihree sites, containing the same species but adding groups of Soche pine, situev birdy, walnut a few beech and some aspen, with further glades and footpaths. Help to fund these schemes came from the farm woodland premium scheme from which we receive annual payments for fifteen years. DEFRA regularly inspected to



Pippa Quelch recording with Farmer John.