

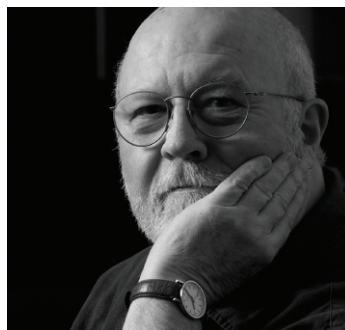
Peter Heard's PAINTINGS OF A WEST COUNTRY LIFE

Peter Heard

When world-renowned naïve artist Peter Heard came to live in Somerset in 2006 his London upbringing had done little to prepare him for life in an agricultural village, nestling in a valley between the Quantock Hills and Exmoor. He was struck at once by the colours of the fields, of the stone and of the changing light in the sky. Then as he delved into the culture and history of rural Somerset he discovered a landscape of fêtes, hunting and shooting, open gardens, vintage tractors – and the West Somerset steam railway. Peter researched farming books and found old Victorian photographs of people harvesting and haymakers posing with their scythes. So he put people in his paintings, set against the Somerset landscape. They might not smile but they will certainly bring a smile to your face.

From a distance these paintings of West Country life are attractive and pleasing on the eye and they draw people in. Then close up the craft and the skill become evident. The meticulous attention to detail – everything has to be just perfect in Peter's world – the well-defined edges, the way the light falls. There is no room for what Peter calls the "happy accident".

Everything is controlled in a way that creates a painting that is both realistic and naïve at the same time. They are paintings that you can look at again and again and always find something new to look at. And that is why you know you would just love to have a Peter Heard painting on the wall. Enjoy this collection of more than 120 remarkable and life-enhancing works celebrating the joys and quirks of a West Country life.



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Peter Heard is perhaps England's most famous living naïve artist. Born in London in 1939 he became a Civil Engineer but began painting in the 1970s. Self-taught, he quickly gained international recognition for his work, holding his first solo exhibition at London's Portal Gallery in 1978. Whilst Peter has become well-known for his witty depictions of country life and people, he has developed a fascination with lighthouses and has produced a series of remarkably graphic lighthouse paintings which have gained a wide following. He now lives in Somerset; this book is the result of his life-changing move to the country.

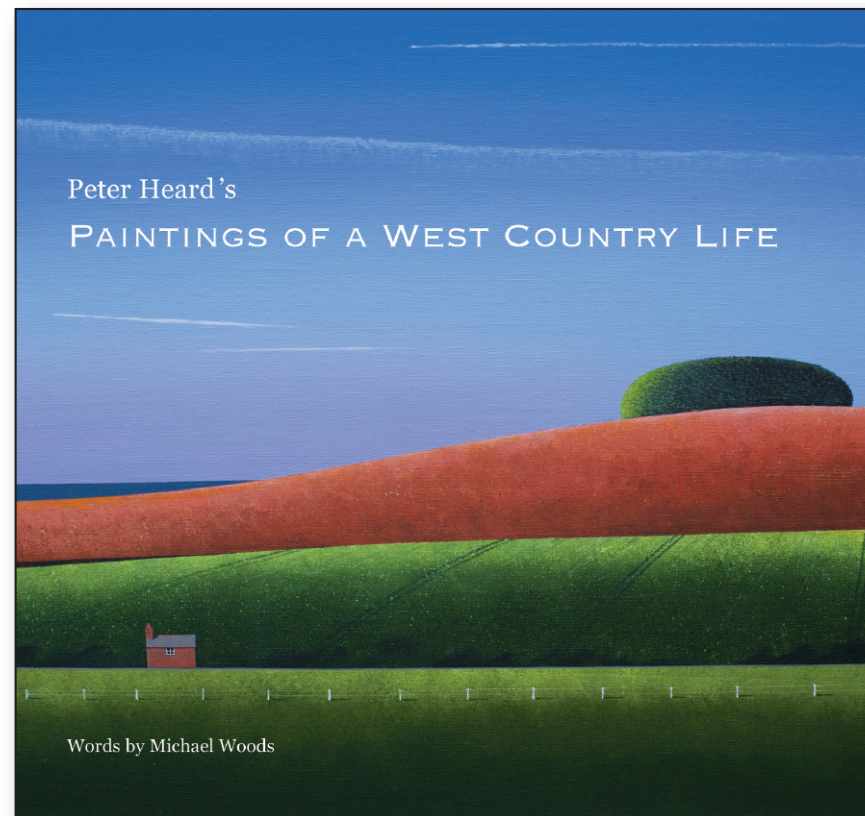
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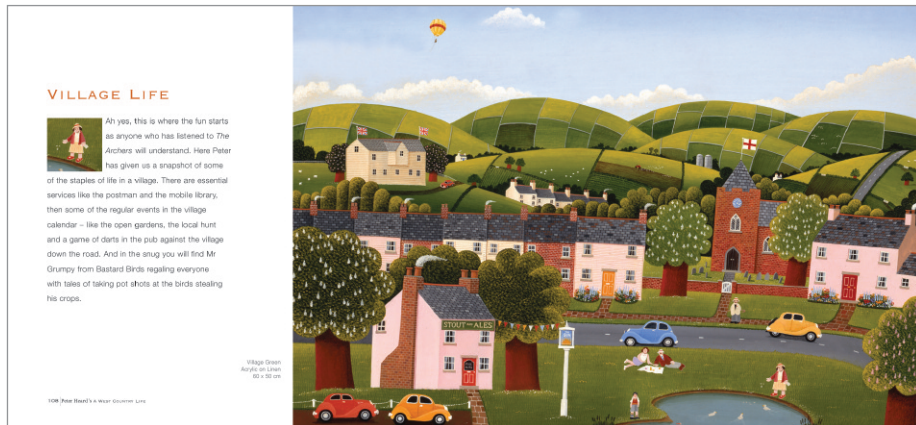
PETER HEARD'S
PAINTINGS OF A WEST COUNTRY LIFE



Much Loved Service,
Acrylic on Linen, 40 x 40 cm

Turnaround Tree 2
Acrylic on Linen, 50 x 50 cm

Left: Studio Fields, Acrylic on Linen, 50 x 50 cm Below: Village Rush Hour, Acrylic on Linen, 60 x 50 cm



Examples of double-page spreads