

THE BOATING HOLIDAY

WITH RUFUS,
GRANDDAD & BARNEY

Gerry Miles

The author Gerry Miles has already established himself as a significant landscape artist working from his home in South Devon. His paintings of the region's beautiful countryside and coastline are much in demand, while his book *The South Hams Coast*, a unique combination of landscape paintings and guided walks, has been recently reprinted after continuing demand.

In *The Boating Holiday*, Gerry has turned his expert hand to writing and illustrating a children's story based loosely on his personal experiences holidaying with his own grandchildren. It is a book he hopes will be read by parents and grandparents to their own children and grandchildren, although it will be equally enjoyed by children reading alone. It follows the adventures of young Rufus and his spaniel Barney, along with Granddad who hires a smart riverboat for a journey into the countryside. These three explorers have a lot to learn and the scrapes they get into and the people they meet add up to an exciting week on the river.

The colour illustrations are based upon the beautiful countryside surrounding the River Nene in Northamptonshire. This river with its unique guillotine locks wends its way through lush meadows surrounded by wooded hills. Its banks are lined with old watermills and it links historic towns and villages, where churches, houses and cottages are built from natural weathered stone. It forms a perfect backdrop for the boating adventures of the three intrepid explorers.

Recommended for 8-12 year olds, *The Boating Holiday* is a humorous and gentle tale, refreshingly told, and with superb illustrations that bring the story to life.



The author, Gerry Miles, with two of his grandchildren out sailing.

THE AUTHOR

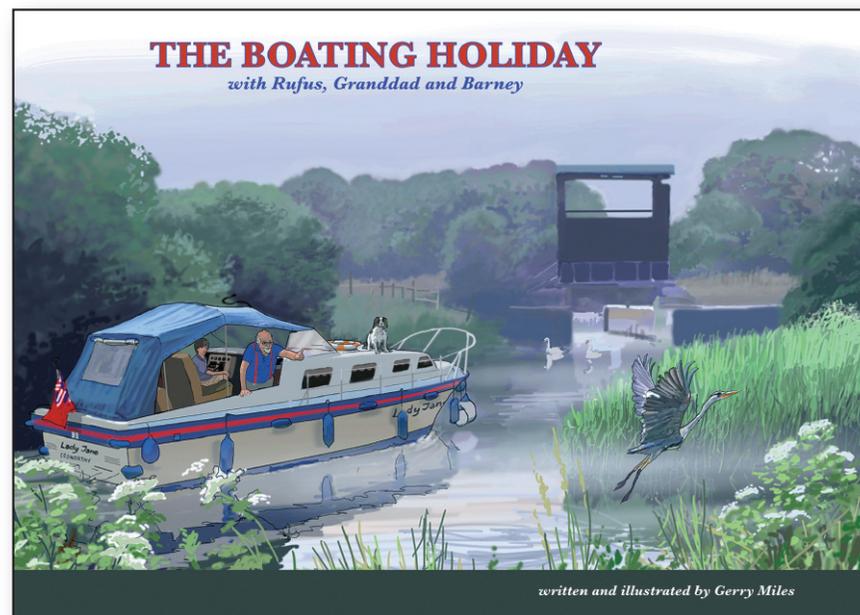
Gerry Miles is an accomplished landscape painter who shares his time between his family home in The Netherlands and his retreat in Hope Cove, South Devon. His paintings of the South Hams capture the essence of this area of outstanding natural beauty, while his skill in reproducing figure work is seen in the wonderfully lively illustrations he has made to accompany his children's story *The Boating Holiday*.

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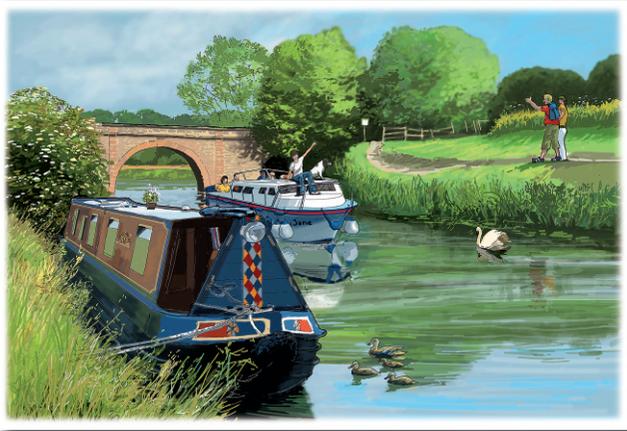


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THE BOATING HOLIDAY



"Oh yes," chips in Mum before Rufus has a chance to answer. "He's really so small and very obedient."

"Does he bark a lot?"

"No," says Rufus indignantly, lifting his voice at last. "He was trained as a gun dog by my Uncle Steve. He barks very well and only ever barks if he gets really excited."

"He's a lovely dog and not at all aggressive," adds Mum.

"Well now," the man scratches the grey stubble on his chin and makes a soft clicking noise with his tongue as if considering what to do.

Just at that moment Dad, Granddad and Mavis step out of the office.

The man looks up. "What are we going to do about this Mavis? Can't have this boy going away on holiday on one of my boats with his face as long as a fiddle, can we?"

Mum smiles.

"Tell you what Rufus, if you promise me that Barney will behave himself and not disturb other boats with a lot of barking and yipping, I'll let you take him with you. What do you say?"

"OK, I promise. I promise, he'll be as good as gold," cries Rufus, his eyes suddenly brightening again.

Granddad has one sideways, "Yes, well," and with a broad grin does a little jig.

"That's really good of you," says Dad. "I can't thank you enough."

"OK, that's settled then. I've spent the whole morning washing and scrubbing down the 'Lady Jane' so he's got her a look as best she's the finest boat in my fleet. By the way I'm Harry," he says, shaking Dad's hand as they walk down to the jetty.

"Thank!" says Dad. "and this is me with Mavis."

Granddad grips Harry's hand warmly. "I'm Midge." They cross to the boating jetty and Rufus breaks into a run, all ears forgotten as he sees the cruiser with the red stripe moored in a position at the very end.

"One of the finest craft I've got," announces Harry for the second time as they all step on board the

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Example of a double page spread.