JOHNNY KINGDOM'S WILD EXMOOR

David Parker

Exmoor is a place full of contrasts, from a dramatic coastline, with some of the highest cliffs in England, to steeply wooded river valleys and rare and nationally protected stunning heather moorlands. Over the years Johnny Kingdom, Exmoor born and bred, has walked and filmed most of it, across all four seasons. And in his own, unique style.

This book, which accompanies the television series of the same name, takes the reader further in to parts of the moor Johnny loves so much, to encounters with the animals, birds, and flowers that make Exmoor a special place for him.

Like the television series, the book is framed around the seasons. In each section there is an account of what Johnny might be doing in the season. In winter he is busy building a new home for badgers on his land, taking time out to film winter wading birds on the coast and exploring the woodlands for carpets of snow drops. In the spring he is filming the results of his badger house building with his co builder Bob and watching for the first signs of red deer shedding their antlers. In summer he is out about, opening fetes and judging competitions, watching deer with their young and keeping an eye out for a family of little owls he's been following. And in the autumn, a truly spectacular time on the moor, he is mixing cleaning out birds' nest boxes on his land with filming the deer rut, the climax of the year on Exmoor.

Illustrated with photographs from Johnny Kingdom and the author, and tracking Johnny Kingdom's year on Exmoor, this exciting new book can be read either as a companion piece to the television series, or on its own as a characterful guide to exploring this unique landscape that Johnny calls home.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



David Parker, lives in Bristol and is a television programme maker. He first discovered Exmoor in 1986 and he cannot keep away form the place. He has made more than 50 television documentaries about its history, landscape and wildlife. He first encountered Johnny Kingdom in 1996 and convinced of the unconventional and special talent of the former grave digger, he persuaded television commissioning editors in the BBC and more recently ITV to put the man from Exmoor on the screen. They have been working together ever since. *Johnny Kingdom's Wild Exmoor* is David Parker's first book.

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Above left: Tom Lock's workshop – Hawkridge

Above right: What we did on our holiday – Johnny's Boxing Day hide on Tony's land

Right: Johnny suitably attired WENDY McLEAN

Below: Example of a double-page spread.





Top right: Some of the herd on Winsford Hill

Bottom right: There's no finer sight on Exmoor – a mature red deer stag and his hinds JOHNNY KINGDOM

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d up from a countre. It's sometimes sid—well, sid by me, anyway—thur a rolly pool coli any three varieties of calce something und chookner, a Vietreris spong and a functable, then that and you are special for choice. The ran gamber as Lae Abbry has them all, ne will memale scores cooling on a nek. What more could one ask fort Take a sue in the gamber mip.

at the old guess in the workerfully anneapheric handcare called Valley of Racks, Am I dow't a Johney and his consumme, they will be filming them: The Seal guest have graned the billitery slopes to the sea for as long as anyone can temenher and like every steler animal their ampthing on a farmoor many use them as an anet. They keep down the scali, step small tense ings on the ciffs and generally look good for visions. What not not a like about them?



PART THREE
SUMMER





