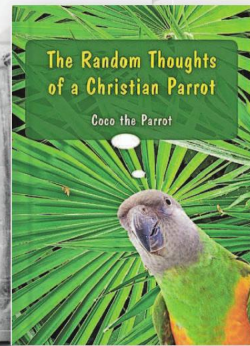
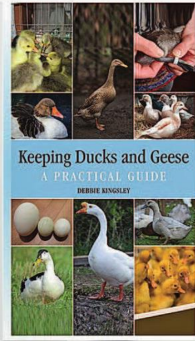
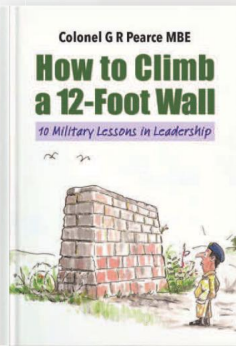


# 6 APRIL



## HOW TO CLIMB A 12-FOOT WALL: 10 MILITARY LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP

*By Colonel G R Pearce MBE*

Bob is currently the Bursar at West Buckland School near Barnstaple. Having spent a full career in the Army, he's written a book about leadership which I found accessible, practical and remarkably uplifting. I think we should all read it! In conversation with him it was clear that many of the lessons have general relevance in this post-pandemic world. They embody decency, responsibility, trust and reliability. The chapter on resilience was particularly poignant: "...it is strength of character, born from your inner values and standards." In *How to Climb a 12-Foot Wall* Bob documents the successes and failures of his personal journey. Commanding a supply squadron in the NATO rapid response organisation and then a Transport Regiment in the Iraq War in 2003, he gained invaluable experience. Leaving the Army to join the NHS on a senior leadership programme, it became clear that these lessons could transfer to other walks of life. **Published by Halsgrove. Hardback £16.99**

## KEEPING DUCKS AND GEES

*By Debbie Kingsley*

Easter Sunday falls on April 17 so this new guide is timely because it's more than an owner's reference book. Early on Debbie covers Eggs Benedict and there are colourful photos of decorated goose eggs. She also writes, "I think the duck egg reigns supreme when it comes to the gastronomy stakes. The first one of the season means a celebratory breakfast..."

With over 290 photographs this book provides everything you need to know including: legal requirements, land, fencing, housing, equipment and security. There is a comprehensive list, with accompanying photographs, of over 80 duck and goose breeds. Further topics covered include: feeding and nutrition, health and welfare, breeding and rearing as well as raising for meat, slaughter, plucking and preparation for cooking, plus recipes.

Debbie has been keeping livestock for more than three decades and runs popular courses at her farm in Devon in all aspects of smallholding. **Published by The Crowood Press. Hardback £18.99**

## THE RANDOM THOUGHTS OF A CHRISTIAN PARROT

*By Coco the Parrot*

At the time of writing this, storm Eunice was battering the UK and on virtually every front from heath to politics problems swirled. Consequently, receiving a book by a parrot brought not just a smile, but ironically a lot of comfort – echoed by The Right Reverend Jackie Searle, Bishop of Crediton, in the foreword. Certainly different! A world viewed through the eyes of Coco lifts the reader out of their normal perspective, and parrot wisdom, as a blog, is currently being read in more than 40 different countries.

Coco takes 166 subjects, from the power of positive thinking to work/life balance. He offers his thoughts and adds biblical references along with words from people as diverse as Leonard Cohen to Captain Tom. I'm leaving the last word to Julian of Norwich, also known as Juliana of Norwich, an English anchoress of the Middle Ages: "All shall be well."

**Self-published and available via Amazon, Tarka Books in Barnstaple and Age Concern in South Molton. Hardback £12**

# READS

Annette Shaw  
selects six books to  
enjoy with Devon  
connections



## THE HOUSE ON DUNDAS AND VINE

*By Ricky Dale*

You never know what's behind a story until you get chatting. Which is what I did with Torbay resident Ricky Dale this week. He's a man with a fabulous past, a former crooner who rubbed shoulders with Helen Shapiro, Pearl Carr and Teddy Johnson. Ricky sent me a press cutting about his life in Burlington (north-western end of Lake Ontario). He even included a poster of Danny Kaye, starring at the Brant Inn, a club that drew audiences from Toronto and beyond.

Ricky's latest book is about a house that was seemingly a magnet for a group of disparate people.

"Yes, all of the stories are true – joined together with a smidgen of fiction. It seems kind of therapeutic to write about some of my experiences – it has a positive effect to get out into the open things that were not necessarily good at the time they happened," says Ricky.

**Self-published and available online and Amazon.**

**Paperback £11.79**

## WENDY AND PEGASUS

*By Arthur Gordon*

The winged horse seems to be moonlighting from his usual role in Greek mythology with a view to sharing local knowledge in Devon! Beautifully illustrated, this is perfect for pre-school or early readers age six plus.

Arthur has created an enchanting story of a little girl called Wendy who lives on a Dartmoor farm. One winter's day she meets Pegasus – he'd become disoriented in a storm and landed on the moor. Soon, they become friends and the story unfolds of their adventures together.

Wendy and Pegasus and the other characters in the book are fictitious. However, the locations described are real places in Devon, such as Widecombe in the Moor and Fairy Cove, a beautiful spot near Paignton. Arthur weaves in details like the construction of cottages from red stone brought from quarries in Tavistock. He is a graduate in economics from the University of Exeter and lives in South Devon.

**Published by A.H. Stockwell (Ilfracombe).**

**Paperback £5.95**

## COURT AND DAGGER AND OTHER TALES FROM EXMOOR

*By Chris Gladstone*

Chris read the classic *Lorna Doone* by R. D. Blackmore when he first moved to Exmoor. "It's got the right mix of goodies, baddies and love interest," he says.

"During lockdown, with time to spare, I began thinking how I'd been inspired by the story and the folklore of the Moor. That's when I began to work on *Court and Dagger*, an adaptation of a classic for the modern world." Written in verse, this dramatic and evocative story includes heroes, villains and a multitude of colourful characters who become involved in high jinks and a series of comic episodes across the wild landscapes. The book also contains three humorous stories in verse based on Exmoor legends.

Chris has a degree in archaeology and has always been intrigued by the mysteries of the past. Passionate about local myths, his previous work includes a local history book and poetry. **Self-published. Available via Amazon. Paperback £5.95**