

Shop front

Clive White finds some useful kit for caravanners

Inspired for sound



CHECK OUT Nevada for inspired gift ideas. Its enormous range includes special radios like the Eton G6 Buzz Aldrin Aviator (£89.95, bottom left), celebrating 40 years since his moon landing. It's a fully-featured enthusiast's pocket-rocket of a world-band radio with MW, FM, shortwave (with SSB) and aircraft band. Various tuning methods, 700 memories, world timer, alarms, AC adapter, case etc make the G6 a serious portable receiver. Or choose the MagicBox Nocturne XP-1 (£99.99, top left) with soft-slide-out play and charge iPod dock (adapters included). DAB/FM radio, touch-sensitive keys, remote control, dual alarm, 20 presets and cool blue display with backlight add to its suave style, as do two 7W speakers and 20W sub-woofer.



Hate fiddly phones? Amplicom's PowerTel M5000 SIM-free mobile (£79.95, right) has an extra loud ringer and volume plus powerful vibrate alert. High-clarity display, big keys, SOS and three quick-dial buttons make it ideal for anyone with hearing or sight difficulties and those who just want a simple full-function phone. See nevadaradio.co.uk or call 02392 313090.

For the kids, see nevadamusic.co.uk or call 02392 205100 for Bart Simpson's 21in soprano ukulele (£24.99, below). Ukuleles are a popular primary school



instrument – so it's educational, fun and a great gift idea. Enjoy a peaceful Christmas...



On your feet!

YOU CAN'T have Christmas without socks, so give someone's walking boots a treat from Brasher. Special twistless yarn is said to give 30% less blister-inducing friction, 30% faster drying and 30% more sheer displacement absorption. Merino Wool Ultra, with extra loop-stitch padding, provides superb comfort and warmth. In a range of colours for men and women: £14 for 3-4 Season; £12 for 2-3 Season per pair. See brasher.co.uk or call 0191 516 5780.



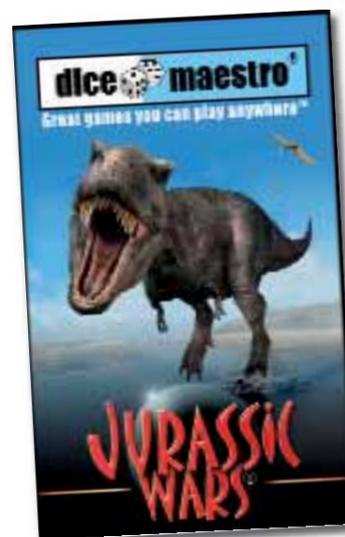
Centre of attention

OUTDOOR TYPES love maps, so give them a specially personalised Ordnance Survey OS Select map. Choose the location for the centre of the map (home or favourite caravan site, for instance), add a special title/message and choose from 21 cover images. Landranger (£15.99) or Explorer (£16.99) versions from leisure.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/osselect (20% off OS Select maps ordered online until 31 Dec) or call 08454 560420.



CRUCIAL TOOLS

FOR DIYERS, Gerber's Crucial compact, stainless multi-tool (RRP £49.99) packs quality long-nose pliers/wire cutters, screwdrivers, knife, bottle opener and, unusually, a carabiner into an easily pocketable kit. See gerbergear.com or call 01506 406277 for stockists.



Dicing with dinosaurs

HAVE FUN anywhere with the Jurassic Wars dice and card game, which needs no space-hungry board. Players tactically lay the beautifully illustrated dinocards from their hand and judge the best time to play a combat card. The game is easy to learn (age eight to adult), quick to play and great fun for two to five players! £10.99 inc P&P from Dice Maestro (UK made and 5% profits donated to worthy causes). See dicemaestro.com or call 02380 261484.

GET A LIFE

IF A high-definition camcorder, digital still camera and music player all in one palm-sized splash-resistant unit, with 2in colour display and 2x digital zoom for under £100 sounds a nice gift, get the Medion Life S47000 Digital HD Sports Camera. It has 90MB internal memory, SD and SDHC card slots, automatic white balance, 720p resolution, USB 2.0 interface and included Li-Ion battery. Full details at medion.co.uk or call 0871 376 1020.



Read all about it

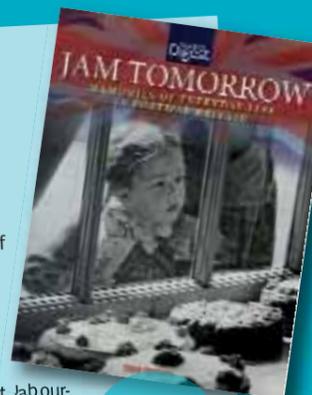
JAM TOMORROW
Tom Quinn
Reader's Digest
ISBN 9780276445040
£25 hardback

As the Second World War drew to an end, the people of Britain looked forward to a brighter future. But even though there was good news to come in the form of the National Health Service, low unemployment, labour-saving devices such as the washing machine and the previously unimaginable prospect of owning your own car, life in post-war Britain remained harsh for many.

Rationing of products such as sugar and bacon continued until the early 1950s ("beer was rationed too but that was probably a good thing and a lot of wives would have liked to keep it that way," according to contributor Rose Plummer) and an incredible 38% of houses did not contain a bath according to 1951 statistics.

This book is a superb tribute to the resilience of the British people and an intriguing record of social change as American music and fashion infiltrated our culture. *Jam Tomorrow* is jam-packed with evocative black-and-white and colour photography, and punctuated with fascinating personal insights from those who lived through the period. JT

Offer price
£18.75 + postage



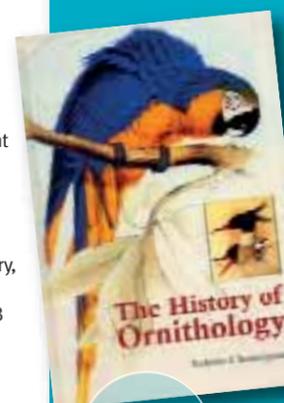
THE HAIRY BIKERS' FOOD TOUR OF BRITAIN
Si King and Dave Myers
Weidenfeld & Nicolson
ISBN 9780297859741
£20 hardback

To make their BBC 2 television series, *The Hairy Bikers' Food Tour of Britain*, popular cooks Si King and Dave Myers visited 30 counties in the United Kingdom in search of traditional local recipes, the finest home-grown produce and the most-talented chefs. This follow-up book containing 90 recipes is what the presenters call a "fantastic shop window" on what they believe is the "best food in the world".

The 256-page hardback traces their 15,000-mile odyssey from Aberdeenshire (where they prepared Angus beef olives with kidney gravy, 'skirlies' and champit potatoes), via Fermanagh (stuffed brown trout with rhubarb compote and watercress quenelle) and Gwynedd (trio of Welsh lamb with three-root vegetable mash and buttered kale) to the depths of Cornwall (spider crab, lemon and lemon thyme risotto), as they unearth memorable characters and succulent dishes.

In each area, the bikers prepared a traditional meal before challenging a top chef from the area to a 'cook-off'. The aim of the latter was to create a dish which best showed off the local produce, and each guest expert's recipe is also included here.

A list of the suppliers featured in the programmes is provided at the back of this excellent book – the perfect Christmas gift for the food lover in your life. JT



THE HISTORY OF ORNITHOLOGY
Valerie Chansingaud
New Holland
ISBN 9781847734334
£17.99 paperback

For the general reader, publications on the history of bird study seem to be pretty thin on the ground, so this handy sized and easy-to-read volume will make a welcome addition to the birdwatcher's bookshelf.

Less knowledgeable nature enthusiasts, like myself, might be surprised to learn that ornithology has been around for an awfully long time, and the author traces its history from what's described as Antiquity through the Middle Ages and Renaissance to modern times.

There are accounts of travel to exotic places and remarkable discoveries, plus tales of rivalry and companionship among the ornithologists dedicated to their study and feathered researches. Along with the informative text and beautiful illustrations is a 20-page timeline detailing every significant ornithological event during the past two millennia. CW

Offer price
£13.49 + postage

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