

# FRAMING OUR COUNTY

THE latest book from South West-based writer and photographer Nigel Hicks, *Wild Southwest*, is a richly illustrated publication which showcases the beautiful landscapes and diverse wildlife across the four counties of Somerset, Devon, Dorset and Cornwall.

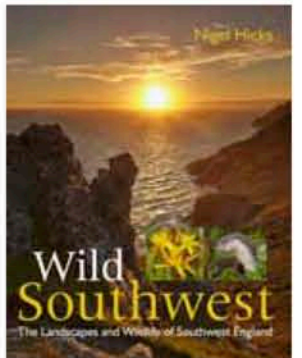
Containing more than 300 photos, the book takes the reader on a tour around the region's natural environments, ranging from the offshore submarine reefs to the highest moorland tors, and taking in wildlife that ranges from bluebells to basking sharks.

For Somerset, the landscapes featured include Exmoor, the Quantocks, the Mendips and the protected marshlands of the Somerset Levels. Exmoor's most well-known features are included, from its high rolling hills, deep plunging valleys and near-vertical coastal cliffs, to its rushing streams, dense woodlands and open heather moors.

For the Mendips and Quantocks, woodlands, moors and grasslands feature, along with the coastal cliffs of Kilve, the rugged Brean Down headland and of course the stunning Cheddar Gorge. At the opposite extreme, the Levels' Avalon Marshes are a series of quiet water habitats that recall how much of this region must have once been.

Wildlife ranges from the heathers of Exmoor's open moorlands and the assorted flowers of the Mendips' limestone grasslands, to the magnificent red deer of Exmoor, and the endangered water vole and a host of waterfowl - particularly in winter-of the marshes.

*Wild Southwest* hits the shops, both high street and online, in early October, with a retail price of £14.99, published by Nigel's own publishing company, Aquaterra Publishing. ♦



Find out more at  
[nigelhicks.com/  
WildSouthwest.html](http://nigelhicks.com/WildSouthwest.html)

## COMPETITION

Nigel Hicks is offering readers of *Somerset Life* the chance to win a signed copy of *Wild Southwest*. All you need to do is correctly answer the question below and then e-mail your answer, along with your name and contact details, to [info@nigelhicks.com](mailto:info@nigelhicks.com). You can also write to Nigel Hicks Photography, 5 Canons Close, Bishopsteignton, Teignmouth, TQ14 9RU. Closing date for entries is 15 November 2016. All correct entries will go into a draw, and the first one out will be the lucky winner of a signed copy of the book.

### The question is:

What is the county flower of Somerset?

- a) the Cheddar pink,
- b) the primrose, or,
- c) the bluebell.