

THE FIELD[®]

September 2021

Established 1853

Perfect on partridges

WHICH GUNDOG BREED IS BEST?



Gunmaking
The craft of
stock finishing

Autumn hunting
Why early starts offer
magical rewards

From red to roe
How to cook the best
bits of our wild deer

SPORTING COMPANIONS



THE COCKER REMAINS COCK-A-HOOP AT ALL TIMES, ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE ARE PARTRIDGES TO FIND

One good deed...



The Tusk Lion Trail

Look out for life-sized lion sculptures prowling the streets of London, Edinburgh and Bristol. The Tusk Lion Trail Installation celebrates African lions and raises funds for conservation projects. Designed and made by artist Ian Davenport, designer Donna Karan, Rolling Stone Ronnie Wood, wildlife photographer David Yarrow and others, they will be auctioned by Bonhams on 9 November. Visit: tuskliontrail.com



FIELD CHAMPIONS

Rory Kennedy, GWCT's Director Scotland

A conservationist with a private-sector background, he believes that "the reality for conservation, especially in the UK, is that it is not principally conducted in dedicated nature reserves but as part of the rich fabric of working and cultural landscapes."

Plans for future: "Grouse-moor licensing is now an inevitability in Scotland. GWCT has a vital role in ensuring that what comes out of this

process can support a model of grouse-moor management that is both sustainable and economically viable. Much of our work in Scotland is uplands-focused, where we are dealing with evolving wildlife legislation. We are hopeful there will be forward-looking developments in future agri-environmental schemes."

Elysian moment: "Some exceptional retrievers from the German pointers I train and work."

BRIEFING

SHOOT FOR HEALTH

A new paper based on a University of Northampton student's PhD thesis has found that shooting, beating and picking up all have a positive impact on the mental health and wellbeing of older people.

ACRES INCREASING

Demand for land, driven in part by buyers looking to launch environmentally friendly projects, has fuelled values, with prices exceeding £7,000 per acre for the first time since June 2019, says Knight Frank.

RECYCLING SERVICE

British Game Alliance (BGA) and plastic-waste recycling specialists Agri.cycle have launched an initiative to collect spent cartridge cases from participating shoots and recycle metal and plastic components. The service costs £125, with a percentage donated to BGA. The shoot is provided with a BGA-branded collection bag that fits around 21,000 cartridges.

POLLUTING PIGS

Forget the much-maligned cows – an Australian study has found that, globally, wild pigs produce more carbon dioxide than a million cars.

RIVER WOES

According to Salmon & Trout Conservation, the only way to save British rivers is a complete overhaul of the rules under which the Environment Agency operates.

COVID FUNDING EXCLUSION

A shoot in Flintshire, Wales, is reeling after being excluded from the latest round of Covid relief funding on the grounds that "the Welsh Government does not support activity that may lead to animal cruelty as a leisure activity". →

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