

# BOOKSHELF

Annette Shaw reviews some of the latest books with a Devon connection



## WINTER SWALLOWS BY BABS HORTON

Written in dual time, 1895 and 2016, inspiration for *Winter Swallows* came after Babs read *The Discovery of France* by Graham Robb. "I found a reference to children, known as the swallows, who were made to walk hundreds of miles to the capital to work for a chimney sweep master."

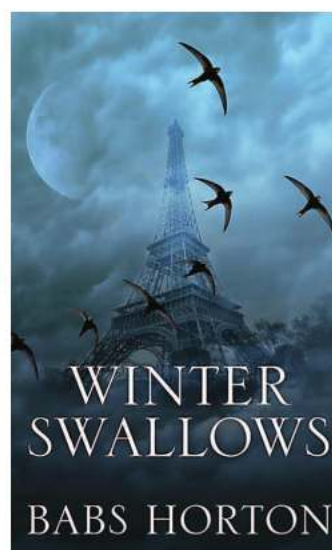
A holiday with her own family in France gave Babs the idea of dovetailing a mystery, the hideous actions of nuns with new-borns and a contemporary story into a novel about step-parents and the difficulties of relationships. Full of emotion,

sad in places, but also drawing in valuable, nurturing, non-family characters, it's a book I'd highly recommend.

Based in Plymouth, Babs has an established track record. "I've written for as long as I can remember," she says. "In the mid-1980s I announced that I was going to write a book!" She did indeed, and *A Jarful of Angels* was duly published.

Babs has taught in secondary schools, psychiatric units and worked for the Royal Literary Fund as a Writing Fellow at the University of Plymouth.

*Self-published, Winter Swallows is available on Amazon. Paperback £8.99*

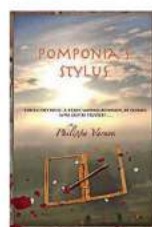


### Tithe Barns by Joseph Rogers

If these buildings could speak... what stories they'd tell.

The Devon entries in Joseph's book include Broadhembury Grange, Buckland and Torre. There are historical notes as well as an overview that add to an appreciation of these ancient structures. During the Medieval period farmers were obliged to offer one tenth of their yield to the Church. Storage for such offerings or tithes, required the construction of large protective barns - now much loved in many guises.

*Amberley Publishing. Paperback £15.99*



### Pomponia's Stylus by Philippa Varney

Author Philippa has a longstanding interest in history ignited by the Roman past of her home city of Exeter.

So, we're travelling back in time to Rome AD 19 when Tiberius was the ruling emperor. Her book is a fictionalised account of a real noblewoman, Pomponia Graecina, and is both illuminating and gripping. We follow a life of intrigue, and sometimes peril, as Pomponia makes the journey across Europe with her husband General Aulus Plautius - conqueror of Britain in AD 43. *Available on Amazon. £7.06*



### Beneath Cornish Skies by Kate Ryder

Have you ever wished you could start your life again?

A tantalising question posed by novelist Kate. As summer fades this is a perfect novel for early nights and more reflective reading. Cassandra Tallulah Shaw is on a voyage of discovery and has the courage to take a leap of faith, leave a controlling relationship, and allow herself to blossom. It's a gentle mix of romance, tears, smiles, horses, ghostly sightings and Cornwall - with references to Devon and Sussex. Loved it!

*Published by Head of Zeus. Paperback £8.99*



### Fly Fishing the World on a Shoestring by Duncan Hall

From Iceland to Alaska, Argentina to the Amazon this is a fabulous book!

The enthusiasm shines through and I found it very interesting and informative as a guide to understanding the appeal of the sport. Duncan, a GP in Sidmouth, has had a lifelong interest in fishing, ever since he landed his first trout as a six-year-old. He's combined worldwide travel with his favourite pastime and backs up the text with stunning photographs.

*Paperback £16.99 and hardback £24.99*

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