



Test your knowledge

Quiz of the week

1. Who was married to Ruskin and Millais?
2. In which county is Melton Mowbray?
3. How long is Loch Ness?
4. In which year did Martin Luther King give his 'I have a dream' speech?
5. What is a group of widgeon called?

Unmissable events

Closing soon

Until November 22 'Paul Brown: In the studio', Sanguine Fine Art, Ditchling, East Sussex. By appointment (01273 844778; www.sanguine-fine-art.co.uk)

Until November 28 'Whyn Lewis: New paintings', Portal Gallery, 15, New Cavendish Street, London W1 (020-7935 5222; www.portal-gallery.com)

Exhibition

November 26 'Recent paintings by Hugh Pakenham Mahon', The Park Room, The Royal Overseas League, London SW1, 6pm-9.30pm (01672 851294; www.rosl.org.uk)

November 21-22 'Artists in Action', The Essex Craft Society, Great Dunmow Maltings, Dunmow, Essex. £1.50, 11am-4pm (01371 878979; www.essexcraftsociety.org)

Until November 22 'Jenny Jowett', Oxford Botanic Gardens and Saïd Business School, Park End Street, Oxford (01865 286690; www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk)

November 19-22, MADE09, Brighton's Design and Craft Fair, entrance £5 (www.made09.co.uk)

Christmas Fair

November 25 Young Countryside Alliance Christmas Shopping Evening, Farlows of Pall Mall, London SW1. Tickets £10 (www.countryside-alliance.org.uk/events)

Study day

November 21 'English Artists and Landscape in the 20th Century', a lecture by Jo Walton, Richmond Art Society, Vestry House, 21, Paradise Road, Richmond, Surrey. Tickets £20, 10am to 4pm (020-8943 1735; www.richmondartsociety.com)

Competition

November 21 North Cotswolds Hedgelaying Competition, Foss Cross, Gloucestershire, 8.40am-2pm (01451 862000; www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)

Racing

November 20-21, Allied Irish Bank Meeting, Ascot, Berkshire. Tickets £10/£15, gates open 11am (0870 727 1234; www.ascot.co.uk)



Country walk

You can't trust a stoat

As the vegetation begins to die down, I've seen more stoats on my wanderings. Stoats, with weasels, are the most common carnivorous mammal in Britain, and their aggressiveness far belies their size. Rabbits and hares are terrified of them to the extent that they can be paralysed with fear until the stoat kills them with a savage bite to the back of the neck. They're also compulsive killers, and, like a fox, will kill everything in a chicken run rather than just what they can eat. As Ratty says in *The Wind in The Willows*: 'Weasels—and stoats—and foxes—and so on. They're all right in a way... but they break out sometimes, and there's no denying it, and then—well, you really can't trust them, and that's the fact.' **MH**

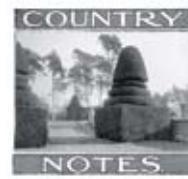


Best buy

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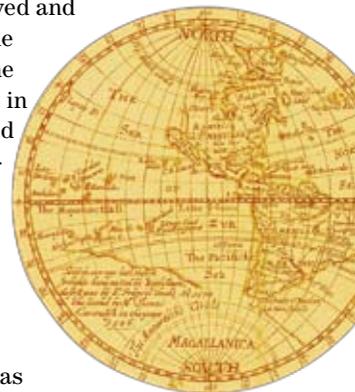
100 years ago in COUNTRY LIFE



November 20, 1909

Mapping the world

There were many reasons for the assembly of the delegates who met at the Foreign Office on Tuesday to arrange for an international map of the world. It is an inconvenient and regrettable fact that a very large portion of the Earth's surface has not been adequately surveyed and mapped out. In the British Islands, the United States and in the more advanced Continental countries it has been done, but there is much left for the cartographer to do. In order to maintain a sense of proportion it was necessary to fix upon some uniform scale, and the English one of sixteen statute miles to the inch is perhaps as good as any that could be suggested. It would also be of great service if a uniform language could be used on maps, as it is confusing to find different names for the same place. It is singular that an International agreement was arrived at to have a map of the heavens before one of the Earth was discussed.



The producers

The wild-boar salami man

Four years ago, Simon and Louisa Gaskell set up a wild-boar farm in 20 acres of Cotswold woodland, and founded The Wild Boar Company. The animals live as nature intended—roaming free, rooting and foraging for their food. Simon asserts that they keep him very much on his toes, with their temperamental nature, explosive speed and sharp tusks—and have given him 'many a scar'.

As well as selling wild-boar meat, they produce award-winning *salamis* and *chorizo*, beautifully boxed and ideal as presents. Simon particularly recommends this year's Cotswold Game Salami, consisting of wild boar, venison and pheasant, with a slug of port (from £5.50). All produce is sold at Harvey Nichols, House of Bruar and delicatessens nationwide, as listed on their website (www.therealboar.co.uk), and also available to order online. **AC**



I. Effie Gray 2. Leicestershire 3. 23 miles 4. 1963 5. A raft

www.countrylife.co.uk

