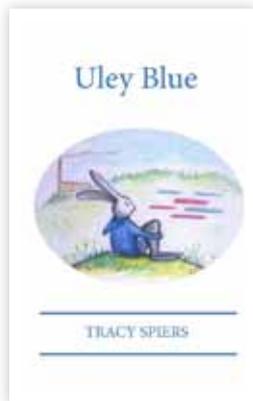


Hare-raising adventures

We review some of the latest titles available from independent Cotswold booksellers



Uley Blue

by Tracy Spiers

£9.99, Spotty Flamingo Publishing

Stroud writer and illustrator Tracy Spiers has published a collectable pocket-sized children's book to celebrate the town's museum and local heritage.

Uley Blue is a little hare with a big imagination who visits her grandfather Scarlet Red Hare while he is at work at the Museum in the Park. As she looks at the collection, Uley's creative magic enables her to have tea with the ammonites, ride a mammoth around Cainscross roundabout, be knighted by an important man in a painting, get threatened by an early animation machine and dance with a statue in the Museum's Secret Garden. Illustrated and written by Tracy, the book pays tribute to the textile industry of the Stroud valleys; Scarlet Red and Uley Blue are two of the woollen cloths which could be seen drying out in surrounding fields on tenter hooks.

Uley Blue is available from Stroud Bookshop, the Museum in the Park, Emporium in Winchcombe and from Tracy herself. www.tracyspiers.com

Twenty First Century Cotswolds

by Pippa Paton

£35, www.pippapatondesign.co.uk

[pippapatondesign.co.uk](http://www.pippapatondesign.co.uk)

This beautiful offering is the first book from award-winning interior designer Pippa Paton. Sumptuously illustrated in a hard-backed large-format package, the book showcases the diversity of buildings in the Cotswolds, celebrating the breadth



of contemporary styles favoured by those who have chosen to make this corner of England their home. The stunning buildings featured, from rustic agricultural aesthetic through to industrial chic, serve as inspiration to those of us who have dreamed of pulling off effortless style but may need a helping hand. There's even a beautifully restored Dunkirk Little Ship among the projects. And, as a tribute to those who make it all possible, we're also introduced to the craftspeople behind the projects, from blacksmiths and potters to master stonemasons. Quite lovely.

Cheltenham in 50 Buildings

by David Elder

£14.99, www.amberley-books.com

[amberley-books.com](http://www.amberley-books.com)

This latest title in Amberley's excellent 'In 50 Buildings' series is from respected local author David Elder.

Regency landmarks such as the Municipal Office on the town's Promenade and Pittville Pump Room are well known, of course, but David throws a few surprises in the mix with the introduction of buildings such as the GCHQ Doughnut and the 'exuberant red-brick' Victoria House on Gloucester Road. Even if you're fortunate enough to have lived in Cheltenham all your life, you'll find surprises within the pages as you glimpse behind the doors of the magnificent lodge room of the Masonic Hall, and gaze skywards at the Synagogue's splendid Nicholas Adams-built dome. A must for anyone interested in the history of Cheltenham's buildings and the people who shaped them.

The Whistle-Blower

by Joanna Seldon

£14.99, University of Buckingham Press

Few who have read Maurice Pappworth's controversial 1967 book *Human Guinea Pigs* will have failed to be shaken by its revelations. The courage it took for Pappworth,

a Jewish junior doctor studying for his Membership exam for the Royal College of Physicians, to blow the whistle on the medical establishment's practices was considerable.

Drawing parallels between the Third Reich and post-war Britain, he detailed experiments performed on the most vulnerable categories of patient, from newborn babies to cancer patients. Though not a comfortable read, this book written by Pappworth's daughter – who died in 2016 of cancer – brings to light the important work carried out by her father, which eventually led to stricter codes of practice for human experimentation.

Life on the Victorian Stage: Theatrical Gossip

by Nell Darby

£12.99, www.pen-and-sword-co.uk

A cursory glance down the contents page will give you an idea of the dark treats within. 'Murder, Murder!' screams chapter 10, as we hear of the case of 23-year-old actor Charles Samuel Bartlett who was hanged at Gloucester for murdering his mother-in-law. Chapter 11's 'Sex and Seduction' tells of how black actor Ira Aldridge was brought before the Bail Court in 1856 by another actor for allegedly seducing his wife and getting her pregnant. And one of the examples of 'Death and Disaster' in Chapter 16 shows how two boys were killed in a crush in a London theatre as crowds wedged themselves into the tight surrounds to watch a performance. Stories such as these were essential fodder for Victorian Britain's press. This is a fascinating insight into the gossip columnists of the time by Cotswold historian Dr Nell Darby.

