**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Spring has sprung – and with it, a refreshingly-different new countryside biography**

In *Unbelievable! A Working Country Life*, new author Victoria Walsh introduces river keeper Martin Aris, in his very own Cotswolds-Wiltshire accent.

Coombe Enford, Wiltshire (20 March) – Monday the 20th of March marked the first day of Spring, and the launch of a new author’s first book. *Unbelievable! A Working Country Life*, by Victoria Walsh, tells the story of Martin Aris: a farmer, river keeper and mischief-maker from the Cotswolds and Wiltshire. Unlike most other countryside books, though, the subject of this one is definitely not posh, and definitely doesn’t speak the Queen’s (or King’s!) English.

Victoria met Martin seven years ago, when she and her partner moved to live in an old water mill at Coombe Enford, Wiltshire, where Martin works as a river keeper. They’ve always loved hearing Martin’s hilarious stories about country life: of a naughty little boy growing up in the 1950s & 60s Cotswolds, of moving to Wiltshire as a cheeky young farmer, and ending up a wise but still sparky river keeper. It was these stories, and Martin’s thought-provoking reflections about nature and life, which sparked the idea for the book. However, this wasn’t to be any old countryside book: *Unbelievable!* focuses on working-class rural life (so often ignored) and contains not just nature but poaching, punch-ups and more. Unusually, it’s also written phonetically, in Martin’s Cots-Wilts accent.

The book was launched to a packed heritage centre in Pewsey (Wiltshire) on the 20th, where Victoria spoke about Martin’s philosophy of life. The book is a reminder for us all be a bit more like Martin: to put our phones down and get out into nature.

On the book, Victoria said: *“People love books about the countryside, but why do they all tend to be about posh people or the life cycle of the lapwing? Unbelievable! should make you laugh out loud, and reflect on a life well lived”.*

The book has been beautifully illustrated by Wiltshire artist Alex Crump, and it supports a good cause: 10% of profits will be donated to The Angling Trust.

ENDS

To contact Victoria, please email: victoriawalsh.info@gmail.com or tel. 07790404483.

For more information, see [victoriawalshwrites.com](http://www.victoriawalshwrites.com); or vicwalshwrites on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram.

**Book details**

* Publisher: Chalk Stream Books ([chalkstreambooks.com](http://www.chalkstreambooks.com) - an imprint of Riverside Publishing Solutions Ltd ([riversidepublishingsolutions.com](http://www.riversidepublishingsolutions.com))
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* Format: Hardback and eBook
* Price: £13.99 (hardback); £5.99 (eBook)
* Pages: 120
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* Stockists: Waterstones; Hatchards; Amazon (hardback & eBook); etc.

**About the author:**

Victoria Walsh is a writer with a passion for people stories, community and the countryside. A community relations professional and linguist by background, Victoria has always enjoyed writing, and engaging with people from all walks of life.

Originally a city girl, Victoria move to Wiltshire in 2015, fell in love with the countryside and rediscovered her creative side. It was there too that she met Martin Aris, river keeper for the stretch of the River Avon that runs past her house, and now the unforgettable subject of *Unbelievable! A Working Country Life*.

**About the artist:**

Alex Crump lives in the Wiltshire countryside with his young family, a very affectionate elderly cat and a huge ginger cat. He can often be found in his studio, creating work in a myriad of media, from paint and pencil to charcoal and Photoshop.

Alex’s past careers as a teacher and zookeeper, as well as other current side-lines of storyteller and charity/museum Educator, allow him to bring plenty of ideas to the work he produces.

Find out more at [alexcrumpillustration.com.](https://alexcrumpillustration.com/)

**About The Angling Trust:**

The Angling Trust is a not-for-profit organisation, representing anglers, and fighting for fish, fishing and the environment.

For information, see anglingtrust.net.