

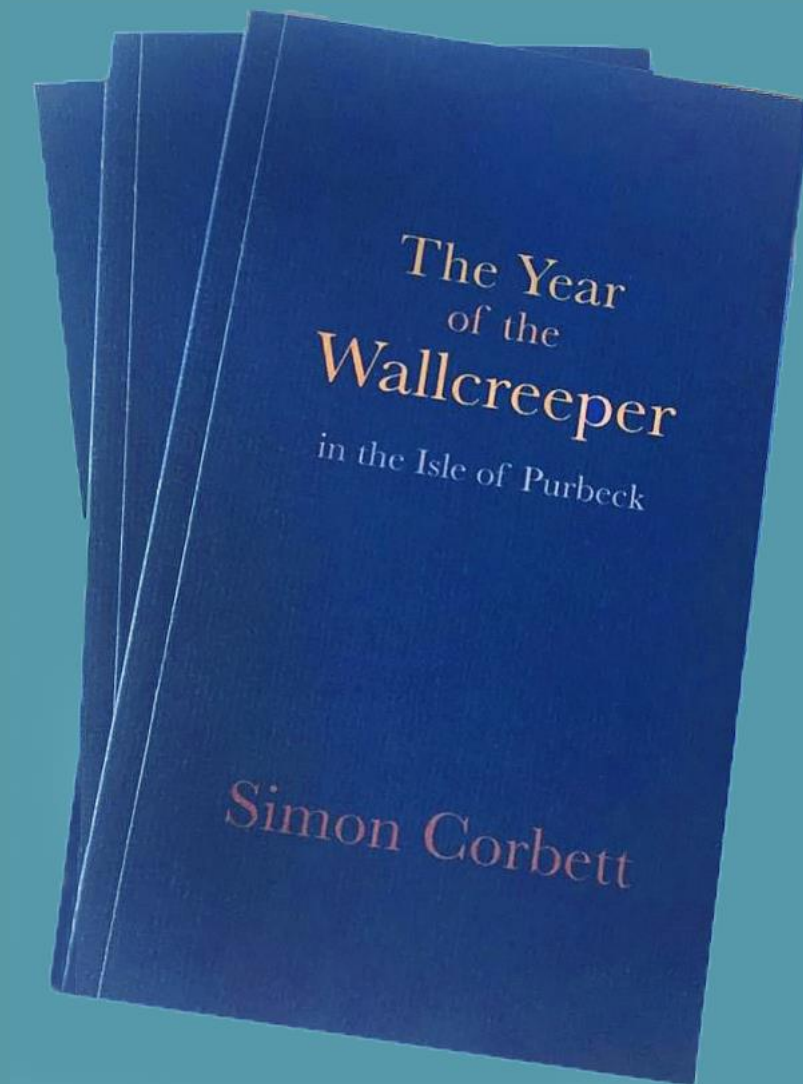


Dad was a keen birdwatcher and member of the Purbeck Ornithological Club which met at Leeson House in Langton Matravers throughout the 1970's. Fellow members included Bunny Teagle, Margaret Leach, Rees Cox, Trev Haysom and Helen Brotherton - founder of the Dorset Wildlife Trust.

He kept a record of his birdwatching experiences which he edited into the form of a diary which the family published in 2006. Reading it again during lockdown reminded me of winter days' parked-up on Portland sitting in the back of a steamed-up car with my brothers and seeing bearded tits among the reeds at Radipole. Of family walks and picnics on Arne heath, surrounded by heather, looking for Marsh Gentians, watching Dartford Warblers flitting amongst the gorse and dad counting long-legged and long-billed waders prodding their curved beaks into the mud flats around the bay.

Descriptions of guillemots, razorbills and puffins soaring over the sea, flying too and from the cliff ledges. The Wallcreeper and the hoards of twitchers it brought to the area in 1971. Of Yellowhammers, Song Thrushes, Blackcaps and the many songbirds that he enjoyed seeing at Winspit, Seacombe and Chapmans Pool - valleys abundant with autumn berries.

Dad's record captures the great variety of species he and his friends saw in Purbeck, reflecting both his passion for the subject and richness of the area.



Written in 1971 (printed 2006)

Foreword by Trev Haysom
“Acute observations neatly put”

Illustrated with pencil sketches by Juliet Haysom.

Simon Corbett 1914-1978

*Born and raised in the Old Malthouse school in
Langton Matravers, founded by his father Rex in 1906.*

The Year of the Wallcreeper