

## **About Naturama**

I founded Naturama in 2004. Really, it was an expansion and professionalization of my already existing freelance work. It all began in 1993, with the arrival of a young grey squirrel that was suffering from contact blindness, from having been sprayed in the eyes by some kind of herbicide. Grey, as we named him lived with us for ten years as my personal companion. I kept diaries about him as well as about the flora and fauna of Anchor Woods, behind which we live. Then I began making notes for children's stories, illustrating storyboards for the Children's Hospice South West and soon I realised I had the makings of a sizable book if I persevered.

Having worked on a weekly basis for the North Devon Gazette voluntarily for three years, as well as for various magazines for small fees, I decided to stop writing articles for a while and to focus on writing my first book '*Down Ferny Lane*'. Then on my 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, my friend, colleague and namesake, Trevor Beer MBE, had a single draft copy produced via Edward Gaskell of Lazarus Press! From there many more illustrations were produced and *Down Ferny Lane* was born. I now had a product to sell, and so my small business Naturama was born and more books have followed. I am a sole trader. See Services.

I have chosen to dedicate my life in helping and promoting the awareness of flora and fauna wherever I can. Since we are at the head of our food-chain, I believe all species lower down in that same food-chain should be carefully considered as our indicator species. Therefore a safe way forward for us is a healthy environment full of wild habitats and healthy, diverse populations of flora and fauna.

## **About The Books**

***Down Ferny Lane*** my first book was the start of Naturama

*Down Ferny Lane* is a magical tale of the adventures of wild creatures inhabiting Anchor Woods located on the outskirts of Barnstaple, North Devon. We encounter Little People – aliens from another world - and learn of their hopes and dreams to one day return to the Dog Star Sirius..... The book is paperback and fully illustrated with black and white line drawings. Written for children (7-11 years) but enjoyed by all ages groups. The second print run has a charming foreword very kindly written by Dr Karl P N Shuker who was staying with us when Grey, my squirrel, arrived in 1993. For further details about the book contact me via email. (£9.99) ISBN 189854667-3

***Bod The Beast of Bodmin Moor***

This is a fun, quirky look at the escaped black leopard that is said to roam the Westcountry. Illustrated in black and white storyboard format the book looks at specific locations surrounding Bodmin, where I spent eight months living with a sick elderly friend and trying to cheer her up. The aim of the book which came some time later, was to promote empathy behind the alien British Big Cats in that, as with many species, such as grey squirrels – they were introduced into Britain by people. Some big-cats were released into the countryside when the 1976 Dangerous Wild Animal Act came into play and people could no longer afford to keep them as pets. However, there is an argument to say that we have always had British Big cats - a relic population from bygone days when the land masses were once joined. Either way these elusive animals have been hunted down and

persecuted in a bid to prove their existence. The book is often a play on words. Bod and his companion Min have to learn about their new habitat and surrounding countryside in order to survive. It's a bit of fun for all age groups. The foreword was kindly written by Trevor Beer MBE and is available from Halsgrove or via all good bookshops (£7.99). ISBN 1-84114-574-2

### ***A Celebration of Flora & Fauna of the Bible***

This colourful, hardback, coffee table format book took me three years to get together. The aim was to link the Bible closer to British shores via some of the flora and fauna mentioned in it. Some species mentioned in the Bible can be found on our shores too, whereas some on the plants mentioned we may find ourselves using in the kitchen. I wanted to create a book that would be useful to the whole family. Children can look up the quotations and learn how to use their family Bible and adults can enjoy the wildlife content. I asked my friend, colleague and namesake Trevor Beer MBE to write the natural history notes on the species I chose to illustrate for the book. He very kindly obliged. In a way the book was put together back to front. The research, quotations and illustrations took two and a half years to put together and the writing came next. A satisfying and enjoyable project and I hope readers will get a lot of use out of it. Designed expertly by Sharon O'Inn (she also designed *Follies, Fables & Fantasy*) It has a foreword very kindly written by Professor David Bellamy and is available from Halsgrove or via all good bookshops. (£24.99) ISBN 978-1-84114-672-0

### ***Follies, Fables & Fantasy***

A collection of stories based on adventure and fantasy. The stories are based on real places in North Devon and are for children to read, or for adults to read to their children, with 100% of the profits benefitting the Children's Hospice South West. This has proven a good fundraising project and I'd like to thank all our sponsors and especially Simon Butler, the Publisher, for making the project possible and Nick Harvey MP for North Devon for his foreword. *Follies Fables & Fantasy* is available from Halsgrove or can be ordered via good bookshops. (9.99) ISBN 978-1-906551-21-6

### ***Wildflowers of Cornwall***

The newest of our little field guides. Jointly written and illustrated with photographs by myself and Trevor Beer. This book is beautifully designed by Alix Wood of Tormark Press. It is a simple, straight forward – jargon free guide to identifying wildflowers in Cornwall. Over one hundred plants illustrated in full colour, with a useful thumb index for quick reference. In addition to plant descriptions there are brief details of local names, ancient uses and habitats. Available via Tormark Press or via all good bookshops (£3.99). ISBN 978 085025 419 8