

# THE LAST WORD

**This issue's guest editor Jim Murray has chosen to shine a spotlight on Hamish Mackie's bronze sculpture *Hares Monumental*, a majestic piece of wildlife art being sold in aid of the Murray Parish Trust**

Renowned British sculptor Hamish Mackie has long been celebrated for his striking wildlife sculptures, many of which are leviathan in terms of both size and skill. It is the humble hare, however, which has become a subject he has often revisited during his career.

"Hares have become one of my signature subjects," Hamish notes, "as I find they lend themselves so well to sculpture." Beyond their artistic appeal, the countryman in him sees hares as a symbol of resilience and revival. "Happily, brown hare numbers are now recovering in line with increased cereal production and modern day farming methods adopting agri-environmental schemes. I like to think of my hare sculptures as paying tribute to one of our countryside's most beloved animals, and to this conservation success story."

A particularly striking example is *Hares Monumental*, which stands at three times life-size, and is simply bursting with life and energy. The creatures are caught mid-motion, and make a stunning focal point, dramatically holding their ground from a distance.

The sculpture made its debut at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, before appearing in a 2022 exhibition *Hares of Hampshire Art Trail* and also featured in the Royal Enclosure at Royal Ascot 2022.

*Hares Monumental* is currently on sale for £220,000, and proceeds will benefit the Murray Parish Trust, a charity co-founded by actors Sarah Parish and Jim Murray in memory of their daughter Ella Jayne. The Trust, based in Hampshire, is dedicated to supporting seriously ill children and their families. Since 2014, it has directed over £4 million to innovative projects at Southampton Hospital, including the purchasing of new bed bays and iMRI machines; building a brand new Children's Emergency & Trauma Department; and pioneering a pilot scheme looking at ways to provide psychological support for children and families affected by major trauma.

It is, perhaps, fitting that we end this wild fish issue of *Fieldsports Journal* with this symbol of conservation success - offering a humble glimmer of hope in the dark times.

[hamishmackie.com](http://hamishmackie.com)

