



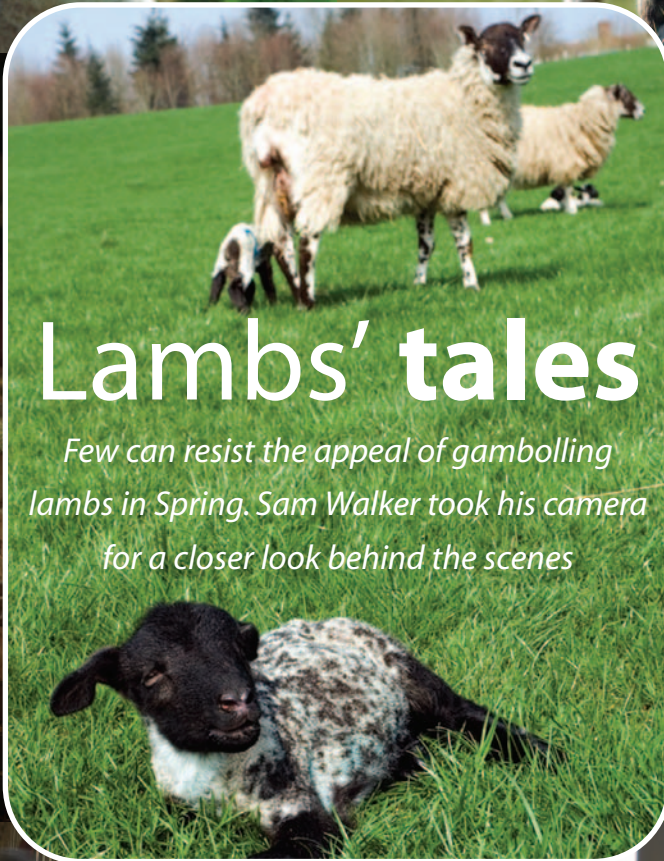
"Don't fence me in!" Lambs are fond of hedges and other boundaries, and can often be found at the edges of their new world



Kings of all they survey: lambs seem to enjoy battling for the high ground, even if it adds but a few inches of loft



Sometimes she needs a little help. Not all ewes have the mothering instinct; someone has to ensure the little ones are fed



Lambs' tales

Few can resist the appeal of gambolling lambs in Spring. Sam Walker took his camera for a closer look behind the scenes



Airborne! The rough and tumble of the real world comes not long after the nursery



They'll be baa-aa-ck, but first they have to get a dose of iodine on their navel to help avoid infection

Photos by Sam Walker
www.samwalker.net



We are not amused... separation anxiety manifests itself in pacing, hoof stomping... and glaring

MERVYN WOODROOFE is shepherd to some 1,000 sheep on Old Brick House Farm, in Burwash, East Sussex and, for him, lambing season begins in earnest at the tail end of March (continuing through April and into May), when the ewes give birth to a new crop

which can be seen gambolling happily in the fields of the estate.

Of course it begins for the mums a little earlier, when they are gathered together under roof to await nature's course and the ministrations of Mervyn and his temporary force of midwives, at least one of whom had come from

as far as Northumberland for the work experience, when I visited.

Most ewes give birth to twins, though many have triplets, while some just have one mouth to feed. They demand a lot of attention, so it's important to ensure that every lamb has a mum. Orphans, including those who have been

abandoned or are surplus to requirements (only two teats per ewe) are quickly found a replacement.

As spring turns to summer, they gain confidence, find mates and take to racing around aimlessly and playing their favourite game of king of the hill!