

Hot in the shops

New kit that could make all the difference...

ANIMAL SIDEWINDER

£120, shop.animal.co.uk

Despite these politically correct times, left-handers frequently seem overlooked. From golf clubs to watches the focus is always on the right-handed majority, while lefties linger unloved. So hats off to watchmaker Animal with the launch of its new Sidewinder model, part of its Heritage range for 2011. Made from marine grade, corrosion-proof stainless steel, the watch features a left-handed asymmetric case, so changing the time and date is a doddle for lefties. It's a solid, robust watch that is waterproof to a depth of 200m, although you'd want to change the heavily padded leather strap if you were planning to spend hours in the water. There's a choice of a white or black watch face, and both are simple and easy to read, with a second hand and date. **JM**



GO SYSTEM KERAMOS3

£40 www.go-system.co.uk

At the first inkling of spring we're dusting down our camping kit and getting set for that rich series of bank holidays on the Easter horizon. So our magpie eyes zoned in immediately on this new pan set, which features Xpride, billed as an eco-non-stick coating. It's a ceramic coating that features no heavy metals or toxic chemicals, which is appealing if you've been caught up in the scares over non-stick kitchen pans, and from a practical perspective it's nearly six times harder than a standard non-stick coating. The three pans (1.3-litre, 1.6-litre and an 18cm frying pan) weigh just 500g, including the pot lifter, and come in their own mesh stuff sack. The frying pan will also act as a lid for heat retention or packing. It all seems a bit grand for Pot Noodles! **JM**



KOZIKIDZ SOFT SHELL

£40, www.kozikidz.co.uk

Walking round a Munich trade show for outdoor gear manufacturers last month we came across a stand featuring fabulously vibrant children's clothing. Kozi Kidz is a UK-based company with a strong Swedish influence, and it shows in both the dazzling colours and high-quality finish. This soft shell jacket has three layers, including a waterproof membrane, it's washable at 40 degrees, and even has a label for school use. As a walking jacket there's good stretch in the fabric, a detachable hood, and zip-up pockets so those collectible football cards won't fall out mid-walk. It also feels phenomenally robust, so should see great service for at least a couple of hand-me-downs. **JM**



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CELEBRITY SQUARE SE5952

This is the River Ouse in York, and it's featured here in tribute to the film composer John Barry, who died last month. Barry loved evoking landscapes in his music, from the plains of Dakota in 'Dances with Wolves' to the grasslands of Kenya in 'Out of Africa' and the Swiss Alps in 'Goldfinger'. He was born and bred in York, the son of a local cinema magnate, and this square features his school, St Peter's, which is recalled in 'A Childhood Memory' on his classical music album 'The Beyondness of Things'. With its Roman walls and riverside meadows, York is one of the UK's best cities for walkers. Here, on the banks of the Ouse, is a place to remember those lush strings and jazzy guitar riffs.



The Odd Squad

Were you the naughty camper who decided to pitch your tent on this prime site, two feet from a river and on a steep downward slope? I mean, obviously it's a sweet spot for camping but you must respect the landowner at all times. Perhaps try another good location, like the side of the A21, or on top of a geyser. Thanks to Tracy Graham, who spotted this rather redundant warning.



SEND YOUR ODD SQUAD SUGGESTIONS TO NIKHALLISSEY@LFTO.COM

CORRECTION Komperdell walking poles

The Komperdell Titanal 3 Antishock poles featured in our March issue cost £75 per pair, not £150 as stated. Apologies; the error was contained in information supplied to us.