

Living

in the Shires Magazine

October / November 2018

FANTASTIC NEW
COVENTRY STORE
NOW OPEN

PAUL EDWARDS
INTERIORS

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LEICESTERSHIRE LE10 0BL
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RUGBY ROAD, BINLEY WOODS
COVENTRY CV3 2AW
Tel. 02476 542 967

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Welcome

to the October/November issue of the Living in the Shires magazine

Featured in this issue...

Our Christmas guide to a wonderful festive period including Christmas gifts, events, special occasions and good food & drink. Our other guides this month include health and wellbeing, glamping, unique retreats, travel, property, beautiful homes and our selected businesses. As well as our Hidden Gems Holiday Guide to some stunning locations around Britain.

Lorraine Spicer-Leigh
Editor

Front Cover Story

Paul Edwards Interiors

More customers than ever can now enjoy shopping for their home at Paul Edwards Interiors, thanks to the company opening a spectacular new showroom near Coventry to complement its established flagship store in Hinckley.

A grand opening took place on Friday October 12th for the new Paul Edwards interiors venue at Green's Home & Garden in Binley Woods, just a few hundred yards from Coventry end of the M69.

This amazing out-of-town centre is displaying a fantastic range of vintage leather and classic Harris Tweed furniture, contemporary ROM custom made sofas plus, carpets, wallpapers and bespoke curtain and reupholstery services.

The Hinckley store offers an even bigger selection across the whole range of home interior products but has simultaneously added yet more customer appeal by opening a dedicated new bedroom showroom. This new area shows a vast range of beds incorporating the very latest technology for health and comfort, great looking bedroom furniture, fabric bed runners, scatter cushions and everything else needed to create your own version of perfection.

The company, formed in 2014, and voted Best Stand in Show at the inaugural launch during Grand Designs NEC, has built up a huge reputation for impeccable service including home visits so customers

can see their choices in place in their own homes. Customers benefit from smooth, faultless fitting and delivery.

As ever, customers at both sites will be treated to the very finest service and attention from Paul and Jayne along with Jon who together have many years experience and can advise people on every aspect of their buying choices.

Paul's son, Josh, is also joining him at Binley Woods.

"I'm very proud of him," says Paul. "He is really pleasant, very personable and I know he'll be perfect for Coventry."

"The new store will be particularly convenient for people from Coventry,

Leamington, Kenilworth, Rugby and surrounding areas and if they want to see a bigger selection our Hinckley store is just up the M69. Grand opening sale offers now on in both stores, including free lining and interlining on all curtain and Roman Blind orders throughout October for pre Christmas fitting. Paul, Jayne and the team look forward to seeing you soon."



FANTASTIC NEW COVENTRY STORE NOW OPEN

Paul Edwards Interiors, Abbott House, Trinity Lane, Hinckley, LE10 0BL, Tel 01455 616095, and Rugby Road, Binley Woods, Coventry CV3 2AW Tel 02476 542967
www.facebook.com/pages/Paul-Edwards-Interiors Email pauleddwardsinteriors.paul@gmail.com

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The Midlands largest supplier of fresh Christmas trees

Posh Graffiti Our Chosen Sponsors of Page 3

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Health & Wellbeing Guide



Looking after yourself well is key to a happy life. Often you will doubtless feel able to look after yourself by eating well, exercising regularly, maintaining healthy relationships and keeping a good work/life balance for that all-important peace of mind. Sometimes, though, it really helps to have someone else helping you along and our advertisers are some of those who can assist just how and when you need it the most.

If you need support for losing weight, tackling the tricky women's problem of 'the change' or building fitness and relaxing afterwards in delightful surroundings, read on because Cambridge Independent Consultants, Changes Ahead and Juvenate Health & Leisure at Jurys Inn Hinckley Island Hotel have the answers you need!

Cambridge Independent Consultants

People wanting to lose weight can do so with one-to-one support and motivation from an experienced independent consultant thanks to the Cambridge Weight Plan, which has been helping people to slim down sensibly and successfully since 1984.



"I also encourage them to engage in a stepped programme of appropriate physical activity to increase fitness levels and help them maintain weight loss," she says.

Eileen has her own home-based diet centre where people can be seen, weighed, measured and supported in private. She also offers a mobile service and says there has never been a better time to join the Cambridge Weight Plan, either as a client or as a consultant.

"Becoming a consultant is a career which offers a great deal of flexibility, with the option to work seamlessly around family and other commitments," she says.

Cambridge Weight Plan, Independent Consultant Eileen Larder, tel 0116 2889 449 or 07784 333851, email Eileen1943@hotmail.com www.cambridgeweightplan.com



The balanced weight loss programmes are flexible and can help even obese people to lose weight at a planned rate designed to maximise results and minimise discomfort.

Alongside that, Eileen provides individual sessions to re-educate people towards long term healthy eating habits and behavioural change.

Pam's Menopause Advice

How is your Menopause journey so far? Is it what you imagined it to be?

One of the most difficult symptoms to cope with in Menopause, is anxiety. Many women find themselves suddenly feeling unable to cope with situations that were never a problem before, or find they are easily irritated, feel down, worry more than they used to or suffer from a general sense of anxious tension. This can be frightening and can negatively impact on confidence and self-esteem.

You can help reduce your anxieties by reducing or eliminating caffeine, exercising on a regular basis, eating healthily, getting enough sleep and setting aside time regularly to relax and have 'me' time.

Anxiety could also be the result of past emotional issues. Whether you need to seek out professional help or can come to terms with these yourself, try your best to let go, forgive and move on.





CALLING ALL MENOPAUSAL & PERI-MENOPAUSAL WOMEN

Do **YOU** get anxious wondering when a hot flush might suddenly erupt?

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Music to the Ears of Care Home Residents

A Melton Mowbray care home has created a new state-of-the-art music room to benefit their residents suffering from dementia.

Staff at The Amwell, a residential, respite and dementia care home in Asfordby Road, decided to create the space specifically for music, as it is well known that music therapy is important in the care of people with dementia.

The room, which was originally one of the care home's lounges, has been completely redesigned to make a variety of musical instruments available to residents, and redecorated with colourful themed artwork to have music at its heart.

Scientific research shows that music plays a vital role in the therapy of dementia sufferers, as music can evoke emotions that bring memories, and also shifts mood, manages stress and stimulates positive interactions. In addition, it is known that musical aptitude and appreciation are two of the last remaining abilities in dementia patients.

The music room is located on The Amwell's dedicated Riverside Floor, which is modified specifically for people with dementia, using colours tailored to help with mood and energy levels, such as calming in bedrooms and vibrant in activity areas.

Staff at The Amwell, which is known for its excellent dementia care, invited talented local artist Tamas Miklos to provide unique, music-themed artwork to decorate the room, and his large, colourful silhouettes of musicians and instruments help to give the space a clear theme, and an uplifting atmosphere.

The room contains a variety of instruments such as baby grand piano and percussion for residents to play, a juke-box for those who wish to select their favourite music from their younger years as well as comfortable seating to make it a space to relax.

The Amwell Activities Co-ordinator Laraine Lewis, who oversaw the development of the room, said:

"After seeing the benefits that music has on our residents with dementia we knew it was really important to provide a permanent space just for music.

"The science speaks for itself, but when we see our residents really respond to a therapy like they do to our music-based activities, it's just a no-brainer that we need to make it part of every day.

"We are thrilled with the way the room has come together. The artwork by the talented Tamas Miklos not only looks great, but will help those with dementia



associate the room with the musical activities which is vital. Our residents are already making good use of the room and it's a joy to see the pleasure they are getting from it."



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Glamping Guide

Glamping is definitely the up & coming form of holiday in 2018 and standards are improving all the time. People heading for a hideaway holiday in the countryside can be sure that the lovely places advertising in this section of the magazine will have accommodation kitted out to keep them cosy and comfortable even on those frosty winter evenings.

Most modern glampsites allow guests to get close to nature, enjoying wildlife, starry skies away from light pollution and a chance to relax with a high degree of privacy. In particular, guests get to sleep in weatherproof conditions with proper beds and real mattresses.

They also meet modern expectations for civilised ablutions, with hot showers and private toilets and often electrical appliances such as kettles, toasters and microwaves supplied as part of the accommodation.

Cooking over a firepit is part of the fun of a glamping holiday, at least when the weather is dry. Almost everybody likes to try their hand at this modern take on an old skill that so very few of us remember. If the experiments don't turn out the way you'd like you probably won't be very far from somewhere cooking selling hearty fare at reasonable cost.

www.bradleyhallruralescapes.co.uk
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Luxury Self Contained Glamping Pods on a working farm in Cheshire

Our aim is to create an adults only upmarket glamping experience by providing a comfortable, enjoyable stay in one of our pods. We hope that you leave us feeling relaxed & refreshed.

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Email - ballhallfarm@wigwamholidays.com
www.wigwamholidays.com/ball-hall-farm

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Hawes Farm, Clavertye, Elham, Canterbury, Kent CT4 6YE
E: stay@wildwoodlandretreat.co.uk | wildwoodlandretreat.co.uk

Get away from it all

Unique Retreats Guide

If you're looking for 'unusual' or to be part of your holiday or short break experience, you'll love the advertisers on this page! As well as being in beautiful and peaceful locations, they each offer something uniquely memorable to help heighten the experience of your rural retreat in Norfolk, Kent or South West Wales.

Visit their websites if you'd like to live alongside llamas, unwind at will with your own hot tub or go retro in a thriving wildlife habitat.

Glamping with LLAMAS

Faster Lente Llamas is an urban llama farm offering weekly on-farm familiarisations and other opportunities to create a calming atmosphere from stressful everyday lives. We have two retro glampervans named Melisa and Nayeli... both have their own luxurious marquees, each with soft seating, fairy lights, candles and peaceful ambience.

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The most comfortable & sophisticated of holiday experiences

Editor's Choice

Holt Farm Campsite

For a relaxing break from the traffic and tribulations of urban life it would be hard to beat Warwickshire's Holt Farm Campsite, which has been looking after campers and touring caravanners since the '60s. The Oxford Canal is only a field away, with moorings, and people love the fresh air and freedom of this friendly, traditional, family run site.

Holt Farm is right in the heart of the country, making it a great place to meet up when people are coming from different directions. The site is easy to reach from the M40 or M45, handy for the many attractions of Warwick, Stratford upon Avon and Coventry and yet tranquil and close to nature.

The campsite is on a working sheep and cattle farm worked by Neil Adkins and his wife, Angela, offering seasonal pitches with toilet and shower facilities, electric hook ups and picnic tables. Neil's parents started having scouts to camp there as long ago as 1959 and Neil himself grew up helping to look after the campers who started coming along soon afterwards.

One extra attraction is the donkeys - two miniature and one standard sized. The taller of the three featured on Countryfile, and, as Neil points out, is the only donkey which has been inside Coventry Cathedral, having taken part in a nativity play.

Holt Farm Campsite, Napton, near Southam, Warwickshire; tel 01926 812225 or 07790 959638, email naptonholtfarm@gmail.com Facebook @Holt-Farm-Napton



WILDERNEST | Blaengors, Dihewyd, Lampeter, Ceredigion, Wales, SA48 7QR
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Wildernest is a haven set in the coastal hills above the delightful Aeron Valley in west Wales. There are 3 cottages and an Airstream for guests. It is a place to opt out, relax and be yourself. A former spiritual retreat, it is now restored and managed as an exemplar of sustainability.

Contact details:
www.wildernest.co.uk

T: 01570 47 1725
E: mail@wildernest.co.uk





Christmas is such a big occasion these days that it really pays to get started early on preparing for it. If you plan and put things in motion now you'll experience a steady build up to a great festive period full of family, fun and friendship without the stress of last minute shopping and unexpected expense.

Food is always at the heart of a great Christmas and the long established farming family GR Ingham at Osbaston is taking orders for cockerels and turkeys to take the centre spot on that heavily laden Christmas Day dining table. Their farm shop may well supply your other needs for meat and trimmings over the Christmas period too, including fabulous quality bacon and sausages to sizzle for that bumper Boxing Day breakfast.

Choosing a tree becomes a fun family event at Bradgate Trees Christmas Tree plantation just outside Bradgate Park, between Newtown Linford and Woodhouse Eaves. Whether you are looking for a modest tree to fill an alcove, a good sized specimen to light up the living room or a whopper to grace large gardens, you'll find it here and you'll be able to choose it yourself either from the plantation or the display area. All the trees keep their needles because they are so fresh and while you wait for them to be netted to take home with you, you'll be

able to enjoy complimentary damson gin, mince tarts, sweets and perhaps a fuss from the family Labradors.

Craft gins are massively fashionable among the modern drinking public and none are finer than those distilled by Burleighs, sharing a headquarters with the 45 West Distillery in the heart of Leicestershire's Charnwood Forest.

Burleighs has drawn inspiration from the surroundings to produce artisan botanical gins using ingredients such as silver birch, dandelion, burdock and elderberry, making ideal gifts for people of discerning taste buds. It has even devised a Leicester Tigers gin inspired by club colours.

For the ultimate gin lover's treat, the 45 Gin School offers courses enabling people create, distil and bottling their own personal gin recipes in atmospheric premises in Leicester Market Place.

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Ingham's are a long established family of farmers, who added butchery and catering three years ago. They produce and butcher their own beef, pork and lamb, keep a flock of free range hens for their eggs and sell from their farm shop near The Gate Inn on the A447.

As well as raw meat they sell a range of tasty products such as

sausages, pies and pastries which are homemade on the premises.

Cockerels and turkeys are ready to order now for Christmas and other products on sale year-round include Sparkenhoe cheeses and Dreamy Cow ice cream, all locally sourced.

Ingham's can also cater for any event in the locality, including celebrations, funerals and bonfire parties.

The late Tony Ingham started farming at Gnarley Farm in 1963. Now Tony's son Gavin is at the helm with his wife, Meg, heading up the cookery and catering team. Gavin's son, Sam, has just joined the business after finishing university and daughter Alex, still at school, helps out.

Gavin says: "We farm as near to naturally as we can and I personally select everything we sell in the shop, so we know it's all good quality."

GR Ingham, Gnarley Farm, Osbaston Hollow, Osbaston, Nuneaton CV13 0HP; tel 01455 290448, email megingham@outlook.com

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people get together to socialise and celebrate.

Carol can decorate as little or as much of the house as wished, frequently making use of seasonal plants from the customer's own garden, such as holly or spruce. Customers are enthusiastic in their praise for these.

"Typically I do fireplaces, Christmas trees, table settings and centrepieces, door wreath and mantelpieces," says Carol. "Increasingly people like to have a theme and a fragrance running through. If there are children in the house I will do something appropriate for them too, perhaps with dainty floral lights or festive birds."

House dressing is an extra special service offered by business owner Carol Innes-Robbins, helped by her faithful, friendly and horticulturally aware cockapoo, Millie. It could be for any occasion, of course, but more and more people are enjoying the extra special treat of having a whole house made festive for those 12 days of Christmas when so many

Millies Forever Floral works within about a 30 mile radius of its home base in Market Harborough.

Millies Forever Floral, Market Harborough, tel 07738 003898; email carol@milliesforeverfloral.com www.milliesforeverfloral.com

Christmas Gifts

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Many people struggle to find imaginative Christmas gifts for the special people in their lives, but as you're reading this you won't have to worry about that this year! Our advertisers have a simply amazing array of quality products to delight the recipients, however young, old or choosy they are. And, they provide choices for people on all kinds of budgets.

Why not have your own favourite photos transformed into canvas prints or emblazoned on mugs, mouse mats or calendars at Hinckley Photo Centre, or have a bespoke GlowBeanie hat knitted to your own colour and design to reflect both light and personality? Alohomora opens the secret passage to quirky gifts for fans of Harry Potter, Game of Thrones and Lord of the Rings and online retailer Hatty Boots provides unusual greeting cards produced by contemporary artists which are unavailable in the mainstream shops.

Bunny & Clarke is an amazing lifestyle shop in a Leicestershire village selling unique gifts, home accessories, ladies' clothing jewellery and accessories.

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GLOW in the Dark

ALOHOMORA

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in the Shires Magazine

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Christmas Events

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Ragley

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23rd, 24th & 25th November

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Christmas Good Food & Drink

Sharing a meal is the time honoured way of showing people you value them, whether they are your nearest & dearest life companion or your trusty work colleague. Christmas gives everyone the excuse they need to eat out with just about anyone they'd like to and share a little quality time away from the daily routine.

There is a problem however, and that is deciding where to go for that lovely meal when there's so much choice of fantastic venues! Our advertisers truly offer a great breadth of eating experience, from the cheery pub meals of the Lime Kilns to the fine dining experience of the White Swan. We offer here possibly Leicestershire's finest fish & chips, the imaginative menus of several pub/restaurants on the list of many foodie's favourites and some of the scrummiest ice cream made in England.

Our wonderful independents all put freshness and quality at the top of their priorities and alongside their food offerings they sell exceptionally good tipples including cask ales, fine wines and craft spirits. Many also cater for private parties.

So, whether you're dining out as a twosome or celebrating en masse, you'll find the perfect spot right here.

Gallachers of Rugby Wine Specialists

An Independent Wine Shop in the heart of Rugby town bringing wines to you that are diverse and unique from all around the world. We want wine to be fun, not stuffy, plus offer outstanding value for everyone;

and we want you enjoy the wine you choose.

You are able to purchase wines to enjoy at home or sit in and select wines from our Enomatic Wine Dispenser.

Visit us online for our upcoming events.



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Gallachers of Rugby Christmas Shopping Nights Thursday 29th November, Thursday 6th, 13th & 20th December 6.30pm - 10pm. Enjoy a glass of mulled wine whilst you select your festive wines. A selection of wines are available for try before you buy.

Wine Tasting Events available each month, contact us to find out whats on!

37 Regent Street, Rugby CV21 2PE
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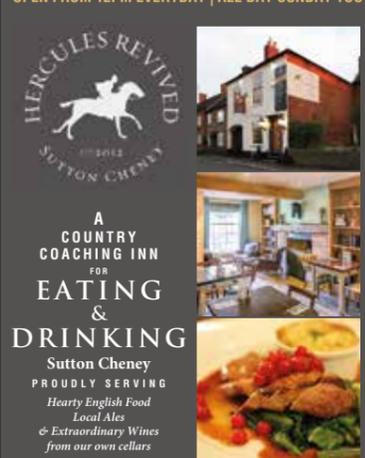


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THURSDAYS

Wine Shop Thursdays
The last Thursday of the month we will have a complimentary selection of wines available to taste which will then be available to buy at a special retail price.

FRIDAYS

Fizz & Chips
Battered fish and hand cut chunky chips, tartar sauce and garden peas with a glass of prosecco (or beer).

£13.95

The White Swan - Shawell Profile on the Chef

Mouthwatering meals are served with the utmost finesse and thrilling surprises for the palate at the White Swan, Shawell, a fine dining restaurant in a traditional country pub.

The White Swan has achieved high accolades thanks to owner/chef Rory McClean and his restaurant manager Mollie Gayton, who have made it a Michelin recommended destination venue for discerning diners.

Rory (33), sharpened his cheffing skills among elevated company during a two year scholarship course at Westminster Kingsway College, London. He had placements with two of the UK's best known cooking personalities, Angela Hartnett at the Connaught and Marcus Wareing at the Berkeley, both known to non-professionals through their many TV appearances, and set his own aspirations accordingly.

"It was like a work-based apprenticeship," says Rory. "You learned classical techniques in college and then found out what was really going on in the industry by working in the restaurants."

The experience left him completely comfortable amid the buzz and busyness of a professional kitchen and in 2012 it was a natural step for him to open his own restaurant, near his home town of Rugby, supported by his dad and partner, Samantha.

Since he took over, the White Swan has been extensively refurbished. While retaining its snug surroundings it has shifted its emphasis to first class food and added a complementary range of fine wines and other quality beverages.

Rory's menus change with the seasons, currently featuring beauties like lobster ravioli, bavette steak and sticky toffee pudding with lavender ice cream and customers can now hire White Swan chefs for their private occasions.

The White Swan, Main Street, Shawell, Leicestershire LE17 6AG;
tel 01788 860357,
email info@whiteswanshawell.co.uk
www.whiteswanshawell.co.uk



Owner/Chef Rory McClean

The White Swan - Shawell

The White Swan prides itself on serving its guests delightful, fresh food that is unforgettable in both its taste and aesthetic, including:

- Monday night Steak & Lobster - 3 courses at £20 including lobster ravioli, steak & sticky toffee pudding
- 3 Course set lunch Mon - Sat £29
- Chef's Table Friday & Saturday evening up to 12 guests (bespoke 7 course tasting menu, with chefs introducing each course & an opportunity to come into the kitchen)
- Saturday Champagne Breakfast 10-11am
- Wine & Dine Wednesday (3 Courses with matching wines for under £30)
- We now do Gift Cards sold online
- Private Chef Hire in your home



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Email: info@whiteswanshawell.co.uk



Christmas Good Food & Drink

WiFi

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Hooray's British Gelato Kitchen

Tourists, day trippers and visitors of all ages are tucking into delectable ice cream treats at Hooray's British Gelato Kitchen in Stratford upon Avon, one of the very best gelato restaurants in the UK.

Hooray's serves a gourmet range of 38 deliciously deep flavours of the Italian-style ice cream and sorbets. They are all made on the premises by owners Sara Young and her daughter, Sasha, and their team, right there in the heart of the town.

Those fabulous flavours change all the time and on Fridays and Saturdays are served right up to 9pm.

During Halloween half term the gelato chefs will be gathering around their special cauldron mixing a terrifyingly spooky 13 flavours including Trick or Treat, Pumpkin Pie, Spider's Web and Eyeball Ripple. Those scared of the unlucky 13 will be able to stick to the other 25 more familiar frozen delights, such as Raspberry Sorbet, Salted Caramel and Eton Mess.

Alongside the chilly treats all year round are a scrummy range of hot crepes and waffles, savoury paninis, soup, sandwiches and bagels, cakes and locally roasted gourmet coffee, while upstairs the bar serves an enticing range of wines, spirits and cocktails. This area doubles as a venue for private parties personalised to customers' wishes, including birthday parties, baby showers and Christmas get togethers. Book now to secure your perfect event.

Hooray's British Gelato Kitchen, 27 - 28 Sheep Street, Stratford upon Avon CV37 6AU; tel 01789 296613, email info@hooraysgelato.com www.hooraysgelato.com

Travel Guide

Travel Finesse

Cruises are no longer the preserve of affluent pensioners. Now there's a cruise for everyone, with special interest offerings such as yoga, music, wildlife watching and special events ... although not all on the same boat!

At Travel Finesse Ltd, we work with cruise suppliers offering itineraries for all, whether you want a short break or a worldwide trip.

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on-board concierge will help you explore your choices at your own pace.

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One of the key aspects of taking a holiday is being able to relax and enjoy it. Cruises are especially know for being restful and recuperative, with luxurious surroundings, obliging staff and as much fresh sea air as you can handle.

Why spoil all that by trying to arrange everything yourself, only to find you've missed out crucial details or left yourself uninsured? Don't sentence yourself to a waking nightmare instead of a dream holiday! Let the experts handle it and make sure you're set for a great trip and with all the bases covered. Book now with Travel Finesse!

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The Royal Redgate is the most central pub in England and has been a country inn since the 18th century.

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Property Guide

Moving house is a massive undertaking for anyone who is inexperienced in the property market, especially if they are selling a property as well as buying one. Many people try to save cash by going it alone with the help of a book or an online guide, but if they mess up they can end up losing their peace of mind as well as a small or not so small fortune.

Thankfully it is possible to engage professional estate agents with a reputation for integrity, personal service and great results. Leicestershire based Nest estate agents bring together more than 40 years' experience to give customers the smoothest possible service with the best results.

Older people looking to relocate may find their solution at Lime Tree Village, an idyllic retirement complex in the village of Dunchurch, near Rugby, facilitating independent living within a community setting. This fabulous development has a variety of new and previously owned properties for sale.



What Our Clients Say...

A day in the life of...



Having observed the day to day activities of the team, who are the family of nest; I noted that various skills are compulsory in order to keep on top of this fast paced, multi-faceted service. This article is sharing my observations from the client's perspective.

The feel and mood of nest is warm, friendly, active and sincere which effectively compliments the advertised nest ethos. Their objectives and goals are clear from the moment a home is valued through consistent communication until a mutually agreed and successful outcome is reached.

The team at nest meticulously multi-task to ensure that communication is paramount and clients are thoroughly and regularly updated, whether buying or selling their homes. Effective organisation appears to be a must in this service as well as prioritising, communicating with colleagues and taking responsibility for managing their client's best interests. The team are, without doubt, committed and skilled in their approach to ensure a best fit, best outcome experience for their clients whom they genuinely care about. Listening with regard to the fast thinking, quality questioning, which aid clients, remove barriers, engage with multi services and effectively meet the needs of all participants.

Other people seem to happily share their experiences of nest through the feefo platform; clearly they are particularly complimentary about the team who offer a "friendly, efficient and stress-free" service as well as

"the team at nest were calm, professional and friendly".

It's apparent from close examination that the close knit team fully deserve and earn the outstanding feedback and reviews from clients.

Would I use nest again? Most definitely.

Mrs J



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www.NestEstateAgents.co.uk

It is nest's policy to accept instructions where a sole agency agreement is in place, please check any contract you have signed to avoid risk of paying two fees.



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 The Polo Field, Lime Tree Village, Dunchurch, Warwickshire, CV22 7SA
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**You may achieve a higher value by selling independently of part exchange (PX). An offer is subject to a survey, not guaranteed, and you are not obliged to accept it. Please take advice to ensure PX is for you and, note, commission may be payable to Retirement Villages in the event of a PX sale. *Other charges apply and leases are subject to an assignment fee. Please ask for details.





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 - Generous rear garden



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£480,000

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- Spacious kitchen/diner and separate utility room
 - Generous sized front and rear garden
- Detached double garage and driveway for 4 vehicles



PHASE 1 - LAST REMAINING PLOTS



THE ASPREY

4 Bedroom Detached Home
£424,995 (Plot 3)

- Modern spacious family home
- High quality finish throughout
 - Separate utility room
- Driveway and single garage



THE ASPREY

4 Bedroom Detached Home
£419,995 (Plot 2)

- Master bedroom with en-suite
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- Light pod family area in kitchen
 - Generous rear garden



THE MOSELEY

3 Bedroom Semi-Detached Home
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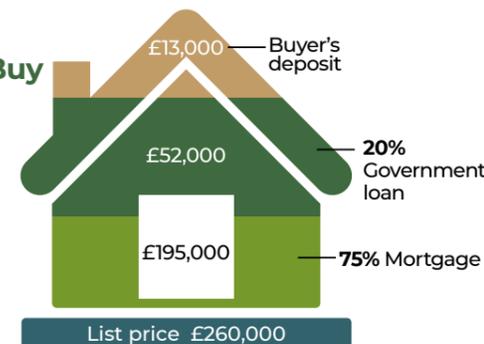
- Three bedrooms – master en-suite
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Beautiful Homes



Everybody dreams of living in a beautiful home. Even if our ideas of 'beautiful' range from Gothic grandeur to minimalist simplicity. Whatever your taste or priorities, advertisers in this section can make those beautiful dreams come true with their personalised services geared specifically to your own needs, preferences, taste and budget.

The structure of your home is so very important in ensuring a home is cosy and comfortable even when the winter is upon us. Modern window systems are able to combine the best possible views of the outdoor world with the most efficient glazing possible to keep

drafts out and keep heat in, helping keep those household power bills down at the same time. Hi-tech alarm systems also help keep burglars out and provide protection for your peace of mind.

Our landscaping & gardening specialists ensure that what you see through those lovely windows pleases the eye and provides practical storage and entertainment space.

Indoors, our expert flooring suppliers and bespoke furniture makers help you create the looks and functionality you require from the while our soft furnishing, vintage, upholstery and decorating companies will make everything look fabulous and provide focal points and talking points as you wish.

Whatever component(s) of your Beautiful Home you are shopping for, you can be sure that the businesses featured in this section pride themselves on providing quality, service and customer satisfaction with every order.

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TJ Merritt Flooring

Top quality choices and impeccable personal service are among the benefits customers can expect from TJ Merritt Flooring, a highly professional company which both supplies and fits a wide range of carpet, vinyl and laminate flooring.

This Leicester-based specialist provides an entirely personalised shop-at-home service, using a mobile showroom to deliver numerous flooring samples to customers' own doors. That means that customers can choose the very best colours and textures to match their décor and suit their own particular home environment.

Additionally, because the company does not have the overheads associated with shop premises, the prices are extremely keen.

While showing all the flooring samples, company owner Tim Merritt, a highly experienced professional, is able to give impartial advice about the types of flooring to be used, ensuring that the products people choose are suitable for the intended use.

Once the products are selected, Tim himself carries out the fitting, to such high standards that he guarantees his work for a lifetime guarantee and not just the fixed period that most flooring companies offer. If a carpet should need re-stretching or a laminate board comes loose, he will attend to it.

The result is that customers go back to TJ Merritt Flooring again and again. There simply is no need for them to shop elsewhere.

"I have accounts with all the leading manufacturers and wholesalers around the country, which means I can pass on great savings to my customers on a wide range of products," says Tim.

Now & Then Furniture Specialist

now&then

When you're seeking furniture with the character of age but the usefulness of something sturdily modern, Now & Then is the place to find it, or perhaps even to have it made to your own specifications.



Now & Then specialises in designing and making one-off pieces of furniture from reclaimed wood, either for its own in-house range or bespoke for customers with their own ideas, perhaps to fill a particular space or to fulfil a special purpose.

Whether chairs, tables, desks, cupboards and cabinets, each piece is made using love, care and traditional methods such as mortice and tenon joints or dovetail joints. These techniques give them a quality and durability usually missing from factory made furniture.

The items can be made to any size and given their own finish, either to be sold as seen or to be made to order. Wooden boxes, bowls, chests and framed mirrors are also part of the range.

The company also hand paints traditionally made furniture in the still fashionable shabby chic style, personalising pieces as wished to customers' own taste in colour and texture.

Now & Then is run by craftsman carpenter Raphael Douglas with the help of his life partner, Samantha Shields, from a showroom in Leicester. Raphael works with various woods including oak, ash, walnut, tulip and pine.

Now & Then, 93 King Richards Road, Leicester, LE3 5QG; tel 0116 319 0900 or 07465 209379, email furniture@nowandthen.uk.com www.nowandthen.uk.com

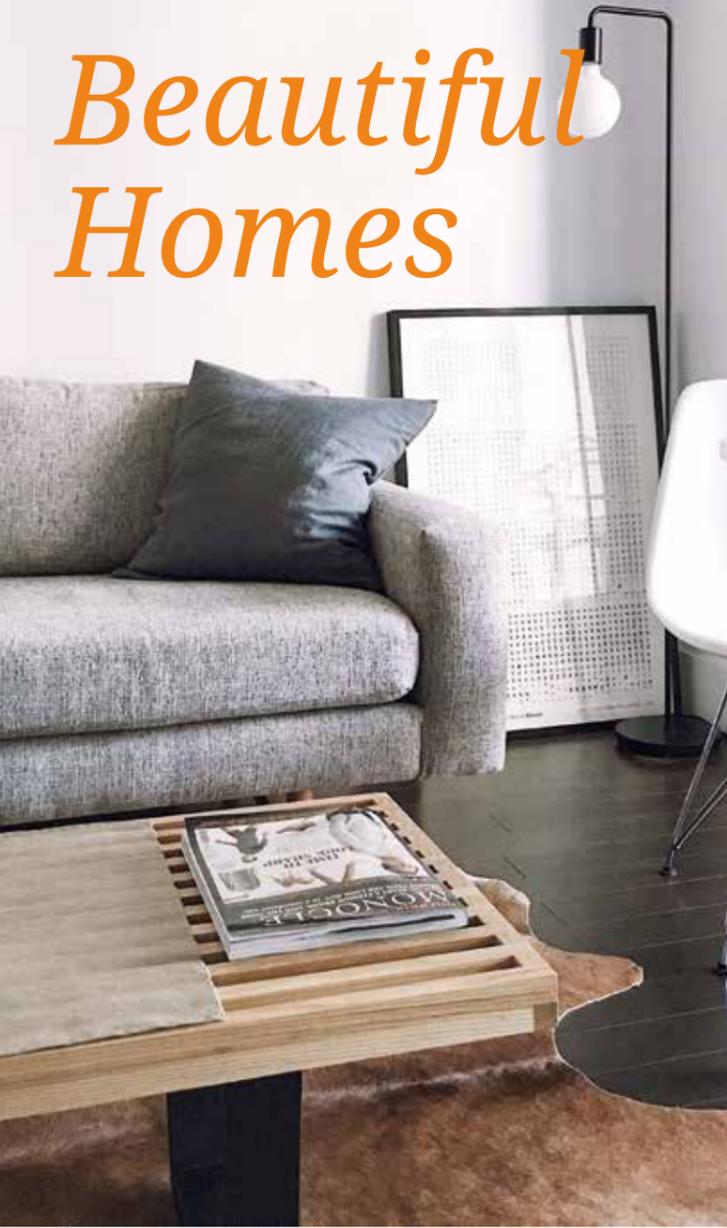
"I am not tied to any particular brand or supplier, so people can trust my advice and I always give the best possible service whether the customer is buying flooring for a tiny box room, a complete house or a large commercial property."



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Ivy Designs

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Joel LaRosa Design Home Improvement Specialists

Joel LaRosa Design
DESIGN WITHIN REACH

Unique inspirational kitchens and bathrooms are created at amazingly competitive prices by the Leicestershire company Joel LaRosa Design. From the initial consultation through to collaborating ideas and the smooth, fuss-free installation, Joel LaRosa is passionate for every area of your project.

Owner Joel LaRosa knows that the kitchen is frequently the beating heart of the modern family home and that the bathroom a sanctuary of personal privacy and relaxation. From the first home visit, he collaborates with his individual customers to gather their ideas, dreams and aspirations and then inspires them, bringing together the products, moods, colours, textures and styles to create spaces they will truly love.

He then goes on to design the perfect space using in-depth product knowledge, natural flair and expertise with computer aided technology.

The company even has its own product range, Stript Kitchens, facilitating bespoke kitchens at fitted kitchen prices.

Editor's Choice



If clients wish, Joel LaRosa Design can mastermind the whole project, arranging everything from the removal of the old kitchen or bathroom units to the final clean down and decoration of their new space.

Joel's zest for creating beautiful kitchens and bathrooms is built on 14 years' experience of the industry.

"Having worked my way through a company I knew I wanted to run my own practice," he says. "I fell in love with it and wanted to build a business for like minded people."

Joel LaRosa Design,
tel 07595 742999,
email joel@joellarosadesign.co.uk
www.joellarosadesign.co.uk

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Business Guide

Each month we pick an outstanding range of businesses to feature in this section of the magazine. You'll find them very varied! They may even open your eyes to services you never even knew existed, let alone knew that you needed!

These are independent, high quality businesses with dedicated people at their helm, providing exemplary services in their own highly specialised fields. They all operate according to their customers' particular needs and take great pride in doing what they do to exemplary standards.

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For details please call: Kirby Roberts on 07710531629, email kirbyrobertss@yahoo.com or my facebook page Kirby's Kozy Kabin.



Editor's Choice



Brand images give companies vibrancy and market presence through the expertise of Falcon Artwork & Design, a graphic design company bringing many years' experience and expertise to the task.

Falcon also restores old or damaged photographs to astonishingly good condition, even when they seem beyond hope.



Company owner Richard Gamble decided to form Falcon Artwork & Design after spending 23 years employed in the print industry. Now he helps mainly small and start-up companies to create or reinvent their business artwork, creating new logos with strong impact and producing artwork for leaflets, brochures and other items of stationery.



His attention to detail and perfect finishing is a key factor in his success.

"There are a lot of websites around that tell people they can create their own logo," he says, "But when they take it to the printer they find it can't be used because it isn't in a suitable format. I provide artwork that they can take straight to a printer or anybody else to work with, without any fuss. And, because I am a small company, basically one person, I can spend time with the client and give a personal service, discussing their thoughts and ideas."

Richard can also offer his services freelance to the printing trade, standing in for staff absent through holidays or sickness.

Falcon Artwork & Design, 4 Coronation Avenue, Leicester, LE9 6PB; tel 07947 346906, email Richard@falconartworkanddesign.co.uk www.falconartworkanddesign.co.uk Facebook @falconartworkanddesign

Editor's Choice



Small businesses can enjoy the benefits of professionally produced websites with easy payment terms thanks to the freelance services of Mia Bella Designs.

This versatile company uses WordPress technology to create bespoke websites for clients including start up companies and sole traders so they can attract online custom and interest from the outset. A system of monthly payments secured by a small deposit means they can generate all the benefits of a slick, well produced website without having to pay huge sums up front. They can then start earning before having to settle up.



Mia Bella Designs is the brainchild of Tracy Barlow, who trained as a graphic designer before going it alone doing the work she enjoyed the most.



With her versatile skills and affordable approach, she now has a wide variety of satisfied customers in businesses ranging from pet care to financial management. The websites can be made with any and all the features required, including easy contact forms, links to social media, messaging services and compatibility with clients' own mobile phones and iPads. All are equipped with Content Management Systems so owners can update them quickly without any special training.

"I help people bring their businesses to life," says Tracy. "I listen to customers' ideas and objectives and then design the best solutions to get them started."

Mia Bella Designs, Reading, Berkshire, tel 07585 608626, email tracy@miabelladesigns.co.uk www.miabelladesigns.co.uk

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HIDDEN GEMS HOLIDAY GUIDE

NOTHING REFRESHES QUITE LIKE A HOLIDAY OR SHORT BREAK IN THE UK DURING THE 'SEASON OF MISTS AND MELLOW FRUITFULNESS', WHEN THE LANDSCAPE IS ARGUABLY AT ITS PRETTIEST AND THE WEATHER OFTEN BRIGHT AND MILD. IF YOU HAVE THE CHANCE TO HEAD OFF FOR A FEW DAYS OF REST & RECUPERATION, EXCITEMENT & ADVENTURE, WE HAVE ACCOMMODATION IDEAS TO PIQUE YOUR INTEREST.

All our Hidden Gems are examples of quality accommodation in breathtaking locations, run by independent operators who take great pride in pleasing their guests. They all have 'can do' attitudes and go beyond expectations in providing exemplary service and personal touches that bring an instant smile to their new arrivals, whether in well chosen welcome packs or lovely touches to make people feel instantly at home.

This month our featured locations are very varied and all of them offer lots of activities to enjoy even as the seasons turn colder and the nights draw in.

They start near home territory here in the Midlands with Derbyshire and the Peak District, on of the UK's premier places for outdoor activities of all kinds and yet also with some of the very finest visitor attractions, including no fewer than 10 stately homes with extensive grounds.

Neighbours Worcestershire and Herefordshire each offer visitors beautiful surroundings and great charm, not to mention the cider trail, the black & white trail of medieval properties and a rich heritage ranging encompassing sport, pottery and food production.

East Anglia entices with its ever popular seaside towns, unique culture and jewels of English history, including those spearheaded by the warrior queen Boudicca.

Moving north, the Vale of Durham is walking country of excellence with the world famous Beamish Museum as one of many charms, while Edinburgh & The Lothians offer a quite amazing array to pleasure seekers of all dispositions.

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AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE 2018

ALL OUR HIDDEN GEMS PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION WHICH IS NOTEWORTHY BECAUSE OF THEIR BREATHTAKINGLY BEAUTIFUL LOCATIONS AND THEIR OUTSTANDING STANDARDS OF ACCOMMODATION AND SERVICE. WITHIN THAT HIGH CALIBRE CATEGORY WE HAVE ALSO PICKED OUT THOSE WHICH STAND OUT SUFFICIENTLY TO MERIT RECEIVING ONE OF OUR MAGAZINE'S AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE.

Our award winners delight in surprising their guests with their own individual touches of welcome and willingness to please. They are all enthusiasts for their own parts of the country with in depth information to help their guests enjoy their holiday or short break to the full. However they distinguish themselves you'll find that you are being treated more like a valued friend than a paying guest and you'll definitely be wanting to go back for more!

LUCKER MILL HOUSE

For Quality and Service as Country Bed & Breakfast, Accommodation of the Year in Belford, Northumberland

Lucker Mill House Bed & Breakfast

Lucker Mill House is a fabulous bed & breakfast from which to enjoy the wild and wonderful surroundings of the Northumberland coast and countryside. More than 200 years old and set in its own gardens and grounds in front of the original local mill, it is full of character and has been recently renovated with impeccable taste to offer guests a high quality, pleasant stay at any time of year.

With two double guest bedrooms, one with a king sized bed and both with en suite walk-in showers, Lucker Mill House is this magazine's Award of Excellence winner for Bed & Breakfast Accommodation of the Year in this part of the country. It is run by welcoming host Laura Davison, who provides many superior touches including antique furnishings, mini fridges, top quality bed linen and a choice of tasty fresh breakfasts, either cooked or continental.

The house stands on the edge of the quaint village of Lucker, which has among other things a leisure centre with a swimming pool and spa and two country restaurants where guests benefit from discounts. The spot is

within easy reach of the market town of Alnwick - famous for its spectacular castle - Lindisfarne, the 'Holy Island' with its unique history and wildlife and the vast reservoir of Kielder Water, the backdrop to exhilarating walking country.



Lucker Mill House, Lucker, Belford, Northumberland NE70 7JH; tel 01668 213739 or 07805 026780; email Laura.luckermillhouse@gmail.com www.luckermillhouse.co.uk

HILL OF MAUNDERLEA LODGES

For Quality and Service as Luxury Lodge Accommodation of the Year in Huntly, Aberdeenshire

Hill of Maunderlea Lodges

If you're looking for somewhere to enjoy traditional Scottish festivities, activities and hospitality, look no further than the Hill of Maunderlea holiday lodges, disabled-friendly 4 Star lodges set in 14 acres of mature woodland. They win this magazine's Award of Excellence for Luxury Lodge Accommodation of the Year in Huntly, Aberdeenshire.

The Hill of Maunderlea is brilliantly placed for experiencing lively winter activities including the numerous parties and firework events at Hogmanay or Burns Night on January 25. Visitors frequently enjoy golf, whisky tasting, castle visiting and watching out for breathtaking natural sights such as red squirrels and the Aurora Borealis.



Lecht Ski Centre is less than an hour's drive away and so is the beautiful coastline of sandy beaches, rugged coves and fishing villages.

This seaside attracts not only tourists but also dolphins.

The lodges are modern, purpose-built and eco-friendly, positioned for panoramic views and privacy. They have



wheelchair friendly wide doorways and sleep six people each. Each has a ground floor double bedroom and wetroom shower as well as an upstairs double bedroom, twin bedroom and separate bathroom. Like the bedrooms, the open plan living, dining and kitchen area is very well equipped.

Lorraine Davidson, who runs the lodges with her husband, Alan, says:

"It's peaceful and very picturesque here, especially if there is a little snow."

Hill of Maunderlea Lodges, Aberchirder, Aberdeenshire AB54 7PY; tel 01466 780488, email maunderlealodges@yahoo.co.uk www.aberdeenshireluxurylodges.com



THE BOATSIDE INN

For Quality and Service as Country Inn Bed & Breakfast and Self Catering Accommodation of the Year in Hexham, Northumberland



Northumberland offers many attractions for visitors right through the year and The Boatside Inn near Hexham is perfectly placed for enjoying them, from the Roman remains of Hadrian's Wall on the doorstep to the gorgeous Heritage Coast.

The Boatside Inn is a welcoming country pub providing excellent food and drink, 4 Star purpose built bed & breakfast accommodation and two self catering cottages in the delightful village of Warden. This magazine was recently delighted to present it with an Award of Excellence as our Accommodation of the Year in Hexham and owner Matt Cawood said: "That's a great testament to the hard work of our staff."

The Boatside takes pride in serving food which is high quality, locally

sourced and freshly prepared. It has an extensive menu and most bed & breakfast guests find it meets all their needs, whether for a light lunch or a celebration dinner. The locals are convivial, the atmosphere is cosy and the venue is surrounded by great walking and cycling country.

There is world famous salmon and trout fishing on the North and South Tyne Rivers which converge outside and several National Trust properties including Alnwick Castle stay open all year.



"There's plenty to explore and you'll find a roaring fire and wholesome food to enjoy at the end of a cold day," says Matt.

The Boatside Inn, Warden, Hexham Northumberland NE46 4SQ; tel 01434 602233, email matt@theboatsideinn.com www.theboatsideinn.com



EDINBURGH & LOTHIANS

FOR A HOLIDAY PACKED WITH INTEREST FEW LOCATIONS COULD OFFER AS MUCH AS EDINBURGH & THE LOTHIANS (EAST, WEST & MID), TAKING IN THE FAMOUSLY BEAUTIFUL CITY CENTRE AND A BEGUILINGLY BEAUTIFUL STRETCH OF COAST.

People who enjoy a city scene with non-stop activity will love the busy shopping and entertainment of Edinburgh, where the medieval old town and Georgian new town are now combined in a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The centrepiece Royal Mile in itself can fascinate tourists for as long as they choose, from the awesome hilltop castle – home to the Scottish National War Museum and Scottish Crown Jewels – to Holyrood Palace, royal residence of the Queen in Scotland, at the bottom and with a rich heritage of trendy shops and other businesses inbetween.

For those who prefer rural life, why not explore John Muir Way, a 134 mile route from Helensburgh in the West to Dunbar in the east, where Muir was born.

This extraordinary man left Scotland as a boy and travelled to Wisconsin, USA, where he became a farmer, inventor, botanist, geologist, explorer, mountaineer, writer and pioneer of nature conservation. His efforts were instrumental in creating some of the first national parks in the world, including Yosemite, and his birthplace museum is well worth a visit whether or not you intend walking the trail.

East Lothian is, in any case, officially the sunniest area of Scotland, and it's 40 miles of coastline from Dunbar to Musselburgh features golden sands galore. It is also known as Scotland's 'Golf Coast' and entices players to some famously beautiful and challenging courses, including Gullane and North Berwick.

In West Lothian, between Edinburgh and Glasgow, enjoy a most modern shopping experience at The Centre, Livingston, with some 150 shops, eateries and leisure activities, or, by contrast, visit the magnificent Linlithgow Palace and park, beautifully set beside a loch and long favoured by the Stewart kings from James 1 onward.

Midlothian crowd pullers include the Snowsports Centre at Hillend, with a dry ski slope, tubing chutes and other equipment for year-round fun. People interested by the mysterious search for the Holy Grail, as detailed in The Da Vinci Code, may enjoy visiting the Gothic Rosslyn Chapel. The National Mining Museum of Scotland at Newtongrange brings the old industry to life for children and adults alike with its deep mine shaft and winding mechanism powered by Scotland's largest steam engine.



Editor's Choice Holidays

The Byre Cottage

The Byre Cottage offers comfort and cosiness in a tastefully converted 18th century farm building. It is 4 Star self-catering accommodation perfectly placed for exploring the year-round charms of East Lothian, including Blue Flag beaches, fabulous walking country and multiple golf courses.



This beautifully converted property offers the peace and privacy of a farmland location only four miles from the coast, yet it is only minutes from Drem Railway Station, which runs frequent, 25 minute train journeys into Edinburgh.

The Byre Cottage has two double bedrooms with super-king sized or twin beds, a large living room, a modern and luxuriously fitted kitchen and dining area, modern bathroom and separate shower.

The property was thoughtfully converted by owner Giles Lundie, who lives next door with his wife Sarah and family. It has solid oak flooring, vaulted ceilings, double glazing, electric heating and a wood burning stove, together guaranteeing snugness and warmth in even the coldest Scottish winters. Outdoors is an enclosed courtyard with patio and parking space.



Visitors always find great things to do, whether they want to visit the attractions of Edinburgh, the Borders or enjoy the natural world. Many like walk the Lammermuir Hills or tour the coast, especially North Berwick beaches like Milsey Bay, with views to Bass Rock and the Scottish Seabird Centre.

"We're spoiled for choice," says Giles.

The Byre Cottage, 2 Newmains Farm Steading, Drem, North Berwick, East Lothian EH39 5BL; tel 07967 689 831, email giles@lundie.plus.com www.thebyrecottage.co.uk

Editor's Choice Holidays

MILLEUR HOUSE

International golfers are among the many guests who make themselves at home at Milleur House, a luxurious 4 Star bed & breakfast in North Berwick on Scotland's famous 'Golf Coast', just half an hour's drive from Edinburgh.



The modern, architect designed house is only 200 yards from the sea and a stroll away from the Scottish Seabird Centre with boat trips to the islands with puffins, guillemots and the Bass Rock, the biggest gannet colony (150,000 birds) in the northern hemisphere.

With three double bedrooms and breakfast proudly showcasing local and Scottish produce under its Taste our Best Award, Milleur House is run with courteous hospitality to ensure a happy,



relaxed stay for one and all and special diets can be accommodated with a little forewarning.

Owners Drew and Moira Cochran welcome holidaymakers from all over the world with numerous agendas including walkers, cyclists, twitchers and tourists, but Drew says: "This is a golfers' paradise. There are 21 courses within half an hour of the house including Muirfield. We are members of Golf East Lothian and tailor golf packages for people coming in, recommending courses and organising tee times for them."

A direct local train service makes it easy to enjoy Edinburgh from Milleur House, including the castle, Princes Street and the largest International Arts Festival in the world.

Milleur House, 11 Strathearn Road, North Berwick EH39 5BZ; tel 01620 894689, email milleurhouse@gmail.com www.milleurhouse.co.uk

Editor's Choice Holidays

18 CRAIGMILLAR PARK

Perfectly placed for exploring Scotland's beautiful capital city of Edinburgh is 18 Craigmillar Park, a guest house offering superior bed & breakfast in the most comfortable surroundings and due to have its own private residents' bar from the new year.

The spacious and tastefully restored Victorian townhouse in the exclusive suburb of Newington has been holiday accommodation for just over a year – too short a time to acquire a star rating - but has already notched up a highly desirable 9.5 out of 10 rating on Booking.com and a Lux Global hospitality award.

Owner Craig has vast experience in the hospitality sector and now offers quality accommodation run to his own impeccable standards. Once the bar is in place it will offer a wide range of whiskies and other choice beverages and be a great place to relax, with or without alcohol.

All seven double guest bedrooms have WiFi, smart TV, complimentary toiletries and tea and coffee making facilities. Several have



king sized beds and there is free 24 hour street parking outside.

"There's a frequent bus service right outside and a 10 minute ride takes you to the heart of Edinburgh," says Craig. "There is a shopping centre and numerous restaurants and bars within a short walk."

Guests booking directly through the website www.18craigmillarpark.com benefit from a 10% discount compared to other online rates.

18 Craigmillar Park, Edinburgh EH16 5PS; tel 07812 058809 or 07828 410104, email 18craigmillarpark@gmail.com www.18craigmillarpark.com

PEAK DISTRICT & DERBYSHIRE

DERBYSHIRE IN GENERAL AND THE PEAK DISTRICT IN PARTICULAR GIVE HOLIDAYMAKERS AN AMAZING ARRAY OF ACTIVITIES AND ATTRACTIONS TO ENJOY, FROM EXPLORING THE SUBTERRANEAN TERRITORY OF THE SHOWCAVES TO MARVELLING AT THE GROUNDS AND GRANDEUR OF CHATSWORTH HOUSE STATELY HOME.

People love walking and cycling the traffic-free trails in Peak District National Park, including the Monsal route leading to the old railway station and close to Haddon Hall, famous for its Elizabethan terraced gardens and place in films such as Jane Eyre and Pride & Prejudice.

They may well start from one of the visitor centres in Bakewell, Castleton, Derwent or Edale, where they can find exhibitions, information and refreshments.

Bakewell itself is a pretty town with attractive shops, enticing eateries and a charming river scene including thousands of 'love locks' clipped on its main bridge by thousands of adoring couples. It is, of course, the very best place to buy Bakewell tarts.

Castleton is arguably the heart of the outdoor scene, at the head of Hope Valley. It is overlooked by Mam Tor, 'the Shivering Mountain' which gets its name from its shifting shale. Highest of all in the Peak is Kinder Scout, usually accessed from Edale.

As many people go down as up from Castleton. The showcaves of Peak Cavern, Speedwell Cavern, Blue John Cavern and Treak Cliff Cavern are some of the most popular in the country, with dramatic rock formations and Blue John stone unique to the area. For more caves and for fascinating history visit Poole's Cavern, named after a robber outlaw, from Buxton or take a spectacular cable car ride up the Heights of Abraham, where lead mining began in Roman times.

Editor's Choice Holidays

Quarry House Moneystone

Privacy and pretty views are among the many attractions of Quarry House Moneystone, an extremely dog friendly, beautifully renovated self catering property rated 4 Star with Visit England in the Churnet Valley, on the edge of the Peak District National Park.



Guests of this two bedroomed Staffordshire hide-away enjoy relaxing downtime in the lovely secure garden and three-quarter acre paddock. Adjoining is a 100+ acre woodland inviting them for idyllic walks all year round. Dogs stay free of charge, while humans particularly like features including the two bathrooms, the super-comfy beds, the underfloor heating and character features including quarry tile floors, exposed beams and log burner in the living area.

Facebook reveals more than 630 'likes'. Owners Jan and Nick Cresswell plan to add a shepherd's hut to the paddock in the future.



The attractive nearby villages of Oakmoor, Foxt and Ipstones offer food and drink. Churnet Valley Railway runs nostalgic trips by steam train, with services including a dining car and December Santa & Steam days and the valley is also home to Hawkesmoor Nature Reserve and areas graded Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

Further afield the Peak District and surrounding areas are brimful of exciting things to do, from visiting impressively grand Chatsworth House to thrill seeking on the big rides at Alton Towers.

Book directly to get the best prices.

Quarry House, Blakeley Lane, Moneystone, Oakmoor Stoke-on-Trent ST10 3DX; tel 07801 901333, email bookings@quarryhouse-moneystone.co.uk www.quarryhouse-moneystone.co.uk

Editor's Choice Holidays

The Pottery Flat Chesterfield

The Pottery Flat is a rarity among self catering properties, a 3 Star Gold treasure on the edge of the Peak District in the chic Chatsworth Road area of Chesterfield, up and coming for its boutique shops and eateries.

The flat sits above the JMJ pottery run by one of Peak District Artisans, Janine Mannion-Jones, and is filled and furnished in welcoming style to provide not only a cosy base for exploring this extraordinary area but also to provide interest and recreation inbetween. You'll find quality artwork, films, books, games, music and a kitchen where keen cooks can enjoy their craft with all the equipment they'd wish, including a food processor.

"People can use anything that is in the flat, move things around and treat it as their own home," says Janine. "I have 'please do' rules, not 'please don't' rules."

The flat sleeps five for as little as £85 a night and is only 10 minutes' walk from Chesterfield town centre,



famous for the church with the crooked spire and a bustling market of up to 250 stalls. This is fabulous country for climbers, walking and cycling, of course, but it is also within an easy drive of iconic attractions including the amazing Heights of Abraham, assorted show caves and Chatsworth House, one of the stateliest of stately homes.

Pottery Flat, 140 Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield S40 2AR; tel 01246 555461, email janine@jimpottery.com www.thepotteryflatchesterfield.co.uk

Editor's Choice Holidays

Oaklands Country Lodges

Oaklands Country Lodges set the scene for romance, mini-breaks and luxury family holidays with fabulous levels of comfort, idyllic and their very own private hot tubs on the edge of the stunningly beautiful Derbyshire Peak District.



Rated 4 Star Gold self-catering accommodation, the three eco-friendly timber lodges sit within an acre of landscaped gardens and grounds next to a working farm run by the owners, Daniel & Claire Redfern. They are exceptionally well furnished and equipped, sleep four to eight people each and are wheelchair accessible with their own wetroom showers and separate bathrooms. The lodges have countryside views, log burners and air source heating for year-round cosiness, verandas overlooking a scenic pond or



meadow and attract an ever-changing variety of visiting wildlife.

Scenic walks and cycle rides abound within this area between Hilton and Hatton in Dove Valley and welcoming pubs are found within a mile or two. Local attractions include Alton Towers theme park, Uttoxeter Racecourse, Ilam Park, Tutbury Castle and one of Britain's finest stately homes, Chatsworth House. Shoppers find pleasure in nearby Burton upon Trent – home of the National Brewery Centre museum – and Derby offers the buzz of a big city.

"Our Hideaway lodge is pet friendly and if people book all three lodges together up to 18 people can enjoy a Peak District holiday together," says Claire.

Oaklands Country Lodges, Oaklands Farm, Mount Pleasant, Sutton Road, Church Broughton, Derbyshire DE65 5DE; tel 01283 730283, email info@oaklandscountrylodges.co.uk www.oaklandscountrylodges.co.uk



EAST ANGLIA

COVERING THE COASTAL COUNTIES OF NORFOLK, SUFFOLK AND ESSEX, TOGETHER WITH CAMBRIDGESHIRE, EAST ANGLIA OFFERS EVERYTHING FROM PERENNIALY POPULAR SEASIDE TOWNS TO BRITAIN'S ONLY UNESCO CITY OF LITERATURE, NORWICH. THE COMBINATION OF VAST EXPANSES OF SANDY BEACHES, CLIFFS, CREEKS AND SALTMARSHES MAKES THE REGION A BIRDCATCHERS' PARADISE AND A RICH, COLOURFUL AND LARGELY PROSPEROUS HISTORICAL PAST IS EVIDENCED IN NUMEROUS STATELY HOMES AND PLACES OF INTEREST.

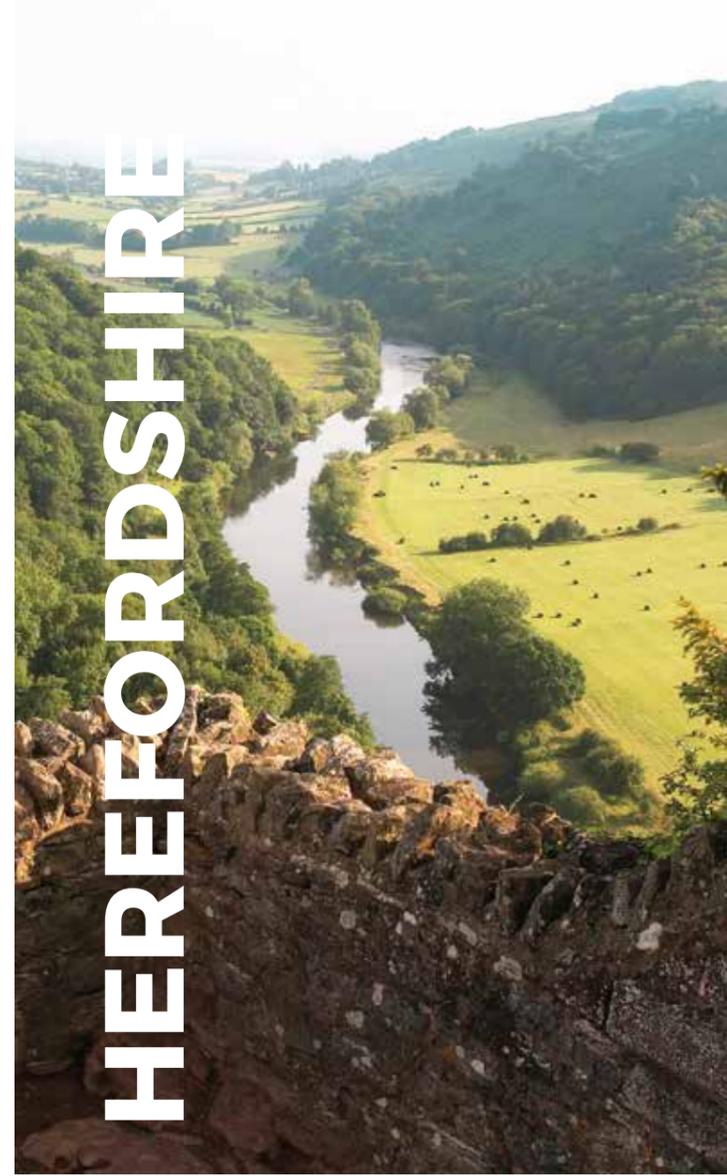
Traditional family holidays have long been loved in resorts such as Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Holkham and Southwold, the latter famous not only for its iconic lighthouse but also for the award winning Adnam's Brewery next door. Both offer fascinating tours all year round.

Beaches in these parts of expansive and clean, while local businesses meet visitors' needs with enthusiasm, providing excellent accommodation, food and activities such as Yarmouth's upcoming Winter Festival.

The Suffolk town of Lavenham is a beautifully preserved medieval village some 300 listed buildings, many of them timber framed buildings along narrow streets, including the guildhall. Long ago it thrived through cloth making industry. Today it provides boutique shops, galleries, eateries and a busy calendar of events.

Many visitors like to explore 'Constable Country', taking in Flatford Mill and the River Stour which so inspired landscape painter John Constable. Many, too, rejoice in the Broads National Park, a network of shallow lakes and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty renowned for peaceful boating and wildlife.

Norwich is an attractive city with a beautiful cathedral, modern shopping malls and also The Lanes, an area of highly individual and quirky businesses selling everything from art to trendy coffee and real ales.



HEREFORDSHIRE

HEREFORDSHIRE IS KNOWN FOR NUMEROUS ATTRIBUTES INCLUDING THE BEAUTY OF ITS COUNTRYSIDE, ITS LOCATION ALONGSIDE WALES, AN AMAZING ARRAY OF BLACK & WHITE PROPERTIES AND A PRODIGIOUS ANNUAL HARVEST OF FRUIT.

It's not by chance that one of Hereford's iconic pieces of art is a 20 feet tall metallic woodpecker. It was commissioned by Bulmer's nearly 50 years ago and placed in the Whitecross Road area where brothers Fred & Percy Bulmer set up their first cider mill in 1887.

This year's crop of apples – and pears - has been extraordinary, boosted by the summer heatwaves. On October 13 & 14 locals celebrate the harvest with The Big Apple, a celebration among orchards, woodlands, hopyards and fields along Marcle Ridge above Much Marcle.

If you're quick you can still enjoy the related fun events at eight farms, orchards and other locations, detailed at www.thebigapple.org.uk. If you're not, you can still enjoy the beautiful walk with views to the Malverns, or follow the countywide Cider Trail of 16 locations, perhaps starting from the Cider Museum in Hereford.

Many people love the walking country in and around the Wye Valley, and thrill-seeking canoeists love the Wye rapids, but also on the Wye is the beautiful, compact city of Hereford itself. The historic core features that famous cathedral containing the medieval Mappa Mundi and a rare chained library and, nearby, an exquisite variety of independent shops and eateries where customers receive impeccable personal service. Don't miss the Black & White House Museum for a flavour of 17th century life or the National Trusts' Berrington Hall and the grounds showcasing Capability Brown's last landscaping assignment.

maple barns

A perfectly placed escape to beautiful Norfolk

Maple Barns is a stunning barn conversion forming two luxury holiday homes, set around the courtyard of a Victorian coach-house. The barns are situated in the centre of the village of Swanton Morley in the heart of beautiful rural Norfolk.

If you are looking for well-equipped self-catering Norfolk holiday barns then either Owl or Pheasant Barn will be perfect accommodation for your relaxing break. Both holiday homes are dog friendly and make a great base to explore Norfolk at any time of year.

24 Greengate, Swanton Morley, Dereham, Norfolk NR20 4AD
T. 01362 637080 / 07983 441308 | E. mail@maplebarns.co.uk | www.maplebarns.co.uk

FIELD VIEW Tel: Lindy on 01799 599616 or 07557 130536
BED & BREAKFAST

Field View Bed and Breakfast is a family-run business situated in a beautiful rural area near Saffron Walden, Essex. Surrounded by charm, history and a wealth of interesting places and things to do.

We are able to offer three bedrooms, all newly refurbished to the highest standards. Tasty and substantial breakfasts are served in our luxurious dining room, in addition to the provision of a private lounge for guests complete with deep, comfortable sofas for complete relaxation.

Howlett End, Wimbish, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 2XW
www.fieldviewbedandbreakfast.com | Lindymulhall@gmail.com

No. 21 Tel: 01432 279897 www.21aylestonehill.co.uk

No. 21 Guest Accommodation was built at the turn of the last century during the Edwardian Period. The interior has been tastefully updated by the present owners with all rooms offering en-suite facilities. There are five letting rooms each with a TV and tea/coffee making facilities. Internet access is available, as well as hairdryers. At our friendly B & B you will enjoy a quiet comfortable night's rest in a sumptuously comfortable bed followed by a hearty English breakfast made from local Herefordshire produce. Continental breakfast is also available.

Email: bookings@21aylestonehill.co.uk | enquiries@21aylestonehill.co.uk

HollyHouse Bed & Breakfast T: 01432 340449 / M: 07973 260128

Holly House is a Grade II listed Georgian House built in 1831. The current owners have lovingly bought the house back to life tastefully restoring, re-decorating and furnishing it with an eclectic mixture of old and new.

The guest rooms provide guests with every modern convenience: Large comfortable bed's dressed with Egyptian linen, en-suite shower, coffee and tea making facilities, flat screen TV/DVD, bathrobes, hairdryer, complimentary bathing accessories and Internet access.

Located 5 mins from Hereford City centre

Holly House, 23 Aylestone Hill, Hereford HR1 1HR
Email: info@hollyhousehereford.co.uk | www.hollyhousehereford.co.uk

the old bakery bed and breakfast

The Old Bakery
Church Walk, Pulham Market,
Diss, Norfolk. IP21 4SL

01379 676492
info@theoldbakery.net
www.theoldbakery.net

Come and stay at The Old Bakery in the beautiful South Norfolk countryside. You'll find us in the Waveney Valley village of Pulham Market, just 10 minutes away from the country market towns of Diss and Harleston. Pulham Market is a quintessential Norfolk village, with traditional Village Green, charming period cottages, thatched roofs, two pubs, beautiful scenery and just 1/2 an hour from the city of Norwich.

Reading Retreats Available
A Fabulous 5 Star Gold Award Bed and Breakfast in Pulham Market, Norfolk

College Farm Bed & Breakfast
Peaceful Accommodation in a 15th Century Farmhouse

College Farm is an arable farm set in the peaceful Suffolk countryside, just 6 miles west of Ipswich on the A1071 to Hadleigh.

The house stands in a large garden which guests are welcome to relax in, and is surrounded by fields and meadows in a quiet part of the farm. We are well placed for visiting "Constable Country", Sutton Hoo Viking Ship Exhibition (N.T), the Suffolk coastline and the pretty Wool Towns of South Suffolk.

Hintlesham, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 3NT
Tel 01473 652253 | Mobile 07748 976145 | www.collegefarm.net

The Riverside at Aymestrey

The Riverside at Aymestrey - winner of Visit England 'Best Tourism Pub 2018' - is situated deep in the heart of Herefordshire countryside.

The bar and restaurant have been deliberately kept in a traditional style - log fires, candles, hops and oak beams, bricks and stone.

Our rooms have WiFi, flat-screen televisions and minibars and are recently-refurbished - all individually furnished, some with 400 year old beams embedded in the walls. We look forward to welcoming you to The Riverside in the near future.

Aymestrey, Herefordshire HR6 9ST - T: (0)1568 708440
E: enquiries@riversideaymestrey.co.uk | www.riversideaymestrey.co.uk

Riverside Court Cottage

Riverside Court Cottage has been beautifully converted from a 1697 cider, sack and coal warehouse to provide a lovely holiday cottage for 3 guests.

There are two bedrooms, with a spacious modern bathroom. The master bedroom has a splendid solid oak 4 poster bed, the fully fitted kitchen is very well equipped. Within yards of Hereford centre and it's cathedral.

Wye Street, Hereford HR2 7RA | www.riversidecourtcottage.co.uk

VALE OF DURHAM

HEADING NORTH TO THE VALE OF DURHAM SHOULD PROVIDE ACTIVITIES AND ADVENTURES TO PLEASE ALMOST EVERYONE, SO VARIED IS ITS SELECTION OF UNIQUE ATTRACTIONS.

The area spans the beautiful and inspirational city of Durham itself, with its central UNESCO World Heritage Site encompassing the castle and cathedral overlooking the meandering River Wear. From the castle the Prince Bishops presided in a unique form of rule, quite separate to the king's, from 1080 to 1836. The stunningly beautiful cathedral houses tributes to early Christian heroes, the shrine of St Cuthbert and the tomb of the Venerable Bede, the 'Father of English History'. Features include remarkable stained glass including the 14th century Rose Window and the 2010 Transfiguration Window dedicated to the memory of the late former Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsay, who was Bishop of Durham in the 1940s and '50s.

Cyclists & walkers love the Vale of Durham for its unspoilt and wildly varied countryside including a portion of the 140 mile C2C (Sea to Sea) route from east to west. Astronomers enjoy the Dark Skies and Global Geopark which will this year host a multi-event Stargazing Festival from October 20 to November 4.

Train enthusiasts shouldn't miss Tanfield Railway, the oldest in the world, originating from 1725 and running steam hauled passenger trains.

Midlanders intrigued by Richard III's legacy can search for his boar carving at Barnard Castle.

Editor's Choice Holidays

BRIAR ROSE HOLIDAY COTTAGE

Brilliantly placed for exploring the exceptional countryside, attractions and Heritage Coast of North East England is Briar Rose Holiday Cottage, a two bedroomed bungalow available all year round for excellent value self catering holidays and short term lets.



Briar Rose is superbly furnished and equipped, ideal for couples and small families and with excellent bus links to Durham, Sunderland, Newcastle, Gateshead and the world famous living history of Beamish open air museum. As well as being well placed for very varied holidays it is highly popular for business trips and as temporary accommodation during house moves, especially as the cost decreases with longer stays.



Amenities include a large, very well equipped kitchen/diner, a modern bathroom with separate shower and bath, lovely gardens with a south facing patio and everything you need from superfast broadband to tea and coffee supplies. Owner Ray Pratt has travelled the world staying in all kinds of accommodation including top international hotels and applied his experience to ensuring guests' comfort and convenience, including regular deep cleans. Guests are invariably impressed and their enthusiastic reviews have earned him Certificates of Excellence from the TripAdvisor travel website for 2017 and 2018.

Briar Rose is in the village of Shiney Row, in the Vale of Durham, only a few minutes' walk from open countryside and the River Wear.

Briar Rose Holiday Cottage, Shiney Row, County Durham; tel 07867 785779, email geostart@btinternet.com www.northeastshorttermlets.co.uk



WORCESTERSHIRE

WALKERS BASK IN THE BEAUTY OF WORCESTERSHIRE, NOT LEAST FROM THE MALVERN HILLS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY. APART FROM THE EXERCISE THEY ENJOY STUNNING VIEWS FROM THE HIGHEST POINT OF WORCESTERSHIRE BEACON, 1,394 FEET UP.

Many visitors enjoy the birthplace museum of composer Edward Elgar in Broadheath or explore Worcester itself, perhaps cruising the River Severn, perusing the cathedral, watching the cricket or seeing what's on at the Royal Porcelain Works, newly revived as 'a home for the arts'.





Church House Bed & Breakfast

Claines, Worcester, WR3 7RL
T: 01905 452366 | 07909 968938
E: wr37rl@btinternet.com

Church House is a working farm, conveniently situated just five minutes from Junction 6 of the M5 motorway and two miles from the centre of the historic city of Worcester.

Church House welcomes all guests, whether your visit to the area is business related, attending one of the numerous cultural or sporting events, or just taking the opportunity to explore this lovely area.

www.churchhousebandb.co.uk



Kyre Equestrian & BnB
LOWER HOUSE FARM BED & BREAKFAST

A historic farmhouse and country garden set among 200 acres of farmland on the Herefordshire, Worcestershire & Shropshire borders.

Lower House Farm offers Bed and Breakfast and overnight accommodation near Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire for people, horses and dogs, at very reasonable rates. This friendly family run business offers real hospitality, lots of country comfort and cosy accommodation near the 'Town in the Orchard'.

Vine Lane, Sutton, Tenbury Wells, Worcs WR15 8RL | www.kyre-equestrian.co.uk
Tel: (preferred): 07891 928412 / 01885 410233 or Email: adskyre@outlook.com



Lower House Farm offers Bed and Breakfast and overnight accommodation near Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire for people, horses and dogs, at very reasonable rates. This friendly family run business offers real hospitality, lots of country comfort and cosy accommodation near the 'Town in the Orchard'.

Vine Lane, Sutton, Tenbury Wells, Worcs WR15 8RL | www.kyre-equestrian.co.uk
Tel: (preferred): 07891 928412 / 01885 410233 or Email: adskyre@outlook.com

AA 4 stars

LEICESTERSHIRE/NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Brook Meadow

Camping, glamping, caravanning and lodge holidays could hardly be more idyllic than in the lakeside setting of Brook Meadow. Set in the glorious unspoiled countryside of Sibbertoft, on the cusp of rural Leicestershire and Northamptonshire, it is so perfect that some couples book the entire site for an overnight wedding reception.

Brook Meadow is a family run holiday venue open all year round. It is set in tranquil woodland surrounded by fields and pastures on a 400 acre working farm, and the lake at its heart is well stocked for coarse fishing.

The site has been a great getaway location for 25 years, but in the past year it has had a thorough makeover. That investment has transformed two pre-existing self catering lodges and added a brand new third. Now boutique accommodation, the lodges each have verandas overlooking the lake and cater for four people, with sofa beds sleeping two more.

Glampers enjoy safari-style luxury in a spacious new bell tent while other visitors relish the well serviced camping and caravan pitches,

many with electric hook ups. All are served by modern toilets and showers, utility space for laundry and washing up, fire pits, a shop and other amenities.

The site has now been shortlisted for a tourism award. It is pet friendly, eco-friendly and managed to maximise wildlife conservation. Guests frequently spot owls, swifts, kingfishers, bats, dragonflies and the resident swans.

Children love the pirate-themed play area, which can be booked for private treasure hunting parties. There are surprising options for anyone with excess energy thanks to Avalanche Adventure, on the doorstep and offering activities including quad biking, off-road driving and clay pigeon shooting. There is a gliding centre nearby.

Locally, people can visit the pleasant town of Market Harborough, Naseby Battlefield, Foxton Locks and Kilworth House Theatre. Attractions within an hour's drive include Leicester's National Space Centre, Princess Diana's family home of Althorp House and the giant urban sports park Adrenaline Alley at Corby, thrilling skateboarders, BMX riders and others.

Brook Meadow was founded by Jasper and Mary Hart and is run by their daughter, Claire and a dedicated staff.

Claire says Brook Meadow is a destination in itself due to the breathtaking lake and its beautiful setting making it Sibbertoft's best kept secret.

"I'm enjoying being back in the family fold with exciting times ahead, implementing new ideas to modernise and improve the service and experiences Brook Meadow offers," she says.



Brook Meadow, Welford Road, Sibbertoft, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 9UJ; tel 01858 880886, email enquiries@brookmeadow.co.uk, www.brookmeadow.co.uk

Brook Meadow
have recently been
shortlisted for the Leicester
Tourism Awards 2018 for
Most Enjoyable Stay
- Self Catering

BROOK MEADOW

A rural lakeside holiday destination on a farm

NATURE, FREEDOM & ESCAPE // BEAUTIFUL ONE DAY, PERFECT THE NEXT
with serviced lodges, glamping, caravanning, camping, & coarse fishing

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For all enquiries : 01858 880886



www.brookmeadow.co.uk

