



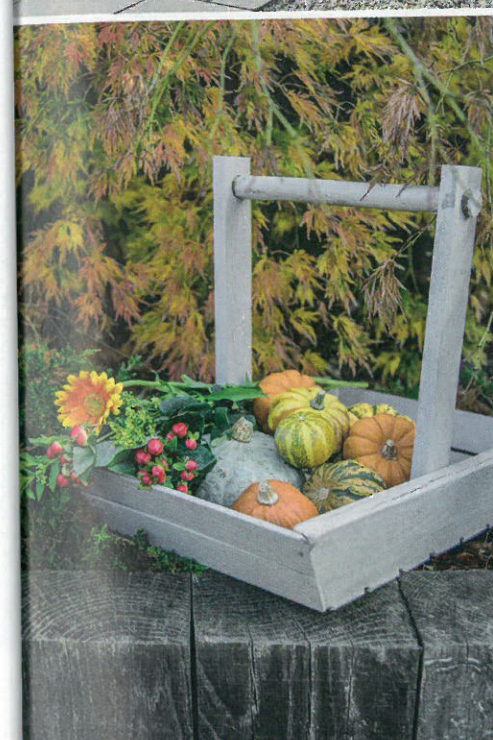
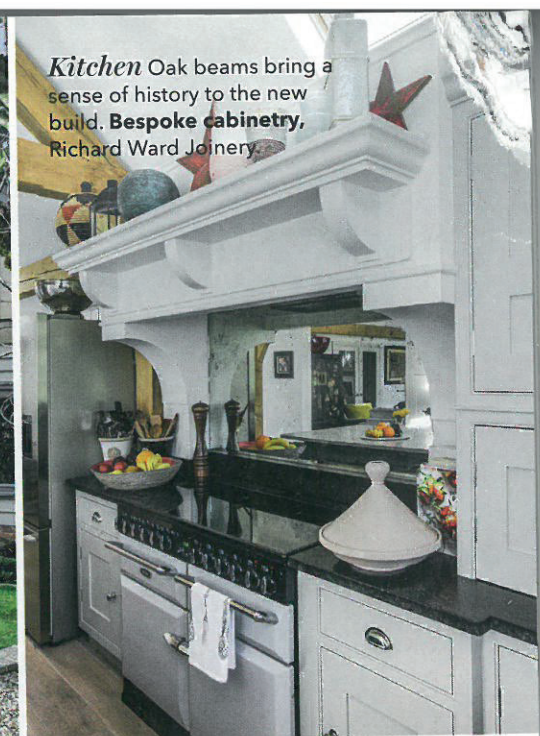
# Mellow tones

UNABLE TO FIND THEIR FOREVER HOME, SHEILA AND GEOFFREY MCGAUGHEY BUILT THEIR OWN OAK-FRAMED COTTAGE, COMPLETE WITH AN ECLECTIC INTERIOR

*Exterior* As they live in a conservation area, Sheila and Geoffrey chose a single-storey, green-oak-framed design.



*Kitchen* Oak beams bring a sense of history to the new build. **Bespoke cabinetry,** Richard Ward Joinery.



*Kitchen* (Also right and below) Large windows offer views out to the garden. **Butler sink,** Thomas Ford and Sons. **Tea towel,** Sam Wilson.



Wooden chair, Story in Bray.



Tray and bowls, all Story in Bray. **Artwork,** Petersham Nurseries. >>





*What we love most about living here...*  
 'Our house is full of light  
 and really warm and cosy'



**Kitchen** The vaulted ceiling makes a statement and creates a stunning backdrop. **Bar stools**, John Lewis. **Pendant**, The Conran Shop. **Flooring**, Higher Ground.



**Dining area** Soft pinks and warm woods create a mellow look that's perfect for entertaining. **Table, chairs and console table**, Neptune. **Walls** painted in Farrow & Ball's Strong White. »



**Living room** Pops of rich colour combined with ethnic touches create an eclectic feel. **Sofas**, Voyage Maison. **Chair**, One World Trading. **Coffee table**, Oka. **Chinese cabinet**, Yarrow Art and Design. **Rug**, John Lewis. **Pendant**, Petersham Nurseries.



*Sheila* and Geoffrey McGaughey had lived in the same pretty Surrey village for most of their married lives, having originally moved there so their children could have a countryside upbringing. Once their kids had grown up and left, the couple decided it was time to move from their family home, but were keen to stay in the same village. They had bought a nearby cottage to renovate, originally thinking that they would rent it out, but they ended up selling their house and moving there instead. 'It overlooked fields and, as it was smaller than the house we were living in, we thought we'd try downsizing,' says Sheila. Although living in a smaller property felt right, the cottage didn't feel like their forever home.

But then a neighbour mentioned that they were looking to sell some of their land. 'We have always liked a project, so decided to buy the land and build our own house. We were thrilled at the prospect of being able to design it ourselves,' says Sheila.

The couple applied to build a two-storey barn-style property. However, the plans were rejected for being out of character with the conservation area that they lived in. They were only given permission to build a single-storey house.

Undeterred, they visited a homebuilding fair for inspiration and came across green-oak-framing company, Border Oak. 'We loved their designs,' says Sheila. 'We travelled to their Herefordshire base and show home, visiting several times to discuss what we could build. We wanted something not entirely untraditional, but with a slight contemporary edge. Together we came up with the finished design – something between a low California-style house and an English country cottage. They're a wonderful company.'

In December 2014, Sheila and Geoffrey's builders J R Kircher laid the foundations. Border Oak then came down with their team for eight weeks to create the frame, before the builders returned to finish it. 'We were still living three doors down as our buyers were prepared to wait for us, so we were able to watch it taking shape – it was fabulous to witness the progress at every stage,' says Sheila.

Once completed, Sheila went to town on the interior. 'We bought some new furniture as we wanted to start afresh,' she says. 'I found lots of pieces at One World Trading and Neptune. I like scouting things out – I'm a good shopper! The interior is a modern but eclectic mix of things, with lots of items we bought on our travels over the years, too.'

A soft grey backdrop throughout the house provides continuity and a sense of calm to the interior. 'We painted the walls in Cornforth White and Strong White by Farrow & Ball to make the house look big and light,' says Sheila. 'We then introduced pops of jolly colour with the textiles and accessories.'

Sheila and Geoffrey are now confident that they have found their forever home. 'We love living here,' says Sheila. 'We thought it would be too small for us but it's perfect. It's like a holiday home as we're in and out all the time. It's the best thing we ever did!'

📞 **Border Oak, 01568 708752, [borderoak.com](http://borderoak.com).** »



#### AT HOME WITH...

**Owners** Sheila McGaughey and her husband Geoffrey are both retired. They have three grown-up children – Karen, Nicholas and Amanda – and five grandchildren: Claudia, Jack, Martha, Gabriel and Lyra.

**House A** three-bedroom new build. They moved here in 2015.





### ON OUR DOORSTEP...

**Visit...** 'Windlesham is a great village and close to many lovely walks and places. Our favourite is Virginia Water in Windsor Great Park, closely followed by Windsor Castle (royalcollection.org.uk) and Hampton Court Palace (hrp.org.uk).'

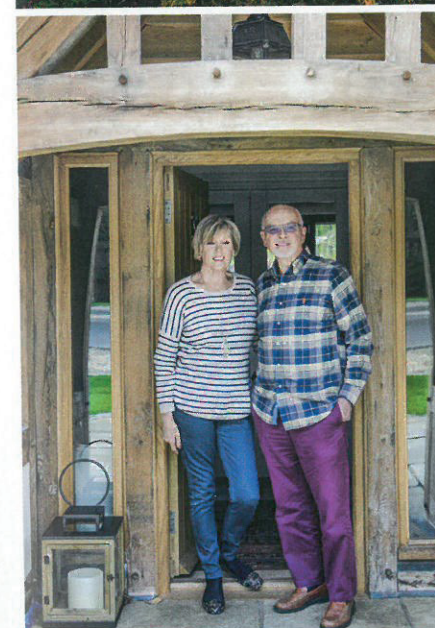
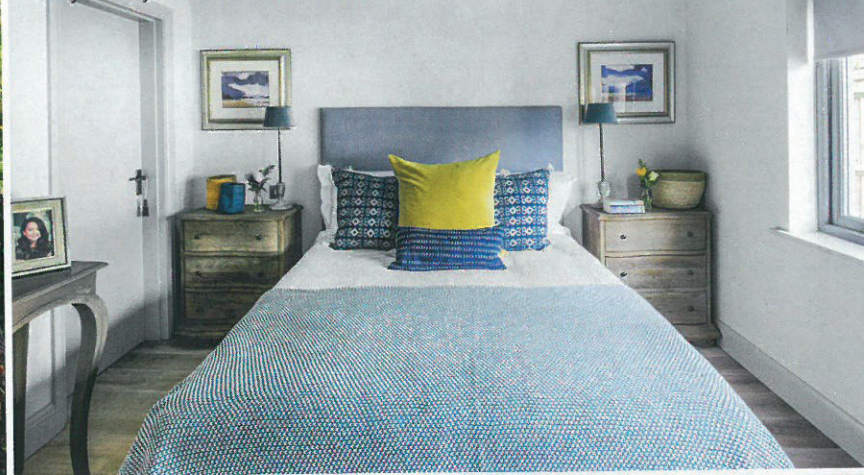
**Shop at...** 'I love shopping and my favourite places to go are Story in Bray (01628 638941, storyinbray.com) in Bray and Bird (01344 622312, birdsunningdale.co.uk) in Sunningdale, which has great gifts for all ages.'

**Go for a meal at...** 'We like to eat at The Brickmakers (01276 472267, thebrickmakerswindlesham.co.uk) in Windlesham. For breakfast and lunch, Fego (01344 876464, hellofego.com) in Sunningdale is also a must.'

**Main bedroom** Sumptuous colours and fabrics create a luxe feel. **Bed**, Sealy. **Throw, bedlinen**, The White Company. **Cushions, blind**, Story in Bray. **Chair**, Voyage Maison. **Bedside tables**, Oka. **Carpet**, Higher Ground.



**Guest bedroom** A palette of zingy citrus and soothing blues creates a cheery look. **Bed**, John Lewis. **Bedside chests**, Feather & Black. **Cushions**, Story in Bray. **Blanket**, John Lewis.



### What makes this house a home...

'It's the perfect canvas to display all the memories and treasures that we have gathered on our travels and throughout our lives together'



**Exterior** The back garden overlooks lush green fields.



**En suite** Skylights brighten the space. **Bath**, Bette. **Flooring**, Ceramic Tile Warehouse.







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Bring countryside calm to your living space with this idyllic scene of rolling hedgerows and blue skies... Cottage and Daisies framed print, H57xW57cm, £70, by Diane Demirci at John Lewis.



Sit pretty on an upholstered design in pearly pink. Shoreditch chair, col Imogen Oyster Pink, H86xW60xD60.20cm, £710 for two, Neptune.

## Be inspired by Sheila's dining room



Embrace the modern approach to relaxed dining and entertaining with upholstered seating.

### Sheila's style secret...

Create a social eating space with a harmonious blend of blush pinks, warm woods and delicate floral accents.

## ROOM IDEAS



Cast an enchanting glow when hosting an evening soirée with this heritage design updated in a cool nickel finish. RV Astley Desandra table lamp, H56x W20cm, £63.71, Houseology.

Introduce an exotic element - with no watering required! Faux medium potted orchid, H62xW51cm, £165, Sweetpea & Willow.



Choose this naturally textured surface for a wonderfully rustic look. Traditions Rustic Oak Natural engineered flooring, from £76.50sq m, Kersaint Cobb.



### Modern Country Classic Sideboard

Flat-topped with a choice of shelves, cupboards and drawers, these sturdy, multi-use pieces are handy and handsome additions for dining rooms, used to store all manner of go-to mealtime essentials. For a

modern country look, why not opt for a design with clean lines and a scheme-tying, colour-painted finish contrasted with a waxed wooden top - polished metal handles will provide a stylish finishing detail.

#### Where to buy...

- The Cotswold Company for smart designs in a palette of calming country neutrals.
- Tikamoon for styles to suit all tastes and interiors.
- Titchmarsh & Goodwin for a choice of bespoke pieces.

