

ALL TOGETHER

The Barnes family's 18th-century home is a picture-perfect Christmas getaway nestled in the heart of idyllic countryside

FEATURE ANNA PATTENDEN HANNAH TIER
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EXTERIOR

When night falls, exterior wall lights illuminate the warm tones of the brickwork and create a welcoming glow.

Beispoke windows, George Barnsdale, painted in Pigeon Estate emulsion, £54.50 for 5 litres, Farrow & Ball



ENTRANCE
Using the same tiles both outdoors and indoors has created a sense of flow between the kitchen and porch.
Marlborough terracotta parquet tiles, £77.85sq m. Artisans of Devises. Gold leaf garland, £24.99, Lights4fun. Ingabitta throw, £17.60; Skold sheepskin rug, £35, both Ikea. Paper decorations, votives and lanterns, from £10, Pipii



The festive season at Jo and Henry Barnes' Grade II-listed home is a magical affair. With glittering views across the frosty Cotswold countryside, and the warmth of their interior design features, Anthology Farms is a picturesque holiday stay.

Situated on their family farm, the property is home to Jo, husband Henry, daughters Ophelia and Imogen and Henry's parents Rosemary and John. Henry and John tend to the farm with the help of their Labrador Nemo, and Jo and Rosemary run the pair of renovated barns.

While the Barnes family only moved into the property in 2019, this isn't their first experience of countryside living. After a decade of uncertainty, the family were forced to sell their previous Staffordshire farm to make way for HS2. This meant letting go of their livelihood and land that had been farmed by the family since 1921. 'It was a difficult time,' says Jo. 'Not only had we lost the farm, but Rosemary and I had to close our business, a farm shop and wedding venue.'

So when Anthology Farms came on the market 70 miles away, Jo and her family jumped at the opportunity. 'We could

SITTING ROOM
Simple colours and layered soft furnishings complement the barn's rustic Cotswold stone.
Bamboo pendant light, £175, Design Vintage. Isaac sofa in Graphite smart cotton, £1,999, Sofa.com. Bentley coffee table, £1,190, DI Design. Nidam cushions, £25 each, Abigail Ahern.



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
A Grade II-listed barn in Gloucestershire, built in 1740
ROOMS Sitting room, dining room, kitchen, five bedrooms (all en suite)
PURCHASED 2016
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We lived on a similar farm in Staffordshire, 70 miles away from this property,' says Jo.





FAVOURITE FEATURE *'The brickwork – it's lovely, honey-coloured local stone from the nearby mines and it adds real character'*

KITCHEN
 Panelling, industrial-style lighting and wicker stools lend this room a characterful, farmhouse aesthetic. Cabinets, Cheltenham Bespoke Kitchens. Aged brass rise-and-fall lights, £905 each, The French House. Rattan stools, £250 each, Cox & Cox. Honeycomb shelf brackets, £10.50, The Door Knocker Company



DINING ROOM
 The oversized chandeliers, artwork and industrial-style mirror wall well to offset the large, open space. Imarni scalloped chandeliers, £450 each, Anthropologie. Artwork commissioned from Croft Design Studio. Wishbone chairs, £129 each, Kallevig. Similar live edge bespoke dining table, Rough Living. The Antique rustic slow arch window mirror, from £1,450, Aldgate Home, is similar



see the potential immediately,' says Jo. 'The land was perfect for Henry and John to work, and the barns would make fantastic holiday homes.'

Previously an office, the barns presented some initial challenges. 'We knew we needed to change the layout completely,' says Jo. The gallery-style offices were cramped and lacked light, so Jo decided to open up the central passage of the barn, pulling out a staircase and moving it to the side of the room. A large dining area arose in the new-found space, capitalising on natural light from the arched picture windows at the rear of the barn.

Jo decided to maintain the typical Cotswold style, so she enlisted the help of interior designer, Anna Burles (runforthehills.com), to bring out her vision of tradition with a touch of eclecticism. 'When I saw the barns, I knew I wanted to be part of this project,' says Anna. 'Jo did the right thing bringing us on board at the beginning, as we could ensure the architecture worked for the interior design.'

An early challenge they faced came in the form of effective and efficient heating that would maintain the style of the property. By double-glazing the enormous picture



BATHROOM
 Black and white floor tiles bring a dramatic and eclectic feel to this otherwise traditional space. Oakham black pattern tiles, £22.95sq m, Walls and Floors. Rustic antique wooden stool, £135, Home Barn. Industville Brooklyn glass funnel wall light, £89, Swoon



BEDROOM
 Copper tones, fringing and soft velvet combine for a touch of luxury. Isaac fringed armchair, £795, Sweetpea & Willow. Upright fern wall art, £285, Anthropologie. Darcy Teardrop Capiz chandelier, price on request, Jeffan



BEDROOM
 Tucking 'nook' beds under the eaves is a clever use of space. Beams stripped and lightened by Beck From Black, Nippon wallpaper, from £399 a roll, Sandberg



windows, and updating windows throughout, the barns were better suited to Cotswold winters, while maintaining their rustic style. The addition of underfloor heating and electric storage heaters in all eight bathrooms and the main hallway became a sympathetic solution.

The social spaces around the rest of the barn were kept to their neutral, monochromatic brief, with the addition of layered natural textures to create variation. Eclecticism came to the forefront with Anna's design of the bedroom spaces. With carefully selected artwork, vibrant furnishings and jewel-bright details, the bedrooms have an innate playfulness. 'We deliberately gave every bedroom and bathroom its own personality,' says Jo. 'They're stylish and comfortable, but not too fussy.'

After the tumult of their HS2 move and three years of renovations, Jo and family are now very settled here. Gazing out of the picture window over the Cotswolds is an amazing view, especially when tinged with a little Christmas frost. It's magical. Anthology Farm is available to rent through Unique Home Stays. uniquehomestays.com