

Sitting room

It took months for Jane to scrub soot and grime from the window frames and ceiling beams.

Now, the off-white walls maximise natural light.

Walls painted in Pointing, Farrow & Ball.
Isle sofas, [Sofa.com](#)

HIDDEN HAVEN

Jane and Anthony Hosking's waterside home is a tribute to creative restoration and an enduring love for its Cornish setting





CORNISH COTTAGE

Kitchen
The chunky, cream-painted island breaks up the room's wooden floor and pine cabinets. Bespoke kitchen units, Richard Winfrey. Galia pendant lights, Nkuku



Exterior
The house sits in a private wooded valley and the extension is clad in Douglas fir timber so it fits in with its surroundings.

“IT'S AN AMAZING SPOT, SET BETWEEN THE COASTLINES OF THE LIZARD PENINSULA, BUT MAGICALLY HIDDEN AWAY”



AT HOME WITH

Owners Jane Hosking lives here with her husband Anthony, a fisherman, their son Jowan, 23, daughter Teán, 20, and their four springer spaniels, Kim, Madge, Sally and Saffron Bun.

House A four-bedroom, extended cottage that was originally built around 1830. The couple bought the property in 1988.

Nestling by a stream at the bottom of a steep, wooded valley, and all but invisible from the road, Jane and Anthony Hosking's home on Cornwall's Lizard Peninsula is a world away from the county's bustling tourist centres. 'It's an amazing spot,' says Jane. 'No one knows we are here.'

With its large, timber-framed kitchen-diner, two snug sitting rooms and four cosy bedrooms, Wildwood Holt could not be more different from the near-derelict, two-up-two-down, cob and stone cottage the couple bought over 30 years ago. Back then, it was almost hidden among overgrown trees and bushes, and had no electricity, phone or running water.

'Nothing had been touched for 60 years and everything was falling apart, but we won't put off,' says Anthony. 'My family has farmed here for generations. It was an opportunity we couldn't let go.'

The couple embarked on what has been a decades-long labour of love to restore the property. 'It wasn't easy, especially at first,' says Jane. 'We would spend hours fetching water and cutting wood, and the range cooker kept filling the rooms with smoke, so everything was covered in soot all the time.'

The cottage was stripped back to the walls, before being gradually rebuilt. Apart from plumbing, wiring and rendering, Anthony and Jane tackled the work themselves, tirelessly digging up and relaying floors, >



Dining area
Tongue and groove panelling, fitted by Anthony and painted by Jane, creates a cosy feel in the dining space. Walls painted in Pointing, Farrow & Ball. Zowie pendants, Nkuku



Staircase
The landing's original window was boarded up and shelves fitted to display characterful boating items from Anthony's fishing nets. For similar salvaged items, try Trinity Marine



Jowan's bedroom
This unique bed was built by Jowan himself using reclaimed pews from a local church.
@jws_sask & Sleep.
©Daniels, Nkuku



Bedside table
Ledges for lamps and books have been integrated into the rustic, hand-built bed.
Folgate desk lamp, Garden Trading; Linen curtains, H&M



Bedroom corner
Jane found Jowan's weathered wooden shelf at a car boot sale and the wooden chair was an auction buy. For a similar chair and shelf, try Vinterior

replacing ceilings, renovating windows and beams, and patching the roof. By the time their son Jowan was born, 10 years later, they had created a comfortable, two-bedroom home. Within a couple more years, just before the arrival of their daughter Teân, they'd built a timber-framed extension, adding a more family friendly kitchen-dining room, and two more bedrooms.

'We knew an extension could never match the exterior stonework of the cottage, so the new structure had to look like an addition to the original building, but still sit comfortably in the landscape,' says Jane. The pair did later make some changes to the original plans for the extension, repositioning the utility room from the far end of the kitchen to its side. 'When we saw the lovely view from the kitchen, we realised we didn't want to lose it, so we changed the layout,' explains Jane.

The spacious kitchen-diner has become the centre of family and social life, and is Jane's favourite room. She commissioned a local craftsman who hand-built the furniture, tailoring the island to her height. The cabinetry is made from reclaimed pine floorboards. 'I wanted a rustic feel, with natural wood and nothing shiny. Slate worktops were a definite, too.'

The lofty, timber-framed kitchen in the extension, and the spacious bedrooms above, contrast with the low-beamed rooms of the original cottage, but Jane has nevertheless achieved a sense of harmony. For >



Bathroom

The vintage wooden shutters were sourced in France and draw the eye to the decorative window.
Claw-foot bath, Cornish Fixings



Master bedroom

Jane treated the structural beams to reduce their harsh orange tones. **Beams** coated with Wood Wax Finish, Osmo. **Fine bed**, Trago Mills. **Linen curtains**, H&M



Teen's bedroom

A print from a car-boot sale sits well with the French furniture. **Bed and cabinet**, The French Bedroom Company. **Lamp**, Nikuku. **Bed linen**, Soak & Sleep

example, natural wood is a consistent element throughout. A window seat, built by Anthony in the dining area, echoes the original ones in the cottage, while all the rooms are decorated in restful off-whites, punctuated by soft, muted pinks, blues and neutrals.

Jane chose the pale background in part to boost light inside the home. 'I love light, and we fitted a skylight over the staircase, which has made a big difference in the centre of the house,' she says. 'Even so, it can be dark down here in the valley, surrounded by woodland, so I've used pale colours wherever I can.'

It's been a big project spread out over many years and the couple have put so much of themselves into their home. Heirlooms and auction finds sit alongside investment buys, upcycled items, and pieces made by Anthony, Jane and Jowan. Unique objects, from old family photographs and car-boot finds to driftwood, salvaged boating and fishing items, plus Jane's own pottery, are dotted around on shelves and walls.

'Over the years, we've occasionally looked at other properties, but we've never seen anywhere we liked more than this house,' says Jane. 'We just love walking in the woods or watching trout in the stream, and at night the moonlight and stars are amazing. It's always felt like a safe, happy place and we enjoy sharing it with people.'

Wildwood Holt is available to rent through Unique Homestays (uniquehomestays.com)

FEATURE: JAVIERELLE GRUNDY PHOTOGRAPHS: COLIN POOLE

ON OUR DOORSTEP

Visit... 'Gweek (gweekinfo.co.uk), a beautiful little village on the Helford River. We'll spend a day with the dogs, walking, sailing, fishing and skimming stones.'

Shop at... 'Willow & Stone in Falmouth (willowandstone.co.uk), an established independent shop selling beautiful interiors accessories and architectural ironmongery.'

Eat at... 'Rosevear's Fish and Chips (Facebook @RosevearsFishandChips) on Gweek village green - this mobile fish and chip van is a local institution. Everyone's here on a Wednesday to share a drink, catch up with friends and listen to the brass band while we wait for our supper.'

Grounds

The stream and surrounding woodland offer plenty of opportunities for watching wildlife

