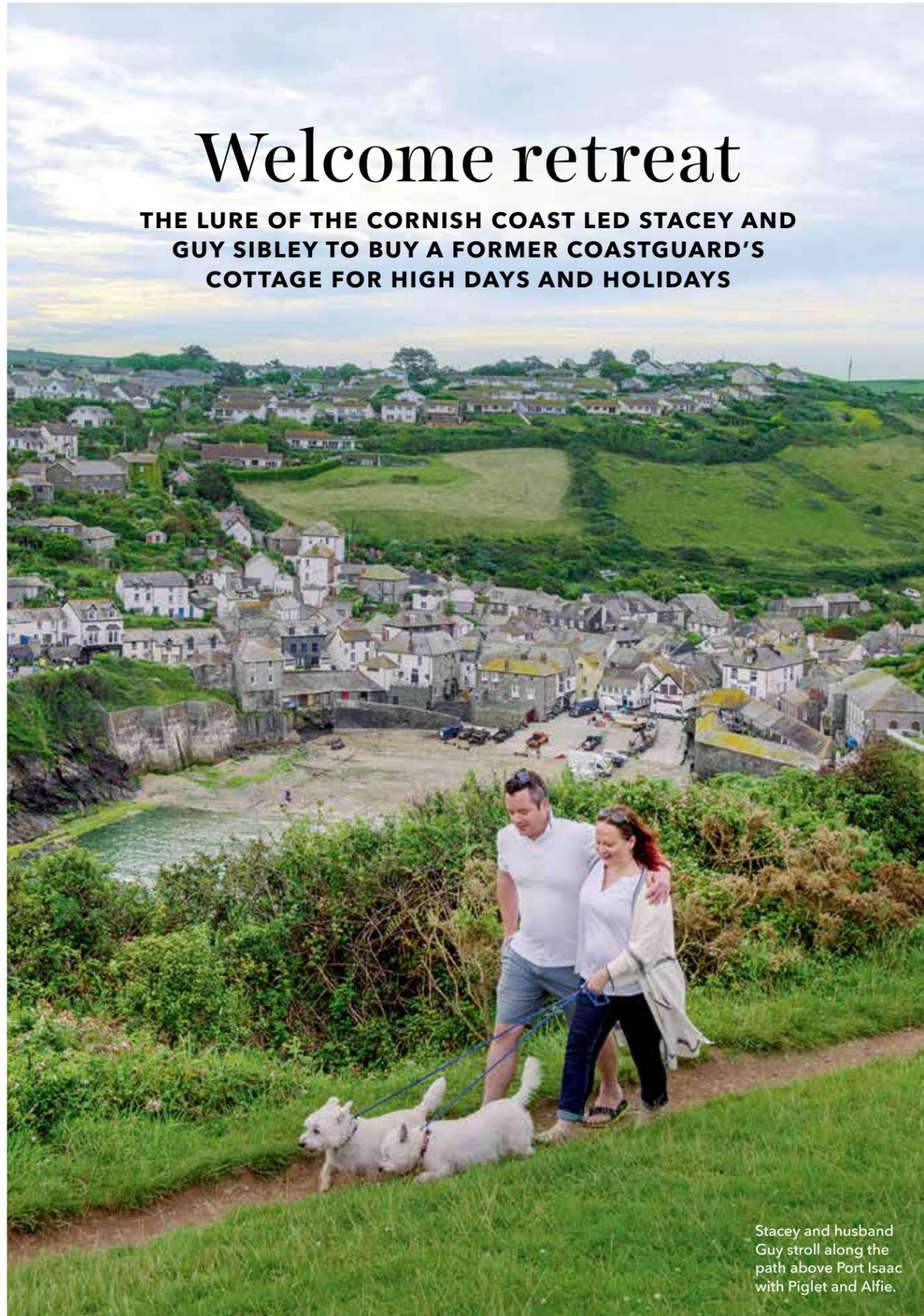


Welcome retreat

THE LURE OF THE CORNISH COAST LED STACEY AND GUY SIBLEY TO BUY A FORMER COASTGUARD'S COTTAGE FOR HIGH DAYS AND HOLIDAYS



Stacey and husband Guy stroll along the path above Port Isaac with Piglet and Alfie.



Living room The exposed stone wall adds texture and character. **Blue rug**, John Lewis. **Chair**, RV Astley. **Cushion**, Cream Cornwall. **Throw**, National Trust Shop. >>

What we love most about living here...
 ‘The living room’s stone fireplace feature wall and logburner, and the garden with its sea views’



Kitchen-diner (Also above left) Glazed cabinets are perfect for displaying Stacey’s crockery. **Cornishware**, TG Green. **Wall lights**, similar from Dar Lighting. **Chalkboard**, Cox & Cox.



CORNISH COTTAGE

Living room
 Natural materials enhance the character of the cottage. **Coffee table**, Coach House from Alexander James Interiors.



AT HOME WITH...

Owners Stacey Sibley, creative director at Alexander James Interiors, and her husband, Guy, operations director at Alexander James Interiors. They live here with their West Highland Terriers, Piglet and Alfie.

House A former coastguard’s cottage built in the 1850s with two bedrooms. The couple bought it in December 2016.

Childhood holidays in Cornwall were an inspiration for Stacey Sibley when she and her husband, Guy, were thinking about a holiday home. ‘After we bought our West Highland Terriers, we wanted to go on holiday with them, but couldn’t easily take them abroad,’ says Stacey. ‘I hadn’t been back to Cornwall since I was a child and Guy had never been, so we decided to rent a cottage in Port Isaac. We fell in love with the village and ended up going back two or three times a year for the next 10 years. We had a dream of buying a cottage there, and one day I decided we should do it.’

Stacey spotted a cottage online and the couple went to view it. ‘Guy and I drove down for the day – we thought we’d be able to view the house and then go on the beach and enjoy a nice lunch. But even though it was August, it poured down.’

Despite the inclement weather, the day wasn’t wasted as the cottage ticked all their boxes. ‘It had been a holiday home and, although the property was old, it had been well maintained. We knew that most of the old fisherman’s cottages in the village didn’t have a garden or any parking, but this one had both so it was a real luxury,’ says Stacey. ‘We loved the location on top of the cliffs – it was wonderful to have the views. It wasn’t very big but we didn’t need a large cottage and it had character. We put in an offer there and then as we knew it had the potential to be a lovely, cosy seaside holiday home.’

Once the cottage was theirs, Stacey and Guy focused on making cosmetic changes. ‘The walls were painted a taupe grey, which made it feel very dark. Because the bathroom was so >>



Guest bedroom Carefully chosen accessories make a stylish display. **Wall rack**, Coach House through Alexander James Interiors.



Main bedroom
The washstand is tucked away in a handy alcove. **Washstand**, painted in Flint chalk paint, Rust-Oleum. **Wall lights**, The Lighting Superstore.



What makes this house a home...
'It has a very relaxed feel that suits us and the dogs'



Living room The circular metal log holder makes an eye-catching feature. **Log holder**, Curiosity Interiors. **Flooring**, Woodpecker Flooring.

Main bedroom Crisp blue and white bedlinen adds to the light, airy feel. **Striped bedcover**, The White Company. **Pendant light**, Cult Furniture.

small, the bedrooms had basins in them, which took up quite a bit of space. We also wanted to change the look of the kitchen.'

With two dogs who love the beach, practical flooring was a necessity. There was already a slate floor in the kitchen, which was a bonus, but Stacey and Guy ripped out the old carpets and replaced them with laminate flooring, repainting the wooden floorboards in the main bedroom.

The couple tackled most of the work themselves. 'I've learnt how to do tiling and grouting,' says Stacey. 'We painted the walls, but as they had been painted with vinyl silk, they needed four coats.' The work took up several holidays including Christmas and Easter. 'We wanted it done for the summer so we could really enjoy it.'

As creative director of Alexander James Interiors, Stacey had plenty of experience in creating stylish rooms. 'We wanted a relaxed cottage feel that wasn't too precious,' she says. 'I was also keen to create a retro look, so accessories were very important. I collected pieces from vintage and antiques shops that brought back memories of staying in holiday cottages. I love beachcombing so the house is full of shells and other beach finds.'

The cottage has proved a welcome retreat. 'I wish we'd bought it years ago. We come for weekends and they feel longer because we've been away. It's such a pretty village with a good community feel, and to see it through different seasons has been wonderful.'

☎ **Alexander James Interiors, 0118 932 0828, aji.co.uk. >>**

Stacey and Guy love their daily walks on the beach - as do Piglet and Alfie.

ON OUR
DOORSTEP...

Visit... 'Lanhydrock (01208 265950, nationaltrust.org.uk/lanhydrock) is a magnificent late-Victorian country house with gardens and wooded estate.'

Shop at... 'The Arc Speciality Food Store (01208 816634, thearcfoodstore.co.uk) in Hawksfield, which sells award-winning food and drink.'

Also Jo & Co Home (01208 895058, joandcohome.com) has some lovely home accessories.'

Go for a meal at... 'Pilchards (01208 880891, portgavernehotel.co.uk/restaurant/pilchards-cafe/) serves great tapas dishes beside the National Trust cove.'