



# SEASIDE ESCAPE

A tranquil coastal colour scheme reflects the peaceful setting of this harbourside cottage

WORDS AND STYLING JANE CRITTENDEN  
PHOTOGRAPHY MARK ASHBEE



## HOME PROFILE

**WHO LIVES HERE**  
Gloria Sheppard, her husband Jon and their teenage son Rory

**THE PROPERTY**  
A Grade II listed two-bedroom cottage built in the 1800s in Mousehole, Cornwall

**PRICE** £470,000

**MONEY SPENT** £90,000

**WHAT IT'S WORTH NOW**  
£750,000- £800,000

### EXTERIOR

A former fisherman's cottage, this historic house sits directly on the Cornish coast

### DINING AREA

Meals are enjoyed with a view of the harbour from Loaf's Large Speakeasy table and Chinwag chairs ▶





A memorable holiday with friends to the beautiful Cornish seaside town of Mousehole made such a lasting impression on Gloria and Jon Sheppard, they returned every year with their son Rory, making the decision to buy their own holiday home in this quiet corner of Cornwall. The couple waited for five years, holding out for the right property.

'We love the town's sandy beaches and local community feel – being here is like stepping back in time,' says Gloria. 'For years, I had my eye on the cottages along the harbour front and desperately hoped one would come up for sale.'

Gloria had almost given up hope when she spotted one on a property website. 'Jon and I jumped in the car pretty much straightaway and drove for four-and-a-half hours from our home in Wales, put in an offer and drove back,' she says. 'There was no hesitation. We stood on the terrace with the glorious sea views and said, "We want it!"'

A former fisherman's cottage on Mousehole's pretty harbour front, Saltponds House was built in the 1800s and is laid out over three floors. Gloria and Jon saw past the dated and dark interior when they viewed it, imagining bright, white rooms with a soft-touch Scandi feel instead.

'It's the perfect size for our family holidays and for the future, when Jon and I intend to live there full-time. It was also attractive as a holiday rental,' says Gloria. 'I'd never taken on a project of this scale and it was daunting to plan and manage – particularly from 240 miles away.'

Gloria's first challenge was to find a good local builder who was available to do the work they wanted. There ▶

#### SEA VIEWS

A traffic-free path runs in front of Saltponds House and is steps away from the private stone terrace that overlooks the harbour

#### DINING AREA

Mousehole has a close-knit fishing community and the painting by artist Henrietta Graham depicts a local fisherman







was no central heating, the electrics needed updating and all the rooms had to be stripped back and decorated. One of the best ground-floor sea views was hidden by an old workshop beside the small kitchen. Gloria decided to take out the internal wall and create a dining area that could take advantage of the views. It took her eight months to find a builder and pin them down to start.

'I threw myself into the project, having just given up my job,' says Gloria. 'I visited the cottage every week and would sometimes stay overnight too, sleeping on the floor with no power, light or water – and the only toilet on the quay! If there was an urgent problem to discuss with the builder, I'd drive to and from the house in a day as I didn't want there to be any mistakes.'

While the renovations were in progress, Gloria planned the interiors, jotting everything down in two notebooks and listing key measurements in case she decided to buy a piece of furniture on impulse. Some of the couple's most enjoyable times were spent browsing flea markets and antiques fairs for vintage pieces. 'The only downside was organising deliveries,' says Gloria. 'Mousehole's roads are narrow, so sometimes it was easier to take a delivery at home in Wales and drive it to Cornwall myself.'

Gloria planned the new kitchen to make use of the space beneath the staircase, where there had previously been an old coal Rayburn. Local bespoke cabinetmaker, George Robinson, proved to be a fantastic craftsman and suggested Gloria visit stonemason, Morgan Masonry, to look at granite options for the worktop. 'I had planned to go for wood,' she says. 'But I was blown ▶

#### LIVING ROOM

Soothing tones of pale grey and white bring a restful feel. Jotul's white woodburner from Wendron Stoves creates an instant focal point. The Theo coffee table is from Swoon, while the Brink & Campman Pebble rug from Iroka adds warmth to the painted floorboards

#### READING NOOK

A sofa from John Lewis & Partners on the landing doubles up as a single bed, and is a cosy place to curl up and read a book. The blue and white fish cushions were made locally





away by a beautiful slab of white-grey-black granite, which I paired with black slate flooring.'

Gloria also changed her mind about the colour of the kitchen cupboards. 'The grey I'd picked out at home looked much darker in the coastal light. I was surprised to find Farrow & Ball's Peignoir, with a hint of pink, worked really well in the bright and airy room.'

Natural coastal light spills through the windows of the cottage all year around and this encouraged Gloria to pare back the colour. Upstairs, wooden floors were painted grey-white and all the rooms decorated a silvery grey, enhancing the texture and character of the wooden beams, cladding and exposed stone walls. Soft, neutral furnishings with Scandi undertones create the tranquil and restful ambience Gloria had set out to achieve.

'I took my inspiration from the sea and sky and picked out shades of grey and washed-out blues for fabrics and furnishings,' she says. 'I laid fabric swatches on the living room floor where the seating would go, to see how they looked at different times of the day.'

Now that the whole project is finished, Gloria says she still can't believe Saltponds House really belongs to them and the couple have been overwhelmed by the compliments from guests. 'We're so delighted that people love staying here as much as we do,' she says. 'I never thought we'd be the type of family who would go back to the same place twice on holiday, but now I can't wait to live here all the time!'

To stay at Gloria and Jon's cottage, Saltponds House, find out more at [saltpondshouse.com](http://saltpondshouse.com)

#### OPEN VIEW

Shutters draw back to reveal the coast through a new window, made to match the original

#### GUEST BEDROOM

Left Tucked under the eaves, this is a wonderfully calm space. A deep window ledge has been made into a reading spot with cosy cushions

#### MAIN BEDROOM

Right The Welsh wool throw from Sioni Rhys Handweavers adds a pop of colour to the otherwise neutral room. Aptly named Waves, it's the perfect finishing touch for the room, which looks out onto the sea. The vintage mirror, one of Gloria's flea market finds, gives the space a sense of glamour along with dainty Rosalind side tables from Laura Ashley

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE

WHERE TO BUY PAGE

