



THIS PAGE A New Zealand-made Burmark French tub is the focal point in the guest cottage bathroom; there's another in the main house. A structure made from old farm fence batons provides additional privacy for guests staying in the cottage. Paisley cushions in the main home's spare room.



Gillian is in the middle of developing an orchard so she'll be able to provide guests with home-made preserves and fruits. The extensive potager garden is also a work in progress that defies the area's tough climate.

"The elements can be harsh here so we've had to choose plants that are determined to survive. It's not the sort of place to try big herbaceous borders," says Gillian.

It's been hard work and the pair say they are always incredibly busy. "We laugh when people ask us if we've retired – we do everything from welcoming guests to toilet cleaning, bed making and flower arranging," says Neil.

"It's the same in publishing and garden designing. But that was always the plan. We wanted to create a lifestyle that slotted all the elements we love together. We've been able to combine all our pleasures. We've achieved what we wanted and we love it." ■