



ABOVE: **Antique Tudor marriage chest and coffer** from Bermondsey Antiques Market, London, 020 7351 5353. **Gustavian chair**, inherited. **Wardrobe** from an antiques shop in Aylsham. **Curtains** from Futon Company, Norwich, 01603 624073. **Faux fur bedspread**, The Granary, Norwich, 01603 623220. **Black paper mache oriental urns** from Antiquarius, London, 020 7351 5353. **Hindu brass rubbing** from a Holkham car boot sale.

sits well in the plot and is balanced by the contrast of the traditional cottage.

“We have also now completely redone the cottage,” continues Michael, “furnishing it to the high standard we were known for at our B&B.

“We let it through The Blakeney Cottage Company, and it is already proving extremely popular.

“Now we have everything up and running, I am hoping to return to hairdressing and manage a new salon in Holt on behalf of a good London friend, who cuts for many well known names and is bringing that style to Norfolk. Robert is turning his hand back to property renovation and project management. He is also writing a book about his life and his experiences both in the fashion trade, travel and the running of the luxury bed and breakfast business.

“I am calling it Chelsea By The Sea,” says Robert enthusiastically, adding that the book is now written and he is sending

the synopsis to publishers – so watch this space. “It recounts the highlights of factual, interesting and sometimes hilarious anecdotes of our experiences we had with different guests from a cross-section of our society staying at Holly Lodge. Needless to say all the names have been changed to protect the guilty!

“We thoroughly enjoyed our six years running the B&B and now look forward to this, the next chapter in our lives, in our favourite corner of Norfolk here on the coast.

“We have,” he concludes, “a lovely, inspiring home, just as we wanted it, with lovely walks with Michael’s dog Barnaby. With countryside on one side and the sea on the other, we feel at home with nature and it is a great village with a traditional pub, offering great food, and now we have more time to enjoy all these delights. Our village is a bit like Miss Marple, in a slight time-warp and, looking at old photographs, has changed

little. The house is so tranquil and we often just sit and marvel at the view. Buying on the coast has been great, and you get a different vibe to living in the countryside. Certainly, our initial move to Norfolk has continued to work well for us both and we are very fortunate.” 🐾

*The Cottage at Riverside, Stiffkey, may be rented through The Blakeney Cottage Company, 01263 741773 or call Robert on 01328 830038. For more about his building project management and design see [www.roomscapeuk.com](http://www.roomscapeuk.com)*

Do you have a beautiful house, large or small, which you feel is worthy of a feature by Tony Hall? If so, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch with Tony on 01502 723679, email [tonyhalleypix@waitrose.com](mailto:tonyhalleypix@waitrose.com) or write to him at Interiors, EDP Norfolk magazine, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich, NR1 1RE. [www.tonyhalleypix.com](http://www.tonyhalleypix.com)