

# Rural delight



Lorna Buckle at Deeside Lodge and Epsythia Cottage (above). In Aboyne. Photograph by Kevin Ennsie

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country farmhouse kitchen with an Aga. Off the reception hallway, there is a utility room, a shower room, an adjoining bathroom. At the back, there is a utility room, shower-room and fishing equipment. The whole area could easily be considered for adaptation to a permanent apartment. Life consists of two well proportioned bedrooms, two with en-suite shower-rooms and two with adjoining bedrooms. The house fits in an acre of well maintained grounds, including a large driveway, vegetable garden, and a plethora of established trees and shrubbery. There is also a garage for motor equipment.

The garden is wonderful! It is a series of wild, overgrown paths and paths leading to a pond. People who buy the house are being given first refusal on the cottage.

We have enjoyed the cottage for a while but find it really is our dream home. We'll miss it.

We're in Swanton & Marwick is offering Deeside Lodge and Epsythia Cottage for sale as a whole or offers over £700,000 for the lodge and offers over £225,000 for the cottage. Call 01224 621622 for further information on average 6 weeks.

When it comes to house-hunting, people look at different areas to settle in for different reasons. For the Buckley family, their love of the great outdoors led them to their beautiful property on Royal Deeside, writes Donna Ross



IT WAS love at first sight for Lorna and David Buckley and their sons, David and Daniel, when they viewed Deeside Lodge in Aboyne. "The house is beautiful and, as soon as I saw it, I thought, 'We are outdoors people, so we are going to buy this house', appeared to us. I think it is the best place to live in the Royal Deeside. We have taken our dogs for a walk around the lake and we cycle to Ballater on a regular basis. There are no many things to do right on your doorstep."

The house was built in 1870 by the Marquis of Aboyne and was subsequently extended under the supervision of Marshall McKenzie, a Marquis of Aboyne, at the time of the Marquis of Aboyne, as well as the university buildings at Epsythia Hall and Epsythia College, in Aberdeen.

Over the years, the property was used as a fishing lodge but, finally, as a Deeside Lodge. Lorna and David have

put their stamp on it, refurbishing and upgrading the property and attention to finest materials and workmanship has created a stunning home. It was out with the old and in with the new when it came to combining more modern amenities with its traditional features, which are in evidence all over the house. "After six months, we had the house the way we wanted it. We took out a lot of things that were not needed in the house. It has lovely old rain them," said Lorna. "Double-height ceilings, picture rails, paneled doors and bay windows in some rooms, and these are harmonised with the style kitchen and bathroom. Accommodation at Deeside Lodge includes an imposing double staircase.

"The staircase really sold the house," Lorna recalled. "I knew I wanted to own the house." Lorna recalled. The drawing room and snug with the fireplace and cast-iron multi-fuel stove.

At the back, there is a dining-room, again with a stunning fireplace, and a comfortable

