



A LOVE LETTER TO...

Interior designer Martin Brudnizki tells us why West Sussex has forever stolen his heart

A FEW years ago, in search of greener vistas and a different way of life, me and my partner Jonathan Brook started a search for a rural bolthole. We visited places across the country, but it was Binderton, close to West Dean, that captured our imagination. Our home, in a building dating back to 1677, has become an Arcadian fantasy and the area, with its many walks, historic houses and pubs, is a place where we can recharge and relax.

■ Pallant House Gallery is one of my go-tos for modern British art. Simon Martin, director of the gallery, has become a great friend of ours since moving to the area. Another favourite is Parham House & Gardens. It's a really fine example of Elizabethan architecture, while the gardens are great for visiting with friends.

■ I'm always on the lookout for a little something and so Petworth

Antiques Market is a must. I don't think you can ever have too much stuff in your home. Makers Barn, part of the Petworth estate, is a fairly new addition to the area and champions rural craftspeople and businesses. It's a hive of activity that spotlights all sorts of makers, so it's an inspiring place to visit.

■ For beautiful scenery, head to West Dean Gardens. One of our favourite walks involves meandering through woodland, past a Saxon hill fort, then looping around West Dean, where you can see views of the coast on the horizon.

■ You can't beat The Pig in the South Downs. Its rooms are comfortable and homely and the food is my favourite: simple and fresh, using locally-sourced

ingredients. And for delicious local dishes, we like to go to Horse Guards Inn in Tillington. It's no-frills but charming.

■ The Boathouse Amberley (pictured above right) recently underwent a bit of a do-over and now it focuses on fresh Mediterranean food by Jasper Gorst. With its views right onto the River Arun, it makes a perfect spot for a sunny lunch with a glass of something cold.

■ Down the road from home, at Weald & Downland Living Museum (pictured above left), you step back in time. There is a very nostalgic atmosphere here. It's as though you're completely unplugging and taking a much-needed break from the cacophony of everyday life. ☺

"The area, with its many walks, historic houses and pubs, is a place where we can recharge and relax"