

The Daily Telegraph

HOTSPOTS

Keep the home fires burning

Whether an inglenook or a modern woodburner, the hearth is the heart of the house. As the nights draw in, curl up on the sofa with *Anna Parington's* favourite firesides



Hertfordshire
Hemel Hempstead
£1.45m

This 17th century equestrian home is bursting with charm. The dining room is heavily beamed with an inglenook fireplace and wood burning stove, limestone flooring and French doors to the terrace. It has three bedrooms and two bathrooms.

Outside you'll find a double garage, yard, tack room, stables, paddock and access to National Trust bridleways.

Agent: Knight Frank (01442 817002; knightfrank.co.uk)



Northamptonshire
Pitsford
Price: £2.6m

Happy with your crystal decanter or John Lewis towels? Well prepare to be jealous. This country pile was the ultimate wedding present. The property was built in the 1930s as a bridal gift for a member of the aristocratic Houson

Craufurd family. The nine-bedroom house comes with a decorative fireplace, originally from one of the family's Scottish castles.

Agent: Richard Greener (01504 230222; richardgreener.co.uk)



France
Megève
Price: €3.2m (£2.35m)

This five-bedroom chalet in the ski resort of Megève in the French Alps has a large terrace and views over the Massif du Mont Blanc. Warm up after a hard day's skiing in front of the log fire in the living room. The interior is typically french chalet

chic with ceiling-to-floor doors onto the balcony. Watch the night fall across the mountains from under a blanket, nursing a vin chaud.

Agent: Sking Property (020 850 9502; skingproperty.com)

London
Fulham
Price: £2.5m

This five-bedroom, family home in the heart of Fulham has been meticulously decorated.

Spread over 2,276 sq ft, it has wooden floors throughout, and the two symmetrical fireplaces in the large living room are a welcome sight as the autumn sets in.

Agent: Foxtons (020 7565 4000; foxtons.co.uk)



France
Périgord Noir
Price: €3.6m (£2.64m)

This château in Sarlat-la-Canéda is located in a protected area in the heart of Périgord Noir and overlooks the river Dordogne. It has open fireplaces in the kitchen, living room and most of the 19 bedrooms. The outbuildings are arranged into five gîtes.

Agent: Home Hurts (0208 144 5502; home-hurts.com)



York
Exwick
Price: £309,950

If chintz appeals then the five-bedroom Lygarth House could be the property for you. The cosy living room has pine floorboards and a stone fireplace surrounding an open grate fire, a ceiling rose, cornicing and French doors, which open onto the patio. Other treats downstairs include a large walk-in pantry and a second fireplace in the dining room. Update it and you will find five double

bedrooms, three of which have an en suite, and a family bathroom. Outside there is a landscaped garden, shed and a two-bed flat, which comes with the property and can be rented out for £650 per month. The property is in the village of Exwick which gives easy access to York, Leeds and Harrogate - ideal for commuters.

Agent: Harveys (01904 620226; harveys.co.uk)

£635

Potential per calendar month rental income from the two-bed annex



Oxfordshire
near Didcot
Price: £3,995 per week

Rental of the week: What was once a hay barn, coach house and stables has been converted into a five-bedroom, four-bathroom family home in Oxfordshire. The Grade II listed property, which is now available to rent, comes mostly unfurnished. The central wood

burning stove is included, but given there are three reception rooms there is lots of space to fill. Step outside the back door into the sprawling garden with its huge manicured lawn. Luckily, the services of a gardener are also included in the rent. It has off-street parking and a double garage.

Agent: John D Wood (01865 31522; johndwood.co.uk)

Scotland
near Lauderdale
Price on application

Parts of this country pile date back to 1554, but with Georgian extensions and alterations. Nestled in the Scottish Borders, the Cowdenknowes estate stretches across 48 acres and is steeped in history and folklore.

Mary Queen of Scots is reputed to have stayed at the estate on her way to Jedburgh in 1566.

Sit in front of the fireplace in the library and be transported back in time, long before the days of electricity and central heating.

Agent: Knight Frank (01578 722814; knightfrank.co.uk)



PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

London
Knightsbridge
Price on application

Knights House is a new complex on a quiet, residential street in Knightsbridge, just off the bustling Brompton Road.

The secure building comprises three plush apartments, all designed by the luxury developer Finchatton.

The main feature in the penthouse living room is the large, Grey Marquina marble

fireplace. But there is no need to get your hands dirty with paper, twigs and coal.

The sunken fire is gas and is controlled by the same central automation system that turns off the air con or turns up the heating.

Agent: Finchatton (020 7349 820; finchatton.com)

