

about interiors

A fictional character



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Nestled within a wooded grove on the edge of Aldeburgh, local author [William Blyghton](#) has created a tranquil and restful home where he has been able to find solace after the death of his first wife and also the inspiration to write his novels, 'The Suffolk Trilogy' which explore loss, loneliness and the rediscovery of love.

Aldeburgh is no stranger to beautiful homes, but Box House is all the more special for being tucked away out of sight, and as you step through the arched wooden gateway you feel as if you have entered a hidden world. A gravel pathway leads past neatly edged lawns and established beds and at one point the low branch of a tree invites you to bow, as if in reverence to this wonderful family home. Huge ceramic urns are carefully positioned throughout the borders and tall grasses sway gently in the breeze. Old fashioned roses ramble up the clapperboards, terracotta pots overflow with geranium, lavender and agapanthus.

William has lived here since 2008, although his love affair with Aldeburgh dates back more than forty years, as he and his family were regular summer visitors. "There is something about living at the edge that I have always found very appealing. I like the feeling of not being hemmed in, and the ebb and flow of the sea is a constant reminder of the rhythm of life and the hidden forces of nature."

When William and his wife purchased the property, it was a simple 1960s-style bungalow, but with great vision and creative flair they transformed it into a calm



about interiors

oasis, one she was thankfully able to enjoy before she passed away. You can still see the original structure, but the property has been cleverly extended to create a wonderful single-storey home where the rooms flow effortlessly from one to the other. A lovely light-filled garden room has been added to one end, with large sash windows, French doors that open out to the garden and a vaulted ceiling with large skylights that flood the room with natural light. Deep sofas invite you pause and collect your thoughts or to sink down into conversation with friends and family, sideboards are overflowing with framed memories of generations past and stacks of paintings are lined up ready to take their turn on the walls.

To the other end, a master bedroom complete with a neatly ordered dressing room and spacious bathroom, was added to balance the symmetry of the house. The bedroom is shaded by a magnificent red oak tree and feels cool and quiet; a peaceful place of rest and reflection. At the front William also added a large entrance hall, which immediately gives you a feeling of light and space, and once again the walls are hung with a wonderful array of art, including an exquisitely painted botanical print by his late wife. On a table, the aerial roots of an orchid intertwine around ceramic bowls filled with an assorted collection of pebbles and shells – treasures brought back from long walks along the beach – and in a corner a stack of battered panamas tell the tale of summers spent outside in the garden.



The galley kitchen is still warmed by a faithful Aga and above the worktops wooden shelves are lined with Kilner jars, casserole dishes and saucepans. From here you go through to a central sitting room with an open fire, more comfortable sofas, a coffee table piled high with books and walls lined with bookcases – the perfect place to find yourself on a wet winter’s afternoon! William also has a study where he goes to write and, sat at his desk, he has a wonderful view out across the garden. He worked as an economist in London and when he retired and moved to Suffolk was content with the occasional consultancy project. However, after the death of his wife he turned to writing as way of trying to both express and understand his grief. His first book, ‘The House by the Marsh’ is set in Suffolk and is semi-autobiographical as the main character is also dealing with the loss



about interiors

of a loved one. “I felt I needed to try and engage with this enormous tumult of emotion and creating a fictional character to tell my story allowed me to express myself without feeling self-conscious. I could draw on my own personal experience but also delve into my imagination to weave a fictional tale about grief, love and hope.”

William is now happily remarried and has recently completed the third novel of his trilogy. They are all set in Suffolk and explore the adventures of men and woman in their later years, all told with a great humour and compassion that shines through in the real-life character that is William Blyghton.

‘The Suffolk Trilogy’: ‘The House by the Marsh’, ‘Abraham Soar’ and ‘Noah: An Old Fool’ (out in the autumn) are available from Amazon. www.williamblyghton.com