

## BATH

# MY NEIGHBOURHOOD

AFTER A LIFETIME OF GLOBE-TROTTING, JANE AND ADRIAN CAMPBELL-HOWARD SETTLED IN A GEORGIAN TERRACE IN BATH

Photography: **BRENT DARBY** Words: **CLARE GOGERTY**



Above: Jane and Adrian's townhouse needed an overhaul when they bought it. Left: drawing by local artist Ben Rothery. Opposite: Jane in the drawing room





“ALTHOUGH BATH IS A BUSTLING CITY, IT DOESN'T OVERWHELM YOU”

“Once you move to Bath, it's hard not to love it,” says Jane Campbell-Howard of the city she, husband Adrian and children Kitty, 14, and Max, eight, have called home since 2011. “It's the only place I have lived where no one talks about moving. We just feel lucky to be here. Feeling settled is really good for the mind.”

Jane and Adrian chose Bath to put down roots after years of roaming the globe. They met in San Francisco when Adrian was running a restaurant in Hong Kong and Jane was travelling the world working for Formula One. Prior to their move to Bath, they had spent a couple of years managing Vanessa Branson's riad, El Fenn, in Marrakech, and

before that owned and ran a hotel in the Cotswolds. “We canvassed all kinds of Bathonians before moving here, to see why they liked it,” Jane says. “The city ticks so many boxes. The architecture is beautiful and, although it is a bustling place, it doesn't overwhelm you.”

It is also supportive of independent businesses – a factor that came in handy when the couple established their first two Society Cafés. “We were warmly welcomed by all, including fellow coffee-shop owners,” she says. “They helped us in the first weeks when we ran out of milk, cups and napkins.”

Once smitten with Bath, Jane and Adrian needed to find a home they could also love. They found a “massive rental place for not much money, because it was so unloved” and moved in. The bathstone Georgian terrace house had been »



Above and opposite: the light and elegant kitchen diner. Jane loves to read in the pink winged chair. The flower drawings are by Lucy Auge. Opposite, bottom: Society Café, The Corridor





"We too often stop off for a glass of wine or a cocktail on our way home at No 15. The hotel opened last September and is an exceptional place – very glamorous. They taught me to put a couple of drops of angostura bitters in a kir royale, alongside cassis, and fizz: it's makes it taste less like a cordial, more of an adult drink." [no15greatpulteney.co.uk](https://no15greatpulteney.co.uk)



### Bath in a snapshot

This most elegant of cities has been a desirable place to live since the Romans turned its hot springs into a spa. The thermal baths are still a popular draw ([thermaebathspa.com](https://thermaebathspa.com)). Its Georgian terraces and crescents saw fashionable society descend during the Regency period to take the water. Today, its independent shops, restaurants and smart hotels draw visitors all year round, and especially for the Christmas market.



"All visitors to Bath want to take a snap of Pulteney Weir, it's our famous landmark. Russell Crowe launched himself into it in *Les Misérables*. It's very beautiful." [bath-heritage.co.uk](https://bath-heritage.co.uk)



"The Holburne Museum was built as a hotel in the 1700s and is a beautiful space. It has an amazing modern extension at the back, which is a really chilled place to hang out. It's also free to go in, which is lovely, and has lots of interactive things and workshops for the children." [holburne.org](https://holburne.org)



"Silvana de Soissons (pictured), who runs the Foodie Bugle, is a big supporter of independent shops in Bath. She is like an Italian mamma who just wraps you up in her arms, and visiting her homeware shop is like walking into a familiar and lovely kitchen. It is also a great stop off for a piece of cake and a cup of tea." [thefoodiebugleshop.com](https://thefoodiebugleshop.com)



"Everything in Spotty Herberts is madly colourful and wonderful. It sells all the things you loved as a kid – badges and yo-yos and little bangers you throw on the ground – as well as children's clothes that are not at all run-of-the-mill." [spottyherberts.com](https://spottyherberts.com)



"It's the service at Mr B's Emporium of Reading Delights\* that makes it special. You can go and have a natter, and they will recommend something to read. They love what they are doing and it shows." [mrbsemporium.com](https://mrbsemporium.com)



\* You may remember Mr B's from The Simple Things, issue 46.





“NOBODY HERE TALKS ABOUT MOVING... FEELING SETTLED IS REALLY GOOD FOR THE MIND”



student accommodation and came with a full complement of grotty carpets and fire exits. “Although we adored it, it wasn’t a place you would want to take your shoes off,” she says.

Fortunately, the owner wanted to sell it and Jane and Adrian were able to buy it before it went on the market, and remove all traces of the previous occupants. Original doors were rescued from the basement and reinstated; carpets were ripped up, a kitchen was installed, an elegant grey decorative scheme was introduced and new pieces of furniture were sourced to sit alongside others brought back from Marrakech. Happily, many of the original fittings, including shutters, picture rails and dados, were untouched, and only needed sanding and tidying up. “We still have loads to do,” says Jane, “but we didn’t want to do it all at once. It’s good to live somewhere first and see how you use the space.”

They also needed time to establish Society – although both had spent a lifetime in hospitality, the coffee world was new to them. “Running a coffee shop is very different to managing a hotel, but we approached it with the same attitude – put customer service first and it will succeed.” Sure enough, there are now four Society Cafés (the other two are in Bristol and Oxford), each sharing the same principles – good coffee, a creative space, and a comfortable place to spend time.

The success of the cafés has meant that the couple has been able to hand over their running to managers. “When we had two shops, we could do it ourselves, but four is impossible,” Jane says. “Adrian would open another one next week, but I’m enjoying having a breather.” A breather that will enable the family to enjoy their chosen city and, if it’s possible, love it even more. **S**

Opposite: drawing room walls are painted in ‘Felt’ and ‘Marble’ by Paint and Paper Library. Top: Jane at a Society Café. The 1970s bedroom wallpaper (above) is original – “I can’t bear to tear it down,” says Jane