

Tim Bowen Antiques, Ferryside, Carmarthenshire

When the sun is shining, you'll probably find Tim and Betsan Bowen and their three children on a golden sandy beach cooking sausages. 'People have quite a "manana" attitude here,' says Betsan, who lived most of her life in London until she met Carmarthenshire lad Tim 10 years ago. 'If it's nice weather, they stop everything and go fishing. It's a lovely way of life but it can be hard when you want to get things done.'

And get things done they must. From the small estuary village of Ferryside, the couple run Tim Bowen Antiques, a gallery showcasing Welsh and British furniture and folk art – spoon racks, turned bowls and Welsh dressers – all beautifully displayed against wallpaper and tongue and groove panelling. And when they're not emailing clients and meeting visitors, Betsan and Tim are out buying stock, mostly from around Wales – the best discovered languishing in old sheds. 'As we don't have a high-street presence, we produce newsletters and glossy catalogues so that customers can have a look at what we have before they visit,' explains Betsan.

The family has recently moved, along with their chickens and dogs, to a new home on the cliffs with views across the estuary. 'We lie in bed with the children and they make up stories about the Norman castle you can see from the window. It's a special place.'
Open every Friday and Saturday from 10am-5pm, and at any other time by appointment. Ivy House, Ferryside, Carmarthenshire, SA17 5SS. 01267 267122; timbowenantiques.co.uk



IN THE AREA

• Aberglasney House and Gardens

Events are held throughout the year.
Llangathen. 01558 668998;
aberglasney.org

• The Grove

This luxury boutique hotel has an award-winning restaurant, and displays some of Tim and Betsan's furniture.
Narberth. 01834 860915;
thegrove-narberth.co.uk

FOODIE TIP

• The Ferry Cabin

A family-run chippie where you can try locally caught salmon and sea trout (or sewin, as it's known here), plus game pies.
Ferryside. 01267 267084

