



# A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

*We discover the pet friendly self catering holiday cottages at Letheringham Water Mill which aims to embrace families and their furry friends for breaks away in Suffolk*

**F**our and a half years ago, Richard and Jacqui Gooding took on the historic Letheringham Water Mill and its surrounding buildings. The stunning site was ideal for the pair's plans to open pet friendly self catering accommodation and after two years of renovation work, the first three cottages and the Mill House were ready for both two and four legged guests.

Situated between Wickham Market and Framlingham, Letheringham Water Mill is a picture postcard destination with a historic back-story. The wooden structure

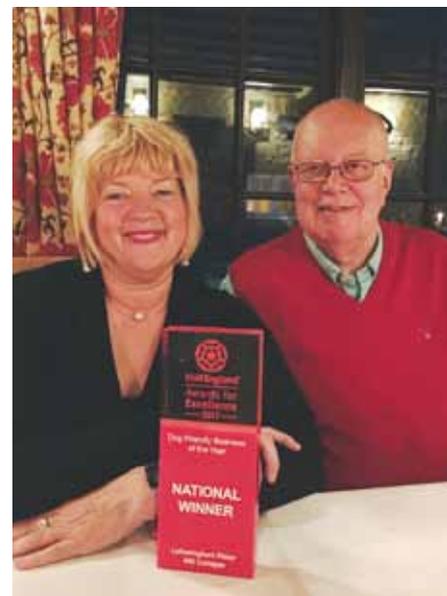
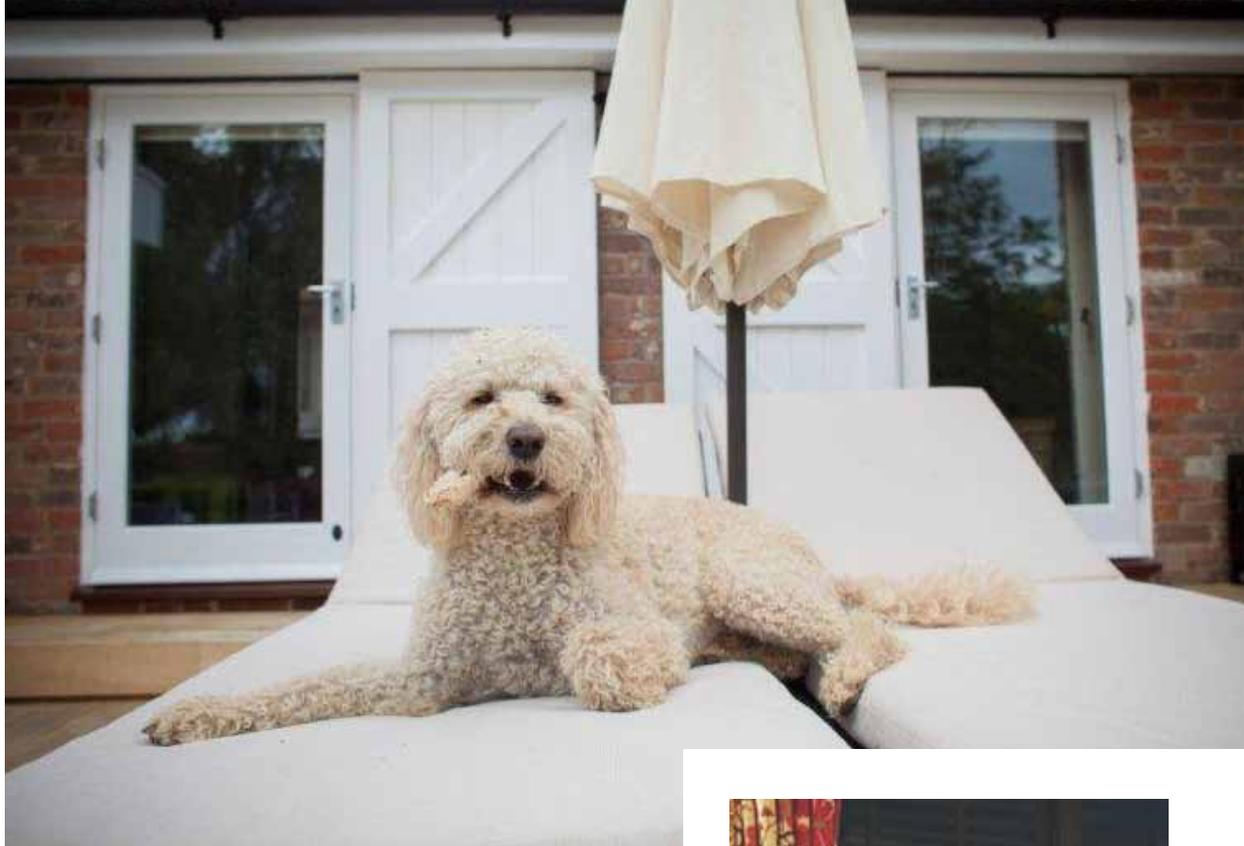
that stands today dates back to 1740 but a mill was recorded here in the Domesday Book. The cottages themselves overlook the mill and scenic pond to the fields beyond, and all share a terrace to allow guests to enjoy the picturesque views.

The initial idea for the cottages came from Richard and Jacqui's travels with their own dogs.

"Most dog owners are rather reluctantly in the position of thinking that hotels and self catering accommodation don't really welcome dogs," explained Richard, "Many places will put up with you having them in

your room but don't really embrace them, so we thought that there was a real opportunity there."

"We'd experienced this with our own dogs when hotels would say to leave them in the room or in the car. There was one infamous occasion with the bigger of our two dogs. He was only nine months old at the time and he objected to being put in the car whilst we had breakfast and so he ate the seatbelts. That was the wake up moment for us. It showed us that there must be a market for pet friendly accommodation as it can't be right that



you can only keep your dog in the car.”

At Letheringham Water Mill, Richard and Jacqui encourage dogs to be let off the lead to enjoy the gorgeous enclosed grounds and socialise with other dogs. This, and the fact that the cottages are prepared with dog beds, spare leads, toys and treats, is the reason why the property recently won the VisitEngland award for Dog Friendly Business of the Year 2017. There are even dog showers available to clean up muddy paws after an adventure in the countryside or swim in the sea.

“We were very pleased to win the award because it has happened early in the life of our business,” said Richard, “We’ve

only been operating at full throttle for just under two years and to be able to win a national award in that time is quite something.”

The tranquillity of the area, comfort of the accommodation and friendliness towards pets has made the business a haven for those seeking to explore Suffolk with their furry friends.

The cottages and Mill House have been impeccably designed and decorated by Jacqui. She has an obvious flare for interior design and each of the properties has been finished to the highest quality with thoughtful finishing touches. The cottages have a feel of an upmarket

boutique hotel and have struck the right balance between being homely and stylish. Jacqui has mixed modern furniture and appliances with antiques and eclectic decorative pieces to create rooms that instantly make you feel at home.

Currently, part of the Mill itself is being transformed into a further holiday let. It will have two bedrooms and be a unique place to stay for guests looking for a Suffolk retreat.

With the Suffolk coast just 15 miles away, the draw of the sea is what brings people to the area, however Richard and Jacqui’s warm welcome to all members of the family is what continues to bring visitors back to Letheringham Water Mill time and again.

Hall Road, Letheringham, Woodbridge, IP13 7RE.  
Tel: 01728 747186. letheringhammill.co.uk