



Swings and roundabouts

A FEW years ago, during the great move-to-the-country pandemic, houses in places such as St Ives in Cornwall and Brixham in Devon were snapped up quickly; now, these are among the slowest areas of the country for property-market sales. The latest data from Rightmove reveals that houses sell fastest in Scotland, spending about 43 days on the market, compared with an average of 71 across the UK. The quickest-selling market is in the Lanarkshire town

of Carlisle (24 days); conversely, Swanage, on the idyllic Isle of Purbeck in Dorset, has the current slowest market, at 136 days (83 longer than last year). The aforementioned St Ives, where houses spend 129 days on the market, is the second slowest and Brixham is 10th (119 days).

‘As this spring brings more optimism for movers, it’s important that sellers consider that it’s taking longer to find the right buyer than at this time last year, despite the market

Once a high-turnover location, St Ives is now among the slowest for property sales

being busier,’ comments Rightmove’s Tim Bannister. ‘The quickest areas to find a buyer continue to mostly be in Scotland and it’s only taking two days longer than last year to find a buyer on average across Scotland, compared with two weeks longer on average across Britain, highlighting the multi-speed market. Sellers keen to find a buyer as soon as possible this spring should work closely with their local estate agent, to price accurately for their local area.’

Writer’s retreat

The 16th-century hall house in Enfield, London EN2, once home to literary siblings Charles and Mary Lamb, who moved there in 1827 for the fresh country air, has come to the market. Extended in the 17th and 18th centuries, the Grade II*-listed property on Gentleman’s Row has been sensitively restored, with bold paint colours by Edward Bulmer throughout. There are four bedrooms and plenty of old English roses in the garden. £1.595 million, Inigo (020-3687 3071)



Tale as old as time

WHEN the roses and azaleas are in bloom the place looks very gay, and many interesting plants thrive in the borders. Besides the picturesque old apple trees, there is a fine wisteria on the

house and a very large hazel tree on the western boundary of the old orchard.’ A prospective new owner of Belwethers in Cranleigh, Surrey, described in *COUNTRY LIFE* in 1919, may take pleasure in ascertaining which charming features of the garden are still in situ.

The agents call this Grade II-listed property ‘truly remarkable’ and, as it dates back to the late 15th century, it’s thought to be the oldest in the village. Its half-acre garden contains a summerhouse, topiary and a spring-fed pond and within are four/five bedrooms, inglenook fireplaces, leaded windows and plenty of exposed oak.

‘Though a little house,’ continues the 1919 article, ‘it has yet a very adequate accommodation for the purpose it was intended to serve—that of a country retreat where the owner could retire from the turmoil of town, a house so redolent of old things that one might gain a setting for quiet thought and contentment.’ £1.2 million, Curchods (01483 268822) 🐉

