

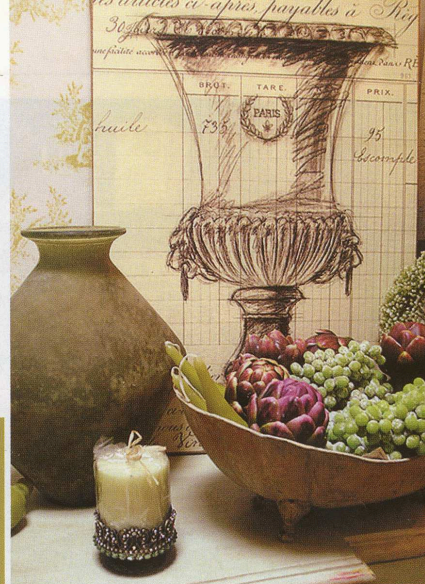
H&A Browser

Eight page out & about guide

★ Art shows ★ Shopping haunts
★ Antiques hunting ★ Ticket offers



TEEMING WITH TREASURES
Gerd and Peter Handley, with their West Highland Terrier Lillin (left). Gorgeous pieces for beautifying the home, including curvaceous furniture, colourful glassware and scented candles, jostle for space in The Corner Cupboard, which is filled with stock from home and abroad



Shop of the month The Corner Cupboard in Birdforth

It might be housed in a Victorian school in a tiny Yorkshire village, but there's nothing austere about The Corner Cupboard in its new incarnation as an interiors shop and café. Opened last year by husband and wife team Peter and Gerd Handley – whose previous successes have included a romantic hotel – the atmosphere is a reflection of Gerd's cool Norwegian background, mixed with a warm Continental charm and opulence.

The stock is an inviting mix of

vintage and new painted French furniture, sitting alongside huge gilded mirrors, chandeliers and rich silk fabrics. If your tastes lean towards the dramatic, this really is the place to come. Gorgeous goods to buy – from glass beads to beds and back again – are piled elegantly around the shop. 'I just get what I like,' explains Gerd, who regularly travels back to Scandinavia – as well as to France and Italy – on the hunt for pieces of furniture and fabulous

accessories to tempt customers.

The Corner Cupboard is an excellent source for very girly things. 'Don't bother trying to buy a present for a man here,' laughs Gerd. 'This is definitely a ladies' affair.' The café, decorated with some of Gerd's favourite pieces from the shop, serves light lunches all day and has an alcohol licence. Customers happily spend half the day browsing and brunching, or mulling over their purchases with a glass of bubbly to hand. Heaven.

THE LOWDOWN

The Corner Cupboard,
Birdforth, Easingwold, York
(01845 501495)

★ **WE LOVE**
These gorgeous bags handmade from vintage French fabrics. Filled with organic wheat and scented with lavender, they cost from £18.



★ **NEED TO KNOW**
Can't find what you're looking for? If you have something in mind, Gerd or Peter will happily try to source that elusive piece on one of their expeditions.