

When someone says: 'I'm retiring to ...' you should no longer expect to hear the name of a rural or seaside spot. Today retirees are increasingly leaving the shires and suburbs for the inner city, to be closer to theatres and restaurants. Others still want a view of rolling hills or the sea but are also seeking a base from which they can easily travel abroad now they have the time. Our choices of the best places to retire reflect these changing preferences — and also the house price data and the opinions of housing experts. If you can detect a spirit of adventure in our pick of destinations, you would be right. Anne Ashworth, *Property and Money Editor* (*Property Columnist of the Year*)

3 Lymington Hampshire

WHAT MAKES IT SO GREAT?

This Georgian market town has a pleasant high street, two marinas and a yacht club. There is beautiful countryside in the nearby New Forest and a low crime rate.

WHO LIVES HERE? Active semi-retirees with a flat in London, and young professionals.

HOUSE PRICES: Most older buyers still want a house with a garden. A three-bedroom period home costs £750,000.

4 Steyning West Sussex

WHAT MAKES IT SO GREAT?

This pretty town in the South Downs could be the place for you, with 30 clubs and societies aimed at retirees all within walking distance of the high street. These include a camera club, decorative and fine arts society, history society, flower club and "fit as a fiddle" club. Oh, did we mention the bridge club?

WHO LIVES HERE? Retirees who want to meet people. This is not the place to sit around at home.

HOUSE PRICES: Terraces from £190,000; detached from £300,000.