

18 Archibald Road Worthing BN11 2SL

Overview

Owners: Nicky Christoforou and Damien Collis

Type: Terraced

Age: 1890's

Beds: 2

Walls: solid

Area: 68 m²

Key Features

Biomass Boiler

Solar Thermal

Rainwater Harvesting

Vegetable Growing

Other Features

Loft Insulation

Introduction and approach

Sometimes we need reminding that life is a journey, not a destination. Nicky and Damien's home is just that. They are both on a journey through the process of living in a more sustainable way and their home is a reflection of their careful choices. It's a "work in progress" so you won't necessarily see it all finished, but you can explore their journey with them.

They've found storage heaters to be clumsy, inefficient and costly to run but rather than just go for a gas combi boiler, they have really done their homework and come up with, for them, a much better solution – they've decided to give a biomass boiler a go, so hope to have a brand new boiler to show you for this event! This will provide heating in the cooler months for the whole house and hot water at the same time. In the summer, when they don't want a boiler belting out heat all day, their solar thermal will provide hot water and will be backed up by an immersion tank if needed– nice combination.

Nicky is a keen gardener and wanted to be able to grow vegetables to feed her family. This has definitely been challenging and Nicky is looking forward to this spring to apply some of the lessons learned from last year's failures and successes. She is particularly excited as has just spread her homemade compost on the vegetable patch to fertilise this year's crops. She says "It's so exciting seeing all of our mouldy vegetables and



garden waste turn into this amazing rich brown compost! Nature is truly amazing!"

Energy efficient measures

Heating and hot water

When Nicky and Damien moved into an old Victorian house, it needed modernising so they have made a start but there's a lot to do! They wanted to ensure that they were saving energy as they made each choice, and this takes time to research. The electric storage heaters are being replaced with a biomass boiler in March, just in time for this event, which will supply heat for the new central heating system and hot water.

Insulation

They have been looking at under floor insulation as they would like to get rid of the carpets and have just wooden floor boards. Damien will be insulating the loft to a greater depth to try to retain any heat they are producing.

Renewables and low carbon technology

Nicky and Damien's journey through the minefield of what choices to make regarding

saving energy and cutting CO2 has had to be woven into their very busy professional lives. In addition, they have a small child, but Nicky has painstakingly researched which energy companies to choose and found that OVO Energy came out as the best on price for customer service, so they decided to go with them in order to try to cut carbon by supporting a company that uses renewable energy.

Solar thermal

Solar thermal will provide hot water, particularly in summer when they aren't likely to have the boiler going, backed by electric immersion heater if needed.

Glazing

The house is double glazed throughout.

Electrical appliances

Bosch A* rated washing machine which can be set on programmes that are quicker or more efficient, reducing washing time by up to 65% or energy by up to 50%.

Nicky likes to line dry the washing when she can, uses a clothes airer when the weather is bad and, as back up particularly with a little one around, their tumble drier is A++ rated.

They use a Berkley water purifier to produce clean and better tasting water.

A smart meter helps Nicky and Damien keep an eye on how much electricity they are using.

Lighting

Compact fluorescent bulbs are used, but Nicky is not sure about LED's and is doing some research before going over to them, as she is concerned that they may have side effects.

Growing fruit and vegetables

Nicky loves to grow her own food and did so very successfully in the first year of growing veg. There was a real problem with slugs last year, so she is hoping that she can find a way to overcome this issue this year without killing them! She is considering creating a no dig system as this usually increases the yield. The veg bed this year is being fed with home-made compost.

Rainwater harvesting

The water butt in the back garden is used to water the garden/veg plot.

Professional team

D.H. Solar Engineering, 1A Phoenix Works, North Street, Lewes, BN7 2PE (01273 655547) – lovely company to work with and would recommend them – they are installing the boiler, heating system and solar thermal. They are also advising on underfloor insulation.

Klover Star 14 Pellet Boiler Stove – www.klover.it – with its own built-in hopper, the stove can be programmed to light itself whenever warmth is needed, and burns clean and environmentally friendly pellets at an average efficiency of 92%.

