



Birling House B&B cooking up a Kent Breakfast

What started out as a retirement hobby has turned into a full time labour of love for Bob Anthony, owner of Birling House B&B.

The former Head of Retail with the Alders department store chain is running a successful tourism business with an occupancy rate of more than 80 per cent and a host of glowing reviews on Trip Advisor.

He puts much of his early success down to the help received from the local producers who ensure he has top quality Kent produce to serve his guests.

Bob was among the first to register for Visit Kent's Kent Breakfast campaign, which encourages hospitality businesses producing breakfasts to include at least 60 per cent of products sourced from within the county.

"I thought it was an excellent idea," he said. "It took a little while to find the right suppliers but once I sourced my bacon and sausages from the Roundwood Orchard Pig Company at Meopham, it all fell into place nicely.

"I'm fortunate in that around me there are a number of excellent farm shops, plus the farm down the road sells eggs. My neighbour makes marmalade and I get jam from the lady down the road.

"But even if that wasn't the case, these days you can find plenty of Kent produce in your local supermarket, so it's really not difficult to do."

The results are clear to see from comments on Trip Advisor, where Bob's breakfasts get many compliments.

"I'm looking at being over 80 per cent booked!" he said.