



PAUL and Claire Sammons recently opened The Colyton Kitchen Company, having moved to the town last July from Deanshanger, Milton Keynes.

The couple have been married for 13 years and have two sons, 10-year-old Oscar and seven-year-old Elliot, as well as their dog Humphrey.

The family hope to move into the property above their new showroom, which opened in November, in the old Post Office building in Market Place once renovations are complete.

● IS kitchen design and installation something you have done before?

Paul: I started as a furniture maker with an apprenticeship at Ercol Furniture, then based in High Wycombe. I then moved into the kitchen industry in 1997 to a bespoke kitchen manufacturer retailer called Underwood Kitchens, near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. Before moving on and setting up on my own in 2008, I had covered all elements of the kitchen industry from manufacturing to project management.

Claire: I worked in sales before leaving to have my boys and then became a registered child minder up until we moved to start our new life in Devon.

● WHY did you decide to open The Colyton Kitchen Company?

We chose Colyton to move to as we have spent a lot of quality time on holiday here over the years and we also have family ties here. We saw the old Post Office for sale and came to view it in February half term last year. We fell in love with the building and could see how much potential it had, you could see that the shop would make a lovely showroom and that it would be the next major step in our business. Also renovating an old building has been a life long ambition for us both.

● WHAT services does the company offer?

The Colyton Kitchen Company offers quality products at affordable prices, with various ranges of furniture, appliances and worktops. We offer a complete design, supply and installation package and are also happy to assist our

clients with supply only for DIY and trade purposes.

● HOW is business going so far?

Business is going really well so far and we are really pleased with the positive feedback we have received from local residents.

● WHAT do you like about living in Colyton?

It is a very friendly place to live and we have been accepted into the local community. Oscar and Elliot love going to Colyton Primary School and have made lots of new friends. It's a lovely place to bring up a family and start a new business.

● WHAT would you like to add to or change about the town if you could?

For the sake of Colyton town we would like to see the Post Office reinstated and any empty commercial premises filled, to help bring the retail market of Colyton back to full strength.

● WHAT are your personal interests?

We haven't had much time for hobbies over the last six months, but love to play a bit of golf as a family and we do lots of walking with the dog.

● WHERE is your ideal holiday destination?

We love going on holiday to hot places and normally go all inclusive.

● WHAT would you do if you won the Lottery?

If we won the Lottery we would get someone to finish our renovation, take a well-deserved holiday and, while on holiday, decide how to spend the money.

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