

It's a mission made possible!

Pen Harrison is a woman with a simple but bold mission – to make beautiful homes. For the past 15 years, she has run a home furnishings business.

But now, for the first time, she has her own showroom and workshop in the heart of the Rural Regeneration Zone. Pen has just launched her bespoke service from a converted piggery in the village of Eastham, near Tenbury Wells.

Colly Brook Fine Furnishings – named after her home near Ludlow, Shropshire – provides curtains, blinds and a wide range of soft furnishings. Pen offers a personal home-visiting service, although clients are also welcome to visit her premises at Upper Bank.

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Her company also has an on-line mail order catalogue for all curtain-making and blind-making components, including trimmings, tie-backs and tracks and poles. Colly Brook Fine Furnishings also offers one-day courses in curtain-making and cushion-making in small, friendly groups with qualified tutors. Pen has been given a £10,000 Redundant Buildings Grant towards the £70,000 cost of converting the piggery into a showroom and workshop.

At present, she has a staff of one, but within the next five years she hopes this will have increased to three part-timers. Meanwhile, Pen and husband Geoff are planning to move from their home at Colly Brook House into an adjoining barn conversion at Upper Bank which should be completed by next April.

Pen said: "I started my business 15 years ago and when Geoff and I moved to our present home in 1999, I called it Colly Brook Fine Furnishings which is a name I have kept.

"I have a very wide clientele although, as I provide a bespoke service, it is middle to upper end.

"Clients come from a far-reaching area – as far away as Worcester, Hereford and Shrewsbury – although I also visit clients' homes to assess their requirements and measure up.

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"The staff have been extremely approachable and the application process was extremely easy and accessible."

PROJECT Colly Brook Fine Furnishings (Tenbury Wells)
SUPPORTED THROUGH Redundant Building Grant Scheme
FUNDING RECEIVED £10,000



*Dorothy Coleman, RBG Programme Manager;
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