



T-time for the Tetleys

Chris and Debbie wanted to move into town so renovated an ideally-located semi in Tetbury

WORDS: Victoria Jenkins ♦ PHOTOS: William Goddard



For more than ten years, Chris and Debbie Tetley lived in a house in Nailsworth with spectacular views towards Amberley and the lakes at Woodchester Park.

“We decided to move as the garden was on a steep slope – getting harder to climb – and there was a long walk to the shops,” says Debbie. “As soon as we came to view this semi-detached in Tetbury, we could see ourselves living here.” The four-bedroom house was one of five built inside a disused stone quarry so there is a cliff face at the far end of the garden. “There also used to be a railway line in front of the house,” says Debbie. “But both quarry and line closed down 50 years before or more. Now the line has been turned into a lovely country walk and the old Goods Shed near us has become an arts and music centre with a café.”

All this and their closeness to the town appealed to the couple, as did many features in their new home, such as the stone fireplace, the wood-framed windows, the flagstoned floors and the coving round the ceilings. “Although only about 20 years old, the house had a traditional feeling, even if some of the décor was rather dated,” says Debbie. “So we bought it three years ago.”

The first thing Debbie and Chris



MAIN: The Tetleys bought their sofas and footstool from Sofas & Stuff, and the chandelier is from Laura Ashley

ABOVE: The new units and island were hand made by Woodchester Cabinet Makers who then painted them in Farrow & Ball’s Pointing. The old dresser which had been left behind was also repainted in Pointing and edged in Gentle Sky blue by the Little Greene Paint Company

did was change the kitchen. “It was in rather dull creams with mustard tiles and a huge dresser taking up one wall,” says Chris.

“We kept the dresser and repainted it in cream and blue but the rest of the kitchen was rather annoying as the cupboards were very small and difficult to get into,” says Debbie. “There was a huge range cooker with a single oven which was not at all economical if you

‘The railway line has been turned into a lovely country walk and the old Goods Shed has become an arts and music centre with a café’

were cooking something small, plus it meant bending down to use it. I wanted slide-out drawers to hold our pans and crockery plus a double oven with eye-level grill.”

The old cupboards went, then Woodchester Cabinet Makers designed and built the new cabinetry, painted in Farrow & Ball’s Pointing. “I bought double ovens from Neff, one a combi-microwave,” says Debbie. “Our worktops are solid surface acrylic by Capsule, and we chose a Belfast sink in Corian. The join where the sink blends into the worktop is quite invisible which makes it all the more hygienic.”

Then, the following year, the Tetleys



decided to have a garden room built on, measuring some three and half metres by three. “We employed architects Jagged Edge of Rodmarton who quickly got planning permission and we chose Inspired Build of Stroud for the work,” says Chris.

“The building took about four months but only because one of the workmen fell ill,” says Debbie. “We couldn’t get the exact match of stone unfortunately. The builders removed the French doors

MAIN: The reproduction brass bed in the main bedroom is from And So To Bed, and the little Victorian chair was reupholstered by the Tetley’s daughter Katie

ABOVE: The bathroom looked all the better for a change of tiles which are now large white ones from The Elephant Company in Malmesbury



Address book

Architect, Jagged Edge Design Ltd, 01285 841317, www.jaggededgedesign.co.uk

Capsule, www.capsulesolidsurface.co.uk

Furniture Cotswold Living Ltd, 01285 659570, www.paintedfurnitureco.co.uk

G K Joinery, www.gkjoinery.com

Inspired Build Ltd, 07974 341393, www.inspired.build

Sofas & Stuff, 01453 700812, www.sofasandstuff.com

The Elephant Bathroom Company, 01666 824888, www.theelephantbathroomcompany.co.uk

Timber Windows, www.timberwindows.com

Woodchester Cabinet Makers, 01453 835580, www.woodchester.cabinetmakers.

The Tetleys redesigned the flower beds so now the garden looks much bigger

and enlarged the gap. The extension has four Velux windows and new French doors to let in as much natural light as possible.” The Tetleys then advertised the old French doors via Freecycle and a couple collected them, frame and all, on the roof of their car.

Oiled engineered oak flooring with underfloor heating was then laid, and a new kitchen table and chairs were moved into this new room.

“We wanted the garden room as our dining room as the original diner was not convenient for the kitchen and, in any case, rather small. It’s now become a snug,” says Chris. “I don’t think people dine so formally nowadays.”

As there was now space, Woodchester Cabinet Makers made an island for the kitchen and the whole area has now become the Tetleys’ favourite spot.

They have also improved the two bathrooms. “The en suite had a pokey shower cubicle in which you could hardly turn round and the tiles in both bathrooms were old-fashioned, grey veined with moulding. So we changed them all to large modern ones and put a new bigger shower into the en suite. We kept the other fittings as they were in good condition.”

“We also replaced the old solid wood front door with one with glazed panels to make the hallway lighter,” says Chris.



The builders laid the new paving and put up the low wall and fencing to keep safe any future pets

“We changed the design of the back garden too which was originally open-plan to the drive. It had a curved flower bed which seemed to cut the garden in half so we got the builders to lay new paving and we redesigned the flower beds. It looks bigger now. We also had a low wall built of Cotswold stone with trellis on top, to match the other end of the garden, as we plan to get a dog soon and we don’t want it escaping!”

“Now that we have a large kitchen-diner – just as we had in our previous house – we have a home that really suits us, cosy enough for the two of us, but enough room for when our children visit,” says Debbie. “As Tetbury is such a thriving town and we have such friendly neighbours we feel very lucky to have found our house.” ♦