

30 years for Designer Drapes

30 years ago Ian and Judy Barrington took over the old Martin Dodd shop in the High Street, changed the name to Designer Drapes and started a journey from which they have never looked back. They can still remember the first day, wondering if they had done the right thing, but through hard work and the help of some good people, they are probably one of the most successful and well known businesses in the High Street. Penge has changed a lot from those early days, becoming now a much more affluent area. Most of the shops that were around then are sadly no longer here but the High Street is still thriving and seeing some major changes with the new pavements and the improvements to the 2 squares later in the year. Business has changed over the 30 years as well. They have always made and installed curtains and blinds but fashions change and they have upgraded their work and kept up with the changing fashions. Gone are the frilly festoon and Austrian blinds along with the swags and tails and in are roman blinds, curtains with poles, straight upholstered pelmets and plantation shutters, a much more clean, minimalistic look. Although they have undertaken some very prestigious work, including Sir Cliff Richard's house, some work at Chelsea Football Club and continuing work at the Sloane Club by Sloane Square they are still happy to provide simple blinds or curtains to everyday homes.



One of the most important elements in Designer Drapes success is not only their hard work, but with the team, their vast knowledge of the industry. Between the 4 sales team, they have over 120 years of experience!! The fact they have their own workroom above the shop is another big bonus. They have total control over the making of the curtains and roman blinds unlike any other shop who have to ship their work off to an independent work room. They also pride themselves on customer satisfaction which must be working as they are now dealing with the children of their original customers.

Ian and Judy are heavily embroiled in the Community of Penge and are always willing to help and promote Penge. They feel that Penge has been good to them, so they should put something back. I'm sure you have benefited from a glass of mulled wine and mince pie at the Xmas event every year!.

I am sure you will agree that we wish them every good fortune in their 30th year of trading in Penge and may it continue for many years to come.