

In November 1983, we began our search for a restaurant and home for our two nappy-clad daughters. 61 High Street, Woburn Sands, a very tired and untouched Victorian building for more than forty years became ours in late December.

For the next two months this ex- contract catering manager became a serious destroyer of Victorian chimney-breasts, lath and plaster ceilings, ancient lead gas-lighting pipes and iron water pipes. On a shoestring we created Spooners Restaurant and a home.

Unable to secure restaurant planning permission for both floors we unexpectedly became retailers of fine china on the ground floor as well as restaurateurs. We opened our restaurant doors on the 12<sup>th</sup> March, 1984 and for the first year Susan remarkably continued to use her four ring electric domestic Belling cooker with, on occasions a playpen in the corner!

In 1991 we finally secured approval to develop the ground floor and later added a four-floor extension at the rear to make the building the success it is today.

From the very memorable first night when we lost all power we have enjoyed 24 exciting years with the support of an excellent team of staff and you, our very faithful customers and friends.

Our two daughters are happily residing in Southampton and Bournemouth, free of nappies, and we shall be off to start a new and exciting venture in Dorset, (not in catering!), after a small adjustment to our restaurant body clocks

We are now delighted to be able to say that we have sold Spooners to a Ray and Mili Ripnar whom I understand will continue to live and breathe the restaurant in a very similar style to our own. We wish them every success and happiness. We are proud to have retained our niche market place distinct from managed houses, gastro pubs and brasseries and we hope that you may continue to enter No. 61 in the future.

With much appreciation and best wishes,

Martin and Susan Spooner

P.S. We have today finally exchanged contracts 24 years to the day and complete in a rather chaotic fashion on the 19<sup>th</sup> March. We shall be heading South on that day. To contact us please email: [martin@flatassist.co.uk](mailto:martin@flatassist.co.uk)

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