

PERIOD LIVING  
*Goodwill*  
AWARD 2014



Winner Ruth toasts her new kitchen with daughter Catherine

# 'Tis the time of GOODWILL

Our Goodwill Award winner and community hero Ruth Yates invites us into her home to see her stunning new country-style kitchen

Words PIPPA BLENKINSOP Photographs DARREN CHUNG



**OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP** Ruth's kitchen has been transformed into a festive hub of the home. The rich red table runner, £12 from Sainsbury's, and checked napkins, £5 for two from Marks & Spencer, accompany Ruth's own vintage crockery; this stainless-steel, Q Line 90cm range cooker with twin ovens and a six-burner hob, from £2,299, was gifted by Britannia Living ([britannialiving.co.uk](http://britannialiving.co.uk)); the original space was dark and dated

**THIS PAGE FROM TOP** Ruth was nominated by daughter Catherine; the mantelpiece is adorned with Scandi-style baubles, £12 for a set of 12 from Dobbies, and gingham reindeer decorations, £1.50 each from The Contemporary Home; Ruth's grandson Rowan has fun making mince pies for the *Period Living* team

**B**ack in February, we launched the *Period Living* Goodwill Award, our quest to find and reward a local hero with the prize of a £30,000 bespoke kitchen, in association with Churchwood Design and Britannia Living. To help us, we asked you, the readers, to nominate deserving individuals or groups that make a special contribution to your community. All nominees were put to an online vote and, after the 10 with the highest number of votes were shortlisted, it was then down to the judges to make the difficult decision of selecting the winner. 'We were overwhelmed by the selfless attitudes and community spirit of all applicants,' says judge and *Period Living* editor Rachel Watson. 'But one person in particular stood out.'

Ruth Yates was nominated by her daughter Catherine for her commitment to a local lunch club for the elderly. 'Mum does a lot for the community, and it seemed fitting to nominate her considering it is catering that she provides, but I never thought anything would come of it!'

A deserving winner, Ruth not only caters for, but also runs the lunch club, managing four teams of voluntary chefs and drivers comprising a staggering 58 individuals. Each week, Ruth and her teams work on rotation to provide a home-cooked two-course meal for around 50 members, as well as transport to and from the venues for those unable to leave the house unaided. 'Many elderly people live on their own, and it's important for them to have the opportunity to socialise,' says Ruth. 'We like to cook food such as roast beef, which you wouldn't usually do for one person.'

Before the transformation, Ruth's kitchen had remained the same since she and husband David first moved into their detached period home 32 years ago. Although practical, the room ➤

Before



*'My new kitchen is a space that I actually enjoy being in now - it gives me a lift and makes me feel happy'*



**OPPOSITE AND LEFT** The new kitchen combines elegance with practicality. The panelled doors, painted in Sanderson's Driftwood Grey Lt, have slots cut to ventilate the concealed boiler, which double as decorative features; the willow star Christmas decoration costs £1.50 from The Contemporary Home **BELOW** A freestanding baker's unit provides extra storage and work space, perfect for keen bread-maker David. The frosted pine cone and fir wreath is £50 from The White Company



lacked style, as Ruth and Catherine both admit, and was in desperate need of a facelift. 'The kitchen was a real hotchpotch of furniture acquired over the years, with a lino floor and no real decorative scheme,' recalls Ruth. 'We had four small children when we moved in, so we made do with what we had.' Now, it is a beautiful period-style kitchen, designed by Churchwood Design around the needs and lifestyle of the Yates family. Dated, varnished



pine units and worn lino have been replaced with a tailor-made wooden Shaker-style kitchen fitted with granite worktops. There is also a brand new six-burner range cooker and double fridge-freezer, both courtesy of Britannia Living. Storage, dining space and a period style in keeping with the age of the property were all top priorities for Ruth and David - criteria that Churchwood has, according to Ruth, 'not just met, but exceeded'. 'The design has been highly influenced by Ruth's passion for cooking,' says Churchwood's founder Mark Ambler. 'Handmade wooden cabinets have been built to provide ample storage for her catering crockery, cookware and large amounts of dry store ingredients, and we've also incorporated a freestanding baker's table, creating extra worktop space essential for the preparation of large amounts of food.' A small hand-washing sink has also been added in the corner for increased catering hygiene. When she's not busy running the lunch club, Ruth - a mother of four and grandmother of >

**ABOVE** Cleverly boxed in to incorporate more storage space for Ruth, the American-style Montana fridge-freezer is £2,000 from Britannia Living. The chairs are decorated with faux mistletoe bunches, £4 each from Bloom, while hardwood Castello oiled flooring in Honey Oak, £58.99 per m<sup>2</sup> from Quick-Step (quick-step.co.uk), complements the soft green cabinetry

# Kitchen Makeover

eight – likes nothing more than to spend time with her family. ‘There is always somebody popping in and the kitchen is the hub of the home,’ she says. In response, Churchwood has retained the original kitchen-diner layout but swapped the old lab bench dining table for a country-style oak design large enough to accommodate the whole family.

An unattractive boiler and exposed pipes have been boxed in to disguise them, and all the cabinetry has been painted in a delicate shade of pastel green to give the room both brightness and uniformity.

‘It’s a space I actually enjoy being in now,’ says Ruth of the end result. ‘It gives me a lift and makes me feel happy.’ Trained as an electrical engineer, and a dab hand at DIY, husband David admits he’d been nervous about taking a back seat during the transformation, but ‘the final results are beyond expectation, and the workmanship is of such a high standard,’ he says of the now complete kitchen. As for the grandchildren, ‘they love the new high-tech fridge-freezer with the ice machine!’ laughs Catherine.

This year, Ruth and David will spend Christmas with their son, enjoying a well-earned rest from cooking, but they are already looking forward to hosting the whole family next year. ➔



Ruth (centre) and her family celebrate with *Period Living* editor Rachel (left), together with Mark (far right) and Charlotte (second left) from Churchwood Design

## BEHIND THE SCENES



CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT The range cooker is installed; the *Period Living* team prepares the space for the shoot; content producer Pippa chats

to Churchwood’s Mark and Charlotte; the team discusses shots; tweaks are made to decorations; with its tailor-made units fitted, Ruth’s new kitchen starts to take shape