

It was a real relief to find someone with all the slow learnt, hard won traditional skills of the real cabinet maker to whom we could entrust our antique furniture.

Mr McPhee has come up trumps with each item he has renovated for us, from replacing a wormy, broken leg on a Stuart carver chair with an exact replacement which looks as if it was made with the chair itself, to reviving a tottering William and Mary desk. It's wood was split, its legs offering such notional support that it could never be moved as the risk of pieces falling off was so great. It now stands foursquare and strong as ever it did in all the preceding centuries.

His triumph has to be an antique dining table battered, broken and dilapidated, vandalised with the mark of a hot iron burnt into the polished surface. It is now resplendent even to the deep ragged mark scored by a piece of metal that we made while trying to get it into a car for transportation. That deep score is no longer visible.

Mr McPhee's skill is traditional and is as good as the cabinet makers of the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.