

## **Matthew Jardine, The View**

Matt Jardine - now a highly successful cabinet maker - came out of school with no qualifications but full of the potential that had so far eluded him due to his childhood dyslexia. He got a job in a local joiners helping to sweep up and before too long was taken on as an apprentice. Attracted throughout his seven years at the joiners to "the finer side of the work" he eventually moved on to spend three further years with a cabinet maker. He started out on his own in 2000 on a subsidised business unit near Keswick using second-hand equipment.

Matt quickly outgrew his premises and, when he found himself climbing over equipment and half completed jobs to get into his work unit, he realised he needed more space, and preferably his own space, if he was ever going to grow his furniture making business. He found a hectare of space for sale just outside Braithwaite and started working up plans for a workshop and showroom.

With £10,000 from Forest Futures, £28,000 from Defra's Rural Enterprise Scheme and loans from family members, Matt was able to build a workshop, employ a full-time assistant and provide a part-time job for his father in law. So far business is good and in the last year his turnover has doubled to £60,000. Like many businesses just starting up and undergoing considerable growth, his next challenge is to manage the process of registering for VAT.

"I'm really optimistic now and have got the confidence I need to make this business grow. I wouldn't even have thought of employing someone before but now I'm totally happy to grow," say Matt.



