

New post office in Wheatley 30 January 2017

A family-run post office was treated to a visit from an Olympic silver medalist to mark the opening of its new store.

Postmaster Neil MacCormack and wife Anette have been at the heart of the Wheatley community for almost 30 years.

Team GB rower Frances Houghton - who won Sportswoman of the year at the Oxfordshire Sports Awards - cut the ribbon during celebrations to mark the post office's move to a former Barclays Bank in High Street.

Father-of-two Mr MacCormack said members of the community and loyal customers gathered to witness the opening on Monday afternoon, which was celebrated with a glass of champagne.

The 59-year-old told the Oxford Mail he was now looking to expand the business due to moving into a bigger building.

He added: "It's a fantastic opportunity to take over the bank premises. The villagers of Wheatley have been so supportive.

"We had crowds out for the opening and it was very nice of Frances to come along."

Ms Houghton, from Wheatley, and a former Dragon School pupil in Oxford, donned her silver medal which she won in her fifth and final Olympic games in Rio last summer.

Mr MacCormack said moving from the old premises, a cottage in High Street, Wheatley, would allow him and his wife to convert the old shop back into their family home.

He joked that now he would have a morning commute to work, rather than simply going downstairs.

Mr MacCormack added: "It's a better location, we are in the heart of the village and next to all the shops.

"We are hoping it will be a really smart post office. We are lucky to have a sorting office to and one of the bigger post offices in the county.

"It's a much better working premises."

Ms Houghton, who grew up in the village said she was 'really honoured' to be asked to open the new post office,

She added: "The post office has been a really key part in helping my mum feel part of the community.

"Wheatley is the place I call home. I was really honour and really touched to be asked to open the post office."