

# Mary Flavelle as Mary Flavelle

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**W**hen I got the job as an Executive at the Chamber of Commerce, I found something which had been made for me. All my past experiences and different jobs had trained me for this one post.

I spent 8 years at the Chamber honing my new skills, where networking was key. I had been running a business women's group since I had joined the Chamber and it totally ran out of steam – what was the solution? Very simple – stop doing it! Altogether we took 2 months off, during that time, had a bit of brainstorming with members as to what they would like to get out of networking and the new SHE plc was formed. Mary is proud to be the founder of this fantastic event which is still going strong.

Next was the Famous First Thursday Breakfast where the bell became the most important part of the event. Businesses attended to promote themselves with a one minute presentation. Mary's aim became that of a tutor and taught people how to do a good one minute presentation with the bell doing its own thing when there were bad. People came back to see if they had got it right – it was like a creeping death but this did not deter numbers. Generally 50 – 60 would be found at this event every month, making it the top networking event in the Thames Valley.

There were times when Mary's acid words or that vicious bell would come into play but it was always done with a smile and a twinkle in her eye.

It was greatly missed when Mary was enticed away from the Chamber to help Seeda Gateway help young people start up their own businesses. Due to Gordon Brown's simplification Agenda her contract was cut short, and although invited to take on a job as a business advisor – it did not hold the attraction that Mary was missing.

The new chapter in her career book starts now with public speaking both as a case study and the power of networking. Being an event organizer for small companies and finally launching a number of networking events, with the first one back at the Coppid Beech Hotel in Bracknell where Mary grew in name and reputation. The first event will be on 16th May 7.30am – contact Mary for further information.

Contact Mary on: 07778 970 668

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