

Give Mary a BELL

Mary Flavelle to Manage Presentations at GIFT Event



Mary Flavelle of the Reading Enterprise Gateway will be bringing her famous bell and managing the presentation process at the GIFT event on 17th November. When working for the Chamber of Commerce, Mary set up and ran regular First Thursday breakfast meetings at the Coppid Beech Hotel in Bracknell, once achieving a record 102 attendees.

Mary is currently the Business Facilitator for Reading Enterprise Gateway, part of a unique initiative developed by the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) in partnership with Business Link. It provides a range of services to young entrepreneurs thinking of starting

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businesses in the Reading area, as well as providing assistance to ethnic minorities and women.

"The emphasis is very much on encouraging and helping young people under 30 set themselves up in businesses. They may even be eligible for funding if they fulfil the criteria" explains Mary.

Still an active member of the Chamber of Commerce, Mary told Business in Berkshire about her previous experience in business. Following some time spent working on a fruit farm, Mary set up 'Lady Gardeners' along with a business partner. **The business ran successfully for 8 years. "I'm actually a qualified Pruner!" adds Mary - not a lot of people can say that!**

Mary has played netball for over **20** years, as player, coach, and umpire, and this interest in sport led her **to take** on a sales role for a shop specialising in sports trophies. A competitive business, Mary was instrumental **in** landing a huge contract to provide trophies for the Reading Half **Marathon**. As a result, she was asked to appear on Thames Valley TV. The CEO of the Thames Valley Chamber happened to be in the studio and, impressed **by** Mary's energy and enthusiasm, **offered** her a position with the Chamber **where** she stayed for 8 years before moving **to** her current role.

An integral part of the local business community, Reading Enterprise Gateway is particularly aware and supportive of the business start-up issues facing women, social entrepreneurs, ethnic minorities, individuals made redundant or **facing** redundancy, students and recent graduates, the over 50s and the **long-term** unemployed. The Gateway **offers** one to one advice, training courses, mentoring and more for start up businesses.

Web: www.enterprisegateway.co.uk

Contact us

For more about the Business in Berkshire GIFT event:

Contact Hannah Lewis on hannah.lewis@businessinberkshire.co.uk 0118 9661178 or visit the website and register online.

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