New Business of the Year

Sponsored by EVERSHEDS

The trio in tune with success

Nadine Cooper: Nadine loved singing as a child but stopped after being told by her music teacher she was spoiling it for everyone else as she was out of tune.

It wasn't until she met Bernie Bracha, leader of Lady Bay and Ruddington Community Choirs, more than 30 years later that she decided to take up her childhood hobby once more – but with a difference.

Ms Bracha suggested there should be a choir for people who wanted to sing but couldn't do it in tune and Nadine was inspired to set up Tuneless Choir as a business in January this year.

Based in West Bridgford, more than 100 people now attend bi-monthly sessions to perform popular songs and the choir has gained national attention, appearing on The One Show and Radio 4.

Nadine, 49, of Compton Acres, has grown the company by offering franchises so others can use the name and receive advice, with 10 other groups starting as far afield as Newcastle, Cardiff and even Charlottenburg, a suburb of Berlin.



Nadine Choir and her Tuneless Choir franchise has provided out-of-tune singers with a platform to perform.

"I'm delighted to be shortlisted, but surprised too," said Nadine. "This still feels like a hobby that's gotten way out of hand rather than a proper, grown-up business – Tuneless Choir is still labelled under 'fun' on my computer.

"If I was to win, I think I'd feel like a true businesswoman for the first time.

"That's not due to any sort of false modesty – it's just with the ongoing challenges of business you don't often get chance to pause and reflect on how far you've come."

Patricia Conway: Transforming a pub in a small Nottinghamshire village that had been empty for a year into an award-winning venue with its own taxi landed Patricia - also known as 'Trisha' with recognition.

She took over The Kitchen at The Cross Keys, in Epperstone, in July 2015 with her partner Des Sweeney and turned it into a country dining public house.

The couple recently bought their own London cab, which was repainted in the pub's mint-green livery, to provide free rides home for drinkers and diners, as well as ensuring the darts team get to away matches on time.

The Cross Keys, which employs 21 staff, was named the best public house at this year's Nottingham Post Food and Drink Awards.

Patricia, who has worked in hospitality for 32 years, said she was "speechless" at being shortlisted.

"As a small independent, I am very honoured to have been recognised within a very competitive industry," she said."We all want to be proud of our work and I certainly am – I would hope that if I was to win this award it would inspire my team and all the young ladies starting their careers that through hard work, determination and tenacity they too can 'dream it and make it happen'."

Jordana Chin: Acknowledging our busy lifestyles means it can be difficult to prepare healthy and nutritious food, Jordana came up with an ideal solution by launching a healthy food delivery service.

A qualified nutritionist with a master's degree at the University of Nottingham, the 24-year-old founded Nutri2Go at the university's Ingenuity Lab for start-ups last year.

With one full-time and three part-time employees, the company provides ready-to-eat meals and has grown in the past year from taking orders from Jordana's friends and colleagues to expanding through the launch of a website and collaborating with businesses.

Jordana, of Lenton, said: "I'm really pleased to hear that our work is being recognised and it's great to be nominated by one of our customers."



Jordana Chin has devised a healthy food delivery service.



Landlady Patricia Conway, pictured centre alongside partner and landlord Des Sweeney, left, and colleague Ellie Wrench, have reinvigorated The Kitchen at the Cross Keys.

EVERSHEDS



New heights of Innovation

The local law firm with global connections

Eversheds sets the standards for other law firms to follow. Innovation is part of our culture but it isn't just limited to the commercial solutions we provide to our clients.

Over five years ago we set up a Gender Working Party to improve female representation within our business and since then, we have deployed state-of-the-art technologies to support more flexible working across our 55 worldwide offices.

This is just one of the reasons we've been named in *The Times'* **Top 50 Employers For Women** for the fifth year in a row.

We're committed to developing female talent within our business and would like to take this opportunity to wish all Women In Business nominees the very best of luck.

Contact

Mark Fletcher
Senior Office Partner
Tel: +44 115 931 7595
www.eversheds.com/markfletcher

eversheds.com

NEP-501-S4 6

Women in Construction

Sponsored by BWB CONSULTANCY | ENVIRONMENT INFRASTRUCTURE | BUILDINGS



Since inheriting her father's business, Nicola Millward has doubled turnover and increased profits at The Millward Partnership

We are setting the benchmark

Nicola Millward: As managing director of The Millward Partnership, Nicola is believed to be the only woman, who is not an engineer, to own and run a civil and structural engineering consultancy in the East Midlands.

After joining the business in 2003, she took over the reins from her father when he retired four years ago.

Since then, the company, based in Main Hill and employing 15 staff, has doubled turnover and trebled profits.

Nicola, 39, of Woodhouse Park, said: "I am truly flattered to have been shortlisted for this award. I have dedicated 13 years to building Millward into the company it is today and on a daily basis the reward is the success we now have and the fact we have a happy team.

"However, to be shortlisted and recognised for this externally, is further validation of just how far we have come and what we have achieved."

Millward added: "There are still too few women in senior roles in business, particularly in the sector we are in.

"Therefore, initiatives like this have to be welcomed.

Maria Coulter: With more than 20 years' experience in the construction industry and many relevant qualifications, Maria is well placed to spearhead her mission to make positive change in the industry.

She made a giant leap of faith when leaving the comfort of working for global property and construction consultancy Gleeds to set up her own coaching and training business, Construction Coach, in 2014. The company provides executive and business coaching to individuals and organisations to help them get the best out of their people, with clients based locally, nationally and now internationally with one customer in Dubai.

Her influence on the industry does not end there. Maria, a chartered quantity surveyor, project manager and risk manager, is a RICS regional board member and chairwoman of the East Midlands Construction Industry Council.

Maria, who lives in the Vale of Belvoir with husband Michael and celebrates her 45th birthday on the day of the awards ceremony, said: "It feels amazing to have been shortlisted for the awards.

"I'm used to being a judge rather than a nominee so it will be a new experience for me."

Reflecting on why these awards are important, she added: "Women are renowned for not promoting themselves enough and don't take the time to acknowledge our achievements.

"I know some phenomenal women working really hard in all industries and professions - we need to own who we are more and the difference we are making on a daily basis."

Ann Bytheway-Thomas: Another woman with a background at Gleeds is Ann, who remains as director at the Nottingham office, where around 220 people are employed.

The 56-year-old heads up a team of 14 consultants who specialise in providing cost management advice for clients in the industrial and manufacturing sectors, overseeing key accounts with national clients such as Heineken.

Having responded to a newspaper advertisement, she started her career with Gleeds 37 years ago as a trainee quantity surveyor.

Her career has progressed since then and colleagues say she helped "set the benchmark" for many other young women in the business.

Ann said: "I like to see myself as a bit of a trailblazer, someone other women can look up to.

"When I started at Gleeds, there really wasn't many other women working in the industry and this has changed dramatically, but there's still some way to go.

"I was surprised, touched and, quite frankly, overwhelmed by the nomination – and to now be shortlisted is an incredible honour. Being recognised for something I enjoy feels particularly special."



Ann Bytheway-Thomas has worked her way up from trainee quantity surveyor to a director at Gleeds.



Maria Coulter is now attracting global business as an executive and business coach through her company, Construction Coach.

BWB CONSULTANCY | ENVIRONMENT INFRASTRUCTURE | BUILDINGS

WOMEN IN BUSINESS AWARDS 2016
Nottingham Post
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY

Proud to be Sponsoring
The Women in Construction Award



Good Luck to all the Finalists!

Consultancy & Engineering AWARDS 2016 Winner
INVESTORS IN PEOPLE | Gold
WISE
New Civil Engineer 100 COMPANIES OF THE YEAR 2016

www.bwbconsulting.com

NEP-501-S4 6