

Great Strides in 2009



The past few months have witnessed some of the most difficult and unexpected trading conditions of modern times, with doom and gloom abounding in the economy. Nonetheless, in and amongst these challenges, there has been unprecedented support to help ease the burden on small businesses, who have inevitably felt the strong arm of the crunch as consumers and businesses tighten their belts.

So many of the UK's small business owners work extremely hard just to keep afloat, and their contribution to the economy must not be sniffed at. That is why throughout 2009, everywoman will seek to help members fuel the future of their businesses through an exciting programme of events, training and online networking.

No one says it's going to be easy, but with a bit of positive thinking and determination to succeed we truly believe women business owners can continue to make great strides in 2009. Good luck for the year ahead, and remember to keep posting your comments in the [everywoman Network](#), the number one place for women to seek business information, advice and make leads and contacts with fellow entrepreneurs.

Yours, Karen and Max

News



A helping hand for small and medium businesses

Business Secretary Lord Mandelson has unveiled a package of measures designed to address the cash flow, credit and investment needs of small and medium businesses.

The support package, which builds upon the commitments outlined in November's Pre Budget Report, consists of loan guarantees and a new Enterprise Fund aimed at helping companies struggling to access finance for working capital and investment.

This is great news for any SME looking to

Conference



Looking for quick fire strategies to ensure your company flourishes over the coming months?

Learn top business tips, so you can achieve your business dream by attending the [everywoman](#) conference Scotland.

We have brought together some of the UK's top women in business, including the UK's favourite 'Secret Millionaire' Hilary Devey for a practical and productive day of inspirational speeches, workshops and, of course, great networking opportunities.

Join us in Glasgow on Tuesday, 3 March to

grow in these uncertain times.

[Find out more](#)

fuel the future of your business.

Find out how to receive a [membership discount](#).

[book your place
online now](#)

[download a
registration form](#)

The everywoman Network



**Dame Mary
Perkins
DBE FBOA**
Founder
Specsavers

There's never been a better, or more important, time to build up a network of business contacts and leads to ensure your company continues to grow and move forward in the current climate.

The [everywoman Network](#) provides you with a valuable channel to connect, unite and inspire women who start, own and grow a business. Feel free to post

discussions, ask for your fellow entrepreneurs advice and tips and promote your business online.

Should I take the plunge?

Anna Roberts has been contemplating over whether to start a new business selling clothes to women in professional environments over the past year and has made use of the business 'savviness' of network members to fuel her decision...

[Find out what her fellow network members suggest](#)

Raise your profile in the media

Discover [great hints and tips](#) around PR and promoting your business, or why not add your own ideas

To join the network [log into everywoman.com](#), visit the 'My account' page, tick the opt-in box and press 'Submit'

Training



£1,000 to help your business survive and thrive in 2009

Power and knowledge normally come at a price but, if you are a business with 5-249 employees (full or part-time) [everywoman](#) is able to offer you a flexible training grant of up to £1,000.

You can use this funding to take advantage of specialist training solutions tailored to women in business. There's something for

Awards

Recognise inspirational women in transport and logistics

There's never been a more vital time to recognise and reward the achievements of women working within the Transport and Logistics Industry.

However, there would be no awards without your help and we want your nominations for those inspirational women who are making a difference in the sector. It might a colleague or someone you've worked with in the past year, or perhaps even you! If you think you've done some great work, or know of a

everyone, from the daring Walking with Wolves to Strategic Leadership and Practical Management programmes.

[Find out more](#) and book a course that suits you.

women excelling in her current role, make a nomination - a simple and powerful way of communicating and celebrating outstanding success and achievements.

[Nominate online now](#) or [download a nomination form](#) (nominations close Feb 27).

Local Networks and Events



In order to stay one step ahead of the competition, 2009 will involve building up great contacts for many small business owners and entrepreneurs.

Businesswomen the length and breadth of the country are being really pro-active, setting up networking and workshop events throughout the year. Be sure to regularly check our network diary to see if any events are taking place in your area.

Interested in listing your local network or event? [Find out more](#)

Marketplace: Pick of the Month

Comparecontracthire.com

If value for money counts then it makes sense to research your options before you contract hire your next business vehicle.

This car and van contract hire price comparison website offers a unique, live, free-of-charge quotation service, for all UK businesses and private individuals.

You do not have to register any details to use the quote engines.

[Find out more](#)

[How to advertise in the everywoman Marketplace](#)



Technology

In the current economic climate, when budgets are limited, it is more important than ever for businesses to make the right choices when it comes to investment in technology. Bill Murphy, managing director of BT Business, believes that the New Year is a great time to look at how small technical changes can cut operating costs and put firms in a better position to meet customer demand in 2009.

For more information on how technology can help your business save money, visit <http://insight.bt.com/>

Contact **everywoman** Tel: 0870 746 1800 Address: 17 Wootton Street, London, SE1 8TG

everywoman is supported by

IBM: IBM is proud to be working with **everywoman** to bring expert advice and technology solutions to women who are

starting and growing their own businesses. Uniquely, IBM has created IBM Express Advantage offerings specifically to help growing businesses access the critical business and technology capabilities required to innovate and win. IBM Express Advantage offerings combine hardware, software, services and financing in competitively priced, prepackaged solutions designed specifically for small and mid-sized businesses. For more information on IBM's support for Small and Medium businesses please visit <http://www.ibm.com/businesscentre/uk>

NatWest: NatWest is the leading bank for small business, with a network of over 1,600 branches and 1,681 Business Managers no one is better placed to help businesses succeed. NatWest recognise the contribution that female business owners make to the UK economy and are proud to work with organisations that promote women's enterprise. For more information on NatWest support for small businesses please visit <http://www.natwest.com/smallbusiness>

BT BUSINESS: BT Business works with over 1.1 million small to medium sized companies across the UK, providing a range of IT and communications support. This ranges from telephony services, mobile technologies and web-based services, through to IT support and advice on how to develop a full-blown e-business strategy.

The services are designed to look past headline offers, creating solutions that deliver real benefits and value for money. Combined they help take the hassle out of IT and communications, allowing small business owners and managers to do what they do best and manage their businesses.

For more information on how BT Business can help your business, please go to <http://businessclub.bt.com>

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