

EDITORIAL TEAM

VOTED BEST BUSINESS MAGAZINE FOR ENTREPRENEURS

EDITORS LETTER

It's that time of year again! Here we all are, making resolutions and vowing to change our lives over the next year – join a gym, lose some weight and start a business perhaps!

Will this be the year that we actually take these plans on board?

In the wake of the festive season, many of our contributors have tackled the New Year. Tom Edge gives us his top tips for 2007, and aims to show us how to change our work and personal lives for the better, Steve Miller discusses overcoming your fears in the New Year, and Robert Ashton gets a new look for the start of 2007!

In this issue we are also looking at businesses that concentrate on lifestyle and socially minded enterprises, both of which can take advantage of celebratory periods such as Christmas and the New Year, when most of us vow to clear our social consciences and help others.

We spoke to John Bird, founder of The Big Issue and arguably the UK's favourite social entrepreneur, about his business career, setting up an independent social enterprise, attitudes towards the homeless, and what businesses can do to help a worthy cause.

We interview internationally renowned interior designer and TV personality Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen to discuss design options for small businesses, setting up his own consultancy and the downfall of appearing on the popular TV show *Changing Rooms*.

I hope that, with all of the useful advice and tips packed into this edition, you will all be able to either start or improve your businesses over the next year. After all, what are you waiting for?

Good luck, and enjoy the issue!



STEVE MILLER

founder and motivational trainer with Steve Miller Training Ltd, is working on his next book series called 'Life Bitch'.

As well as his own professional background in HR, sales and marketing Steve is a graduate of the London College of Clinical Hypnosis. Steve's client list includes, amongst others, Newsquest Media Group, Trader Media Group, Jarvis hotels, Gamestation, Dixons Stores Group, Alstom Transport, West Midlands Enterprise and beCogen.



KURT ILLETCHKO

Kurt Illetschko, a former Executive Director of the Franchising Association of South Africa is considered to be a leading expert on franchising opportunities in the UK. He is the author of the best selling book 'Teach Yourself Franchising' which is widely considered essential reading for any prospective franchisee. In this issue he explains the pitfalls to be aware of when selecting a franchise opportunity.



TOM EDGE

Tom Edge is now considered the UK's leading expert in the practical aspects of starting and running a business. People like Tom because he is practical and down to earth and he explains ideas in a simple easy to understand way. He has no airs and graces and tells it like it is with a sprinkle of Black Country humour. These days Tom is spending more time on Radio and TV and writing business articles.



ELIZABETH CLARK

Aka the Flirt Guru, is busy celebrating the best quarters trading ever! The Corporates want her special approach to improve the effectiveness of their presentation, networking and negotiation skills. However, everyone will soon get a free taster as she starts filming on a new series for Living TV in December 06.



ROBERT ASHTON

Robert Ashton's 'The Entrepreneur's book of Checklists' is currently the UK's third best selling small business book. His latest book, 'The Life Plan' contains 700 simple tips for people big on self improvement but short on time, is out now. He's also a popular speaker; a recent audience of social entrepreneurs all marked him 'excellent'!