



NEWS RELEASE

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NEW NETWORKING GROUP FOR ENTERPRISING WOMEN IN KINROSS

A new women's enterprise network is being set up in Kinross, building on the success of a two-part workshop for people who were thinking about whether they could transform their talents and skills into a money-making venture.

Organised by rural enterprise support organisation GrowBiz, the Dreams into Practice sessions took place in the Kirklands Hotel in Kinross over two days last autumn.

Aimed at people who were not yet sure if they would like to set up their own business, as well as those who would like to use their talents and skills in a more business-like way, the workshops were delivered by experienced business-owner, Trudy Duffy.

The free sessions were attended by 11 people, all of whom felt they benefitted greatly from attending.

Operations manager for GrowBiz, Merle Palmer, was pleased with the success of the events.

She said: "We know that there is an untapped pool of talented individuals who might be thinking about turning their hobby into something more, or who are considering making the most of their talents to provide a service to others and were delighted that so many people attended the two-day workshop and - more importantly - felt that it was so beneficial.

"As a result of interest expressed at the sessions, we are delighted to be holding our first Women's Enterprise Network meeting in Kinross this week.

"Our Women's Enterprise Network meetings provide an informal and friendly opportunity for women who are thinking about starting up their own business or have already started their entrepreneurial journey to get together and chat to other people in a similar situation.

"We have been holding similar events in Blairgowrie for a number of years now and last year set up networks in both Highland Perthshire and Strathearn, both of which have proved to be very popular with female entrepreneurs in rural Perthshire.

"As well as offering the chance to network and meet like-minded people, the meetings also usually feature guest speakers sharing their own entrepreneurial stories and we have heard from a range of talented and inspirational speakers over the years.

"Everyone is welcome to come along and join us for what promises to be an enjoyable and informative evening."

The speaker at the first Women's Enterprise Network meeting in Kinross will be GrowBiz CEO, Jackie Brierton MBE.

Jackie has more than 30 years' experience in business and enterprise and, in addition to establishing and running a number of businesses, she has been CEO of three enterprise development agencies including the UK's first women's enterprise centre (Wellpark). She is passionate about helping people to realise their potential through enterprise.

Jackie said: "Until recently GrowBiz worked mainly in eastern and Highland Perthshire but now, thanks to support from the Rural Perth and Kinross LEADER programme, we are able to offer our services across Perthshire and Kinross-shire.

"We support hundreds of businesses in various sectors and last year alone we held 120 events attended by more than 1500 people – for us it is all about businesses supporting each other, often working collaboratively, encouraging economic activity in the area.

"We also run an award-winning mentoring programme which is unique in that it is specific to business and is the first in Scotland to be accredited by the Scottish Mentoring Network. There are currently over 70 members engaged with the programme which has a hugely positive impact on local enterprise.

"We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to the first Women's Enterprise Network event in Kinross and seeing how we can all work together."

The Women's Enterprise Network meeting takes place on Thursday, January 24, 2019 from 6pm to 8.30pm at The Kirklands Hotel on the High Street in Kinross. A light buffet and refreshments will be provided.

For further information on GrowBiz or to book a place at the Women's Enterprise Network meeting or any of the free events run by the enterprise support organisation, please see the website at www.growbiz.co.uk.

For media enquiries, contact Clare McMicking on telephone 07514 343042 or email clare@growbiz.co.uk

Notes to Editors

- Enterprising Eastern Perthshire (known as GrowBiz) is a Company limited by guarantee number SC341655, and a Scottish Charity number SC043278, with registered office at 1 Perth Street, Blairgowrie PH10 6DQ
- GrowBiz is funded by Perth and Kinross Council, Scottish Enterprise and The Scottish Government, and the Enterprising Rural Perthshire project is supported by the Rural Perth and Kinross LEADER Programme 2014-2020: The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas. For more on LEADER go to www.pkleader.org