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Showcasing women who mean business

ACCOUNTANT Emma Thomas, of EJBC, is a Newbury business success story.

In just five years she has carved a prominent position for her Northbrook Street firm, offering accounting, corporate advisory and outsourcing services to local businesses. Clients range from sole traders to major businesses with million-pound turnovers, many led by local businesswomen.

“What our clients like is our honest and down-to-earth approach. They find themselves in an increasingly bureaucratic tax and compliance environment which we can steer them

through with ease. In a very competitive marketplace, people are choosing us again and again on the basis of professionalism, trust and realistic pricing,” said Emma.

A qualified accountant and chartered tax adviser, Emma has overseen the growth of the business from her home office five years ago to a busy practice, overlooking Northbrook Street.

“Our business is expanding rapidly, thanks to new business wins, but we set great importance on maintaining our detailed level of service and professionalism to all our clients,” said Emma.

The breadth of EJBC’s client base reflects its range of skills to support West Berkshire’s business sector.

EJBC provides consultancy and outsourcing services, including payroll and bookkeeping, to Sue Hetherton, who, with her husband Mark, runs **Hethertons Bakery** in Bartholomew Street, Newbury, and **Hethertons** at the Kings Coffee House in the town’s Broadway.

The guiding principle of her well-known local business is to provide good quality food that is additive free.

“We bake English and continental breads and pastries using good, old-fashioned methods,” Sue said. “We make 95 per cent of what we sell in our own ovens. Traditional and additive-free, that is our ethos.”

Mark runs the baking side of the business service is **Angela’s Flower Studio**.

Based at 36a London Road, Newbury, Angela’s is run by floral designer Angela Hill.

In just four years, Angela has built the business’s reputation locally and it now boasts many high-profile corporate customers and wedding clients, as well as business from the best hotel and stately home in the area.

What is abundantly clear when you look in her shop is that Angela excels at not only good quality flower selection, but also uses her artistic flair to pick unusual accessories and eye-catching displays.

She chose EJBC to run her affairs so that she could concentrate on the design side of the business.

“I know that I can hand everything over to them. They are also very competitive price-wise,” said Angela.

A further example of the breadth of clients covered by EJBC is the high-profile **Swings & Smiles** charity.

As founder, the energetic Sian

Cook helps spearhead the charity’s campaign to build a recreational facility in West Berkshire for all families who have special needs children.

Sian has been fund-raising tirelessly, and successfully publicising the campaign over recent months.

“It has completely taken over my life and I have very little spare time, but it has been enjoyable,” she said.

EJBC looks after the charity’s accounts, allowing volunteers to concentrate on the important work of fund-raising.

“Emma was so impressed with what we were doing and has been really helpful,” added Sian.

When built, the Swings & Smiles building will boast sensory, soft play and IT rooms, as well as a café. The playground will have specialist play equipment.

Emma is quite rightly proud of her female clients, aware of how many have to juggle home and business pressures.

“We can take the pain of accountancy, business compliance and payroll away from them, freeing them to concentrate on what they are really good at,” she said.

Emma is also looking to the future. “If any local practitioners are considering their succession

plans and they want their clients to continue to receive a personal, professional and affordable service, we are very keen to hear from them,” she added.

EJBC
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Tel: (01635) 46174
Web: www.ejbc.co.uk

Essence Hair & Beauty
10 The Broadway, Newbury
Tel: (01635) 44994
Web: www.essencehair.co.uk

Swings & Smiles
16 Harvest Green, Newbury
Tel: (01635) 38129
Web: www.swingsandsmiles.co.uk

The Kings Coffee House
2 The Broadway, Newbury
Tel: (01635) 521717

Hethertons Bakery
84 Bartholomew Street, Newbury
Tel: (01635) 40948

Angela’s Flower Studio
36a London Road, Newbury
Tel: (01635) 550515



Emma Thomas and her female colleagues from EJBC

service offered in its salon and beauty spa. Guests will leave the stress and strain of the world outside when they enter the peaceful world of Essence.

Another client using EJBC’s business service is **Angela’s Flower Studio**.

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Sian Cook, Sue Hetherton, Emma Thomas and Koulla Swann outside Hethertons King’s Coffee House, Newbury

While protecting the environment is a cornerstone, another is outstanding customer

