

## **HONOURING FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS AT THE 2019 NATWEST EVERYWOMAN AWARDS**

### **Winners announced in the UK's leading awards programme for women business owners**

London, 3 December 2019: The 17<sup>th</sup> annual **2019 NatWest everywoman Awards** today celebrated Britain's most inspiring female entrepreneurs, each recognised for their outstanding achievements. These awards champion women in enterprise from all walks of life, providing a platform to share their journeys to success. This year's winners include women who are transforming and disrupting their respective industries, from art and social enterprises to wellness and beauty - all the winners are role models whose success will encourage future generations of female talent.

The **2019 NatWest everywoman of the Year Award** was presented to **Mairead Mackle, CEO and Founder of Homecare Independent Living in Armagh, Northern Ireland**. Mairead left her job as a podiatrist to set up Homecare Independent Living from her kitchen table, in part to spend time raising her seven children. Over 25 years HCIL has grown into an international enterprise, providing over one million hours of care in 2018 both in Ireland and internationally, whilst expanding complementary businesses including health, housing & social care solutions, online training and renewable energies.

**Judy Murray OBE** accepted the **Spirit of everywoman Award**, which recognises a woman whose pioneering spirit has helped change the landscape for women in the UK, paving the way for others. Judy's lifelong mission is to make tennis more accessible, unearthing the next generation of British talent and advocating for more women in sport. Fashion designer, **Lulu Guinness OBE**, received the **everywoman Ambassador Award**, created to celebrate a high-profile entrepreneur and role model to young women considering entrepreneurship. When she launched her business 30 years ago by designing a forward-thinking briefcase for women, Lulu was just at the beginning of what would be known as one of the most iconic accessory brands. Her brand motto 'Dare to Be Different' resonates as much with the woman of today as it did back in 1989.

A new award for 2019, **the Fortuna Award** sponsored by Chair of Everywoman Ltd, Rosaleen Blair CBE was presented to Angel Academe co-founder Sarah Turner. The Fortuna Award recognises a stand-out individual who invests or is involved in securing investment in women-founded businesses. Since its launch in 2013 Angel Academe has grown into a network of 400 investors, 80% of whom are women, investing £5m into 25 women-founded tech businesses.

Speaking about the winners, **Maxine Benson MBE, Co-Founder at everywoman** comments: "Women in the UK do not lack ability or ambition, yet only 1 in 3 British entrepreneurs are female

– a gender gap equivalent to 1.1 million missing businesses. Women are consistently less likely than men to believe they have the necessary skills to be successful entrepreneurs which is why showcasing these success stories is so critical. They demonstrate passion, determination and dedication often in the face of adversity. We congratulate this year’s winners and applaud their incredible achievements.”

**Julie Baker, Head of Enterprise and Social Community Capital at NatWest** says, “We are very proud to recognise these women, who are not just successful in their own businesses, but are also great role models who we will inspire other women to take their first steps in business. To help these entrepreneurs and would-be business owners, NatWest has a network of over 500 externally accredited Women in Business specialists who understand our customers’ ambitions and provide business advice, mentoring and networking opportunities.”

The **2019 NatWest everywoman Awards** are judged by an esteemed panel of entrepreneurs including Chrissie Rucker OBE (The White Company), Helen Pattinson (Montezumas), Julie Deane OBE (Cambridge Satchel Company), Sarah Wood OBE (Unruly), Poonam Gupta OBE (PG Paper Company), Melissa Odabash, Harriet Hastings (Biscuiteers), Sam Smith (FinnCap) and Rowan Finnegan (Regenerative Investment).

**The 2019 category awards winners are:**

- **ARTEMIS** - for an inspirational woman running a business trading 18 months-3 years
  - **Eloise Frank**, [The Big London Bake](#), **London**. A former Global Head of PR, Events and Partnerships for British Airways, Eloise was inspired to create The Big London Bake, the UK’s first and only live baking competition.
  
- **DEMETER - sponsored by Nutriment** - for an inspirational woman running a business trading 3-5 years
  - **Marine Tanguy**, [MTArt Agency](#), **from London**. Marine’s unique business model is transforming the deeply traditional gallery model by helping artists secure commercial opportunities that not only make them more financially successful but also make their art more public and accessible.
  
- **ATHENA** – for an inspirational woman running a business trading 6-9 years
  - **Michelle Osman**, [Minerva Global](#), **from Alton**. Following a career in commodities Michelle founded her own trading platform, Minerva, and just six years in, in 2017, was approached by California’s largest almond growers to merge their businesses. In doing so Michelle created one of the world’s biggest nut specialist businesses with a turnover of £150 million and the world’s largest almond tree

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nursery, growing three to five million trees annually.

- **HERA** – for an inspirational woman running a business trading for 10+ years
  - **Rachel Pendered**, [Media Zoo](#), from **London**. A former BBC producer, Rachel founded her own production company 16 years ago. With offices in Europe and the US, Media Zoo hit £10m turnover six months ahead of target and has won numerous industry awards for its work.
  
- **GAIA** – sponsored by **Montezuma’s Chocolates** - for an inspirational founder of a social enterprise who has combined strong community benefit with a sustainable business model
  - **Sara Hawkins**, [Projekt 42](#), from **Edinburgh**. After being diagnosed with PTSD, Sara learnt first-hand the challenges of accessing mental health services. Out of this she founded Projekt 42, the UK’s first wellness centre combining fitness, yoga and mental health. 40% of fees paid for activities are used to provide subsidised or free activities to those that need help most but cannot afford it.
  
- **APHRODITE** – sponsored by **Daily Mail** - for a woman who founded her business whilst raising a child/children aged 12 or under
  - **Kelli Aspland**, [Solar Buddies](#) from **Cwmbran**. After her children struggled with sun cream application against a school ‘no-touch’ policy, Kelli realised the need for an applicator for children to use to put on sun cream on themselves. Solar Buddies has grown its revenue by over 200% in the last two years and is sold internationally.
  
- **BRAND OF THE FUTURE** - sponsored by **The White Company** - for a female founder of a business that demonstrates great potential for growth
  - **Charlotte Ferguson**, [DISCIPLE](#), from **London**. Whilst in the NHS and drawing on personal experience, Charlotte created a skincare line that tackled the cause and effect of stress and anxiety on the skin. DISCIPLE’s product is a multi-use CBD oil that can be used both topically and taken internally to tackle anxiety, stress and pain. Profitable within the first year of trading, the company’s revenue has grown by more than 500% since 2018.



For further information, please contact everywoman directly on 020 7981 2587 or email [events@everywoman.com](mailto:events@everywoman.com).

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### **About everywoman**

#### **Advancing women in business - every woman, everywhere.**

everywoman is a global platform for women in business that drives positive change by empowering women to achieve their professional potential. Established in 1999, everywoman has supported thousands of women worldwide in establishing businesses and progressing their careers. Working with leading corporations and organisations, everywoman improves productivity and performance through diversity insights to unlock female potential resulting in economic and societal gain. Through its cross-industry awards and forums everywoman has created thousands of female role models and inspired generations of future leaders.

[everywoman.com](http://everywoman.com)

### **About NatWest**

At NatWest we know that starting and running a business can be both exciting and challenging. We understand that female entrepreneurs and businesses need the right combination of support, advice and funding to succeed, which is why we provide a wide range of services for businesses of all shapes and sizes, across every sector. NatWest has a network of over 500 externally accredited Women in Business specialists across the UK offering specialist support, practical guidance and networking opportunities to female entrepreneurs. We are proud to work closely with everywoman who promote and support women's enterprise. For more information, visit <http://www.NatWest.com/womeninbusiness>