

# Newbury woman on national award shortlist

**A NEWBURY woman who runs a website specialising in remote working has been shortlisted for a prestigious national business award.**

The director and co-founder of Remote Employment, 45-year-old Paula Wynne, has been named one of the UK's top 100 business heroes in the 2009 Barclays Trading Places Awards - a national award honouring men and women from the business world who have overcome adversity.

Mrs Wynne, who runs the online web service dedicated to connecting more than 150 employers with job seekers working remotely or from home, has faced a number of hardships in her career.

In January 2008, the day after she was told she was in consultation for redundancy from her job, she underwent keyhole surgery on her right shoulder, which went horribly wrong and left her with a dislocated collarbone.

Mrs Wynne, a single mother with a teenage son, pressed ahead with her dream for a home business and worked one-handed to turn this into reality, with help from her partner, Ken Sheridan.

Since then, the company has built a substantial client database and launched its own Remote Worker Awards, which aim to raise awareness of remote and home working as a viable alternative to the office routine.

She said: "I am hugely pleased as this recognises what I have been through on a personal level.

"There have been so many nights when I haven't had any sleep and this shows how I have persevered and been determined to succeed.

"The whole experience has made me realise how vulnerable people can be, but I am really excited about being recognised and I will be on cloud nine if I could win."

Mrs Wynne is now waiting to hear if she has been shortlisted for the national awards final, when 25 finalists will compete for one of three award categories - Triumph over Disability, Success after Unemployment and the Spirit of Inspiration award.

Each category winner will win £5,000 and all finalists will receive £2,000 of computer software.

The awards ceremony will take place in London in October.



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