



Case in Point

From green uniform to green fingers



Suburban Oasis grows with a little help from Business Link

After 28 years in the Royal Marines, retiring Warrant Officer First Class Bob Platts has changed his green uniform for a new career in horticulture. His business, Suburban Oasis, is a result of a life time's passion for gardening and will provide a garden maintenance service for those in the Hampshire and West Sussex area.

Throughout his time in the Royal Marines Band Service, Bob has extensively travelled the world and a 6 year period on board Her Majesty's Yacht Britannia, supporting the Royal Family on overseas engagements, certainly provided a unique and privileged opportunity.

Bob is working towards gaining a horticultural qualification and has had great support and work experience in the beautiful gardens at Great Dixter in East Sussex, home to the late Christopher Lloyd OBE VMH.



Bob Platts following his passion

Head Gardener at Great Dixter, Fergus Garrett adds, 'Bob Platts impressed us all right from the start – not only is he a terrific and reliable person but he is enthusiastic about plants and gardens – hardworking, very professional and competent.

The business link service is available locally and provides the information, advice and support you need to start maintain and to grow a business.

**For more information call 0845 600 9 006
or visit www.businesslink.gov.uk/southeast**





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The biggest challenge

One of the biggest challenges for Bob has been adapting from being an employee in the services and having regular cheques every month, to becoming a self employed individual and losing the financial security. 'However, the lifestyle change certainly outweighs financial losses,' adds Bob.

Bob was recommended by a family member to contact Business Link for free advice and he attended an initial awareness day in Havant, followed by a 3 day business course covering all aspects of Finance, marketing, health and safety and lots more.

Whilst my business is still in its infancy, Business Link have provided valuable advice regarding business opportunities and contacts and help to try and ascertain clear objectives and targets for my business.



Turning a passion into a dream

As with any dream, the challenge is turning your lifetime passion into a successful business and over recent months Business Link has been an integral component; always offering sound impartial advice, always informing you of forthcoming business events (invariably free of charge) and, always at the end of a phone.'

www.suburban-oasis.co.uk

Company overview

Established:	2007
Sector:	Gardening
No. of employees:	1

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