



NEW BEGINNINGS FROM THE PAST

The Background

With a passion for vintage clothing and accessories, turning her hobby into a business was the natural step for Nicola Hartup of Fareham in Hampshire. Following redundancy from her job with a large bank, Nicola set up [Glamragzz](#), an online shop showcasing her extensive collection of vintage clothes, accessories, prom dresses and wedding dresses and using this and online auction sites, she began to build a steady income. The challenge was how to turn this into a sustainable livelihood and achieve her ultimate goal of a vintage shop.

The Challenge

Key to the next step on the journey was to attend a number of exhibitions and markets, both vintage and bridal, to get her name out into the market. Nicola also needed to purchase more stock, update her website and work on stock management. As with any new business having the money to do this was the biggest challenge.

The Solution

The [Start Up Loans Programme](#) provided the ideal source of both money and help. After meeting with a Mentor to work through her business plan, Nicola submitted the plan to local delivery partner [WSX Enterprise](#). Impressed by the thoroughness of the plan, Programme Director, Rachel Cheetham asked one of the team of volunteer Mentors (provided by [Mentor-Net](#)) to provide an independent appraisal of the plan and they came back with plenty of praise for the depth of research and knowledge Nicola had put in.

The loan has now been agreed which allows Nicola and Glamragzz to appear at the exhibitions and local markets and Nicola will continue to work with a volunteer Business Mentor for the next 12 months to help support her desire to expand the business and to become the great success she deserves to be.

<http://www.glamragzz.co.uk/>