

**by Matt Powell, Business Growth Manager,
CPR Regeneration**

The Entrepreneurial Spirit is alive and well in Camborne!

How long have you been running your business – a year? five years, ten? Maybe even longer. Do you remember why you started? Perhaps it was because you have a product or service that you are really passionate about, perhaps you took skills from a previous job and thought “I could do this better on my own”, perhaps you fell into it by accident, or had a family business passed down to you.

Whatever the reason, do you still have that passion, that initial spark or light-bulb moment that got you there in the first place? How often do you even take the time to remember why it is that you do what you do?

I recently met a group of people who have just been through an “Enterprise Challenge” run by the West Cornwall Business Network. They pitched their business idea to a panel (think Dragon’s Den without the TV cameras!), then went through a 7-week training course and finally graduated at an event held at the Lowenac Hotel – their final task being to pitch for the chance to win £1000 in front of the assembled audience.

What stuck in my mind listening to these budding entrepreneurs showcasing their businesses was not only the drive, energy and enthusiasm that they were able to demonstrate, but the sheer variety of brilliant business concepts they had – from specialist cakes and bespoke jewellery to activity weekends and eco-consultancy.

The business ideas were well thought out, well developed and, in fact, well presented. All had identified a gap in the market and have a plan for filling it in their particular niche – the light-bulb moments converted to solid business plans.

And these ideas and new businesses are all coming out of this area, which is a fantastic endorsement for the enterprising, entrepreneurial spirit in the Camborne, Pool and Redruth.

What they will soon discover, as all of you running businesses already have, is that no matter how hard it may seem getting from concept to fledgling business, that’s actually the easy bit – the hard work really starts when you open the “shop doors” for the first time, when you get your first client or make your first sale, but without these moments of inspiration, these realisations that things could actually be done a bit better if they were done your way, there would be many more empty shops in Camborne, less choice and quality for the customer, and the world would be a less brightly-lit place.

In the coming months, you will gradually see these businesses starting up and I’m sure that they will be made welcome in Camborne. Why not take the opportunity to think once more about why you are where you are and do what you do. I hope that reflecting on your original passion will perhaps give you some new “light-bulb moments”.

