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**May 2008**

## Happy 4th Birthday Capitalise!

As Capitalise (CBS) starts its 5<sup>th</sup> year of trading it has marked this milestone with a special celebration by passing the £1 million mark for loans made.

Since its launch in Hastings, CBS has grown quickly and successfully to become a well respected and established sub regional company covering Sussex, Kent and Surrey. It helps individuals and existing businesses with loans of up to £20,000 to either start up or develop and grow.

Managing Director Sean Dennis, explained 'we have been delighted to help so many businesses. Passing the £1 million barrier is a real land mark for us but it is more important to see successful businesses flourish with the help we are able to give them.'

Sean went on to say, 'With the Credit Crunch times are even tougher for those that can't raise funds through the usual routes, such as banks or building societies. There is increasing demand for our services and we want to meet that demand to ensure good

business ideas have the best possible chance of success.

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## Organic Growth for Lancing

New Capitalise client Angie Parker, who previously lived in Croydon, opened her new handmade organic cosmetics and fair trade arts and crafts shop **Pumpkin's House** at 128 South Street, Lancing on Bank Holiday Monday 26th May. After approaching a number of banks for finance for her venture, Business Link Surrey suggested she contact Capitalise. Our Loan Panel met Angie and reviewed her Business Plan and a loan was approved which enabled her to secure premises and equip her business.

We wish Angie every success with her new venture, known as 'Pumpkin's House', and are happy to be part of the increase in economic activity being generated in the greater Worthing area.



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## Royal Meeting for Capitalise Client

Northiam, East Sussex client Simon Masters met Prince Charles and Chancellor Alistair Darling in Westminster earlier this month.

Simon, who set up Master Plant plant hire was in London to attend a special event to mark 25 years of the Prince's Trust.

Simon, 31, left school without any qualifications and joined the Army at 20. After a 7 year stint he decided to leave for family reasons. For a year before he left Simon had been thinking about an idea for a business as his employment opportunities were going to be limited.



Four years ago he approached Capitalise and the Prince's Trust to help him set up Master Plant. With joint funding and mentoring from these two organisations his company has now grown into a successful plant hire and operator service.

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## Capitalise get Clean 'n Fresh Revved Up

After launching her new domestic cleaning business Clean 'n Fresh in 2007, Tricia Downes discovered in December that her old car required expensive repair work but, even then, would have a limited life span.

The business had grown and she definitely needed transport. Fortunately an important customer was looking to sell a good condition vehicle that he owned and agreed to lend it to Tricia for a few weeks whilst she sourced the necessary finance.

Unfortunately her bank weren't able to assist because of a payment problem she had experienced a few years earlier so she turned to Business Link Surrey for advice.

Richard Holmes at Business Link recommended she talk to Capitalise and the rest, as the saying goes, is history. We helped her put her application together and, after meeting our Loan Panel, Tricia learnt that she had been successful in securing the finance she needed.

Tricia's business is now growing from strength to strength thanks to her more reliable transport and the support of a Capitalise Business Mentor.



Visit Capitalise at [www.capitalise.org](http://www.capitalise.org)

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