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## **Vote for your Enterprising Young Brit**

This is Money  
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You can now vote for the entrants in the Daily Mail Enterprising Brits Awards 2009, which aim to find the UK's budding entrepreneurs.

This year's finalists, all aged 30 or under, include a lawyer-turned entrepreneur whose Indian cooking sauces are sold in delis and stores in 30 countries, and two siblings in their 20s who run a farm in Shropshire for the community's benefit.

The awards are split over five categories and will be judged by a distinguished panel, including successful entrepreneurs and representatives of the Treasury and Institute of Directors. You can cast your vote for the coveted People's Choice Award by going to the Make your Mark [website](#).

The awards, in their fifth year, are partnered by

**Make Your Mark** - a national programme to encourage an enterprise culture in the UK.

The winners will be announced at a glitzy award ceremony held at the Institute of Directors on March 24, just a few hours after voting closes.

Each winner will receive £1,000 and a trophy, as well as the accolade of being an Enterprising Young Brit.

For a full list of categories and finalists please see below.

## **Business**



**Finalist:** Priya Lakhani - Masala  
Masala

**Priya Lakhani, 27, Masala Masala**

[www.masalamasala.co.uk](http://www.masalamasala.co.uk)

Priya made the change from lawyer to entrepreneur last year, and in this short time has already managed to secure deals with premium department stores and delis in 30 countries. Masala Masala creates authentic Indian cooking sauces – the only fresh, non-Anglicised Indian sauces on the chilled shelf. Priya is inspired by her family; first generation Indians who immigrated to the UK with little

money, and have gone on to establish successful businesses. Priya keeps this link with India alive through the Masala Masala Project which for every pot purchased, serves a meal to a homeless person in India.

### **Vincent Mckevitt, 29, Tossed UK**

[www.tosseduk.com](http://www.tosseduk.com)

Tossed is a chain of fast, healthy eating outlets, specialising in fresh tossed-to-order salads and all things healthy. Vincent was fresh out of university in 2005 when he spotted the gap in the market for filling, tasty, healthy salads. Tossed has grown exponentially since then; the business now employs 85 people across six sites (with flagship stores in Harrods and Westfield). Seven more sites are set to open in 2009, including one on Tottenham Court Road the day before the Enterprising Young Brits Awards ceremony!

### **Jay Bregman, 29, eCourier**

[www.ecourier.co.uk](http://www.ecourier.co.uk)

After being let down by a traditional courier company when he was desperate to get his hands on tickets to a tennis match, Jay used his Master's thesis to overcome the problem! Combining service and technology, the company's technology platform brings together mobile computing, location-based services, a Web 2.0 application, and an optimisation algorithm (which they have christened Larry!) that determines routes in real-time. The company has solved the problems of low efficiency and high overheads that courier companies faced in the past. 'We set out to solve a problem in our everyday life and have done just that - to the benefit of those who find themselves in similar positions,' says Jay. The

company employs 45 people.

### **Nicky Gray, 23, Kiki's Cabin**

[www.kikiskabin.co.uk](http://www.kikiskabin.co.uk)

Just 23 years old, Nicky is motivated by being able to create jobs in her local area and ensuring security for herself and her family. After feeling held back by her age and gender in her previous job, Nicky was determined to achieve more and do it for herself - and has certainly achieved this with Kiki's cabin! Her business is an indoor soft play area and café, based in the busy town centre of North Shields, Tyne and Wear. Three floors provide entertainment for every age group, with assault courses, play areas, a lounge, pool tables and much more. Kiki's Kabin manages to cater for the whole family, creating a safe, friendly, affordable environment for all.

### **Global**

### **Ben and Anna Colclough, both 30, Tourdust**

[www.tourdust.com](http://www.tourdust.com)

Husband and wife team Ben and Anna founded Tourdust to support small, local travel businesses in the UK and abroad. Through its website, it helps independent travellers find authentic travel experiences, tours and accommodation with a local flavour. It also allows small businesses providing these experiences to access a worldwide market, providing back end tools they need to convert inquiries into Paypal bookings. Tourdust lets travellers find out about locally provided experiences, rather than mass tourism options, which means spending goes directly into supporting local economies.

## **Kate Gordon, 29, idid**



### **Finalist: Kate Gordon - idid**

[www.ididbetter.com](http://www.ididbetter.com)

Kate set up idid to tackle the catch 22 situation that many graduates face once they complete their degree – finding it hard to get a job without experience but not being able to get experience without a job! idid works with partners in the US, Brazil and Europe to offer internships with a difference. The company aims to create and promote international learning experiences where participants gain professional training through internships abroad – making them fully equipped and ready to contribute to a global economy. Although the business start up stage was a challenge, Kate now feels that the company has put down strong foundations to grow and become the market leader.

### **Erin Tabrar, 26, Amana London**

[www.amanalondon.com](http://www.amanalondon.com)

Established in 2007 by Erin Tabrar and Helen Wood, Amana marries beautiful design with sustainable textiles and ethical production practices. The collection uses organic cottons, wools and silks. Each garment is handmade by women artisans in the Middle Atlas Mountains in Morocco with whom

Amana work on a fair-trade basis. Amana's investments abroad have created jobs for these artisans and allowed them to set up dedicated business premises in their town. Amana now has stockists in the UK, France, the Netherlands, and the US and are soon to expand to Germany.

### **Lucian Tarnowski, 25, Brave New Talent**

[www.BraveNewTalent.com](http://www.BraveNewTalent.com)

BraveNewTalent.com is revolutionising the global recruitment market by turning the traditional model on its head. Rather than employers going out into the market fishing for talent, the site enables job-hunters to source vacancies and even interact with potential employers via social media. Based in London with an office in India, BraveNewTalent taps into the world's social media networks and is integrated into Facebook, Bebo and Myspace. The company is working with the One Young World initiative to find 1500 young leaders in 192 countries, managing the global social media outreach for the programme.

### **Teen**

### **Matt Lovett, 17, Wow Media UK**

[www.wowmedia.eu](http://www.wowmedia.eu)

Matt runs internet marketing group WOW Media. The group has created over 10 WOW branded websites since it was established in 2007, operating in a number of online industries including marketing, telecoms, finance and cashback/rewards, among others. Matt's first business, British Rewards, was established when he was at school and was funded by savings, pocket money and a school sweetshop. The site is still running today with over 210,000

registered members. The WOW group operates from offices in Birmingham and employs five people.

### **Jason Scales, 14, VpsWOW**

[www.vpswow.com](http://www.vpswow.com)

Although still at school Jason is earning a lot more than the average teenager would from pocket money or a paper round! Jason runs a web hosting business, VpsWOW, selling hosting solutions to clients in the UK, the US and Australia. The company has an environmentally friendly policy and aims to offer a high quality web service while minimising its carbon footprint; VpsWOW uses a low-voltage server processor and components with low idle energy consumption.

### **Dominic Biggs, 18, Joshua Parker-Bishop, 17 and Sam Hodge, 17. Fat Lemon**

[www.fat-lemon.com](http://www.fat-lemon.com)

Dominic, Joshua and Sam run Fat Lemon, a live music promotion and event management company which books, manages, promotes and delivers live music events and parties at major music venues across the Eastern Region. Starting off their enterprise journey as members of their school's Make Your Mark Club, the business partners were inspired to set up the business and take their keen interest in the local music scene further. They have turned this passion for music into a successful, thriving business and were regional winners of the Make Your Mark in Music competition. They now plan to expand the business into new areas including agency management and consultancy. Their aim is to become a leading promotion and artist management organisation, operating on a national and international scale.



**Finalist: Dean Rhodes-Brandon - Your Local Cinema**  
**Dean Rhodes-Brandon, 17, Your Local Cinema**  
[www.yourlocalcinema.com](http://www.yourlocalcinema.com)

Dean Rhodes-Brandon runs Your Local Cinema, an innovative not-for-profit website and information service. Your Local Cinema is designed to help those who are hearing or visually impaired to fully enjoy the cinema experience. He was inspired to set up following his own frustrating experiences with mainstream cinema as a hearing impaired person himself. After watching his first subtitled film as a child, the idea for Your Local Cinema was born. Since launching, Dean has helped change attitudes within the UK film industry, persuading it to prioritise accessible cinema. Having secured substantial funding and support from the UK Film Council and the UK film industry, Dean plans to continue to grow the service as the one-stop-shop for accessible cinema information.

### **Social and Community**

**Kenneth Cheung, 24, BEEcycle**  
[www.BEEcycle.co.uk](http://www.BEEcycle.co.uk)

More than six million tonnes of food waste is

thrown away each year in the UK, left in landfills to produce carbon dioxide and methane. Kenneth has come up with a range of innovative products to help people recycle their food, from bins for food and garden waste to microbial products that speed up composting rates. The company also runs education projects in schools that teach children about food waste recycling; their miniature eco-system, the 'OvO', uses composting worms to break down waste into highly nutritious compost for a young plant. With incubation support from the Lancaster Environment Centre and funding from the EU, the company aims to help people care for and improve their environment.

### **Charlotte, 26 and Ben Hollins , 24 Fordhall Community Land Initiative**



**Finalists: Charlotte and Ben  
Hollins - Fordhall Community  
Land Initiative**

[www.fordhallfarm.com](http://www.fordhallfarm.com)

Fordhall Form is the first community owned organic farm in north Shropshire. The farm had been running for 65 years when it was threatened by a development project in 2006. Brother and sister team Charlotte and Ben led a fundraising initiative to raise the £800,000 needed to buy the site for the

community. The farm was saved, and the initiative was born! The farm now is now led by the community for community benefit, providing skills, experience and educational visits. It also promotes locally-grown food and links residents and visitors with the environment. Fordhall Farm is supported by not-for-profit shares bought by the community, subscriptions and some grants, and a tea room is planned to create a new source of revenue.

### **Kerry Kolbe, 30, Signal Films**

[www.signalfilms.co.uk](http://www.signalfilms.co.uk)

Signal Films provides free creative opportunities for aspiring and practicing filmmakers, writers and artists working with film and digital technologies. Working closely with local, regional and national partners the social enterprise contributes to the development of a vibrant and sustainable film and media culture in Cumbria. Signal's 'Film Insider's Talent Festival' in February provided free training courses to 70 local people and three days of masterclasses and events for a further 200; since May, Kerry and her business partner have held training workshops, made films with 150 disadvantaged young people and held free creative business training events for 300 people.

### **Jane Burston, 27 and Dan Lewer, 26 - Carbon Retirement**

[www.carbonretirement.com](http://www.carbonretirement.com)

Carbon offsetting can be controversial as people debate the value of projects being funded; Carbon Retirement offers a new way of offsetting by allowing people to buy and cancel (or 'retire') allowances from the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. Each allowance is a permit for a polluting company

to release one tonne of carbon dioxide. When an allowance is retired before it even reaches industry, this reduces the total volume of emissions. So far, the company has retired 350 allowances – 350 tonnes of carbon dioxide. Jane and business partner Dan have found setting up in business a steep but exhilarating learning curve. They really want to use the business to improve public awareness of emission trading and environmental policy.

## **Creative**

### **Andrea Photiou, 24 - Playvybz Radio and Training Academy**

[www.playvybz.com](http://www.playvybz.com)

The combination of a love of music and frustration at the offering from mainstream commercial radio stations encouraged Andrea Photiou to set up Playvybz, a licensed internet-based music station. In addition to the core radio business, Playvybz also provides radio broadcasting, DJ skills and journalism training to help other young people break into the competitive radio industry through its Playvybz Academy. They have secured interviews with high profile UK and international music stars including Estelle. Andrea plans to expand the Playvybz training academy programme into other regions throughout the UK, with the aim of delivering training to 200 students each week.

### **Louise Chesshire, 28 - Louise Chesshire**

[www.louisecheshire.co.uk](http://www.louisecheshire.co.uk)

Louise Chesshire is the creative and business brain behind a collection of distinctive handmade jewellery and silverware in precious metals. Louise combines fresh contemporary design with a flair for

traditional silversmith techniques to produce quality items that she believes will be the heirlooms and antiques of the future. Having honed her specialist skills through studying Metalwork & Jewellery at Sheffield Hallam University, Louise is now a sole trader and is passionate about supporting other small businesses. Her business is based in Birmingham's historic Jewellery Quarter, where she has been given free workshop space until the end of the year.

### **Adam Duffy, 26 - Looks Can Kill**

[www.kingsofneon.com](http://www.kingsofneon.com) & [www.solecreator.co.uk](http://www.solecreator.co.uk)

Looks Can Kill offers bespoke, customisable fashion footwear through an online platform. Appealing to the fashion conscious consumer, Looks Can Kill was set up to provide the middle ground between the popularity of affordable fashion and the growing desire to be unique. Adam has designed his service to offer quicker lead times than competitors, so his customers can benefit from having their own name, photo or favorite slogan printed on their trainer of choice in a matter of days. Adam has ambitious growth plans for next year and is currently in talks with a number of large high street retailers.



**Finalist: Anthony Ganjou - Curb**

**Anthony Ganjou, 27 - Curb**

[www.mindthecurb.com](http://www.mindthecurb.com)

Curb offers high impact, sustainable eco-advertising using only natural earth elements. Identifying a gap in the market for viable green marketing solutions, Curb provides brands with a platform for environmentally friendly advertising solutions including Logrow, which uses high quality grass, shrubs, wood and natural stone to create brand logos. Some of Curb's other eco-friendly advertising innovations include snow tagging - they took advantage of February's arctic weather in the UK to stamp over 2,000 Extreme brand logos across London.

- *Vote now - [Make your Mark](#).*

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