



Enterprising Women Awards finalist



Sonja Skelton, MD of West Special Fasteners Limited, based in Dronfield, has been named as a finalist for the East Midlands Chamber Enterprising Women Awards. Inspiring, driven and talented women from across the region attended an unforgettable celebration of women in business.

Sonja joined West Special Fasteners in 2000 and has worked in every department to gain a deep insight into every aspect of the business. She leads with clarity, empathy and a strong sense of purpose, enabling colleagues to grow, learn and reach their full potential.

The finalist reveal took place on 12th June at Whatton House and the main awards ceremony will follow on 26th September at Winstanley House in Leicestershire.

Congratulations Sonja on being a finalist and good luck for the main awards ceremony.

[Learn More](#)

Showcase Your Business

Do you have some great news to share about your business? If so, we'd love to hear from you and help you spread the good news.

Just let us know at economic.development@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk.

Business Support

Higher Digital Skills Training



Delivered by althaus digital, leading Ofsted Outstanding training provider, this fully funded training is designed for micro and small-to-medium enterprises looking to sharpen their digital edge. Running from August 2025 to March 2026 and funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the refreshed curriculum includes:

- Cyber Security Essentials - spot threats, stay secure, and safeguard your business in a connected world
- AI for Everyday Business - discover the smart, simple ways AI can save you time and boost performance (no tech background needed)
- Digital Marketing That Works - practical, powerful tools to grow your brand and reach the right customers faster.

Training is delivered online by real industry pros and designed to be flexible - join live online, in person, or access it on demand when it suits your schedule.

Following an oversubscribed first round last year, demand is expected to be high. If

your business is based in North East Derbyshire, this is your chance to upskill your team, for free, and futureproof your business.

Register your interest by contacting Sarah Buxton, Senior Skills Development Manager at althaus Digital, on sarah@althausdigital.co.uk.

Apprenticeship Levy Transfer

Derbyshire County Council are transferring its Apprenticeship Levy to support SME's across Derbyshire to access fully funded apprenticeship training.



This means that businesses who have new or current apprentices, aged 22 and over, can access 100% funded apprenticeship training.

For more information, please contact Leigh Mckenzie, leigh.mckenzie@derbyshire.gov.uk

Business Start-up Support



If you are thinking about starting up your own business, Derbyshire Business Start-Up advice and grant funding is available and covers mentoring, business and financial planning, marketing and other suitable areas of support. Expert business advice and grant funding is available to those who have been trading for 12 months

or less.

[Find out more](#)

Export Accelerator

Export Accelerator is aimed at supporting businesses of all sizes who are either researching or launching a product or service into a new domestic or overseas market. Support includes specialist consultancy, webinars, funded training and access to grants.



[Find out more](#)

Google Analytics



This workshop is taking place on the 14th August 2025, from 9.30 am to 4:00 pm in Buxton. You'll learn how to use Google Analytics to gain insight into your website visitors, how they got there, and what they did. All this data can be used to improve your website, and help you to retain visitors, improve their conversion rate and generate more business from your website

[Find out more](#)

High Growth Academy

A new High Growth Academy is being launched, open to businesses based in Derbyshire who can demonstrate 20% annual growth in revenue, employment or market share over the past three consecutive years.

To find out more about the range of fully funded access to a range of High Growth Workshops and Forums, join the online information session on 5th August from 10.00am to 11.00am. Book your place today!



[Find out more](#)

HR Essentials



This full day action planning workshop is taking place on 21st August 2025, from 9.30 am to 4:00 pm in Chesterfield and explores common HR headaches across the employee lifecycle.

[Find out more](#)

Leadership and Management

The University of Derby's Help to Grow 12-week programme is 90% funded and combines online sessions with face-to-face learning and one-to-one mentoring. It aims to support senior managers of small and medium-sized businesses to boost their business's performance, resilience, and long-term growth. The next cohort of Help to Grow starts in October 2025 and this will be delivered at the University of Derby's Chesterfield campus.



Mental Health Support for your Workforce



Erewash Voluntary Action can support small businesses through tailored initiatives and resources, to include help developing and implementing mental health policies and providing 1-1 and group talks to address specific needs and challenges. For more information, please contact isabelle@erewashcvs.org.uk

North East Derbyshire District Council Commercial Waste

Join hundreds of local businesses already using our council-run commercial waste collection service.

Our friendly team is just a phone call or email away, ready with flexible contracts to help you scale your service up or down as your business evolves. Plus, with our commitment to simpler recycling, we're helping you stay compliant with the latest legislation. We're efficient, knowledgeable, and we reinvest in your community.

[Find out more](#)



School Engagement



Young people need real-world experience, guidance and role models to help them make informed career decisions which is where businesses can get involved. Businesses are invited to open their doors and forge partnerships with schools to inspire, mentor and develop the next generation of talent. You'll be able to spot emerging talent and attract potential future employees who already understand your business and values. You determine how you'd like to be involved, and this may be through a talk in school, work experience, a tour of your business or something else! Let us know if you'd like to get involved – economic.development@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk, and we can support you.

Social Media

Stay current with your social media content by getting updated about all the major social media platforms.

At this webinar on 12th August from 9.30 am to 11:00 am, you'll learn about the latest features, algorithm changes and policy updates across Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Linked In, X, and You Tube.

You'll hear how algorithm changes and recent updates affect organic reach, and content adjustments



[Find out more](#)

Skin Cancer Awareness



The BBC are inviting businesses across the UK, through their Colin Bloomfield Sun Safe Campaign, to raise awareness of skin cancer with their employees. A free forty- minute online course is available for your employees who work outdoors, and more information can be found here

[Find out more](#)

Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility Conference

This conference, being held on 11th September 2025, has the theme of environmental sustainability and corporate social responsibility through a business-centric lens of sustainability, governance and collaboration. This is within the context of the current economic and political climate, ensuring alignment with the commercial imperative, business resilience and risk mitigation, and the opportunities these can present.



[Find out more](#)

Networking

North East Derbyshire Manufacturing Cluster



This is a peer-to-peer manufacturing network where good practice in supply chain issues is shared, and local initiatives are developed. The next Cluster meeting is taking place on Wednesday 10th September at Chatsworth House. If you are a manufacturer within North East Derbyshire and would like to be involved, please contact economic.development@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk.

Chesterfield Tech Meet Up

If you work in IT, data, security, operational technology, or manufacturing technology then this informal meet up at the Pig and Pump will be of interest. The meet up is taking place on Wednesday 3rd September, between 5pm and 8pm.



[Find out more](#)

Business First



If you would like to receive just business information and not current vacancies, please click through *subscriber preferences* in the link below and amend your choice after entering your email. For business only ebulletins please tick Business First.

[Amend your subscriber preferences here](#)

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