

Peter Gabriel's Solsbury Hill song inspiration

SOMERSET LIFE

YOUR ESSENTIAL MONTHLY GUIDE TO THE COUNTY

somerset-life.co.uk MARCH 2025

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Craig Revel Horwood & Carlos Gu

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Leading Ladies in **SOMERSET**

Meet these inspirational women from our county who are leading the way in their chosen fields of expertise. International Women's Day on March 8 focuses the conversation to celebrate women's achievements as we all move closer to a gender equal world



PHOTO: GETTY



JENN HODGE RAMA LIFE

Following years of voluntary community work, I founded Rama Life - a not-for-profit education centre in South Petherton. We provide educational groups in the holidays, term time, evenings and weekends. While open to everyone, we specialise in supporting neurodivergent young people, who fall in the needs gap between mainstream and specialist provisions.

This year started with me being recognised as one of the top 100 most inspirational female entrepreneurs in the country through Small Business Britain's, f:Entrepreneur campaign. This was an honour to receive, and exciting to be part of something that encourages women to go into business and make their dreams a reality.

In addition to my work with Rama, I am a writer, consultant and campaigner for SEND and home education rights.

It is a pleasure to get to do such important work in such a beautiful and supportive area like South Somerset.

For enquiries: 01460 510042 / info@ramalife.co.uk

LAURA SHIPP ND LAURA SHIPP WELLBEING / THE MIND BODY GUT TRAINING COMPANY

I'm a naturopath, kinesiologist, and therapist passionate about providing a whole-person approach to wellbeing. I work one-to-one in a neuro-affirmative way, focusing on mind and gut balance, women's health, autoimmunity, and trauma. I also support those with disordered eating. I'm proud to be part of The School of Health's naturopathy faculty. This involves lecturing, clinical observation, and hosting webinars.

My business partner and I are celebrating the second year of The Mind Body Gut Training Company's seasonal programmes. I also facilitate the Radiant Menopause Programme alongside another female-led Somerset business, Flourish through Menopause. Our mission is to keep offering affordable, high-quality support while growing a warm community. Last year, I launched two therapeutic approaches for practitioners: Soma-Psych Alignment, a trauma-release technique, and The Sunder Process, designed to help rebalance challenging relationships.

For enquiries: laura@mindbodygut.co.uk



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CAROLYN MATRAVERS APFS BLUEBELL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT LTD

As a chartered financial planner, accredited with the Society of Later Life Advisers (SOLLA), I wear many hats; adviser, confidante, wise counsellor and family mediator. The company I established in 2022 is named Bluebell Financial Management as the flower denotes 'kindness, support, nurture and caring' - attributes that as a female founder, flow throughout the ethos and operation of the business. Demand for our services grows exponentially; in the last year alone, we supported 40 people to successfully claim attendance allowance, helped 98 individuals put lasting powers of attorney in place and built funds under management from zero to more than £14m. My next challenge is to carve out more time to spend on, rather than in, the business. I have created an operational plan, welcomed a bigger team, and prioritised their development, enabling us to continue supporting as many vulnerable clients and their families as possible throughout 2025 and beyond.

For enquiries: 07496 444129 / bluebellfinancialmanagement.co.uk