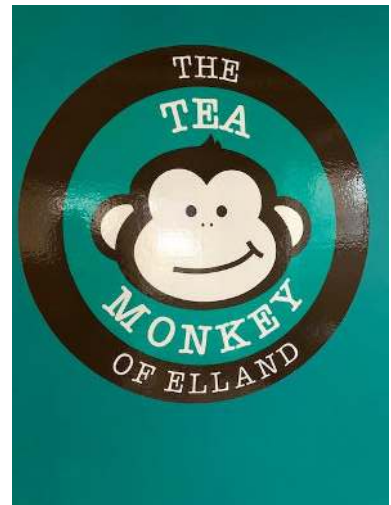


Jules Locke



All my adult life I had worked for someone else. I got to the point of thinking I wanted to be my own boss, in charge of my own destiny. I wanted something to show for all the hard work I put into my job. I was unemployed after two jobs that had not worked out and my youngest child had just started University. I felt this was the right time to take the step into self-employment, but I had no idea where to start. So, whilst on holiday, I was looking at Facebook and SEE Ahead's Do Your Own Thing! programme was right there. I felt this was meant to be a push in the right direction, so I enrolled on the course.



For me, I got something out of each workshop. I had already started work on a business plan, but the session on this helped to improve my business plan and made me understand the importance of revisiting and updating. As my background is school finance, I thought I had a good insight in this area, but Helen's former Bank Manager skills gave me extra insight. Talking with like-minded people with goals similar to mine kept me focused. The peer networking and one-to-one sessions were invaluable.



For anyone thinking of attending this programme - do it! Even if you do not end up opening your own business, you will learn life skills, gain confidence and knowledge.

I would sum it up as Informative, Positive, Educational. I would not have started my own business without the help of SEE Ahead's workshops. This could so easily have not been the case and I could have taken a job just to have an income.

I am now the proud part owner of The Tea Monkey Cafe Bar in Elland, which is growing week by week. Thank you SEE Ahead!

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