

This prize suits us to a tea, char very much

City tea shop and gardening firm win business prize

■ SUE GYFORD

IF she had looked closely enough she may have been able to foresee her destiny in her tea leaves.

Raising a cuppa to success is tea shop owner Erika Moore who has co-won an Evening News-backed Dragons' Den-style competition, earning her Frederick Street business, Eteaket, free advertising in the paper and specialist mentoring worth thousands of pounds.

Joining her in the celebrations is Colinton-based Gardening Services Edinburgh, whose

owner, Andy Shaw, today said he was "full of joy" at the news of his victory.

The winners had to pitch their firms to a panel of experts in the Business Accelerators competition, a nationwide challenge backed by newspapers across the country, as well as Prime Minister David Cameron, to support up-and-coming companies.

Panel chairwoman Liz McAreevey, former Scottish Businesswoman of the Year, said the judges had been unanimous in their choice of winners.

She said: "Eteaket was a fantastic concept that can grow and could be national, if not global, so it's got huge growth potential."

"Gardening Services had an absolute focus on quality and customer service and he [Andy Shaw] just had a grasp on every element of his business and what he needed to do to make his business grow - but he also recognised his limitations and he wasn't afraid to ask for help."

The Business Accelerators competition attracted more than 3000 entries nationwide. Locally, the winners will have their businesses advertised for free in the Evening News, as well as receiving mentoring from experts at the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce. They



Picture: DAN PHILLIPS

CUP FINALISTS: Erica Moore and, left, Andy Shaw now go through to the national contest

will also go on to the national final for a chance for one-to-one mentoring from real-life "Dragon" Deborah Meaden.

The Edinburgh panel of judges - which also included entrepreneur Sir Tom Farmer, former Prince's Trust director Geraldine Gammell, and Evening News editor Tom Little - also gave a special mention to finalist Lee Fitzpatrick of Market Prepare!, based in Prestonpans, which equips properties for rent or sale.

Ms McAreevey said: "We loved his enthusiasm and entrepreneurship. We feel that he will go on to have a great future."

Mr Shaw, said winning the competition would "transform" his gardening business. "It's going to make such a differ-

ence. Also, it will be great to represent Edinburgh and Scotland in the national competition," he said.

Eteaket director Erica Moore added that she was also delighted to have won, saying: "It's a fantastic chance to get in front of our customers."

"We're a small, family-owned company so we don't have lots of money to spend on advertising but it will be a really big boost to be able to speak to our potential customers in the Evening News, to let people know about our website and the fact we sell our tea wholesale as well. The mentoring is also exactly what we need."

The winners were among six finalists given the chance to pitch to the panel at the Evening

News offices. The other firms who made it through to the last round were Vertex eCommerce, in South Queensferry; AM Lettings, in Dalkeith; and Greetings from Leith, as well as and Market Prepare!.

Sir Tom said each of the businesses had impressed the judges: "The agreement was that every one of them had something special about them and I think the most special thing was the enthusiasm and the can-do attitude."

Prime Minister David Cameron also congratulated the winners. "It's brilliant that so many promising young companies, from such a wide range of sectors, are benefiting from this excellent initiative," he said. sgyford@edinburghnews.com

Recruitment firm sets up in Lithuania

A RECRUITMENT firm based in Edinburgh has set up a new office in the capital city of Lithuania.

IT and financial services recruitment business Bright Purple Resourcing has opened the Vilnius office within a year of opening its first international office in Singapore.

The new office will be headed by Egle Belzute, a former senior project manager from the enterprise company Invest Lithuania.

Nick Price, chief executive of Bright Purple, which is based in Rose Street and nearly doubled its turnover last year to £37 million, said: "There are some great opportunities in this part of northern Europe, where a number of these economies are developing more quickly than in other parts of Europe."

"It's a tough market but we are aiming to find new routes for revenue through international expansion in areas like south-east Asia and now in mainland Europe and Scandinavia."

Knife attack thug jailed

A MAN who left a delivery driver with his insides "hanging out" after a brutal, unprovoked knife attack has been jailed for seven years.

Aaron Gray, 23, admitted a murder bid on Mark Miller, 26, near to Pizza Hut in Raeburn Place, Stockbridge, on April 3.

Surgeons had to carry out an emergency operation on Mr Miller to repair his injured bowel and blood vessels.

At the High Court in Glasgow yesterday, judge Lord Doherty told Gray: "If it had not been for immediate medical intervention Mr Miller's life would have been in danger."



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