

press release



Falkirk Council

21 June 2011

Mary, Queen of Shops... Coming to a High Street Near You

SHOP bosses across the Falkirk Council area are being offered top tips from retail guru Mary Portas.

Masterclasses designed by TV's "Mary, Queen of Shops" are being rolled out across the Falkirk Council area in August and September. There will also be local information, tailored to suit individual retailers

Next week, a series of drop-in events and visits to retailers will take place in district towns to make retailers more aware of the classes – and other support on offer from the Council and its partners.

Shop bosses will also be able to bag a bargain – and sign up for Mary's courses at a heavily discounted rate, thanks to funding from Falkirk Council and Skills Development Scotland.

Councillor Adrian Mahoney, Convener of Economic Strategy and Development said: "Mary is passionate about supporting our high streets and helping independent shops in particular survive the tough retail market during the downturn.

"Her courses provide inspiration – and lots of top tips – to help people deal with tough times.

"I'd encourage local businesses to pop into one of the free information sessions, starting next week, and find out more about the masterclasses. The local courses have been heavily subsidised to make them affordable to most businesses

"Of course, there's no obligation to sign up – and by simply attending the information session you'll get lots of free help and advice. Just drop in and find out more."

- Information sessions are being held at the following venues, followed by masterclasses a few weeks later. Plough Hotel, Stenhousemuir - August 1 to 5 (with a masterclass on August 17);
- 97 Church Walk, Denny – August 8 to 12 (with a masterclass on August 24);
- 47 La Porte Precinct, Grangemouth – August 15 to 19 (with a masterclass on August 31);
- 27 North Street, Bo'ness – August 22 to 26 (with a masterclass on September 7);
- 16 Melville Street, Falkirk – August 29 to September 2 (with a masterclass on September 14).

Mary's masterclasses have been developed in conjunction with the National Skills Academy for Retail, delivered through local partners such as West Lothian College

Councillor Mahoney said: "Mary has worked with some of the top retailers in Britain – and her TV shows prove that she knows how to turn round businesses and make them more successful. Her masterclasses give everyone the chance to tap these great ideas."

He added: “The courses will feature specially-recorded videos from Mary to inspire retailers. There will also be local experts on hand to give support and extra information. If you’re a local retailer who wants to win more business, I’d encourage you to find out more.”

To find out more about the drop-in sessions, or to book a masterclass place, contact Jacquie McArthur on 01324 590973; email: jacquie.mcarthur@falkirk.gov.uk; or visit www.falkirkforbusiness.org

- Falkirk Council (21/07/2011)