



Women in Business learned about a major UK business support network at January's Third Tuesday event (19th Jan 2010 at The Courthouse) which was sponsored by [Paragon](#). Over 40 attendees heard about the development of [Forward Ladies](#) from founder Etta Cohen.

Nine years ago, Forward Ladies started as a couple of ladies meeting every 6 months for lunch. It's now one of the fastest growing business networks in the UK, with over 7000 members and new groups in Manchester and very soon, Liverpool.

We heard about Business Breaks to Monaco and Florence, member discounts and events, success stories, Female Emerging Entrepreneur groups, Member Directories and Mentorship.

I first met Etta in Leeds last year. I'd hoped to get the benefit of her experience to help develop the group here to better meet members' needs. Etta kindly agreed to visit the Isle of Man, to meet our group and talk about how we can work together. The response here was extremely positive. Etta was impressed and inspired by the women she met on the Isle of Man and about how our group had progressed in such a short time (especially with no money and only volunteers!).

The event also attracted interest from some new faces and young women who are just starting out in business.

WiB steering committee members met the following day to discuss how to move things forward with our group. Thanks to Etta, Paragon and to everyone who attended the event.

