

# Small Talk

with Local accountant and business advisor

## Gail McEvoy

proprietor of McEvoy & Associates and MD of The Tax Clinic



The Gaiety Theatre in Dublin – Agatha Christie is coming in October and I want to go and see it.

**Describe your day-to-day role?**

I spend most of my day reviewing accounts and meeting with clients. I am lucky I have such a good team that can do the back-up work that is so important.

**What's the most challenging aspect of your job?**

Today's business environment has presented the biggest challenge I have faced so far...

**What was your first job and what age were you?**

My first job was picking raspberries in Gormanston, aged 12. When I was about 15 or 16 I worked at Mosney where I had to sell fruit and sweets in a cage! Every so often the lads I worked with would run off with the cage when I was in it for the laugh! When I left college I went straight into a practice in Balbriggan, W.O. McGrory & Co.

**Where did you go to college?** DkIT, I studied accountancy there for two years. I loved college and I would generally recruit from there also.

**Best thing about being an accountant?** I set up on my own about 11 years ago so working for myself means I have flexibility! It's a career I'd recommend for any woman as when you have children you need flexibility. The options are endless though as you don't just have to work in a practice, you can work in any aspect of business, such as tax, the civil service, or even work abroad.

**What do you say to people who think accountancy is boring?** No way! The job is so varied because people will come to you with all sorts of problems. No one day is the same because no two businesses are the same.

**Describe your work style?** Very much 'hands on'!

**What's the most valuable lesson you have learnt over the years?** Adapt to change and learn from mistakes.

**Who do most admire in business?** I've a lot of respect for Michael O'Leary; his PR skills are brilliant and his comebacks have to be admired.

**Has the current economic climate changed your spending habits?** Yes, of course it has... I'm trying to spend my way out of recession.

**If you weren't an accountant what would you be?** I always fancied being a dress designer. When I was a teenager I had a huge interest in fashion – and often made my own clothes! The thing that put me off pursuing it as a career was I had no creativity; I could copy a design but never came up with the ideas! I decided then it wasn't for me.

**What was the last thing you googled?**

**What mobile phone do you use and what network are you with?** The iPhone and I'm with Vodafone.

**Is there any technology you refuse to use?** The iron! I do as little of it as possible. In fact, my 13-year-old daughter is better at ironing than me.

**Do you have a mantra in life?** Enjoy each minute.

**If could change anything in the town what would it be?** I'd love to bring some life back to West Street and the town centre in general. I'd love to see nice little coffee bars with outside seating areas, a quaint book shop... There's so much potential to bring some character to the town.

**Any advice for struggling business owners?** Come and talk to us...

**The strangest business proposal you ever received?** Confidentiality prevents me from answering, but there have been a few crazy ideas!

**How would you spend your last tenner?** A glass of wine and bag of chips!

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years?** Labfitness Bootcamp probably!



**Drogheda & District CHAMBER**  
IN BUSINESS FOR BUSINESS

# NEWS

Contact the Chamber on 041 9833544  
enquiries@droghedachamber.com  
or visit [www.droghedachamber.ie](http://www.droghedachamber.ie)

### Business Awards

Have you entered the business competition of the year? Don't forget to get your entry into the Drogheda Business Excellence Awards by the 8th of October for your chance to win one of the categories. With lots of categories to choose from this year the competition is as fierce as ever. Visit our website for more details. This year the Business Awards will take place on November 13th in City North Hotel so mark the date in your diary.

### Drogheda Motor Show

Drogheda & District Chamber are delighted to announce the launch of Drogheda's first all new vehicle motor show sponsored by Permanent TSB Finance. Drogheda Motor Show takes place on November 5th, 6th and 7th in Drogheda Retail Park with the event showcasing the 2011 new car range from all 12 local franchise motor dealerships. It is the first of its kind in Ireland and aims to improve the new car buying experience by using one location to offer greater choice to customers and ease of access to a large range of cars. Over 100 different new vehicle models will be on display over the weekend. The launch party at the DHotel was a huge success with speakers including Drogheda Mayor Paul Bell, Permanent TSB Finance and Drogheda Chamber.

### White Collar Boxing

Boxing anyone? Following on from the successful White Collar Boxing launch in the Black Bull last month the Chamber are selling tickets fast for this much sought-after event. Watch our local 'boxers' take on the challenge of competing against each other on December 3rd in what is sure to be a fantastic night at The Barbican Centre. To purchase standing or seating tickets, please contact the Chamber direct as this is a ticket only event!

