



Edited by ALISON COLEMAN

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By Alison Coleman

# Stay mobile to cash in

IF YOU are looking to own your own business, one with low overheads and the potential to grow, a van-based franchise could fit the bill. Opportunities range from automotive services and property repairs to lawn care and delivery services, with smart, well-equipped vehicles providing the perfect platform for running a successful mobile business.

While most new owners of van-based franchises start out as sole operators, working in a hands-on capacity, there is often scope for expansion into multi-van operations and additional franchise territories. Homeowners take great pride in their gardens, which has helped to boost the lawn maintenance sector of franchising and drawn people

from all walks of life who want a chance to be their own boss to lawn care franchise Lawnkeeper.

Founder Sam Langrish said: "Initially this is a hands-on franchise, with the franchisee carrying out the lawn care and treatments themselves. We provide a two-week residential course which covers all aspects of all-year-round lawn care."

## Rewarding

"If you are personable and willing to learn, this is a very rewarding franchise to run."

Those with an interest in cars might want to take a closer look at car valeting franchise AutoSheen.

Established for more than 25 years, the company has a successful track record in franchising, allowing franchise owners to benefit from

the strength of a recognised national brand. Franchisees receive extensive training, including technical application and sales technique, while business support and development training is available throughout the life of the franchise. Free public relations support is also provided.

AutoSheen franchisees also benefit from exclusive product and service development from Parficia, a market leading manufacturer and supplier of automotive refinishing solutions.

Mac Tools franchisees spend most of their working day out on the road, selling top-quality professional tools directly to car dealerships, automotive repair shops, manufacturing units, engineering companies and other customers direct from their smart,

fully kitted out iconic black vans. When they first join Mac Tools they receive two weeks' training at the company's UK headquarters in Sheffield, followed by an in-depth programme of field training and support with a regional franchise manager within their franchise territory.

There are more than 100 Mac Tools franchise owners in the UK, many of whom had no automotive experience, but with training and support they have gone on to build very successful businesses.

**INFORMATION:**  
● Lawnkeeper: 0845 094 5363 or 07873 328 355 /www.lawnkeeperfranchise.co.uk  
● AutoSheen: 0800 131 3301 /www.autosheenpcc.co.uk  
● Mac Tools: 08450 8000 60 /www.mactools.co.uk



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## Plumbing service has a formula for success

**DRAIN Doctor**, one of the UK's most successful franchise businesses, is in its 20th anniversary year.

A number of its franchisees are also celebrating being part of the company's national franchise network for almost two decades.

The leading emergency plumbing and drainage company is one of only a few franchisors in the UK that offers franchisees a 10-year franchise agreement. This has enabled people such as Kevin and Dawn Preston to build and run their

own businesses under the umbrella of a national brand.

The couple launched their franchise in Lancashire in 1994. They now cover Preston, Blackburn, Warrington, Bolton and Manchester and have netted several national business awards.

Mr Preston said: "Despite the recession it is still possible to build the business sustainably with hard work and dedication to Drain Doctor's proven formula."

**INFORMATION:**  
www.draindoctor.co.uk

## Up to scratch

**T**ALENTED film and TV animator Richard Dexter made a radical life change last

year, leaving behind his successful career to invest in a ChipsAway franchise. As his reputation as an animator had grown, his work constantly took him away from his home and family and had even begun to affect his health.

He said: "I was tired of working on computers and travelling to London or overseas. I'd always wanted to be my own boss so I took the plunge and started to look at the various franchise options."

His passion for cars led him to automotive paintwork repair specialist ChipsAway. While he says his first year in business

has been a steep learning curve, he is quick to acknowledge the support provided by ChipsAway.

Mr Dexter added: "Starting your own business is stressful at first because everything is new but I enjoyed working on the cars from the outset and becoming a ChipsAway franchisee has definitely been the right choice for me."

Investment is £29,995 plus VAT.

**INFORMATION:**  
0800 940 5079  
www.chipsaway.co.uk  
**NEW DIRECTION:**  
Richard Dexter



## How Oscar helps Liz with her pet projects

**WHEN** Liz Moreton was looking for a business opportunity that was flexible and that she could run from her home, surrounded by her family of dogs, it was pet food delivery franchise Oscar that ticked all the boxes.

She said: "I've been breeding Labrador retrievers for a number of years and with a family of five dogs and Lloyd my ex-racehorse, my pets are my life. I now have working hours

that suit me, which means I can spend more time with my dogs, while allowing plenty of time to manage the business administration."

"The other great thing about Oscar is that I am never alone. The support from the team at head office has been fantastic and I'm also part of a super network of franchisees who are all ready to help and share ideas."

"It has confirmed all my thoughts that this is an excellent business."

**INFORMATION:**  
www.oscars.co.uk

www.pensionreviewhelpline.co.uk

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