

this month

WOMAN
SHROPSHIRE

Queen of the Jungle

Entrepreneur Teresa Boughey was inspired to achieve her business goals by her role model mother. She tells **Eluned Watson** how she is hoping to show other young girls that they too can follow their dreams.

When she found out she was going to be a teenage mum,

Teresa Boughey could have left education and written off her future.

But giving up on her ambitions is not how Teresa operates. With the support of her mother - a strong, independent and boundlessly caring woman - Teresa raised her daughter Melanie while carrying on her education and working part-time.

Now, 37-year-old Teresa is a businesswoman running her own company Jungle HR, and an official ambassador for female entrepreneurs. She is also mother to fitness

instructor Melanie, aged 21, and James, aged four, and a loving grandmother to seven-month-old Leigh.

Teresa, who lives in Kemberton, near Shifnal, with husband Mike, has achieved a lot more than your average 30-something and says she has her inspirational mother Shirley Wheeldon to thank for this.

She set up care homes for adults with learning difficulties, became 'surrogate mother' to many and even found time to pen recipe

paperback *The Easy Cook Book for Dads Who Don't Have a Clue!*

On top of all that, she made sure Teresa achieved all that she could as well.

Unfortunately Shirley passed away in September after a long battle with cancer but Teresa will

never forget what an amazing role model she was.

"My parents were very supportive and mum always said I could be anything I wanted to be. She helped and supported me through university and looked after Melanie while I studied and worked," says Teresa.

Teresa says that she inherited her mother's strong, resilient nature and was not going to let anyone or anything stop her from achieving.

"When I found out I was having Melanie I overheard part of a conversation between my great aunt and uncle. It was taken out of context but I distinctly heard them say 'we're so disappointed, we had great visions for her,'" she explains.

"It didn't get me down, and that actually became a strong driving force to succeed."

Teresa studied business at college before going to university. She now holds a Masters Degree in Human Resource Management and is a member of the British Psychological Society.

She has more than 16 years' HR experience at a senior level within a variety of industries and sectors, including retail, travel and tourism and general insurance.

In 2008, after taking a break to have son James, she was ready to set up her own HR and management consultancy business and Jungle HR was born. In less than four years the company has seen turnover increase up to £220,000.

"I was privileged to have started a family again in my 30s and wanted to maintain a work-life balance. I have time for my family and still continue to get that intellectual 'stretch' that I really value," she explains.

"I love the variety that working for myself brings, working with big corporate companies one day and small charitable organisations the next."

Like her mother before her, Teresa has become something of a role model for women, being one of 250 ambassadors

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across Europe promoting female entrepreneurship.

The role involves visiting schools, colleges and universities to lead workshops and tell her inspiring story.

Teresa remains modest about her success, saying it is simply down to hard work and resilience.

"I guess everyone has their own challenges to face, whether they choose to have a family or not. You learn to work through problems. I certainly wouldn't have done anything differently," she insists.

"I'm very lucky to have always had a great team behind me at work and at home."

For more information on Teresa's role as UK Female Entrepreneurship Ambassador visit www.junglehr.com or email teresa@junglehr.com

Vital stats

4 It is an age-old problem; women minding their own business - perhaps having a quiet drink in a bar - and being harassed by lotharios with more bravado than brains.

But now scientists may have come up with a solution to allow women to avoid unwanted attention - make sure you have sexy friends. A team researching how the sexes act socially have found that certain female fish who are not in the mood to mate deliberately hang around with 'more sexually attractive' females in order to deflect attention from randy males.

5 An estimated one in six people are now cohabiting with their partner as the number of married couples in England and Wales continues to decline, according to new figures.

Data from the Office of National Statistics shows husbands and wives now make up less than half of the population, with 51.9% of adults single, divorced or widowed.

The report says: "One of the main reasons for the decrease in the married population and the increase in the single population is the growth of cohabitation by unmarried couples.

"In the early 1960s in Britain fewer than one in a hundred adults under 50 are estimated to have been cohabiting at any one time, compared with one in six in 2010."

6 Parents in the UK are shunning unusual baby names despite the celebrity trend, according to a new survey.

Although celebrities continue to opt for off-beat monikers, a recent poll shows that 79% of people prefer traditional names.

Half would choose a name simply by whether or not they liked the sound of it while 37% call their children after relatives with traditional names.

Quirky celebrity baby names are not so original after all. Genes Reunited analysed over 750 million names for the poll and found that David and Victoria Beckham's children's names have all appeared in the UK censuses before.

■ Teresa hopes to inspire other young women to success.

