Education and Culture Committee

Creative Scotland

Submission from Catherine Graham

I published a book called Peritinkle: The Wrong Special Princess and a range of greetings cards last year with the help of the Scottish Enterprise fund. I did it with my own skills through a scheme called Test Trading, supervised by Business Gateway, Dumfries. The people were lovely and I was given good advice, however, there was no funding except JSA so, obviously, my business failed.

If there had been a small amount of money other than JSA to have allowed me to make a print copy of my book after I published it on Amazon, I think I would have sold more copies. Also my greetings card range could have benefited from a small grant to pay for art supplies and printing costs. I had to pay for all of this through the equivalent of JSA and I sacrificed a lot to do what I could but without extra funding there was never any way my creative project was going to succeed.

The book was called Peritinkle: The Wrong Special Princess and was set in a local wood in Dumfries, and I think it would have boosted tourist interest in this wood and the surrounding villages. I think it was a missed opportunity for our region, and would have been successful with a little bit more funding.