

They're the business

Companies across the region are innovating, developing and building for the future

WORDS: Paul Mackenzie

Mark Shea was forced to adapt his business last year when Covid restrictions forced hospitality to close.

His Mini and Mighty company had been supplying coffee to cafes, restaurants and coffee shops for about six months when the first lockdown began.

Mark, who's originally from Bolton and is now based in Rossendale, said: 'We started with a handful of people and we were building quite well over the first six months, and then coronavirus hit.'

The business had been largely aimed at the wholesale market but now has a loyal and growing following of domestic customers buying coffee, tea and pieces of equipment through an online shop. They also now run a coffee club offering subscribers select coffees from around the world delivered to their door.

'The commercial side of the business has taken a real hit since lockdown but we are very grateful to the people who have supported us,' added Mark, who has worked in the coffee industry for almost a decade. 'We're a young business and we're trying to do the right things and it's been great that people have been behind us in the way they have.'

'The UK coffee scene is based around multi-nationals and that's a shame because there is such a range of coffee available. We want to open people's eyes to the quality and the variety of coffee available to them.'

'Our aim this year is to do more training – we offer commercial customers staff training and a free service if they buy our coffee – and we want to extend that and hold training events where people



can learn how to use different techniques and machines and can sample different coffees.'

miniandmightyespresso.co.uk

AND THE WINNER IS...

Businesses across Lancashire and the Lake District could be crowned champion in a new awards programme.

The Town & County Business Champions 2021 awards have been launched to highlight the achievements of the UK's best micro and small businesses who are keeping community spirit alive in their local area.

The awards are aimed at any businesses with up to 50 employees, including hairdressers, cafes, accountants, solicitors and graphic designers.

Awards director Damian Cummins said: 'This year, more than ever, we have learned to appreciate our local independent

ABOVE: Mark and Joanna Shea with a range of Mini and Mighty coffee products

businesses. From the local corner shop to barbers, pubs and cafes.

'Lots of these small businesses are put off by business awards as they feel they are too small to compete.'

'We wanted to create an awards ceremony that recognised and celebrated the very best of local businesses, from the High Streets to those hidden away in the nooks and crannies of towns and villages.'

The awards will culminate with regional finals in Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Northern England and Southern England.

The regional finals will produce champions at both town and county levels and businesses will only be in competition with other firms from their area.

For more information, or to enter the awards, go online to tcbchamps.co.uk