

*Fleetwood, Lancashire. Memories of days gone by when it was
better known as a great fishing and seafood centre*

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Foreword



The Rt. Hon. John Hutton MP
*Secretary of State for Business,
Enterprise and Regulatory Reform*

The entrepreneurs profiled in *The Bold Venturers* book epitomise the spirit of enterprise that Britain needs to exploit the worldwide opportunities of the 21st century.

As the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform but also as the Member of Parliament for Barrow and Furness, I am delighted that the achievements of the people featured in these pages demonstrate that the North West of England produces many with ambition and talent.

As the Secretary of State for Business and Enterprise in particular I am very much aware that it is Britain's entrepreneurs and innovators who are the people who will make a difference to this nation's future.

Although this book focuses on a relatively small number of people, it pays tribute to the resourcefulness of all successful entrepreneurs who hail from or work in the North West of England. It acknowledges their importance to the region's economic health and also their contribution to the UK overall. Established figures like Sir Terry Leahy and Tom Bloxham are featured alongside people like Professor Mark Ferguson and his trail-blazing research into wound healing, or Sarah Dunning whose family established and still operate in Westmorland, the only independent motorway service station in the UK.

It is an eclectic and unusual group of people selected from the many who operate throughout the region or originate from it. The contribution they make to the success of our country should never be taken for granted.