

Sarah has everything covered

A specialist linen hire company is going from strength to strength. Rebecca Dixon reports

A TYNEDALE business entrepreneur has proved she has what it takes with the launch of a North of England franchise network of her company Simply Bows and Chair Covers.

Sarah Pittendrigh, from Kiln Pit Hill, launched the company in January 2009 and has now expanded to include four other franchisees.

But the entrepreneur has not had an easy ride during her business career.

Sarah worked as a business development manager for Jaguar's Dutton-Forshaw garage in Newcastle, but moved into events management and became director of the failed Premier Events and Leisure at Slaley Hall.

The company provided activities such as paintball and quad biking at Slaley Hall, but it went into liquidation in September 2008.

Now Sarah has bounced back from her brief downfall

and has launched herself with vigour into her new business venture.

Simply Bows and Chair Covers is a specialist linen hire company, which provides chair covers, table linen and accessories for weddings and special events.

Sarah created Simply Bows and Chair Covers after getting repeatedly frustrated with the standards offered by linen suppliers during her time in the leisure industry.

She now has regular commissions from the North-East's top hospitality venues including Close House, Dissington Hall, Doxford Hall, The Baltic and Wynyard Hall to name but a few.

With the business growing at such a pace, Sarah decided that franchising it would be the most suitable way forward, bringing like minded professionals in to supervise small territories.

She said: "With franchisees, we are able to

ensure that the high level of product and customer service that the company has become renowned for can be maintained, rather than spreading ourselves too thinly across the UK, which is when quality can become compromised."

Alongside Sarah, who looks after the Northumberland and County Durham areas, the business now has five offices in the North of England: Jo Harris from Darras Hall covers North Northumberland, Kristy Small from Stocksfield, covers West Northumberland and Cumbria, Charlotte Harris from Newcastle covers Newcastle and North Tyneside and Lucinda Thompson from Lumley covers Sunderland and Teesside.

But Sarah is not content with stopping at that. Now she hopes to expand the business nationwide and is looking for people across the UK to join her.



Ready to brighten up your special events are, from the left, Kristy Small, Sarah Pittendrigh and Jo Harris from Simply Bows and Chair Covers.