Story 6 - 2026

MY JOURNEY TO SELF EMPLOYMENT

Monta Glazere, Nature's Gift

Introduce yourself and your business

My name is **Monta Glazere** and I am the founder of **Nature's Gifts** a small Irish business based in Claremorris, Co. Mayo. I create handmade, eco-friendly products such as soaps, wax melts, candle, and unique gift items.
My business is built around sustainability, quality and creativity using plant-based ingredients and environmentally conscious materials whenever possible. Nature's Gifts has been a personal passion for natural products and has grown into a business that allows me to express my creativity while offering customers something meaningful, mindful and kind to the environment.

Why did you decide to go self-employed?

I chose self-employment because I wanted the freedom to build something meaningful and creative on my own terms. I've always loved making handmade products and starting my own business gave me the chance to turn that passion into a career. It also allows me to work flexibly, balance family and a business that reflects my values and love for nature.
I grew up in Latvia where my mother taught me all about the curative properties of plants and trees. I always found this fascinating that nature provides cures and healing properties for us. My business helps me share some of this knowledge in my products with my customers.

What is your business?

My business is Nature's Gifts where I create handmade, eco-friendly products such as natural soaps, soy and coconut wax melts, natural bath bombs, hand-poured soy candles and unique gift items such as soap bouquets. At Nature's Gifts our aim is to offer high-quality, nature-inspired products that are kind to both people and the planet.

MONTAS TOP THREE TIPS

1. Start small
2. Stay consistent
3. Trust your own vision

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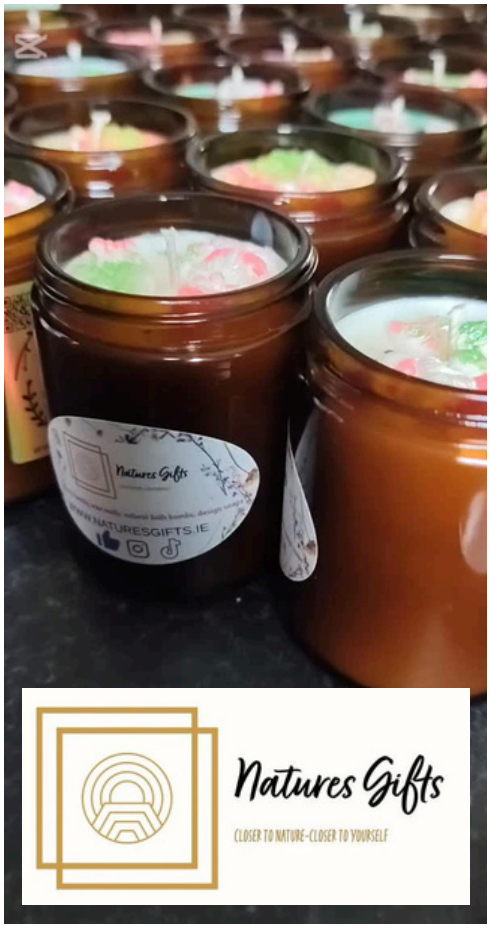
What advice would you give to someone starting a new business?

My advice is to start small, stay consistent, trust your own vision and don't hesitate to ask for support or advice.
Do your research, keep your costs low at the start, focus on quality, listen to your customers. Most importantly, be patient and don't give up - small steps every day can grow into something amazing.



What challenges have you faced?

One of my biggest challenges has been getting the word out about my business. As a small handmade brand, it takes time to build visibility, grow social media, and reaching new customers. I have also faced challenges with balancing production, marketing and daily responsibilities on my own. As each challenge has pushed me to learn new skills, stay adaptable and keep improving my business step by step.

What supports have you received to assist you with your self-employment set up?

South West Mayo Development Company was great support. I completed a Start your own business course. They guided me through process of writing my business plan and gathering all required documents to successfully set up Nature's Gifts as a business.

What has been the highlight of running your business to date?

I was delighted to be shortlisted as a finalist for the 2025 Green Game-Changer Business awards run by the Local Enterprise Office in October 2025. The other finalists in my category were well established businesses, and it was a great boost to be nominated.

GET IN TOUCH...

Call: 085 767 6667 **Website:** www.naturesgifts.ie **Email:** monta.glazere@gmail.com

Facebook: Natures Gifts **Instagram:** @naturesgifts1987 **TIktok:** @naturesgiftsireland

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