**David Selves – initiator who makes things happen ; incisive interviewer ; dynamic chairman ; inspiration speaker**

David Selves’ career spanning over 50 years has been built on hard work, grit, energy, enthusiasm and determination; seizing on every opportunity that has come his way with passion and seeing it through to a successful end. He is an initiator who makes things happen. His experiences cover a vast field making his contributions to scenarios from politics, small business, marketing, media, broadcasting, moderating, finance, leisure and hospitality and entertainment extremely pertinent and valuable.

Born in London in 1949, David was heavily influenced by his great grandfather. Despite being illiterate, the old man was a great verbal wordsmith, and having worked in the London Docks, he instilled in the young boy his staunch work ethic and taught him that putting the effort in brings success.

A serial entrepreneur, he has recently sold his last major project where he co-owned with his wife the award winning Faversham Creek Hotel in Kent, a boutique hotel and home of the two AA Rosette, 4 Star award-winning **Red** Sails Restaurant, which was bought as a lad’s big screen pub in 2014 and transformed into what it is today.

But the hotel was not David’s first foray into hospitality. He was previously the landlord of a local pub, The Phoenix Tavern, also in Faversham. At 60 when most people are retiring he bought the closed pub in 2009 when it had gone out of business, David completely renovated the venue and within 12 months, it had won the British Institute of Innkeepers’ Best Newcomer in the South East award. By 2012, the business was in a good profitable position. Given its continued success, David sold the pub in January 2017, satisfied his work there was done. He is an initiator who makes things happen.

However, his latest professions of publican then hotelier are just the tip of an incredibly varied career iceberg, which all began when he left school at the age of 15.

David was dyslexic in days when it was not recognized. As a youngster he was at the heart of everything; a leader to follow but as the written work assumed greater importance he was considered ‘lazy and stupid’ by his teachers and adults generally. He suffered years of put downs, knowing for certain that he wasn’t lazy and when by the age of 10 he thought many of the adults the stupid ones, he had lost some of his natural energy and spark. However, inspired by the lessons he learnt from his great grandfather, on leaving school David was as optimistic as ever.

A keen cricketer, which he still plays, it was his love and passion of the sport that would eventually get him his first major break in the world of employment. The lad scoring in the score box would always have his kit with him and one day, with the village side one short, he played. His initiative with the bat won the game impressing the club President, the owner of a Lloyds brokerage, who gave him a job.

David was encouraged to go to night school and passed sufficient O Levels to join the Midland Bank. Both at the Lloyds brokers and the Midland Bank his ability to deliver, to make things happen overshadowed his reading and writing problems, which he was working hard to improve. By 20 he was the young under 8 David again, a driving force people wanted to be with. For 10 years, he made dramatic progress enhanced by some of the Midland Bank’s training including in house courses run by the London Business School, where he learnt critical business skills that would see him through the rest of his working life, such as good business practice, management principles and people skills.

At the age of 27, following two years as a Corporate Planner in the Midland Bank, David decided it was time to leave and using the skills he had acquired from his commercial training, he set up his own business in finance. He also became a direct salesman with a life insurance company and within 12 months was in the Top 10 salesmen.

Over the years, the Selves Group has helped or taken over a number of businesses across a varied range of sectors, from home improvement companies to financial services companies, car sales companies and even a dry cleaning company, all of which he has turned around. It has raised millions of pounds of risk money for residential property development and continues to do so.

In 1987, having been a District Councilor, David pursued his interest in politics by standing as a Parliamentary Candidate for the Conservative Party in Bassetlaw**.** A safe Labour seat where he scared himself by getting within 2000 votes of the incumbent! However, following the financial crash in the late 80s early 90s David put his family first and forsook his political ambitions to concentrating on earning money to keep his family.

Alongside his varied business career, David also commits himself to charity work, having raised almost £1m as a charity auctioneer for various charities as well as assisting many charities in many different ways.

He is a Deputy Chairman of the London Press Club and founded and runs the London Grill Club, which has welcomed guests including Sir Vince Cable, Esther Rantzen, Ken Clarke, Ken Livingstone, Chukka Unumma, Toby Young, Nigel Farage and many other famous names who are “grilled” by David. In his spare time he presents Faversham Natters on Radio Faversham where he natters with local dignitaries and celebrities. Despite his continuing busy schedule, David also takes part in lunch and dinner speaking and still offers business advice and raises business, asset and risk money through the Selves Group.

His huge knowledge of current affairs, politics and business matters covering half a century combine with his wit and humour to make him a formidable panel chairman as panelists in the Barbican discovered the week before the Brexit referendum when, as Chairman, he seized on statements from both sides with equal zest.

In short David Selves has a vast experience of life from the streets of London, where he is a Freeman of the City of London, to the corridors of power. His experience of people, business scenarios good and bad, the media, the difficulties SMEs face, finance and of leading from the front make him ideally placed to assist businesses or entertain audiences. His passion for life shines through everything he does and you’ll never see him not smiling as Christine Manser, President of Faversham Inner Wheel, said when learning that he was leaving the Faversham Creek Hotel, “you are one of our sunniest personalities ever!”

**DAVID SELVES – PROFESSOR OF LIFE**

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| * **MC, EVENT, DISCUSSION AND DEBATE CHAIRMAN**
* **INTERVIEWER**
* **BROADCASTER AND PRESENTER**
* **BUSINESS FINANCE RAISER**
* **AFTER LUNCH AND DINNER SPEAKER**
* **HOSPITALTY CONSULTANT**
* **BUSINESS CONSULTANT**
* **MOTIVATOR**
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