US author offers pearls of wisdom

BOOK LAUNCH: A female perspective on financial wisdom

A US-BASED business journalist with Suffolk roots has co-written a book on women and money.

The Seven Pearls of Financial Wisdom by Camilla Webster and Carol Pepper is described as "a woman's guide to enjoying wealth and power".

Camilla, whose family comes from Framlingham, where her parents were married and she was christened, visited Suffolk last week as she prepared for the book's UK launch.

Her grandfather, Alec Kindred Cooper, owned Manor Farm in Framlingham for more than half a century and gave the town the Fens.

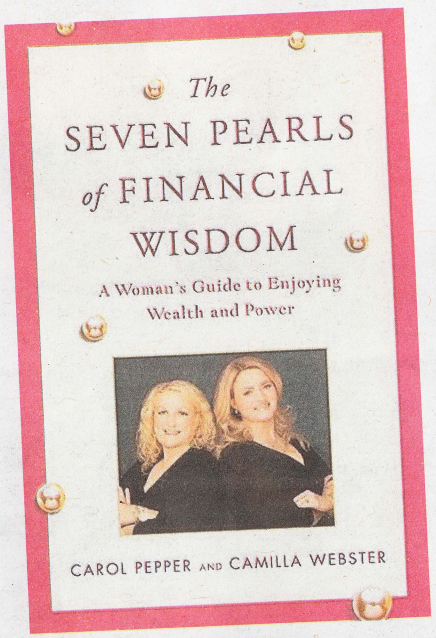
The book, which reached number one spot on US Amazon's Best Seller list in the women and business section, includes advice from well-known public figures.

Among those contributing their thoughts are British novellist Barbara-Taylor Bradford, who speaks about maximising value as a couple in the Romance and Marriage chapter, and Olympian Chemmy Alcott on grooming children for superstardom in the Motherhood chapter.

"In the old days, families were able to assess the character and financial standing of any prospective mate for their child," she explained.

"Nowadays, people move frequently and sometimes even meet on the internet and it is much more difficult to understand a perspective mate's financial habits. In fact according to studies we saw in America 60% of marriages end in divorce over money. Our book provides a step by step guide so that as your relationship deepens your financial trust grows at the same pace."

Camilla, who has appeared frequently on American TV, worked as a broadcast news editor for The Wall Street Journal and was a special projects producer at Fox News, was in England to celebrate a family birthday. The book came out in the States in April and the plan was to launch it here in September, she said.



PEARLS: A UK launch for the book is planned later this year

"The plan is to do it in September when we are past the Jubilee and marry it into how Royal families reflect the wealth and power principles in the book," she said.

"I wrote the book with wealth manager Carol Pepper to prepare women to manage their own money and happily prosper in a changing world with new choices around careers, marriage, motherhood and retirement.

"We tapped the expertise of some of the most successful women in their fields including philanthropist Doris Buffett, legendary author Barbara Taylor Bradford, presidential granddaughter and FEED founder Lauren Bush Lauren and British Olympian Chemmy Alcott. Two key pearls are: A Woman Should Require Good Finance in Her Romance and a Woman Must Nurture Her Prosperity in Motherhood. We provide a wealth information to navigate both."

The book is divided into seven chapters, charting the various "ages" of women, from wealth building through to legacy building.

"You can dive into the book at any chapter you like," she said.

Despite her busy professional life, Camilla has maintained her links with Framlingham and England.

"On both sides of the ocean, I have concentrated on upholding the family legacy to invest in public life and maintain the beauty of our natural surroundings," she said.

Camilla, who completed her degree at St Andrew's University, ran the London Marathon to raise money for St John Ambulance in Framlingham in 2002.

"In New York, I have served as a US board member of the Shakespeare Globe and I'm currently supporting Royal Palaces as they raise awareness of Britain's exquisite locations for US visitors," she said.

She interviewed London Mayor Boris Johnson for Forbes, and served as host and moderator for London & Partners events in New York, raising awareness of investment opportunities in London for US.

In recognition of her recent work producing content for the empowerment and education of women in America, Camilla was invited to participate in the first White House Tweetup Briefing on The American Jobs Act with press secretary Jay Carney.

FRESH PERSPECTIVE: Camilla Webster Photo: CONTRIBUTED