



PRESS RELEASE

“THE FIGHT TO SAVE LOCAL LIBRARIES IS ON!”

October 2020: The Purposeful Project, founded and run by serial entrepreneur Simon Squibb, has today launched a new initiative to create specialist entrepreneurial hubs in local libraries, with Belsize Community Library forming the first of its kind in the UK.

Over 700 libraries have closed over the last decade, with more expected as a result of COVID-19, signalling the potential end of an important free resource and hub for creativity and connection in the local community.

Working with local charity, The Winch, Simon and his team are hoping to breathe life back into these vital centres. From today, Simon will run the Good Luck Club Podcast live from Belsize Community Library, where he interviews high-profile entrepreneurs, such as Made in Chelsea’s Spencer Matthews and founder of Monese Bank, Norris Koppel, who give insights into their business journey and advice to other budding entrepreneurs. Simon will also run drop-in mentor sessions, open to anyone who might be interested in starting their own business.

Later down the line, there is a plan to look at expanding this offering into two further services. ‘Office Hours’, will be a weekly drop-in session hosted by other successful entrepreneurs who will offer advice, take part in Q&As and provide mentoring and support to those building new business plans. ‘Entrepreneur School’ will be an after-school club for children and teenagers to educate them about business and entrepreneurship, a topic that should become a crucial part of national education.

Simon Squibb, founder of The Purposeful Project, commented; “I have particularly fond memories of using our community library as a child. However, I fear the younger generation, especially because of COVID-19, won’t have that experience.”

“When I walked past Belsize Community Library, which I used to take my son to regularly, and saw that it was closed, I felt very sad and knew I

wanted to do something to help. I feel we must retain the only community hub we have left and ensure it continues to be a place you can come and get knowledge without any expectation of payment. By investing capital into the library monthly, I hope we can contribute towards keeping all of the usual activities open for the community as well as work on my mission to help one million people start and grow a business of their own.”

The long-term vision sees this library-based entrepreneurial hub being rolled out across as many other libraries in London as possible, and ultimately across the whole of the UK. This ambitious goal hopes to help children, teenagers and adults of all backgrounds gain the skills, tools and networks they need to become successful entrepreneurs and fall in love with what they do.

After selling his business, Fluid, to PwC in 2016, Simon has made it his mission to help others unlock their entrepreneurial spirit, a project which has been amplified due to the current economic situation. Throughout his life, Simon has founded companies on a shoestring having started his first business at 15. In total, he has started 18 businesses, invested in over 60 startups and has mentored hundreds of founders.

Lucy Telfer, Library Manager commented; “We are delighted announce that we will be joining forces with entrepreneur Simon Squibb and the team at The Purposeful Project. Our focus has always been to support the community here in Belsize Park the best we can and it’s wonderful to be to offer entrepreneurial insights and tools to help the community fight back against the economic effects of the last six months. We believe that by adding new services to our present platform, we will be able to ensure we stay part of the community for decades to come.”

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www.purposefulproject.com is focused on building an Entrepreneurs-helping-Entrepreneurs network and Empowering Your Potential & Purpose in life.