



8<sup>th</sup> May, 2018

## Richmond's first co-working community!

“Work Meet Play” every Friday from 11<sup>th</sup> May

Two like-minded organisations in Richmond, North Yorkshire have joined forces in an inspiring new project to encourage local businesses to work, collaborate and socialise in a unique, “co-working” office community in the centre of Richmond every Friday from 11<sup>th</sup> May.

Although shared workspaces are becoming increasingly popular in city regions, this is a first for Richmond.

But “Work Meet Play” will have a very different philosophy and ethos to the traditional, “rent a desk” large city complexes. Its founders are keen to build a true community of local business people and entrepreneurs who can exchange ideas, learn from each other, have fun, and grow their businesses as a result.

Work Meet Play is the brainchild of Richmond's **thecitysecret academy**, who offer a wide range of technology-based training to UK-wide organisations, and of locally-based entrepreneur Chris Lees of **Serendipity 29** who uses behavioural analysis and data to produce highly efficient and productive workplaces globally.

Both these organisations have achieved national success from their rural North Yorkshire bases and believe passionately that most great business achievements and best ideas happen when people work together and collaborate.

Sophie Hazell, Director of thecitysecret says: **“From our regular informal tech meet-ups and IT-based training courses, we're aware many small business owners feel isolated and would benefit from the company of trusted “colleagues” in a friendly, supportive environment. Our regular Friday “Work Meet Play” will be based right in the centre of Richmond at our spacious, light, offices in Zetland Square, close to cafes, restaurants, parks and the river. You can choose the space you wish to use, along with additional computer equipment. There's free tea and coffee all day and we'll be encouraging people to socialise – in between working too of course.”**

Chris Lees, from Serendipity 29, says: **“I know from experience that the most creative, ground-breaking and successful schemes usually come from the unplanned collision of ideas - a chat by the water-cooler or a quick conversation over a sandwich. Many business owners working on their own can't make themselves available for these opportunities and they're truly missing out! With “Work Meet Play” we want to offer these chances, along with good company, support and a sense of community to small organisations all over the Richmond, Darlington and Northallerton areas on a once per week basis. Who knows what it might bring?”**

Anyone who wishes to come along to Work Meet Play for a day, can do so **free of charge for their first visit**. Opening times are 8.30am to 5.30pm. Normal cost is £20 per day. For more information, or to book, please go to: <http://www.thecitysecret.academy/workmeetplay> or call Sophie Hazell on 01748 824735 or Chris Lees on 07773 770737.

For more on thecitysecret, please visit <http://thecitysecret.academy> and for more on Serendipity 29 visit <http://serendipity29.com/>

-ends-

Media contact: Kate Slater at Kate Slater PR, 07889 203426

## **Editors' notes**

### **thecitysecret Academy**

thecitysecret Academy is a technology-based training company offering courses for business needs. Courses are delivered in a dedicated facility in the centre of the lovely town of Richmond, North Yorkshire and led by excellent, professional and experienced trainers. It's the perfect environment for learning. Bespoke training, regular IT courses, as well as in-depth training on specialist subjects are offered. Monthly tech meet-ups for businesses to exchange ideas is held every month and the company offers computer suite hire and a function suite. <http://thecitysecret.academy>

### **Serendipity29**

Chris Lees is a workplace strategist and entrepreneur who combines behavioural analysis and big data to establish what it takes to provide highly productive and extremely efficient workplaces. His innovative, creative and - where necessary - mathematically robust approach uses next-generation techniques to understand occupancy, availability and behaviour in and around office buildings.

These techniques enable evidence-based business engagement, impact talent acquisition and retention, offer significant cost-reduction opportunities, and lead to faster and safer decision making. <http://serendipity29.com/>