

Business &
IP Centre
Nottinghamshire

BRITISH
LIBRARY

HOBBY — TO —> BUSINESS

Imagine, start and grow your business
with **free support** from your library



OUR STORY

Libraries in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, and the British Library's National Network of Business & IP Centres are transforming the way ideas grow into successful businesses. We're supporting a thriving community of bright and inspiring people in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire by partnering with local libraries all over the UK.

Offering insights and access to free resources, training and events – both online and in-person – we'll help you imagine, start or develop your business. Whether you're just setting out, need advice on protecting your intellectual property, or simply have a brilliant idea you want to discuss, we're here to guide you.

We're bringing business inspiration to more people than ever before.

NURTURE YOUR AMBITIONS AND PLAN FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE.



THE HOBBY TO BUSINESS PROGRAMME

Have you discovered something you love to do, and wondered if it has the potential to grow and support you financially?

But how can we take a hobby and turn it into a business?

Hobby to Business covers a series of start-up workshops designed to help you make sense of the entrepreneurial journey ahead.

You'll work through a series of themed sessions with a cohort of like-minded pre-start and early-stage entrepreneurs that will be with you from start to finish.

Hobby to Business sessions include:

Business planning with the Business Model Canvas

Intellectual property

Accessing resources to research your market

Getting started with marketing

Getting comfortable selling your hobby!



Read on for business stories from our pilot cohort in Mansfield Central Library.

DE ONE KITCHEN

AUTHENTIC NIGERIAN CUISINE

Founder: Eberechukwu Kabakwu

Location: Mansfield, Nottinghamshire

De One Kitchen Limited is a home-based takeaway food business, specialising in authentic Nigerian hot dishes and pastries, prepared and cooked with original fresh ingredients.

Founder, Ebby was looking for advice on how to turn her passion for cooking into a business when she found out about the Hobby to Business programme through her local library.



How has the BIPC Hobby to Business Programme helped your business?

“BIPC Nottinghamshire has helped with advice on starting up my own business and providing us with lots of hands-on information.

“The Hobby to Business programme has educated us with practical ways of running our business. The programme has brought together professionals from a range of different fields to educate and support our businesses.

“Iv’e gained a range of skills and broadened my knowledge in different areas where I was struggling, especially how to access useful marketing resources. I have also learnt different innovative ways of managing my business better.”





What are your future plans for your business?

“To continue to promote Nigerian culture and provide a variety of cuisine for people to enjoy! I aim to grow my business further and eventually, have my own-branded food products.”



“I would definitely recommend the Hobby to Business programme to others. It’s a very practical business programme, delivered in a friendly environment which makes it easy to learn and interact with other start-up business owners.”



CUTE LITTLE BAGS BY WENDY

HANDMADE AND UPCYCLED BAGS

Founder: Wendy Soo-Mawston

Location: Mansfield, Nottinghamshire

Cute Little Bags by Wendy produce handmade bags, bunting and aprons in 100% cotton fabric, and upcycled reversible denim bags lined with recycled clothing.

Founder, Wendy Soo-Mawston applied for the Hobby to Business programme as she wanted help to grow her already established small business and meet like-minded business start-ups and owners.



How has the BIPC Hobby to Business Programme helped your business?

“As a small business owner, you’re not always sure that you’re following the right path and what you’re doing is correct. The programme has helped me realise that what I have done with my business over the years is working and they have given me support and guidance to help my business grow in the future.”

What are your future plans for your business?

“I’m looking forward to growing my business further with an increased online presence and having more stalls at local events, fairs and markets.”





“The Hobby to Business advisor was really informative and provided some great links with different organisations to help start-ups.

“As an established business, it was reassuring to know that that I was on the right path with what I was doing and the BIPC has been providing information to advance and grow my hobby into a successful business for the future.

“It has also been good to meet like-minded creative people who want to start their own business and provide potential opportunities to collaborate on future projects.”



CHINESE MUSIC & CULINARY ARTS LIMITED

SHARING CHINESE CULTURE AND MUSIC

Founder: Suk Man Yu (Sharon)

Location: Nottingham

Chinese Music & Culinary Arts Limited was born out of business owner, Sharon's passion for Chinese culture, introducing people to Chinese cookery, culture and music through talks and coaching sessions.



Founder, Sharon spotted a gap in the market to turn her hobby into a business, when from her frequent visits to her local library, she realised there weren't many resources available on Chinese culture.

How has the BIPC Hobby to Business Programme helped your business?

"Turning my hobby into a business seemed quite daunting but the Hobby to Business programme helped me understand step-by-step, the procedures you need to go through to set up a new business.

"The practical webinars have been really useful, providing information in many important areas, especially accountancy which initially seemed scary to me!

"I have also received information about various grants and funding that are available to start-up business which I am keen to look into further as I develop my business plan."





What are your future plans for your business?

“My next steps are to develop a website to host articles and videos about Chinese music and recipes, to help people better understand Chinese culture and food.

”I am also planning on setting up social media accounts to help me reach out to potential clients online.”

“I would highly recommend this programme to others as starting a new business isn’t an easy process. The professional advice I’ve received from the Hobby to Business programme has been very useful and provided me with a strong foundation to start my business and help it to grow.”



WYVERNS WHIMSIES

HANDCRAFTED MAGICAL STORYTELLING

Founder: Erin Knott

Location: Rainworth, Mansfield

Having always wanted to share her creations with a wider audience, the Hobby to Business programme offered Wyverns Whimsies founder, Erin the perfect opportunity to gain professional guidance on exactly what she needed to be aware of, in order to make her dream a reality.



Wyverns Whimsies seeks to share the magic of imagination in the form of handcrafted needle, felt and mixed media sculptures each with its own unique story to tell.

How has the BIPC Hobby to Business Programme helped your business?

“Completing the programme has shown that Wyverns Whimsies is not quite ready for launch but very much heading in the right direction to enable it to do so within the next year. I now know which areas I need to focus on and refine to give myself the best chance of success and which of the resources BIPC has to offer, that is the most appropriate for what I want to achieve.”





What are your future plans for your business?

"My short-term goals are to formally register as a company and introduce my creations to a wider audience online and in person.

"Longer term, I want to share my skills and look into creating collaborative skills, space and exhibiting opportunities to encourage other artists and crafts folk to set out on their own creative journeys."

"I would absolutely recommend the Hobby to Business programme to others. The range of knowledge, experience and resources available both in person and online is fantastic and it really does make a massive difference having a fresh perspective on your plans, to highlight potential pitfalls and avenues for exploration that you might otherwise miss."



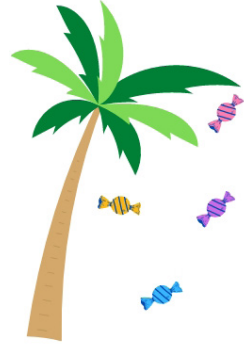
SWEET PARADISE 22

SWEET SUCCESS

Founder: Martin Fallon

Location: Mansfield, Nottinghamshire

Sweet Paradise 22 founder, Martin, was introduced to the Hobby to Business programme through his local job centre as he needed support setting up his confectionary business.



Sweet Paradise 22

The newly founded company has gone from strength to strength with a regular stall trading at Mansfield Market and an online business selling sweet hampers and bouquets, including special dietary options. The business also has a candy cart available for hire at weddings, parties and events.

How has the BIPC Hobby to Business Programme helped your business?

"I needed more help setting up my business and the job centre advised me to go on the programme. The course has been very helpful and I got a lot from it. I found the sessions really useful and it was good to be able to talk to someone about my business ideas and get support and advice on how to grow my business."

What are your future plans for your business?

"Start small and make it bigger! I eventually want to own a shop and also grow the events side of the business by purchasing more things to go alongside the candy cart, which people will be able to hire out for their events."





"I would definitely recommend the course. Everyone makes you feel welcome and the programme helps you turn your idea into a real business."

"The advisors help you every step of the way and it's been great to be part of a group with people in a similar situation, who you can talk to about your idea or business without judgment."



MUTUAL PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Connect with us

We'd love to hear from organisations, businesses and communities who may want to help us deliver and develop our Business & IP Centre programme.

Collaborate and support each other's initiatives

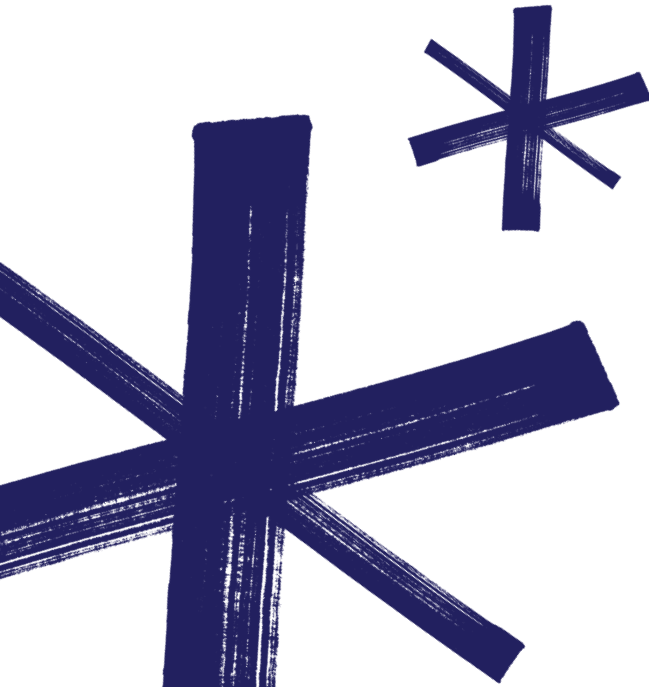
Website link exchange

Social media promotion

Inclusion in newsletters

Consider each other for speaking opportunities (webinars, events, training etc)

Referrals during advice sessions and follow-ups



BUSINESS & IP CENTRE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Whether it's a hobby you want to earn some money from or you're an established business looking for advice on your next steps - **Business & IP Centre (BIPC) Nottinghamshire** can help.

BIPC Nottinghamshire offers **free support and advice** to individuals and small businesses from that first spark of inspiration, to successfully launching and developing a business.

Part of the British Library National Network, we're leading a revolution by inspiring a thriving community of new and existing business owners in your local library.

OUR FREE SERVICES

- Workshops, webinars and seminars
- One-to-one advice
- Access to online databases, business books and digital resources

YOUR LOCAL CENTRES

- Beeston Library
- Mansfield Central Library
- Sutton-in-Ashfield Library
- Bulwell Riverside Library

**FOR EVERY BRIGHT IDEA,
EVERYWHERE**

Contact us

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