

## **'PostOffice' venue launches weekly co-working days in Newcastle**

[PostOffice](#), the venue for weekly, after work events for North East based developers, designers and tech start-ups, is to start hosting daytime co-working events every Friday starting on **3<sup>rd</sup> August**.

Inspired by his visits to co-working spaces like TechHub and Google Campus in London, Newcastle-based entrepreneur and digital marketing expert [Paul Lancaster](#) (aka [@lordlancaster](#)) has spent the past 12 months trying to build a community of similar, like-minded people in the North East by opening the doors of the venue to local developer and user groups every Tuesday evening.

Situated on Pink Lane (directly opposite Newcastle Central Station), the former old post office is owned by local enterprise agency [PNE Group](#) (aka Project North East) who have been supporting small businesses since 1980 and have helped that part of the city become known as a Tech Quarter once dubbed 'Silicon Alley' by offering low-cost workspace and high speed internet since the 90's.

The PostOffice now plays host to weekly, after work events by [PHP North East](#), [Ruby North East](#), [Javascript North East](#) and [Design Interest](#) which are ran by volunteers (including Lancaster) for the sole purpose of promoting collaboration, ideas and skill sharing in the North East.

Lancaster said *'Around 100 people in total now come to the PostOffice events with a great deal of crossover between the different user groups which has led to some interesting collaborations and ideas for new projects including a design-themed conference planned for August'*.

*'Apart from giving people the chance to learn something new in a relaxed, informal setting, the events are as much about spending time with your friends and peers with the conversations that take place afterwards in the nearby Town Wall and Forth pubs being an important aspect of the community feel which is apparent in the North East tech scene right now'*.

Co-working is a concept that has been around for a while now, particularly in the US and London but Lancaster feels that it's only recently that technology has made it truly possible for people to do it and still feel like they are being just as productive, if not more so than being sat in a traditional office.

He said, *'the nature of my work (website management/digital marketing) means that I can literally work from anywhere with a Wi-Fi or 3G signal and in fact do a lot of my work on the move through my smartphone. You see people working in coffee shops but they're not really suitable and there's a limit to how long you can realistically stay there without upsetting the staff and fellow customers.'*

*'Co-working is the modern way to work and brings an added benefit to participants by providing the space for serendipitous conversations and networking opportunities which a traditional office worker or home worker would usually miss out on.'*

The format is simple. Co-workers bring their laptop / tablet, phone and business cards, and we provide the space, inspiring people and free coffee from our neighbours [@PinkLaneCoffee](#). The launch event is free to attend but tickets must be booked at <http://postofficelaunch.eventbrite.com>

If people would like to know more about the co-working days or evening events that are taking place at the PostOffice, they should Follow them on Twitter [@PostOfficeNE1](#) or 'Like' them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/PostOfficeNE1](http://www.facebook.com/PostOfficeNE1)

### **Notes to editors:**

For more information about the PostOffice please email Paul Lancaster at [plandigital@live.co.uk](mailto:plandigital@live.co.uk) or call 07734722716.

### **About Paul Lancaster:**

[Paul Lancaster](#) is Web guy for Shell LiveWIRE UK, 'Technology Ambassador' for the CIM North East of England Regional Board, Host of PostOffice and Founder of Plan Digital UK.

If you've read 'The Tipping Point' by Malcolm Gladwell then you'll know what a 'Connector' is. It's basically someone who joins the dots to bring innovative ideas and people together which is what I try to do each and every day of my life.

Over the past 14yrs I've had the great fortune to work in a variety of IT/web/marketing roles for large corporates, SME's and not-for-profits too (see my LinkedIn 'Experience' below). I currently spend most of my time helping start-ups and young entrepreneurs through Shell LiveWIRE and get a real kick out of seeing innovative new projects come to life.

Other work/projects I do:

- Founder of Plan Digital UK - freelance web, digital marketing and social media consultancy.
- 'Technology Ambassador' for the CIM North East of England Regional Board.
- Board member of the CIM Technology Market Interest Group (TMIG)
- Street Team Member of Seth Godin's The Domino Project - a global list of influential bloggers and digital thinkers helping to change the face of publishing.
- Organiser of the first international 'No Email Day' on 11/11/11. The 2nd is due to take place on 12/12/12..
- Founder/Host of PostOffice - free, after work networking events for North East developers, digital creatives and tech start-ups.
- Guest lecturer on Social Media and Digital Marketing for Newcastle University, the University of Leeds and Leeds Metropolitan University.
- Monthly columnist for 'Upmarket' - the US-based online business and personal development magazine.
- Mentor for Startup Weekend Newcastle and the Springboard London tech accelerator programme.

Visit <http://plandigital.wordpress.com> to find out more.