



Student sets up his own coding school

By John Lawrence

A young computer sciences student has set up his first business while still at university to teach coding to children and adults.

Baptiste Bouvier, 20, realised there was a massive demand for programming skills that may not be being fully met by computer science teaching in schools.

His course aims to teach coding in a way that enables students to create their own apps or practical computer-based projects like robots

Baptiste, of Twyford Avenue, N2, is currently studying computer science himself at MIT in Boston. He tutors small classes alongside a colleague when he's home and carries on remotely when he's back in the US, with his father Julien lending support too.

'Huge demand'

"There's a huge demand for people who can code," said Baptiste. "The trouble is some computer science teaching can be a little outdated and concentrates too much on the hardware side of things.

"We're trying to find ways to teach people that encourages them to make their own projects. Technology is advancing so quickly with things like artificial intelligence that it can seem very complicated but once you have the basics it's all very possible."



Coder: Baptiste Bouvier

Ages six to sixty plus

Called thingstheyneverexplained.com, his coding school runs an introduction to programming for ages six and upwards, including game building. Pupils can then move on to learn the Python language and more advanced areas like virtual reality and machine learning.

Baptiste, who has been operating his business since January, is finding that adults are also keen to catch up with skills like data science and analysis that are useful directly in the workplace.

He says he'll see how the business goes and may decide to expand his mentoring team if it's successful. For now he's just enjoying it as an area that gets people excited for the future.



Ready to ride: The Breeze cycling group about to set off on one of their routes

Find freedom on two wheels

Breeze Champions are local cyclists who organise female-led rides to encourage women to get fit and have fun on their bikes. Penny Lovatt, from East Finchley, is one of four volunteer leaders in the Barnet area. She started cycling about six years ago and says she loves the freedom of being in the saddle.

"I became a Breeze Champion so that I can encourage women to take that first step and gain as much enjoyment and feeling of wellbeing as I do," said Penny.

The HSBC UK Breeze programme was set up in 2011 as a three-way partnership between British Cycling, Sport England and Sky with funding from the National Lottery. To try out a Breeze ride visit letsride.co.uk/breeze and search your postcode.

RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

Wish you'd been there?

Some years are seriously weird and 1969 was weirder than most. I guess that's why the whole summer has been full of nostalgia trips. Forget all this stuff about men walking on lumps of orbiting rock, I'm talking about the real weirdness, I'm talking Woodstock.

They say that it was three days that changed the world and that you had to be there to know. It wasn't. It was the only music festival that got itself declared a national disaster because it ran out of food and Max Yasgur's farm switched from sunshine to swamp when it started raining. It was either the apex of what started two years earlier in Golden Gate Park or a foretaste of Glastonbury, but without Wi-Fi, food or toilets.

But at the time Woodstock mattered. It had most of the big bands: The Who, Jimi Hendrix and loads of the long since forgotten who were big in '69. All that was missing was Bob Dylan. He could have been there, he lived in Woodstock, but maybe he knew something the others didn't. He went back to the 1950s by playing the Isle of Wight instead.

Maybe, at that moment, it looked like the start of a new era. Maybe The Beatles should have been there instead of wandering across a pedestrian crossing in North London. But they weren't. And neither were the Rolling Stones. They saved up their big moment for Altamont, California, at the end of the year, with a free festival that some joker reckoned was going to be Woodstock West. It wasn't. Someone hired the Hell's Angels as security, it all got so violent the Grateful Dead refused to play and a kid called Meredith Hunter got killed. Nothing was going to be the same again.

Fast forward 50 years and festivals just ain't the same anymore. It's a long way from Woodstock to listening to Cliff Richard while sitting in deckchairs in Greenwich, from no food to vegan burger franchises, from free love to taking selfies at Glastonbury. Maybe that's why people of a certain age wished they'd been at Woodstock. Hell, they might even have enjoyed it.

Run through the autumn

By Tricia Dixon

The Muswell Hill and East Finchley This Mum Runs group will be switching to their road route on Wednesday evenings now that the days are shorter. They meet at the junction of Creighton Avenue and Ringwood Avenue, N10, at 7.30pm and start with a gentle warm up followed by a chatty 30-minute circular run.

Hi-vis clothing or lights are useful on dark evenings to make sure runners are visible. The group also runs on Sunday mornings at 8am, meeting at the nature hut by the cafe in Highgate Woods.

This Mum Runs provides free, social runs for mums in London, Bristol, Bath and Cardiff. All levels of running experience, including new runners, are welcome; the emphasis is on run-

ning as a group, supporting each other and enjoyment! Find out more at www.thismumruns.co.uk, join the This Mum Runs London Facebook page or follow thismumruns_muswellhill on Instagram.

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