Joy Foster
TechPixies

Joy’s first experience of entrepreneurship was in 2009 when she was living in Switzerland with her husband, Tim Foster MBE (Keble 2013). She created a blog, Living in Luzern, dedicated to helping ex-pats connect with the local area, which has become a community centre with a bi-annual bi-lingual magazine.

After returning to the UK, Joy started a social enterprise in 2014. Made With Joy, a web development agency, building websites for charities, organisations and individuals who are making a difference in this world. As part of their mission, they helped train and employ teenagers and adults who were at risk of long term unemployment. Made with Joy was sold to one of the team members in 2018.

Recognising that there are 427,000 women looking to return to work following a career break in the UK, in 2015, Joy then started TechPixies offering educational courses for women in Social Media, Digital Marketing and WordPress in order to help build their confidence so that they can return to work, change careers or start a business.

Joy will share her story about making the transition from an American Archery Champion to becoming a multi-award-winning entrepreneur.

Shea O’Hagan (2009)
Pitchbooking

Shea spent 8 years at Keble, first as an undergraduate and then whilst completing his DPhil in Atomic & Laser Physics. Booking sports pitches wasn’t exactly the next logical step.

It was whilst captaining the MCR football team that he fully experienced the frustration of trying to book a football pitch. At the time it took up to 3 weeks to book and pay for a pitch in Oxford, and it can now be done in less than 60 seconds. This is after finding a suitable facility, which can be a pain in itself - he had to actually scan through satellite images on Google Maps to find a suitable training venue!

Pitchbooking is now live in over 50 cities and towns throughout the UK, they’ve recently raised Seed funding, and are looking to bring their service to more people across the UK. The simplicity of booking has encouraged greater participation in sport from individuals of all demographics; facilities on the site has seen a 52% increase in bookings!

Shea wants to help increase sports participation throughout the UK, and he is particularly interested in speaking with local councils and facility owners so he can help connect their facilities to the public.

Matthew Ritchie (2013)
BioCarbon Engineering

Matt is co-founder and CFO at BioCarbon Engineering, on a mission to enable scalable ecosystem restoration.

BioCarbon is the result of an American, Australian, Russian, Czech, Indian and South African walking into a room. Headquartered in Oxford, BioCarbon provides tech-enabled ecosystem restoration services to the mining and carbon offset markets in Australia and South East Asia, and has grown to a team of 17 across its plant science, hardware engineering, data and in-field operations departments.

Matthew will be talking about BioCarbon’s current business, and some of its lessons and experiences in getting there.