

Francesca: Okay. Let's begin. I've started the recording. So, I just have some questions, but we'll just converse. So, what is your exact title? How did you start this Makerspace?

Scott: Started this space in 2017. Not and this exact space. It wasn't finished. My background was in commercial jewellers, working in high end jewellers, whereas the person I started the business with was more kind of a professional development.

What we realized was that the industry was looking for skills development alongside professional development as well. The place I was working in, in the City Centre was kind of dabbling with classes, but not to the extent that we are here and realize that it was a kind of gap in the market.

For that, more and more people asking that, you know, we want skills, even those from colleges.

It's not their fault, but they're ill prepared, they're underprepared, and there's a reason why we exist. We are kind of for the further education, bridging the gap between education and industry.

Francesca: So do you feel that they, you're saying they come out of college not skilled in the level they need?

Scott: They are skilled, but up to a certain degree. So, Don't know what to do. You can spot talent in my life, or at least I can. And you can see it. And you can see the desire as well from these guys wanting to push

themselves and wanting to learn. Some of our more advanced classes we limit to six. It's too intense. I can't teach too many people with such intensity. So they come. They have a broad range of skills. Maybe they don't want to be commercial jewellers. They may want to go and be more of an art jeweller, more making sculpture, more of a one off piece jeweller, and that's fine, that's great. But a lot of them want to be commercial. They want to have a studio. Most dealers tend to have a schedule these days.

Francesca: Yes.

Scott: You can rent the space here as well. And they come out and they've got the limited skills. But what we are is a place where they can come and learn. But it's not just for the professionals either. It's for anyone that likes yourself. Given that the wedding ring session, it can be someone who's not picked up a file or a saw or anything before I can come here and leave after two or 3 hours with a finished piece of jewellery that they would never believe they would meet. So catering for everyone is what we do.

Francesca: So if someone was interested in becoming a jeweller, could they come here instead of college or do you think they need both? In the world today, college seems to be very important.

Scott: College is important.

Francesca: But in a trade like this.

Scott: It's difficult. There's many a path and jewellery. I got the golden egg. I got the apprenticeship. Which of those readers hens teeth? What sort of egg in a poultry analogies?

Francesca: I liked it.

Scott: Thank you so much.

Francesca: Hen's teeth, I'm like, what? I've never heard that expression. I love it.

Scott: It is sensitive. So there are a few different paths. And you can you can get apprenticeship where you get immersed in it. And you just learn on the hoof and you know, you're given tasks. And then you learn and you learn, you absorb and you then maybe three or four other jurors in there who are teaching you all different ways. Or you go to college. Could you come here? Yes. So you could come off the city and come here and go all the way through it so you could go level one block classes, two, three, four, five, stop to go to the other classes and start to come to professional classes. The problem of rising cost, yeah, that would be cost an awful lot of money. But we keep our court where we try to keep our costs low anyway. But for one person to be spending at £200 for a block of eight over and over and over again, and then to do the professional classes, it gets quite expensive. And if money's not an

object. Yeah, I could train somebody from nothing. It's a professional job, but it still takes time. It's not going to be a matter of weeks.

Francesca: So I noticed on the website and you mentioned earlier that jewellers can come and rent the space here. Are you finding like any differences between that kind of demand before and after lockdown, or has it been affected by COVID in any way?

Scott: Very much. So, beforehand we were full. We've got space for four jewellers next door and the individual and then the shared studio through there we've got ten and slowly, one by one, they were dwindling. Saying "I need to leave. I can't afford it now." We froze rent anyway for the guys. We said to them, if we're shutting down and nobody's allowed, then I'm not. We're not taking money from you. Our landlord did. Of course they did.

Francesca: There's no government assistance for it? To cover the landlord?

Scott: Well, no, but we got we got the grants that we could and we were a godsend. But, yeah, we still had to pay them.

Francesca: Okay.

Scott: Because technically, not the whole place doesn't shut down, essential. So yeah, we passed our thoughts on to our residents but even

that the guys can and but what they were seeing was an opportunity to maybe build a bench in our bedroom. Only needed was a small space, and they could at least walk away. Now, you can't get the bank tools that we've got in a room, but a lot of them could just simply keep tinkering away, whether it was for their sanity or whether it was for their business they were making home. I set up a temporary bench at home where we did our like kind of online sessions from as well. I was I was sitting in a utility room with the cat litter box at my feet and cats jumping and the dogs barking at the door. So and cats everywhere. So, you know, you just say, oh, but you could. But yeah, so we opened up again and then of course, where we were doing the lockdown, hokey cokey, you know, and every time we proposed it and it's not fair on you guys. But once we did properly open up again in May, things were dwindling and another couple left as well. And I've seen the opportunities to save about money and just work from home.

Francesca: Right.

Scott: Rather than paying the monthly rate here. But then it tumbled again. So more people were being confident. More people were seeing opportunities to work here. They were seeing that we were opening up. We were doing different things and they were against. It was ten three there. There's four three there. And we've got a waiting list again. So a really dead, you know, and I was worried that I had just suddenly sprung back. It was just a lot of bench space available. And I know that's great because I rattled about in here my yeah, you know, just putting pictures

up and painting the place and making it look pretty. And, you know, I am a solitary beast at times, but I still lovely, you know, to have, you know, even with social distancing, no going away because the guys had to stagger when they come in. You can all come into there, but now you know, they can and still follow protocols and things like that. It's nice to see the police buzzing again, which is lovely. And here and here in the kitchen where we are as a nation, we kind of hub of activity. People come around sending their lunch to the client, making a cup of tea. It's great. Oh, how are you doing? You know, what are you making at the moment? Or I saw that post on Instagram. That was lovely. So every community we've got here makes me proud. Well, proud jewellery dad.

Francesca: Do you think, do you feel that people have had now that experience pre and then their experience at home? So even though in a practical sense they know they can do, they're making on their own. Do you find that there is more appreciation and understanding for a sense of community and creatives and like you said, sharing ideas?

Scott: Definitely, I mean, after what we've all been through in the past couple of years, I mean, whether you coped admirably with it or whether you had a catastrophe and I was most definitely in the latter. I think people realised that beforehand when we complained about people I'm not a people person and I saying I think they then realised that they genuinely were people person and they craved that kind of cohort, that kind of community. And we see that. We try to cover a lot of people, although I hate businesses to say that we are family, but you know.

When we say we're trying to create a family kind of feel as it's a community is like we're all in this together kind of thing. And I think a lot of guys messed up and when they could come back and it was nice to then not just talk on Zoom or Instagram or text or WhatsApp to one another, but actually speak in person. "I was thinking of doing that. Why don't you try it out? You know, have you thought about that? That's a great thing."

That's lovely. And it's great. And the old bounce off one another because when you work on your own, you're just, your opinions bounce back off the ball. Or no matter what that person tends to say because we're fragile creators is you're worthless. The thing you come up with is utterly shite and you shouldn't do it. So then good ideas get shelved, whereas all it takes is for one person to walk through here, see me sketching what beautiful design? And I'm like, Oh, I didn't think it was any good. No, that's great. You should run it out and that's all it takes. And that's what we get here. We've got two directors here, we've got a workshop manager and lead tutor. We've got another nine tutors and ten residents through their four residents over here. No, not everybody comes in together. But, yeah, it's always a kind of hubbub of activity. It's got to the extent now that I was under my own and nobody else was and I messed up. I was something wrong in here? I was just me, me the dogs. And I was like, That's weird, because it took me so long to get used to people again and, you know, trying to remember how to actually speak to people. For someone who has communication issues in the first place

mean you learn how to talk to people again. They nice weather, you know you know that small talk. Everybody hates.

Francesca: Everybody.

Scott: Everybody hates. I know.

Francesca: They say they don't.

Scott: So, I was getting back in with them again. And then just suddenly she and the other day when nobody was there and I realised I messed up and I think a lot of guys do as well. And you see people are walking around happy, you know, there's a buzz, there's jokes, there's laughter. I sat next door and the officer and I was walking away and I heard two of my residents chatting. They didn't know each other beforehand. We've only known each other about a month and they were having a great conversation and it was just about nothing. It was about TV programmes or something like that, but there were laughing and having a good giggle together and I just thought I was brilliant. I really liked that.

Francesca: Do you feel like that's where we're doing that more now because we've all been through this regardless of how you reacted, but we've all been through this really weird experience, isolation, lockdown, whatever. Do you think that you find this camaraderie and community is more flourishing almost because of it?

Scott: I think so. I think it's definitely been a huge issue.

Francesca: Like weirdly positive in the end.

Scott: Oh yeah. Has been bizarrely positive. I for one, personally, I'm thankful we're back and I experienced that lockdown. I didn't cope with it very well at all. I had a massive mental breakdown, massive mental breakdown if I go too much. And that to the extent that what I'm looking, I'm talking to the moment. So I did not cope with it.

Francesca: I didn't cope either. I wonder if it's a creative thing.

Scott: I think it may be fragile, diversity each of like.

Francesca: Or is it just we need to like it's funny when I describe needing to make things with my hands, but actually, is it more than that? Is it Yes. You need to touch what you're making. But is it the I need to feel like I'm in touch with the people who are around.

Scott: People and what I do as well and.

Francesca: Your craft.

Scott: What I do know isn't just solely making jewellery as we say in the social enterprise, giving people opportunities, giving people opportunities to experience something that they may never experience

before. You know, the next superstar going to I think it'd be a nice scheme up the road, you know, and a high rise bloke, never in a million years with a dream that they're going to become a jeweller or goldsmith or anything. So we want to give people opportunities that wouldn't get opportunities, but also generous opportunities, a space in the workshop, the chance to tap into, you know, we buy equipment for people. We don't go around advertising it, we don't show off. It's just where we hear somebody is working or something. Then we step in and say, Would you like to? Because we can provide that for you. And it's just something we do. We help the industry. As I said earlier on this commission, the spectrum range is going to go towards funding more start up jewellers as well. And. I've lost my train of thought halfway through what I was thinking about, which is usually with somebody is ADHD. It's not a really good point to say No, I can't remember why we started that conversation.

Francesca: I was just saying, you think it's turned out weirdly positive, because of Covid?

Scott: It's good and it definitely has for me, because I'm thankful for what I do for me. And that's why I was talking about the craft. My happy place. My happy place is as doing what I do, my job, and I'm basically making jewellery. Well, then that's not escapism. You're going to forced it, especially on your sandstones or rocks. Can't you just you drift away. That's great. The sense of achievement. Look what I did. Yeah. Or whether I. That's what I was going about. Giving people opportunities,

opportunities, opportunities and helping people out. That makes me happy. What shitloads of money All I want to do as long as I have got paid adidas and my feet and my kids can eat, they're happy as well. Then I'm happy and I've got a bottle of wine and I'm happy too. But I think for a lot of these guys through there, that's definitely. At something the same way. What I was saying about how the studio cannot burn and burns back, I thought a lot. I think a lot of us have. And then suddenly sprung again. And I think we needed that. And I think as creatives, we are wired in a certain way. We are fragile. We're a little fops and dandies who overreact and need a partner head in a basket and just be told what a good boy and girl, what we know, and then that it's good.

Francesca: Yeah.

Scott: And I think with that, it's that I think we crave not just recognition or attention, but just that's what I'm looking for. I think we crave like-minded people and I think we thrive in that and that we can have nest, you know, the wasps or bees driving around.

Francesca: like a community like this bounce back so well even better.

Scott: And I think, it has come back stronger. Things have changed at the top. I started the business with I wasn't here anymore, but we've got other people on board. We've got Lorna next door has been so good for us that we've taken her on the books as well, that she's going to be our workshop manager. And I mean, it's not just the mental health or the

well-being of us and the physical presence of people in here that cannot handle it with the bank account as well. Yeah, are we still going to be here to then suddenly rebound and the place fell in up and me feeling a bit better and, and more connections coming on than in classes selling a bit better. I think we have gone, you know, all the way. Then we have a spike.

I think, that bounce back analogy can certainly spawn a lot of things for us. And from our point of view, from a personal point of view, from a business point of view and financial point of view, you know, yes, we've all needed that. And I think that, you know, that kind of that analogy that like the bees and the beehive is, I think, not really works because it's. Well, as we are saying, you know, that when you when you work on your own, you know, you can be your own worst enemy inside your head. Um. But I think I see these guys thriving now, which is lovely. I see Alia, my business partner, and I thrive. And she's happy. She was. She took a huge step to work here. She left, you know, a well-paying job. And she came here to commit to doing what we're doing. And then things come to shit, you know?

Francesca: Yeah.

Scott: And we were having meetings going crazy. What are we going to do? And her husband must have been thinking. Well, she just done, you know what he done? And I see her now. I see Lorna now. And we would like to offer you a job. She's coping at the moment.

Francesca: So I heard on the radio that there's a big problem in the music industry. And so the government is considering tax incentives to get back to music. Is there any have you heard any conversation about that in crafts and making and skills. Hand skills development? Are you left on your own now?

Scott: I think we've kind of we've had our fill.

Francesca: Yes.

Scott: I think the pots there's always going to be pots there. You know, there's you know, the guys are always going to have funding there in Scotland. It depends what they're and whatever money you're going to get from them. And I think often also like a lexicon of who you know.

Francesca: What are you still feeling?

Scott: Terrified.

Francesca: Yeah. The thought is that echoed in the rest of the communities for.

Scott: I don't know, I try not to know because I was always I tend to be my heart and soul and I think not. You know, I was the person who said that the kind of linchpin here and the de facto leader, I think if I remain

positive, I think, you know, because there was there's a few things a lot of things are so bad. And I could see these guys going, we still got our bench base. And I'm like, I really shouldn't be so open with these guys.

Francesca: So it's more an insecurity because we you know how like know it can get.

Scott: Like all the other European countries were there and we were all over there.

Francesca: For what cases?

Scott: And I was talking to my wife, felt updated as well. And I was talking about these shortages and about, you know, not we started off because we were talking to my parents about the kids maybe not getting what they want for Christmas, and they understand that they're old enough. But then we're talking about the food shortage, you know, in front of the Daily Mail, you know, there'll be no pigs and blankets. Guess. And to meet a person that's devastated. But, you know, people are talking about food shortages and we seem to be still living in a dystopian in hell.

That's still, through all the people. And yet in the shop, they're not wearing a mask. And, you know, you do not, we're still religiously washing our hands and there's still stickers everywhere. You see, you walk down the street and you're walking by them. You know, people are

nervous. People who have never had anxieties before have anxiety. And I'm saying to everyone, my friends and I worked for 43 years. Are we going to get another lockdown? Because I can't handle it because I've just got that place on his wheels again.

Francesca: Yeah.

Scott: And I'm not sure I'll be able to cope with another lockdown. Yeah. And shutting this place again because that terrifies the life of me in a moment. Because I need this place.

Francesca: More like you said, more than financial or government. Like they can only replace so much. They can't replace communities.

Scott: They can't replace that community. When the first lockdown, when it was all kind of over lockdown.

Francesca: Yeah. First two weeks. Right. Never done this before.

Scott: That's really good. Let's all get fast. You know, that was there. It was like, well, what do we do now? We did the online and did a Facebook Live every week, and an Instagram live Q&A that helped me be connected to our community. And people still get in touch to say that was a lifesaver for them because it gave us something, particularly as we all started to dwindle. Because it was lockdown and we all went. It was only going to be 12 weeks kind of thing.

Francesca: Yeah.

Scott: And I think we need that connection to one another to exist and to carry on and flourish. And we were talking again at weekend, you know, when it gets to winter, what the hell was going to happen with power shortages? You know, my dad was saying about seven, easily six used to go off. You have to keep candles everywhere. You know, there was divas in the family that couldn't give us a bath because she can help any water. And I thought, well, I'll be in here late and I teach in the class and everything just shuts off. Are we going to start getting shortages?

Francesca: Yeah.

Scott: That scares me. I don't care if I'm going to get pigs in blankets. I'm happy with anything.

Francesca: Yeah. For this space and this.

Scott: That's I need. My cats don't get the Christmas presents they want. Then when I first world country and, you know, that's fine. They'll survive. If I don't get some nice chapatis, I'll survive. But if I don't have this place, then I'm worried about what will happen to me mentally. Now I've got experience so I can pat myself. But if it goes on and on and on. Because the winter lockdown last year was although it was after my breakdown and I recovered. Thank God it's summer because you can

only get windows and get fresh air and see the sunshine and go for your state sanctioned daily walk before you get shot or something.

Francesca: It was quite, it was interesting when we came to do our ring making session, because we were the only ones here. And it was it was kind of it felt eerie, even though it may have been on any other time of year. Probably one of those private courses you host anyways.

Scott: Usually.

Francesca: Exactly. You're not usually taking multiple couples, but it was like the space had an aura. You could tell there was lockdown.

Scott: It was clinical.

Francesca: It was interesting.

Scott: Posters everywhere and that's what it felt, you know, quiet. I mean, I know they were necessary, but it felt like quite that kind of dystopian novel, like, wash your hands, you know, stay away, you know, don't breathe. Don't do that. So, my God, you're slightly warmer. Are you going to die? You know, it was all die and things in the floor and full PPE and don't touch that now. I'll take that from you, you know, with a stick and things. And I said that's why it fell, because that was really the peak then of like everybody must come unwillingly.

Francesca: And then you shut down.

Scott: And then you go back and you steam clean yourself because you were out in public. I don't enjoy that at all. And I tell you, I was glad to come back. And I didn't particularly enjoy teaching then. Because it was just like everybody put that there and everybody take two steps back. No, I want to take that there. No, only I can touch that kind of thing. It was just it was just so dystopian. And I think that's that shook me as well from, from wanting to come back to work to then do not. So if we start then regression with our protocols and procedures that we have to implement to stay open, I'm going to have to prepare myself mentally for that because if it just happens, I don't know. I'm going to have to have a lot of support for that because I'm worried about.

Francesca: So we went back into lockdown in that winter and then there's that one you did your online courses that next basically.

Scott: Never. Wasn't capable.

Francesca: So your online courses, was that this in 21 or is that in 2020.

Scott: And then half year.

Francesca: In the year one. So like basically you're saying that first Easter, not this most recent Easter, which I forget even happening. Do you having some, are you having some time disruption as well.

Scott: Oh I have no idea.

Scott: Some between was I know like 2019 seems like a decade ago. But hold on. That was March. We only moved here in March 2020, a few so long ago, but only feels like that because, you know, the first year was wiped out. I was only in for three months. Was wiped out.

Francesca: Was there a reason you guys picked Glasgow over Edinburgh.

Scott: More of a creative. Kind of your cosmopolitan hub.

Francesca: Do you think it's because it sort of started a while ago and now this is just where you come if you're in.

Scott: To me it was a no brainer to open in Glasgow. It's the biggest say, it's the most people. And it's got that kind of creative ... welcoming. Whereas Edinburgh is two streets in a castle for shortbread and tartan. So yeah, I'm sure there's a place there would be a place

Francesca: There are already schools over there as well.

Scott: I mean I know all of them, you know, we're not in a competition because it's such a niche thing. There's room for all of us, for crying out loud. You know, it's a lot of people making silver rings. I've quite often

say, have you tried to one in Edinburgh, you tried one in Dublin. You know, there's room for us all. There's no direct competition, but for me it just there wasn't even a discussion.

You know, we've got our second set up in Banff in Aberdeenshire, but that chose us. We never chose that. That was because of the Silversmithing heritage and Banff used to have. Was it 21 silversmiths based up there over a period of 200 years?

Silver is revered as was very famous and had its own sexy stamp and there was a huge push to revamp Silversmithing up there. So that was just we got calling. So we went to that. We probably, you know, we wouldn't open anywhere else in Scotland.

Stirling's already got one with an Aberdeenshire West Point. It's always run up like a country when it comes to population.

Francesca: Yes and distance. I noticed on your site you offer individually come in for a custom session a couple of hours individual. Do you find that there's a significant difference in your two sites because one's urban and one's a little more rural?

Scott: Yeah. The blueprint.

Francesca: What do you find?

Scott: Blueprints are same, but the demographics are definitely, you know, Banff is a destination area here. You can commute, you know,

you can jump the bus and you can get an Uber to the city centre or outskirts. We have people travelling to my professional classes. No, not professional classes, but a block classes which are weekly. Yeah, they come from as far as Dundee.

Francesca: Yeah.

Scott: Whereas Banff hasn't got great transport links. The bus finds its way up there. You'll be there forever. The train goes to Aberdeen, then you need to get a bus connection and if you're lucky enough to get a car, then it's four over from here in the Central Belt.

Francesca: Yeah.

Scott: And you can stay there. You can mix it up with a trip up there. What part of North Coast. So you've got that. We've got the three townhouses now that you can you can rent from us if you go on there when they're not part of the Airbnb experiences as well. So come stay over, come to our class, make a silver ring or do some silversmithing or something like that. Whereas Glasgow was just sort of, you know, there's a train station, there is a train station, they are not buses going by constantly. So although we offer classes and social enterprise and here we are for bench space, yeah, the blueprint is the same, but we have to target people on a different way. And Banff is specifically for Silversmithing. That's why it's a centre of excellence for Silversmithing. So the actual. And the plan for that is to have residencies, exhibitions,

master classes from world class silversmiths. Right. And that's why having the accommodation literally know is great, because we can ask these really famous people, would you do an exhibition in would you do a residency here? Would you teach for us? We can put you up and a very sexy, a little tone.

Francesca: In a place with great heritage.

Scott: Place we great heritage, there's a story to be told with Passover. If you are any kind of silversmith, then you know the stories of Passover and where they came from and. She was saved by her and, you know, and who the silversmiths were.

Francesca: So you find that like the space in Glasgow is a little bit better for outreaching and creating a community, whereas Banff like you said is destination is a bit.

Scott: It's hard to create community.

Francesca: Hard to create a community up there.

Scott: Yeah, it's difficult. However, seeing that community can be two things. Community can be local. Community can be your craft with community interest company. We are restricted and what we can do, we have to be seen to be safe in our community, which again can be local or it can be the jewellery industry. And in that respect, the Smedley has a

kind of loyal kind of core that was going to see cult following, like a core following, you know, the people who come back over and over and over again because they love what they're doing. That's community.

Francesca: Yeah.

Scott: The building doesn't have the space for it. It doesn't have the space for that. It's got seven benches and the little shop at the front. That's fine. You know, you can shoot them. That's great. But in that respect and the community is different. But people have been coming since 2018 when we opened up there. And they keep coming back and keep coming back, you know, putting on different content. They just want to make. You just want to do things.

Francesca: Yeah.

Scott: They're as remote, as remote. I mean, it's not through zoom or record or way at the top, but as remote.

Francesca: Pretty remote once you get to.

Scott: And once you go back because I always think once again about, like, oh, we're nearly there. It's not that.

Francesca: Especially the type of roads.

Scott: But as it's good that they've got a set of people up there that do keep going back and forward.

So we've got two pods in the courtyard, we isolation pods that we think we places where you can work in isolation. So if we are still worried about what's happening in the world and. And being safe and working in a safe environment. Then we have the two pods there, but you can't go and turn off from. But also people will be in the study as well. So if you want to feel connected, then you can go forward and go.

Francesca: So do you feel that actually having an urban location and a rural location gives you more protection for uncertainty depending on.

Scott: It gives us the best awards. It gives us the option, people could contact us and said, your four residences will not Glasgow. But have you thought about Banff, It's quite. It's peaceful. It's on the beach. It's beautiful. Do you want some peace to come up with a new collection? With all the use of all our workshop? And you can do that. But as we can't really do that here because we're in the middle of the east end of Glasgow.

Francesca: But you're saying, you know, people really want to make. Are you finding there are people who maybe realised during lockdown that an office job was not for them? Are there, are you getting more makers or are you just feeling the makers that were already creatives are just war in the community.

Scott: Makers are going to make them as well. One of our key demographics or as the probably the professional business woman. Who just needs a break. Uses this craft to de-stress from what can be a busy professional job. We have lots of doctors. We have lots of health professionals who have been through the mill recently. We have lawyers and surgeons who come to us.

Francesca: And they don't get it.

Scott: They're quiet. They're steady hands is. Quiet about what they do. Did you know about my health professional kind of thing?

You know, Susan, who's 45 and loves coming here to either the taste of sessions or to come to the blog classes just to de-stress and switch off. And so as a doctor next door, she sort of choosing and she comes in a Tuesday morning. It's a day off. You know, being a GP, the moment is probably hell on wheels, you know, and then the past couple of years. So she comes here and just what she's off and makes.

Francesca: So do you feel actually that's quite interesting that in fact the maker space in the city help the NHS because we need to help our doctors.

Scott: Absolutely. We offer discounts to NHS Key and Keyworkers. And that's just going to run perpetually from now on. Now strong believer in NHS and what it stands for. So we'll definitely want to help out health workers. But yeah, I think it does. I've got somebody on my

level for class last night and she is a physiotherapist, but she deals with a respiratory physiotherapy and she's I never thought I'd be doing this for the past couple of years. She feels like a shell of her former self.

Francesca: So then do you feel the definition of essential service could almost evolve to include spaces like this? Remain open.

Scott: Yeah. And I think it's vital that people come to do something creative. I think creativity brings content and it's vital that. We allowed people to do that because when you cut off that creativity, it's. It's a vital vein and artery, you know, connected to the beating heart of what makes us human beings. We have to do it. People see that. I'm not kidding.

Francesca: Yes, I get that.

Scott: And vital for wellbeing for remaining connected. And if things get too bad, then we'll certainly go online again and do things just like, I liked the Facebook one was weird for me because I just sat with an iPad in front of me looking at myself making.

Francesca: Yeah.

Scott: The Q&A was good because I saw it like on Instagram. I had a laugh. But that's difficult because it's just you driving it. It's almost like, you know, I got a feel of what it's like to be a TV presenter being told to pad for 10 minutes while the effects do the technical difficulties.

Because you just have to talk. You just have to talk. I was exhausted after that.

My favourite one was doing the weekly project. I would post projects, I would show how I would do it and then get everyone to send in their projects.

I do believe that more thought should be taken into consideration with creative spaces like this.

Francesca: Okay, so pretend instead of thinking what if things go bad? What if you do because some people are on the fence about whether we'll ever be post COVID. But they say we do get into the idea of a post-COVID world. What do you think the future of a space like this should be after COVID?

Scott: I think we're experiencing that, to be honest.

Francesca: Yeah. I think we're almost there.

Scott: I don't think there will be. There will be post COVID, but we'll all be on a scale from I only can use that data after that there'll be a that's going to cover generation, but there will be programmes that you watch and things like that ... like do you remember COVID?

Whatever society does, how we react is some people just want to push it away. Some people won't want it. Forget it. We should always acknowledge it. But I think what we're seeing at the moment through there and here, I thought it people I think that's what we're seeing as

post-COVID, the thriving community, the opportunities, the happen, you know, simple things to happiness, the happiness for me or these guys and the close knit community, the opportunities. But the offers of kindness as well.

Can I do anything for you? Can I help guys? Do you need anything? Because you see me away. I don't know what to do.

Francesca: Yeah.

Scott: You can identify, actually. Maybe I've been lucky. Maybe I'm just surrounded by a bunch of good guys.

Francesca: But your community, you feel stronger.

Scott: We're solid. That's just great. We're all, you know, one for all you know. And the business is going through changes and things like that. Almost kind of attacked and it's been kneecapped. So we've been struggling as well. So to come through it stronger with all these guys on our side as well as great. So I think we've had a glimpse of what we can be if we get this thing behind us properly.

Francesca: So can you show me what you're currently working on?

Scott: Sure, but its not released yet.

Francesca: So good. Let's see. Okay. Well, thank you so much. Is there anything else you want to say?

Scott: No.

Francesca: I think we covered a lot of stuff. I'm sorry. I don't know what time it is.

Scott: But I enjoyed it.

Francesca: Thank you very much.