

## Katharine Barnett

My name is Katharine Barnett, and I wear many "hats" including wife and mother. I am originally from Leeds but now live in Clayton and have a thriving business in Thornton.

Having completed a law degree in 1997 I went on to become a Chartered Tax Adviser with PWC in 2003 and got my law masters in 2004. I was a corporation tax manager for several years but set up an engineering company with my husband in 2002, becoming Finance Director (whilst working full time as a CT manager in Manchester). From starting in our spare room in 2002 we are now located in Thornton and employ around 40 people. I am FD for 2 other companies (property and web design) and am Company Secretary for all 3.

The skills I can offer as an SME owner are wide ranging. Having built 3 businesses in very distinct industries from the ground up I know something about many aspects of business and can turn my hand to most business related activities. I have qualifications in health and safety and a keen interest in psychology.

My company values focus on people as I believe they are the key to achieving amazing things, they are our greatest asset. My knowledge and experience in this area would be an asset to the Brontë Birthplace as people will be integral to our success, whether it's to get them through the door or for help or fundraising. Creating a team that is also a "community" can bolster the spirit of an endeavour and encourage people "retention".

Being involved in creating something that can change things for the better inspires me. I am happy to do hands on, practical work or assist with development etc. I have an excellent work ethic. I have also been involved in many fundraisers over the years. My main charity is Crohn's and Colitis UK but I have also raised funds for several smaller organisations and offered time as well as financial support.

I would love to be part of this wonderful contribution to Thornton.