

## Nigel West

Nigel West was born in Leeds and was educated at Leeds Grammar School and York University. I recently retired from IBM where I worked for 32 years as a Project Executive. Nigel has a distant family relationship to Arthur Bell Nicholls. He is a patron of the Birthplace and is part of the Management Committee.

I became aware of the campaign to save the Brontë Birthplace when reading the Brontë Society newsletter last November. I immediately saw the importance of saving this house for the benefit of the people of Thornton, Bradford and for Brontë lovers everywhere. I became a patron and spent November and December walking the streets of Thornton and Haworth encouraging people to support our cause. I became active on Facebook promoting the Birthplace and spent time at The National Portrait Gallery talking to people as they viewed the pillar portrait.

I have a very distant family relationship to the Brontës. My great Aunt was a cousin of Arthur Bell Nicholls. In 1959 my father inherited Hill House in Banagher, Ireland, the house where Arthur returned after Charlotte's death. The house was sold to the church and is now open to the public as a B&B called Charlotte's Way.

I have recently retired after 32 years working as a Project Executive with IBM. My role involved managed large multi-disciplinary teams of several hundred people. I led all aspects of these complex programmes to deliver significant change on behalf of IBM's clients. I am now using these skills to the benefit of the Brontë Birthplace Management Committee which I joined in March of this year.

My interest in the Brontë Birthplace was sparked by my family connection and being part of The Brontë Society. My real motivation in the Brontë Birthplace is to see how amazing it will be to open the Brontë Birthplace for future generations to visit. The plans to make this an important community space for Thornton and Bradford and to open to coincide with Bradford as UK City of Culture 2025 is a wonderful prospect. What a joy it will be to host school children from across Bradford in such a historic and inspirational location.

I hope you will provide your support for me to continue working to make the Brontë Birthplace a reality for everyone to enjoy.

Regards

Nigel West