



From Zero to Xero!

DonnellyBentley client Louise Lees tells how easy to use Xero Cloud Accounting software is perfect even if you have zero accounting experience.

Manchester-based decorating contractors A. Lees & Sons Ltd. are long-standing clients of DonnellyBentley Chartered Accountants. Garry Lees is at the helm of this family business, which undertakes both commercial and private decorating contracts and employs between six and fifteen subcontractors.

Garry's wife, Louise took over the task of handling the accounts nine months ago and says that their decision to move to cloud accounting has helped them to keep on top of the job. Louise explains:

After taking redundancy last year from my job in social work management I was planning to take a bit of a break, however, I soon found myself helping Garry out with the accounts. Traditionally, the business had used Excel spreadsheets to organise its finances but as the business kept growing and growing it was becoming increasingly difficult to keep up with what needed to be done. Staying on top of the records using Excel was becoming impossible because it wasn't designed to do what we needed. We found ourselves getting behind.

During a meeting with our accountant, he suggested that cloud accounting might be the solution and that we take a look at Xero cloud accounting software with Alison Leech who runs ibentleys, their online accounting side of the business.

Bearing in mind that I had absolutely no experience in bookkeeping or accounts I was concerned that I wouldn't be able manage it. However, it was incredibly easy, the software is so easy to use and it has transformed the way we manage our records.

Initially I had some training sessions from Alison that were really useful as she took me step by step through every process. In the early days, it was great to have Alison on the other end of the phone. I remember one instance where I made a mistake and it was easily resolved by a phone call, particularly as Alison just logged in and could see exactly the same as me in real time. The software is really user-friendly; I particularly like the reporting systems where figures can be broken down into pie charts. It's also very reassuring to know that even if your computer crashes, you won't be affected because your work is saved in the cloud.

We use it for sales, purchases, VAT and more recently, to pay the wages. It is really good value for money and I can honestly say that for a small business like ours and even with no previous accounting experience, I would highly recommend it because it is so easy to use.

Louise Lees, Director

A Lees & Sons Ltd, Rochdale. Tel: 0161 654 7672 Mob: 07970 252 275.