

# Life after Hours with:

# Clare Slack

Thinking Outside the Box

**Client Interview, Spring 2015**

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a fresh approach to a **financially independent lifestyle**



Clare Slack runs the successful packaging firm, Manchester Paper Box. She caught up with Benchmark to talk about running a business, successful financial planning and how the two are often linked.

“Manchester Paper Box is in a very competitive industry and because it is manufacturing based, there is often a need to invest in quite expensive machinery”, says Clare. “We accept all clients, large and small and just try to be helpful, honest, kind and to listen to their needs. We really value helping clients out, whether the client is a small firm or a large multinational.”

The firm is a second generation family business, having originally been established by Clare’s father. Clare and the company have just celebrated their fiftieth year in business, a success she puts down to “having the energy and determination to get over problems and succeed”.

Established in 1964 with just one factory, Manchester Paper Box has now expanded to three factories to cope with its growth.

Clare has been in touch with DBL for over twenty-five years and turned to us initially with a query about her pension fund. Recently, Clare’s financial planning has covered elements of the business and her private finances both in tandem and separately.

“We trust DBL entirely. We are able to go to Paula, our personal financial adviser, with any question whatsoever and even if Paula does not know the answer she will point us in the right direction. Sometimes this means we talk to someone Paula trusts, without Paula having any vested interest in the conversation. That sort of honesty is very important. Having someone that you know you are able to get a steer from like that is invaluable.”

As a business owner, Clare describes her business and personal finances as “inter-related”, but says that, at times, she needs to look at her family’s finances first.

**“ We have invested in the business, which obviously affects your personal finances. We are building something here that is worthwhile and stable for the future, but we also look carefully at what is right just for us, rather than anyone else. ”**

For businesses and business owners who are some way off their fiftieth anniversary, Clare says that having someone you are able to go to with questions is a big plus.

**“ It is important to understand that to run any business you need hard work and you need to be prepared not to take your foot off the pedal for anything. Always save a little in case the worst happens. Find someone who is able to help to guide you through, no matter what your question may be. ”**