

## Drop in and meet our dynamic duo

Claire Ashcroft and Zoe Dawes each staff the reception desk at The MintWorks in exchange for using the desk-space for their own businesses. It is an arrangement that works well for both sides – Claire and Zoe gain access to the great facilities and The MintWorks enjoys the benefits of business people meeting and greeting its business clients.

Zoe inevitably gets out and about a lot in her two careers as the Quirky Traveller blogger and as a coach and trainer but finds returning to The MintWorks every Monday a refreshing start to the week.

She loves the friendly informal atmosphere and the energising interaction with other business people either based at or visiting the building. Zoe often uses the meeting rooms at The MintWorks to host her coaching and training work. It is also a good base for visiting clients in Cumbria and North Lancashire.

She says: “Anyone who operates as a sole trader or runs a micro-business will understand how easy it is to become isolated and inward-looking. The interaction with other business people within The MintWorks is a great refresher and it guarantees getting my week off to a lively start.”

Claire, an Agile Business Coach, can be found at The MintWorks reception desk Tuesday and Wednesday each week. Her business is all about people, so it is incredibly useful to engage with so many different individuals and groups.

She explains: “The discovery phase of my new business involves making connections and listening to the challenges people face. Front of house at The MintWorks couldn’t be a better place for that, to help me shape my products. It is also supporting me to set up a new Business Start-Up Network enabling entrepreneurs to share experiences and learn from each other.

“I’m passionate about the Agile philosophy because to me it is about putting people at the beating heart of business. Businesses can set their direction, check in regularly and adjust their path to deliver greater value as they go. Agile creates a buzz and brings fresh energy to business – and The Mintworks certainly has that energy and buzz in abundance.”

There’s still space on Thursdays and Fridays, so if you’d like to join the team don’t hesitate to get in touch.

[www.investinsouthlakeland.co.uk](http://www.investinsouthlakeland.co.uk) is the shop window for business support in South Lakeland and is run by the District Council’s Economic Development Team. It aims to provide businesses with support and information about how to expand to bigger premises or relocate to South Lakeland, how to gain financial assistance, and recruit or train their workforce. We also aim to provide useful business news. If you have a story you would like us to feature call us on 01539 793 555 or email [team@investinsouthlakeland.co.uk](mailto:team@investinsouthlakeland.co.uk)