

Glenthorne

Guest House and Conference Centre



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Dear Friends,

I am sitting in the garden room typing this. I can hear a great tit calling (*teacher teacher*) and the fluid notes of the song thrush singing in the garden. The snowdrops have been out since we opened at the beginning of February and the daffodils will be coming soon. Of course we are hearing the woodpeckers during the day and the Tawny owls at night, along with some oyster catchers from time to time!



We have some sad news and some happy news. The sad news is that we lost our gardener Alex towards the end of last year. He had been with us for 30 years and was in the gardens here just a day before he died aged 85. We miss him. The good news is that we now have 2 red squirrels regularly in the garden. The first one appeared the day after Alex's funeral (It's the one with the light tip to its tail below) and so we have called him/her Alex. We also welcomed our new gardener Tim, who lives nearby.



Everything is starting to come alive after the winter and the *mowdies* (moles in Cumbrian) are throwing up lots of new earth hills in the fields. That restless urge to get walking and let the views from the hills take you out of your self is getting stronger again; a chance to see the constantly changing natural beauty that somehow imparts its energy to us, whatever the weather. Yesterday I was able to go over to Glenridding and walk up Glenridding Dodd and into the snow on Sheffield Pike with stunning views along the length of Ullswater and across the Far Eastern Fells.

We have an even bigger programme of Special Interest holidays to offer: You can join Barabra Windle as she takes a

fresh look at Wordsworth and the deep places or come with Margaret and I to deepen our connections with the natural world. You might be attracted to an exploration of Mysticism and the Quakers with Jan Arrien and Maggie Taylor Saunders or finding out more about Quakers with the Quaker Quest team. Perhaps you always wanted to learn to paint and draw: Keith Ward will help you (an illustrator with Warner Bros).

Have a look on our website (www.glenthorne.org) to see the 30 courses we are offering this year . Towards the end of the year you might like to play with Alec Davison and Tony Biggin of Quaker musical fame or approach the cloud of unknowing with Jennifer Kavangh. And if you have any Scottish connections then don't miss spending time with author Alastair MacIntosh in deepening a sense of meaning and direction in life.

Of course you can just come and enjoy being looked after here by us for a good rest and time out in beautiful and romantic surroundings. Paul our chef continues to make sure you eat great food. Laura will give you a warm welcome while Shirley our housekeeper keeps everything spotlessly clean for you!

I am around if you want to chat about Quaker things, walking and wildlife or life in general and I will happily put aside an hour to listen to deeper things if you would like.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Best Wishes from all of us.

Terry Winterton
Friend in Residence
Glenthorne