

Glenthorne

Guest House and Conference Centre



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Hello Everyone!

I am sitting in the Sybil Taylor room looking out through the corner window over the fields towards Allan Bank, the second of the houses that William Wordsworth lived in during his 50 years in the Lake district. The sky is light blue with high wispy white clouds and the sun is hot through the glass. It is the vernal equinox (March 20th 2018), the first day of spring and it feels like it!



As I walked over here this morning I could hear two green woodpeckers tapping out their presence in the woods, (the one across the lane was making a sound like the noise that you could make with a wooden school ruler if you held it tightly at one end on

a desk and twanged the other end, the other one was working in the woods up at Allan Bank and making a much lower deeper and more resonate sound that I could feel echoing in my chest). The snow drops have been out for some time and the birds also know it is spring: last night two tawny owls were talking to each other across the field outside the annex. One of our guests (Andrew Parry) captured this picture of an alert looking robin last week and Tim our gardener is already at work in the garden in his shorts!

We have been busy over the winter: the south facing walls of the annex have been completely renovated and there are new carpets and some new curtains in many of the rooms, much to Shirley, our housekeepers delight. (She has been here at Glenthorne on and off for more than 30 years). Many of you will know that Laura has taken over from Karen as the manager. Laura has been here for 16 years and met and married Paul our chef, who has been here since 2001. Their 9 year old daughter goes to the school here in Grasmere. So you can expect things to be business as usual!

You will recognise most of our staff from last year: Poppy has been promoted to senior receptionist and we welcome back Abbie our assistant chef, Monica (from Hungary) Jivco and Beatrice (Romania) and Stephanie. Dove has also joined us as a general assistant from Lithuania.

We are busy with guests but still have spaces left on some of our spring special Interest holidays:

Renewing ourselves in Sound and Silence. Friday 6th - Sunday 8th April

Finding out about Quakers. A weekend for newcomers. Friday 13th - Sunday 15th April

Boat, Boot and Goat. Monday 16th - Friday 20th April

Walking holiday. - Monday 30th April - Friday 4th May

Why not treat yourself!

You can browse through all the holidays/courses on our new website (www.glenthorne.org), there will be something that catches your attention!

You might also check out the report on the Welcome Project which continues successfully to give respite breaks to Asylum seekers and is in its 10th year. More than 500 men women and children from over 40 different countries have benefited. Here are some typical comments after a stay here:

The most beautiful thing is that you give love to us and it was love for free.

The kindness of the people here have made me cry with happiness.

If you are looking for a quiet start to the day then there is a daily Meeting for Worship at 9.15am for 15 minutes and I am also around to chat about the meaning of life, anything Quaker, or other light hearted things during the day!!!

Perhaps you might just want to come for a few days to be looked after and absorb the beauty and peace of this place. It is a place where you can come as a couple, with a group or on your own and make new friends.

The mountains and lakes offer space and a natural beauty that allow you to find yourself and, perhaps like Wordsworth, discover that we all have intimations of immortality ...

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Best wishes from all of us.

Terry Winterton
Friend in Residence
Glenthorne