

Glenthorne 2022 December Newsletter



Hello from Glenthorne!

I took this photo two days ago (Tuesday 29 November) on the way up to Silver How, (that's the peak you can see above Allan Bank, one of Wordsworth's residences, from our Garden room). There was a temperature inversion: Grasmere and the lakes were shrouded in mist but above a couple of hundred feet the skies were clear, the air was still and the sun warm on the skin . You can see the exceptional views of Helm Crag (the Lion and the Lamb) on the left and then tracking right is Seat Sandal and a part of Fairfield. In between is the gap of Grisedale Hause, which is on the way through to Glenridding on the Wainwright coast to coast walk. The photo on the next page shows the view to the south that awaited on the top of Silver How.

At the end of the year trustees meeting we reported a very busy year with a 72% occupancy rate and it was especially busy for us because we were understaffed during the second half of the year: one poor Sandra (one of our general assistants fell awkwardly and broke her leg in two places. She has been off work and unable to walk for months but we hope recovers soon and look forward to welcoming her back in February.

Both our receptionists have also left us now: Poppy has gone to Kendal to take an opportunity in interior design (we have also heard that she is now expecting a baby!) and Emily has just left with her partner Nicole to be closer to family in Carlisle.

We still have a strong core of staff with Laura, our manager, our two chefs, Paul and Gary, Shirley our house keeper and a new receptionist, Lauren, who lives in the village.

There is a great range of 33 courses and holidays coming next year with topics on arts and creativity, equality and diversity, music, literature and poetry, Quakerism, spirituality, yoga and meditation. As we look forwards, we hope to offer more in the light of the climate crisis and the current pressures on our environment, resources and the foreseeable individual and social pressures to come as a result.



Here is an extract from one of our participants on Rupert Read's weekend this year on spiritual adaptation: *Rupert's weekend about responding spiritually to the climate crisis was transformational. It woke me up from the dreamland I had been in, as Rupert opened our eyes to the extent of the challenge facing our world, skillfully leading us to a deepening of understanding whilst weaving a thread of hope throughout. Despite facing up to the enormity of our reality, I came away inspired to act and holding hope that there are ways forward. I am deeply indebted to Rupert for opening the door to a more genuine and spiritually grounded response to what we all face. I would highly recommend this weekend to anyone wanting to discern how to respond spiritually to the climate crisis.'* (Bronwen). We still have spaces on his weekend early next year on 17-19 February.

At the trustees meeting we felt that it is the time to revisit the vision for Glenthorne and the role of and Friend in Residence:

The current vision of the trustees dates from about 11 years ago. This is an extract from the closing report to the Rowntree Foundation in 2014 at the end of their 3 year grant to Glenthorne.

The employment of a permanent Friend in Residence was seen as providing an essential foundation for our Quaker work. The role was to give both focus and continuity for the planned growth in charitable activities and to the Quaker presence and spiritual life at Glenthorne. Our vision was to make Glenthorne more widely known and utilised as a residential Quaker spiritual centre in the North of England, both by the wider Quaker community and other churches and charitable organisations.

We have largely achieved this vision: we have a good reputation as a very calm, peaceful and restful place to stay offering comfortable accommodation, excellent meals and caring support and service for individual guests and groups in a beautiful place. Religious, spiritual and charitable groups of different denominations and none, come here now - we offer a wide programme of Special Interest Holidays and courses, and a significantly greater spiritual emphasis has been developed. Our guests often remark that they regard Glenthorne as a truly special, indeed unique place, and that they discover a sense of peace as soon as they come into the carpark!

In addition, hospitality to groups of asylum seekers/refugees (on the Welcome Project) from all over the world has been an important and fulfilling part of our work. For many of these asylum seekers their weekend in Glenthorne has been their first experience of a stress free, beautiful and welcoming environment in this country.

We have endeavored to develop *an inclusive vision of the religious life*. The Quaker response to the world council of churches 2013 states "our Meetings frequently include those of other faith traditions or none, who are drawn to Spirit-led practice." This is certainly true of the Zoom Meetings for Worship each weekday morning set up in the first weeks of Lockdown, March 2020. These maintain a strong Glenthorne connection and are well attended every day (contact me on the email below if you want more information).

The trustees will be meeting again in late January to revisit our vision. If you have a view on what you feel it is important for Glenthorne to be and offer in the future, then please email me (terryglenthorne@gmail.com) or write to the address below, and let us know what you think (just individuals please and no more than 400 words!).

Glenthorne is now closed (as usual) until early February 2023 and everywhere is getting its annual deep clean. New double-glazed windows are being installed in some areas and other maintenance/improvement work that can only be carried out when we are closed is in progress. However, our core staff are here during the week and there is always someone available to take your calls and bookings and there are still Herdwick sheep in the fields, Tawny owls hooting at night and our red squirrels are running around the garden burying and eating hazel nuts, preparing for the winter!

You can see more details of our courses and special offers on our website (see website address below). There is plenty that might interest you and much to look forward to. See you next year!

Terry Winterton.

Friend in Residence

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