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GLEN DYE CABINS ^{A_ND} COTTAGES

HELLO AND VERY BEST WISHES
FROM GLEN DYE.



Richard Gaston, 2019



EDITOR'S

LETTER

This is our second ever magazine. The last one came out at the end of the first lockdown. Or was it the second? Or maybe the third? I can't remember, and anyway, it doesn't really matter because either way, it was a long time ago.

Glen Dye Cabins and Cottages is a relatively new venture. It launched in 2018 with one house and a river cabin and now encompasses ten rental properties. It includes a super-luxurious bed and breakfast, a tiny campsite, a pub, an events space and various beautiful holiday houses.

In the last few years, we've also run micro festivals and feasts, corporate retreats and art residencies, and classes in all types of crafts. And we've launched the Glen Dye School of Wild Wellness and Bushcraft.

We've been voted amongst the best in Britain by The Times, The Guardian, The Telegraph and Stylist magazine, and we've won an award from the BBC and been featured on Channel 4.

It's been a whirlwind and sometimes it's seemed as if we've been launching something new every day. But now, as we enjoy a long period of full occupancy (thank you), we've found a little time to put this together.

Charlie Gladstone, Co-Founder.

Glen Dye Estate is a Highland paradise.

But what really sets any great estate apart from the rest are the people: people who really care, whose lives are invested in the place.



[1]

Meet our team. They care!

Rachel Sedgwick.

Estate Manager. Mother of three, soon to be grandmother of two, and unofficial aunt to everyone on Glen Dye.

Audrey Dykes.

Head of Guest Experience. Audrey has lived on Glen Dye for over forty years. When it comes to Glen Dye, if Audrey doesn't know about it, it didn't happen or doesn't exist.

Pip Delamere-Wright.

Glen Dye's Wild Wellness Instructor. Britain's first female army commando, star of the TV show Alone and now part of Team Glen Dye.

Stu Wright.

Stu runs our bushcraft and adventure programme. He's the very definition of an outdoorsman, with deep passion for everything he delves into.

Caroline Gladstone.

Co-Founder and director, designer, linguist and assistant gardener/chef/head of chickens.

Charlie Gladstone.

Co-Founder, creative director, designer, author. Prone to bossiness.

Rhys Jones.

Head of Design. Based in Hawarden, North Wales (HQ to our sister businesses). Rhys very rarely stops working.

Tom Cronk.

Marketing. Mr Reliability. As Tom enters the end of his first decade on our team, we can reliably challenge him to find any photograph or paragraph or social media post we've made (and we've made tens of thousands) within seconds.

Samantha Jackson.

Marketing. Based in Hawarden. Spreading the good news about Glen Dye since mid 2023.

Lowri Jones.

Marketing. Based in Hawarden. Enthusiast, culture vulture and spreader of joy and good vibes.

Neil Strachan.

Joiner, carpenter, master craftsman, builder. Neil can make anything out of anything. If it's been built on Glen Dye, then Neil has had a hand in it. A proud resident for well over thirty years, Neil was the first to join Charlie and Caroline as they embarked on the renovation/revitalization of Glen Dye in the late 1980s.

Dave Cowie.

Sheep Farmer. Dave is a big part of Glen Dye, always on hand to support everyone. You'll know he's in the office if you spot his abandoned wellies and waterproofs in the middle of the General Store.

Mark Mackenzie.

Head of maintenance. Builder, handyman, enthusiast, true countryman.



[2]

Siobhan Martin.

Financial Director, de facto COO. Siobhan juggles Glen Dye with our sister businesses in Hawarden. More patient than anyone else and possibly cleverer, too.

Angela Morrison.

Scotland's most glamorous bookkeeper and accountant (well, part-qualified accountant, but that doesn't sound as good). Keen outdoors person.

Rory Stewart.

Gardener, handyman, dry-stone waller (in fact known as dry-stone dyker in Scotland). Keen snowboarder, walker, climber.

Vicky Johnstone.

Head of housekeeping. Without Vicky, nothing at Glen Dye would function. A whirlwind of energy, passion and knowledge.

Bill and Mary Glendinning.

We group Bill and Mary together because they are always to be found that way. They clean, they fix, they enthuse and they've been here since the early 1980s.

[Fig 1.] The inimitable Rachel Sedgwick

[Fig 2.] Neil, always on the move

[Fig 3.] Charlie and Caroline (And Flash)

[Fig 4.] Pip, a Wild Wellness super-hero



[3]

[4]





Please introduce yourself.

Who you are? What do you do?

I'm Alec, and I'm a designer. I'd like to be more specific, but to be honest I dabble in quite a lot of different types of design. I'm a trained graphic designer, but I've worked in motion graphics and photography, and even designed and built a couple of small dwellings. I draw on a lot of these skills daily – but for the last 13 years, my primary focus has been on soft-goods, designing luggage for my bag brand, Trakke.

Tell us about your business/venture.

At Trakke, we make waxed canvas bags and accessories for travel and adventure. Everything is made in our small workshop in Glasgow, from the best materials we can find from all over the UK.

Our aesthetic is rooted in vintage mountaineering equipment, but we make bags for modern life. Bags that you can carry anywhere, from a meeting room to a mountain top. It's a love affair with making. We build everything to last a lifetime, and that's not easy, but we believe that if it's worth making, it's worth making properly.

You're someone who creates things. What's your greatest creation so far?

Back in 2014, a friend and I designed and built a modern interpretation of a traditional Yurt. It was designed to be much more lightweight and packable than a traditional design, and the whole structure was precision-cut, using a CNC router. It was an amazing design challenge, and the end result was beyond our wildest expectations. I posted a few photos online, and before I knew it, we were on the front page of Wired, Vogue Living, Cabin Porn and a whole host of great websites. Something about that design really caught people's imagination, and it was an interesting tangent that combined my work here at Trakke with my passion for micro-architecture.

What's your greatest strength? And weakness?

I think I'm a 'Jack of all trades, master of none'. It's really helpful to have a broad range of skills to draw from, especially running a small brand, but I still have to call in the experts when I hit the limit of my talent!

What distinct skills do you think you have to possess to be a successful entrepreneur?

Passion. You can outsource pretty much everything else, but if you're not passionate about what you do, it shows.

Passion is infectious. It fires people up. It engages people. It unites people. Most important of all, passion keeps things interesting. It gets you out of bed in the morning. It makes a hard day at work easier. It's the glue that holds any business together.

What matters more, hard work or talent?

Hard work. There aren't many people in the world who have that raw, natural talent. Most of us have to put in the work to get where we want to go. There are no shortcuts to making something worth making.

Has luck featured in your success so far?

Without question. When I started Trakke, I was clueless. I was a creative person with no idea how to run a business. I think we had a healthy serving of luck to see us through the first five years! You can't rely on it though. As I said before, you can't beat hard work to get the job done.

Do you have a mentor or a partner who helps you regularly? Tell us more.

In 1974, Stewart Brand published a book called The Whole Earth Catalog. On the last page was a quote; "Stay Hungry, Stay Foolish". That quote has always stuck with me. It's a reminder that we don't know everything. We have to keep learning and keep trying new things. I think this quote has guided me throughout my career. I wouldn't say I have one specific mentor, but I learned early on to be a sponge. I ask a lot of questions. I listen to people who have valuable insights to share, and I do a lot of research to find interesting solutions. There's always more to learn.

What's your greatest passion?

I love camping. It's so restorative. Not just being in the great outdoors, but everything that goes with it. Lugging your tent up a hill. Building a home-from-home. The refreshing lack of phone signal. Sitting around a campfire with friends. Making s'mores. Tucking into a sleeping bag. The sound of rain in the night. Unzipping the door at first light. Eating with a spork. Leaving no trace. It's simple. It connects you to nature, and it reminds you to slow down.

What's your website, Instagram, latest book etc?

Find out more about Trakke at trakke.co.uk.

Or follow them on Instagram @trakkebags.

Trakke Bags

A Very Scottish Company.

And Friend of Glen Dye.



A conversation with founder Alec Farmer.



Spencer Swaffer is a legend in the antiques business, being one of Britain's longest-established and highly respected dealers. Spencer is widely known for his taste and good manners and has supplied many pieces for Glen Dye. We caught up with him in his shop.

Please tell us a bit about yourself.

I am a 72 year old shopkeeper and the owner, buyer and curator of Spencer Swaffer Antiques which has been a fixture on Arundel High Street, West Sussex for exactly 50 years. I began dealing when I was 12 years old.

What was the first job you had?

My first job was a local Government reporter on the Brighton Evening Argus newspaper when I was 18. I was the only reporter with a company Ford Escort with a roof rack, which was always piled high with furniture. The day job quickly gave way to shopkeeping.

What does your typical day look like?

There are no typical days, but they all start before 5am when I'll prepare job lists for my staff, deal with overnight enquiries and post on Instagram until the doors open at 9am. The same start time prevails if it is a day out on the road viewing auctions and calling on fellow dealers all over England. I never unwind as this really is a 24 hour job.

Which of your possessions do you treasure the most and why?

It's a funny folk art black and white spotty dog that I found in a flea market in Paris at 1 in the morning 40 years ago. He has been photographed many times over the years and has a long list of admirers. His humour and simplicity appeal to me.

How good are you at work/life balance?

Utterly and entirely useless at it as I think I have already mentioned!

Tell us about something that you've recently discovered and which you'd recommend.

Worthing!

I have always loathed it, considering it a ghastly backwater. But it has become regenerated as so many English seaside towns have been and is the new English Riviera. It has marvellous beach restaurants, vibrant bars, music, tamarisk trees and real fishermen. It's great!

What's your favourite piece of art or design?

Proper English vernacular furniture. Unwaxed, real burr elm, oak and sycamore furniture and objects.

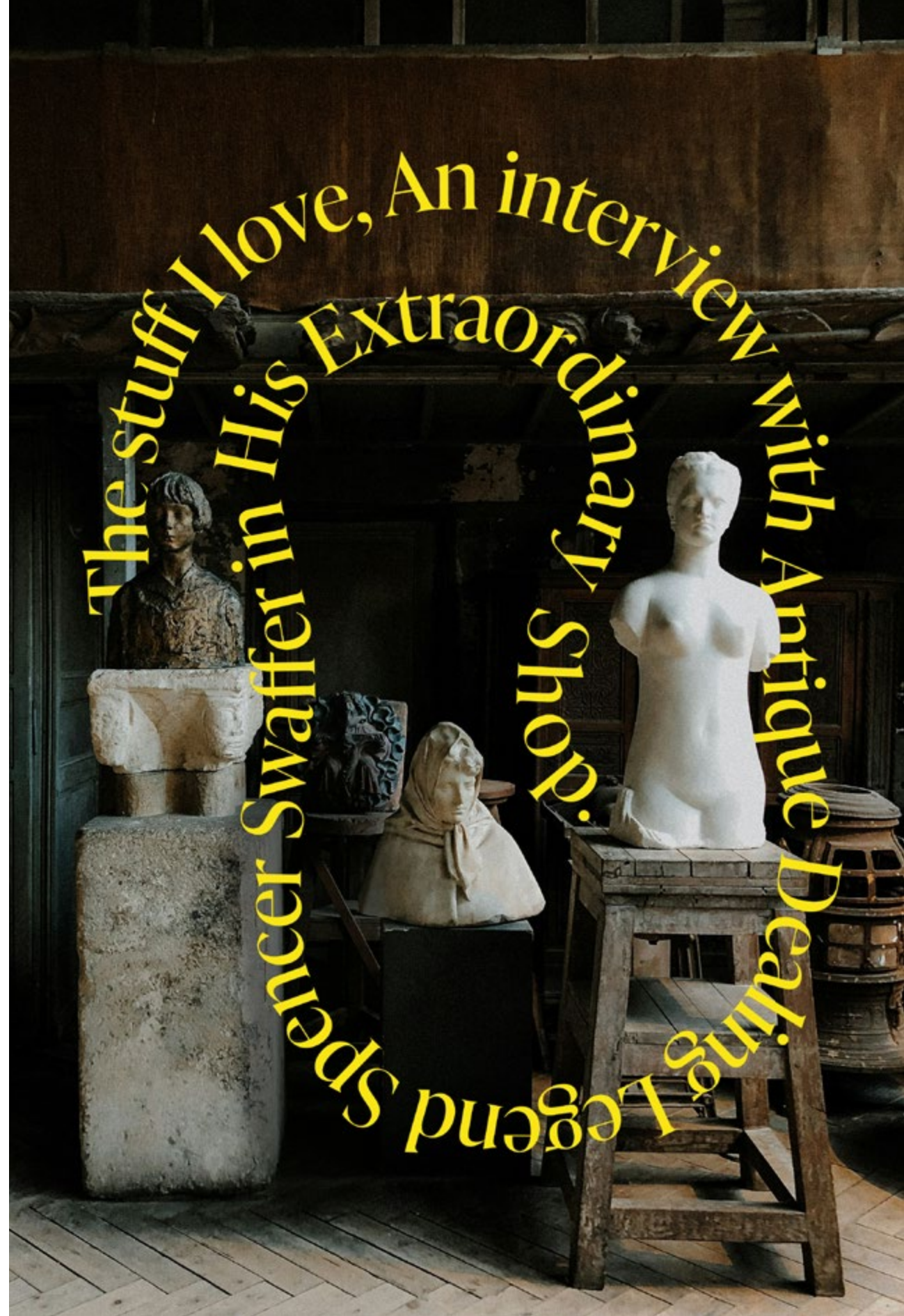
What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given?

'If you don't turn up, you don't get!'

And finally, do you have a personal motto or mantra?

As above.

Find out more about Spencer at spencerswaffer.com





The Bothy



The Coach House

Cuttieshillock





1 Dunottar Castle

An astonishing medieval castle perched perilously on a giant rocky outcrop. Used in endless films and every bit as dramatic and alluring in the flesh as it is in real life.

2 St Cyrus Beach

Long and wide, largely empty and amongst the most beautiful beaches in Scotland.

3 Stonehaven

A perfect little harbour town, straight out of central casting. Excellent fish and chips from The Bay too.

4 Aboyne

The centre of this small town is well worth a detour for some good shops and restaurants. The Boat Inn is a particular local favourite for food.

5 Banchory

Our local town includes several supermarkets but also, against the odds, some brilliant independent cafés, a terrific wine shop, an independent bookstore and more.

6 Lochnagar & Loch Muick

A famous mountain and a giant, deep, dark loch. Both are excellent places for walks of various lengths.

7 Tàrmachan Café

A much-loved, highly innovative café and restaurant run by two brilliant young chefs, Caitlin and Tom.

8 Ballater

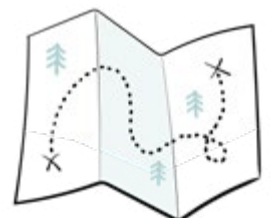
A thriving town with a good number of independent shops and restaurants, including the excellent Fish Shop.

9 The Fife Arms, Braemar

A magnificently eccentric luxury hotel filled with serious art from global gallerists/powerhouses Hauser and Wirth. It is a worth a visit just for the beautiful drive up to Braemar.

10 Braemar

The Fife Arms isn't Braemar's only attraction; here you will also find a wonderful patisserie and various other excellent independent shops and cafés. Every August, Braemar hosts the Royal Family for its famous Highland Games.



Glen Dye Solstice Radio



Glen Dye Solstice Radio was a project commissioned by us and created by Steve Chapman and Jo Wood who work as individual artists but have also done some joint art residencies in Brighton, Ocracoke Island off the coast of North Carolina and at Glen Dye in May 2022.

In June 2023, Charlie Gladstone invited Steve and Jo to curate and present Glen Dye Solstice Radio. He particularly liked the idea of them doing a project which, as visual artists, wouldn't be very familiar.

What was Glen Dye Solstice Radio?

It was a 12 hour pop-up radio station, broadcast from the Summer House on the banks of the River Dye, to mark the 2023 summer solstice. The content was a mix of interviews, outside broadcasts and features to celebrate everything that is important to Glen Dye and the surrounding area: nature, creativity, wellbeing, joy, food, remoteness and Scotland.

How did it come about?

It came about as a result of a throwaway comment in a conversation with Charlie in early 2023. We happened to mention to Charlie that we did a radio show whilst we were on our residency on Ocracoke and he said "I'd love you to do a radio station for me at Glen Dye" and it all evolved from there.

Tell us about your previous experience in radio.

Steve: I was fascinated with radio since I was a kid. For many years I did lots of radio stuff part time. I had a weekly hospital radio show in Barnet which is where I got started and then moved on to do some internet radio, local radio and I co-wrote a radio comedy called "The Gentlemen's Club" which ended up being the Time Out Critic's choice back in 2004.

Jo: My main related experience was recording my own radio show onto cassette tapes as a child. They included recording music from the radio, commentary and my own singing. I have no idea where they are.

What were the biggest challenges of the project?

We had anticipated one of the biggest challenges would be getting enough good content but in the end we had more than we had actually needed.



To generate 12 hours of content we recorded over 30 hours and then each 25–35 minute programme required 2–3 hours of editing. At some points it felt like we were staring at a huge pile of audio and wondering how on earth we'd get it trimmed down. We were recording links and things right up to a few hours before broadcast.

What were the low points?

The main low point was the moment of broadcast at 6pm on June 21st. We'd worked so hard to curate an amazing mix of content. We sat down in the Hayloft at Glen Dye with a gin and tonic each, ready to celebrate going live...and then the software went wrong! Instead of playing our suspense-building countdown intro, it started playing Fleetwood Mac! And then playing other random music!

We had to take down the broadcast and start again. The only way we could get it to work was to sit up all night (the broadcast was from 6pm–6am) manually feeding the next programme into the software.

And high points?

Getting to go wild swimming in the Dye with Pip Delamere-Wright, foraging and sampling food and whisky in the middle of nowhere with Ghillie and Zeki Başan, learning so much about trees, creatures, food and adventure from our guests and just getting to visit Glen Dye again as well as getting to know the area better. During the residency we'd spent most of our time making art and in the Glen Dye Arms. It was also lovely being invited

to Summer Camp at Hawarden Castle to give a talk about our experiences and stories from this project.

Any plans to do more radio projects?

We'd love to.

Tell us about the podcast editions

We've just turned the radio content we broadcast into a podcast. You can listen to it via all podcast streaming platforms, just search for 'The Glen Dye Podcast'.



Find out more about Steve and Jo

Steve:
[Instagram/ @stevevox](#)
Website
canscorpionssmoke.com

Jo:
[Instagram/ @jdwoof](#)
Website
misswoodforthetrees.com

An Interview with:

Candy Kittens co-founder



Edward Sweet- Williams

**Hello Ed. Please introduce yourself. Who you are?
What do you do? That sort of thing.**

My name is Edward Sweet-Williams and I'm a co-founder of Candy Kittens. I'm also a proud Welshman, reluctantly living in England, and an industrial design graduate.

Tell us about your business/venture.

We founded Candy Kittens in 2012 to challenge the dated and dusty confectionery category. With the aim of making sweets for the modern consumer, we now have a 100% plant-based range and a mission to remove the use of unnecessary gelatine from sweets.

We are incredibly proud to be the fastest growing sweets company in the UK and a proud B Corp.

You're someone who creates things. What's your greatest creation so far?

I love to create things. I've always loved adding branding, products, campaigns and anything else to elevate a simple idea, and help us punch above our weight.

In my opinion, most successful ventures boil down to a very simple idea but it's the execution that sets them apart. Even if it's just a holiday with friends, I'll give it a name and brand up the itinerary. All of that aside, my greatest creation has to be our son Rupert – nothing has ever inspired me quite as much as him!

What's your greatest strength? And weakness?

I never take no for an answer, which can be good and bad sometimes. Nobody wanted a new sweet brand, and even fewer people thought we were the guys to do it. Turning those nos into yeses, and being able to keep smiling whilst doing it, might be why it's worked so far.

My weakness is definitely worrying too much. Never about a work or business topic, but typically those annoying real-world problems that are out of my control at home and in our family life.

What distinct skills do you think you have to possess to be a successful entrepreneur?

I think patience is a key requirement for entrepreneurs. Ironically, it seems to be the one skill no entrepreneur likes to think they have. EVERYTHING takes longer than you want it to.

Perhaps it's blind belief that tricks us into being patient. Either way, every entrepreneur will tell you it takes a long time to get there... wherever "there" is?

What matters more, hard work or talent?

Talent is great, but it can also make you lazy. Nothing beats hard work, and in my experience, it's amazing how many people aren't willing to work hard.

Times are tough everywhere you look, but there are stacks of opportunities for anyone willing to put in the work and go just that little bit further than the next person. How hard you want to work is entirely in your control.

Has luck featured in your success so far?

Luck has definitely been on our side. I'm not sure if we've made our own luck, or if we've just been good at grabbing it with both hands when it's come knocking, but there are countless times when I can't quite believe how lucky we've been.

Do you have a mentor or a partner who helps you regularly? Tell us more.

Since starting the business, we have been mentored by Jamie's stepfather, Jonathan. He's mentored with tough love at times, but has absolutely shaped the way we've built Candy Kittens.

Coming from the corporate world, Jonathan has opened my eyes to a completely different perspective which has made Candy Kittens a much more robust business. People are often surprised to see the structure and professionalism behind the bright colours and kittens – all thanks to Jonathan.

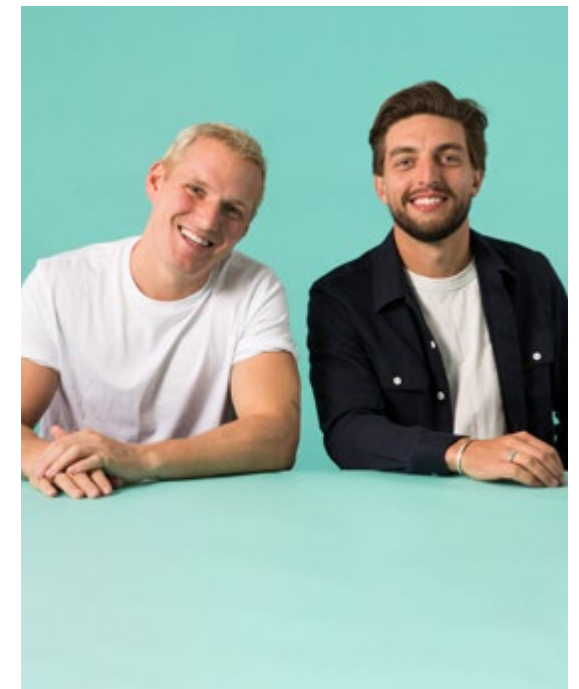
What's your greatest passion?

I absolutely love good design.

Any aspect of life can be improved, made easier or just more enjoyable with good design.

Find out more about Candy Kittens at candykittens.co.uk

Or follow them on instagram @candykittens





The River Cabin at North Lodge



North Lodge



No.2 Steading Cottages

Aberdeen and

(Places we love)

Aberdeen- shire

DIRECTORY

Faffless. Aberdeen

Relaxed, friendly wine bar in an art gallery in Aberdeen, serving small plates designed to be shared.

Figment Coffee. Aberdeen

A coffee roastery and café in Aberdeen which prides itself on seeking out the best coffee beans and creating sustainable coffees of beauty and distinction.

Kafka Mercantile and Supply Co. Aberdeen

Based in Aberdeen but with a strong online presence, Kafka is an independent retailer selling carefully selected and artisanal clothing from brands including Arpenteur, Engineered Garments and OrSlow.

Sirene. Aberdeen

A small boutique in the heart of Aberdeen selling an expertly curated selection of high quality and stylish brands.

Ghillie Bařan. Aberdeenshire

Based in the Cairngorms, writer and cook who runs incredible and inspirational workshops and expeditions.

Deeside Deli. Ballater

Fresh fruit and vegetables, lovely flowers and a compelling selection of delicious cheeses, make this a go-to shop in Ballater.

Fish Shop. Ballater

Located in the heart of Ballater, Fish Shop restaurant and adjoining fishmonger celebrates the heritage and traditions of fishing in Scotland and serves ethically sourced fish from day and short-trip boats, as well as creel-caught and hand-dived crustacea.

Shorty's Parlour. Ballater

Serving mouthwatering ice creams and sorbets with a great selection of vegan options too.

H M Sheridans. Ballater and Banchory

Artisan butchers to the Royal Family, expect to find the best fresh meat and sausages at the counters in Ballater and Banchory.

Liberty Kitchen. Banchory

Banchory's newest and excellent café, serving superb coffee and delicious vegan and vegetarian food.

The Strong Water Co. Banchory

Run by brothers Guy and Mungo Finlayson this wonderful bottle shop boasts a hugely eclectic mix of beers, wine, spirits and cigars and is guaranteed to have something for every taste and occasion.

Braemar Gallery. Braemar

Original Scottish art works and prints sit alongside a gorgeous selection of gifts for any occasion.

Hazelnut Pâtisserie. Braemar

A proper French patisserie in the heart of Braemar, not to be missed.

Tor Workshop. Braemar

Ben Addy and his team make modern Scottish furniture that celebrates natural form and embraces traditional methods, tools and techniques.

The Bothy Bistro. Burghead

With a menu focusing on local, well-sourced produce, this small restaurant is well-worth a visit.

The Fife Arms. Braemar

A magnificent and eccentric luxury hotel in the heart of Braemar, filled to the brim with serious art.

Tàrmachan Café. Crathie

A much loved and highly innovative café run by husband-and-wife team, Tom and Caitlin.

Rising Roots Micro Greens. Duffus

Based on the beautiful Moray coastline, this small innovative company delivers the highest quality and nutritionally dense microgreens, specialist herbs and edible flowers to the north of Scotland.

The Lobster Shop. Johnshaven

Family-run for four generations, this gem sells fresh crab and lobster, picked crab meat and the most delicious lobster rolls.

Forest Farm Dairy. Kinellar

An award winning organic dairy farm, home to a small herd of happy free-range cows and Scotland's first milk vending machine, as well as an excellent café.

Hidden Scotland Shop. Milton of Crathes

Just outside Banchory, this gem sells hand-selected products all created by Scottish makers.

The Bay. Stonehaven

The very best fish and chips around. Simple.

DIRECTORY



The Glen Dye Arms: Our very own BYOB pub.

It's tiny, very cosy and might just become your favourite pub ever.





Lannan Bakery
Fortitude Coffee
Solas Neon
The Free Company
Timberyard
Elanore
Gardener's Cottage
Albys

Edinburgh

(Places we love)

Kestin
Bard
Topping & Co.
Dick's
Noto
Golden Hare
I J Mellis
Epitome
Edinburgh Mercantile

DIRECTORY

Lannan Bakery.

Unmissable viennoiserie, pastry and coffee from self-taught baker Darcie Maher. Go early to avoid the queues.

Fortitude Coffee.

One of our favourite Scottish roasters, and an excellent café.

SOLAS Neon.

A proper, traditional neon glass bender that makes the best contemporary signage anywhere. They made the neon sign in our Woodshed.

The Free Company.

This inspiring, seasonal restaurant and events space is run by long-term friends of Glen Dye and has become something of an institution.

Timberyard.

A classic, modern, ingredients-led restaurant set in a beautiful warehouse.

Eleanore.

A wonderful small restaurant with really confident cooking and brilliant service. Owner Roberta also runs the legendary Chartroom and the new Ardfarn.

Gardener's Cottage.

A small, eccentric, cosy restaurant with its own vegetable garden.

Albys.

Unbelievably good sandwiches in Leith.

Kestin.

A really confident independent clothing brand that aims to work with small manufacturers from the UK to Japan.

Bard.

A wonderful small business dedicated to Scottish craft.

Topping & Co.

One of a small chain of four independent book shops.

Dick's.

This is a bold claim, but this is one of the very best multi-brand clothing shops anywhere in the world, with a strong and very clear vision supporting modern and classic clothes. There's also a small range of homewares and gifts.

Noto.

An excellent, relaxed restaurant serving small plates and excellent wines. Great for lunch.

Golden Hare.

A really lovely, strongly curated independent bookshop.

I J Mellis.

Possibly the finest cheesemonger in the UK with various shops that are part cheesemonger, part deli. We work with them at Glen Dye.

Epitome.

An institution and run by a friend of ours; this carries some of the finest womenswear brands in the world. (See our Aberdeen Directory for its brother business, the outstanding Kafka).

Edinburgh Mercantile.

A really lovely, highly considered homewares and gifts shop run by some of our favourite guests.

DIRECTORY

Caroline Gladstone

An interview with
Glen Dye Cabins
& Cottages'
Co-founder.

Hello Caroline, please tell us a bit about yourself.

I am the co-founder of The Good Life Society, Glen Dye Cabins and Cottages and Hawarden Estate, which means I work across all the family businesses. I have been working closely with Charlie ever since we moved to Glen Dye in 1990, in one guise or another. My job description is pretty broad.

Specifically, I choose all the colours and fabrics, lighting, flooring, bathroom and kitchen fittings for all our holiday properties. I project-manage all sorts of creative projects. I consult on menu development and food offers across all the businesses. I produce ready meals for the Glen Dye General Stores and cater private events at Glen Dye. I oversee the vegetable garden and happy hens at Glen Dye. I make sure that everyone keeps on top of general maintenance and standards.

What was the first job you had?

Unless you are counting weeding the garden to earn extra pocket money when I was a child or holiday jobs to earn a bit of cash to go travelling when I was a student, then my first job was Assistant to the Head of Home Furnishing Product Design at Laura Ashley during its heyday in the early 1980s. It was job that I absolutely loved and once I had proved my ability (I had no formal design training but was told after my interview that I had the right 'eye') I was entrusted with developing my own collection which was thrilling. By the time I left, I was responsible for the development and design of all the Home Furnishing small products, gifts and stationery.

Please give us an idea of your typical day.

I get up at 7:00am and take the dogs for a good half hour walk, whatever the weather. It wakes me up and sets me right for the day. I feed the horses on my way home. After breakfast, I head to the office, catch up with emails, and do all the things that come with a busy work life.

I go home whenever I consider the day over. If I'm working from home, which I sometimes do, I signal the end of the day by changing into a pair of Uggs. And my guilty pleasure is watching reruns of Friends.

Which of your possessions do you treasure the most and why?

This is a really tough question, as I have many to choose from! For my 60th birthday, Charlie gave me an astounding sculpture of a horse by Frippey Jamieson. Not only is it a thing of absolute beauty, but it is also the thought and the planning and the installation done in such secrecy that make it so special.

I had no idea until I drove home and there it was, in the middle of the lawn.

How good are you at work/life balance?

I love what I do, and so even if I work past normal office hours, which I do most days, it doesn't really ever feel like too much of a burden. Having said that, I have a firm rule of not having email on my phone.



Please tell us something you've recently discovered and which you'd recommend.

The best book I've read recently has to be Still Life by Sarah Winman. It grips you from the first paragraph and doesn't let you go.

What's your favourite piece of art or design?

Brunelleschi's Dome for the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore in Florence for its innovation, its beauty and the sheer fact that they built that in the 15th century.



What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given?

Don't be afraid of being afraid. Sometimes the one thing you need for growth is the one thing you are most afraid to do.

Do you have a personal motto or mantra?

Look up and take time to breathe.

Find out more about Caroline at carolinegladstone.co.uk

Instagram: [@carolinegladstone](https://www.instagram.com/carolinegladstone)





The best must-reads from our Library.

Nature



Books

Every property at Glen Dye is stocked with a good selection of books; there are some novels and some cookbooks but mainly we focus on books about nature. And in The Library, we have a large selection of books on almost every outdoor subject from walking to gardening, ornithology and beyond.

Here are 10 that we highly recommend.

- 1 The Living Mountain** by Nan Shepherd.
2014 edition with introduction by Robert Macfarlane.
A Grampian classic.
- 2 Owls of the Eastern Ice** by Jonathan C. Slaght.
The quest to find and save the world's largest owl.
- 3 Tristan Gooley.**
Take your pick of any of the brilliant books by the world's preeminent authority on natural navigation.
- 4 Wild Food** by Roger Phillips.
Roger was the grandfather of European foraging and an important author on trees and much more. This is one of his many classics.

- 5 Trees & Woodlands in the British Landscape** by Oliver Rackham.

A complete history of Britain's trees, woods and hedgerows.

- 6 Fauna Britannica** by Duff Hart-Davis.

A beautiful, practical and indispensable guide to the wild and domestic creatures of Britain.

- 7 The Hidden Ways** by Alistair Moffat.

A classic that explores Scotland's forgotten roads (and ends pretty much at Glen Dye).

- 8 The Lost Art of Walking** by Geoff Nicholson.

A fascinating and learned guide to the history and science of walking.

- 9 The Outrun** by Amy Liptrot.

A modern classic about the power and healing beauty of time spent in nature.

- 10 Caught by the River. Volume 1.**

Collected writing by various brilliant authors, some well-known, some less so.



Wood-fired hot tub at The Hay Loft

A conversation with

Rhiane Fatinikun

MBE

campaigner, ambassador
and founder of

Black Girls Hike

A community providing a safe space for
black women to explore the outdoors.



[1]



[2]



[3]

Hi Rhiane, tell us about you and Black Girls Hike.

My name is Rhiane Fatinikun. I am an adventurer, broadcaster and the founder of Black Girls Hike, a community that encourages black women to reconnect with nature. We host outdoor activity days and training events.

Tell us about your business/venture.

I created Black Girls Hike for black women specifically, because you don't see that much representation of people of colour in the outdoors. It's not necessarily a pastime enjoyed by anyone I know and so I wanted to challenge stereotypes and create a safe space for women to get out and adventure. It was initially just women but it is now a programme for women and young people, as we've excitingly just launched our youth programme.

What's your greatest strength?

I'm a really strong person. I'm good at connecting people, I'm very open and what you see is what you get. I'm very approachable and I think that has really helped Black Girls Hike to grow.

What distinct skills do you think you have to possess to be a successful change maker?

Change makers go against the grain and so being unapologetic is important, as is having the confidence to stand up and challenge things that you don't necessarily think are right.

Has luck featured in your success so far?

There are elements of luck that have featured in BGH's success but saying that really detracts from all of the hard work that has gone into making it a success.

We began in 2019 as a walking group in Manchester. By chance, a writer from The Voice newspaper came along and published a feature on us. We were one of the first groups promoting diversity in the outdoors, and so we got a lot of exposure from outdoor organisations and brands. The power of social media also helped us to grow and people messaging us requesting groups in their area, resulted in us opening chapters around the country. We were also on Countryfile in 2021, but our growth has been very organic.

Do you have a mentor or a partner who helps you regularly?

A mentor is something I need to get. Everything with Black Girls Hike has happened so quickly and when you're in the fast lane, you don't get that chance to reflect. Now I have just finished a to-do list I've had all year and I am at the stage of thinking about what I need for my development. I'd really like to get a mentor or a coach. I recently tried hypnosis, and it was so interesting. I thought to myself, I am really cynical about this kind of thing, but it worked and you can really alter your mind, if you try. It is possible and you just have to step into that space to do it.

Find out more about Rhiane and Black Girls Hike at

Black Girls Hike Website: bghuk.com
Black Girls Hike Instagram: [@bgh_uk](https://www.instagram.com/bgh_uk)
Rhiane's Instagram: [@rhianesworld](https://www.instagram.com/rhianesworld)

[Fig 1.] Rhiane Fatinikun MBE

[Fig 2.] One of the many organised hikes

[Fig 3.] The inimitable Tor of Clachnaben, Glen Dye



Charlie is co-founder of Glen Dye Cabins and Cottages. He also co-founded Pedlars, the homewares business as well as many businesses in Hawarden, North Wales including The Hawarden Estate Farm Shop, The Glynne Arms, Hawarden Estate Holidays and The Good Life Society.

He started his career in the music business and is the author of two books, a father of six and a grandfather of three.

What was the first job you had?

Working on a team of decorators in a grotty hotel in Chester. The place was grim, and I hated it.

Please give us an idea of your typical day.

It's a bit of a cliché but there isn't really a typical day for me. The first thing I do, though, is figure out where I am when I wake up. I am often on the move and commute between Hawarden and Glen Dye. I'm a country boy at heart but I am also in London a bit.

Which of your possessions do you treasure the most and why?

It's probably my record collection. I started collecting 53 years ago and have amassed many thousands. Music is my main interest and it's been a constant companion since I was about six. My library is vast and yet I probably know where I bought each record.

How good are you at work/life balance?

Not good at all. But that's a part of being an entrepreneur, it just is. And anyway, I absolutely love my work.

There have been terrible times when I have longed for a better work/life balance because I was so stressed and worn down. But generally, now, I am happy with the balance.

Please tell us something you've recently discovered and which you'd recommend.

Yoga. I met an amazing instructor at Summer Camp called David and he changed my life by starting to teach me. In reality, what I do looks more like the action of an elderly beached whale than the popular image of yoga. I am no bunny. But it works, miraculously so.

What's your favourite website?

Probably newyorker.com
Or maybe the-saleroom.com

What's your favourite piece of art or design?

It's probably still The Queen is Dead by The Smiths. I was lucky enough to see The Smiths many times and they spoke to me like no other artists. Clearly Morrissey has become a divisive figure, and for good reason. But the work, this absolute towering record, still stands.

What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given?

That everything seems to turn out alright in the end. It isn't a perfect piece of advice, because not everything does. But as a daily way of dealing with passing troubles, it works wonders. My dad didn't quite put it like this, but he definitely believed it and it has stuck.

Do you have a personal motto or mantra.

"Impatience is a virtue, it gets things done".

Find out more about Charlie at charliegladstone.com

CHARLIE
GLADSTONE

✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱

THE STUFF I
LOVE

An Interview with a change maker *Mark Shayler*



"Curiosity and creative bravery are the key elements of entrepreneurial thinking."

Come on!

Mark Shayler, 55, is an environmental expert, innovation adviser, public speaker, author, enthusiast and catalyst of change. We caught up with him in his studio.

Tell us about your business/venture.

My main business is called Ape, an environmental and innovation consultancy. I've been working in sustainability since 1990. This all started in about 1977 when I had to do a school project. Greenpeace were all over the newspapers and my dad suggested that I do a project called Greenpeace and the Whale. So I did. This planted a seed, one that was propagated by my inability to choose between art, science and humanities. So I did all three.

As well as working on sustainable business strategies, carbon footprinting, and ecodesign I have side-projects including a coffee business (cherrycoffee.co.uk), a hot sauce business and an events and publishing business (reasonstobecheerful.co.uk).

I'm also an author of three books. One on business change and disruption (Do Disrupt), one on how to improve your public speaking (Do Present) and one on sustainable business and how to go from zero to net-zero (You Can't Make Money From A Dead Planet).

You're someone who creates things. What's your greatest creation so far?

The easy answer here is life, but many people have kids so I'll leave that out. I'd say it is the community we created with our project Reasons to be Cheerful. This has grown from a series of talks, to "communion" meetings during lockdown, online events, publications and discos, to an annual one day festival of diverse ideas and talks. I'm so proud of what we (all four of my kids are involved in this but especially my eldest daughter Daisy) have achieved and where it is going. This year will see a step-up again with the event becoming a weekend festival of ideas, music and food.

What's your greatest strength? And weakness?

This one is always hard to answer yourself, so I asked my wife. Greatest strength: "You hold space for others to express themselves and grow". Greatest weakness: "You try and help everyone at the expense of yourself".

What distinct skills do you think you need to be a successful entrepreneur?

It's easy to have a stereotypical view of what an entrepreneur is. I don't think there is a template. Curiosity and creative bravery are the key elements of entrepreneurial thinking.

I also get frustrated with the current focus on the word "founder". It is often used where we would have used entrepreneur in the past and I sense a great degree of elitism in its use. An intonation that Founders are better than workers. I reject this completely. Everyone can be creative, everyone can be entrepreneurial and anyone can be a Founder. You just need a streak of self-belief.

What matters more, hard work or talent?

I know many successful people who work hard and many who don't, who are able to get other people to work hard on their behalf.

Also some of the hardest working people I know are still not successful. I think there is something here about expecting success and defeating your limiting beliefs. Limiting beliefs are a set of beliefs that can restrict your expectations to the point that you think you don't deserve success (or happiness). Consequently they stop us achieving and growing. Removing these is like removing a restraining bolt: if you have limiting beliefs it really doesn't matter how hard you work, you will always stop short.

Has luck featured in your success so far?

For sure. Being in the right nightclub to meet my wife in 1988 was lucky as have been lots of career breaks. But of course these aren't all about luck; they are as much about saying yes more and placing yourself in the position for good things to happen to you.

Do you have a mentor or a partner who helps you regularly? Tell us more.

I have many mentors. I've had two bosses that were absolute rocks in my life, my dad is a mentor, I'm part of the Mankind Project and have numerous mentors within that, my friend Charlie Gladstone is a huge mentor to me, as is my wife. Mentors matter. You always need someone to bounce ideas off and talk things through with.

What's your greatest passion?

Movement. Running, qi gong, swimming, walking. I have my best ideas moving, I walk every day with my wife, I feel alive in cold water and running clears my head. If you stop moving, you begin dying. Oh and music. I love music. I can't play anything but I can play records and it's such a great companion.

Find out more about Mark at markshayler.co.uk
thisisape.co.uk
reasonstobecheerful.co.uk



[Left] No 4. Steading Cottages

[Right] Cuttieshillock

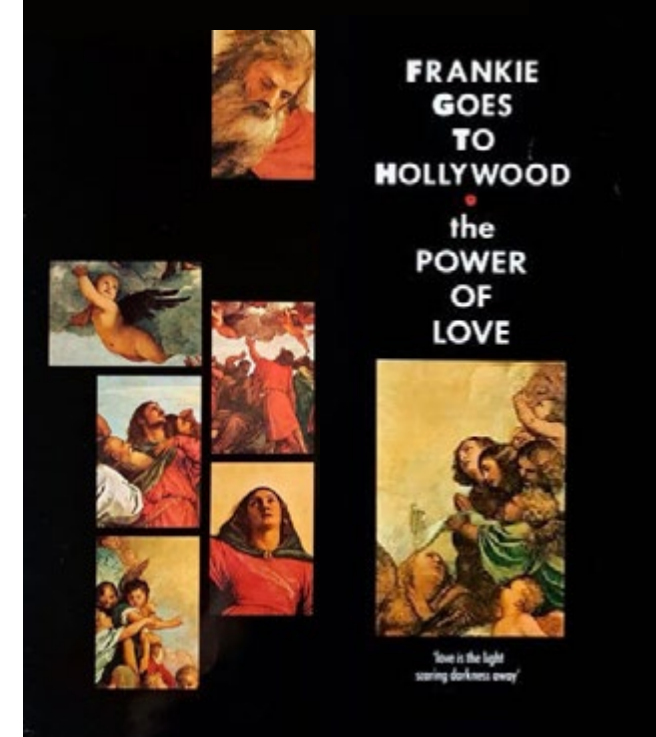


[1]

Lowri Jones



[2]



[3]

Hello Lowri.

Please tell us a bit about yourself.

Hi, I'm Lowri, part of the marketing team at Glen Dye Cabins and Cottages, The Good Life Society and Hawarden Estate.

I've been working closely with Charlie and Caroline for a few years now and they have been the most formative and fun. I have a creative background and specialised in illustration at university, but moved into digital communication afterwards.

I'm fascinated by strategy, data and insights, and am a bit of a marketing nerd. I love finding new ways to reach like-minded people and tell them our story at Glen Dye and Hawarden.



What was the first job you had?

One of my first significant jobs was at Brewdog. They've had their fair share of PR controversy over the years, but the education I got in 2014 when working there was world-class.

Before stepping foot in a venue, I sat through 21 days of classroom lessons led by an Advanced Cicerone beer expert. We learned about hop varieties, the brewing process, glassware, food pairings, ABV, IBU and all the science stuff. We drank beer from the best Trappist monasteries and tasted the most experimental and strongest beers in existence.

It culminated in me sitting my Cicerone exam, and although it was over a decade ago, the knowledge has stayed with me and it's a qualification I'm still proud of.

Which of your possessions do you treasure the most and why?

The first thing that sprung to mind was a record. It's 'Frankie Goes To Hollywood, The Power of Love'. My dad gave it to me very casually in a plastic bag for life with lots of other relics from his youth. He also handed over Fleetwood Mac's entire discography and 'Upstairs at Eric's' by Yazoo, both of which I also treasure.

The Frankie Goes To Hollywood record is dog-eared and much loved. Every year, when I decorate the Christmas tree, I put it on. I know it's not really a Christmas record, but it feels like one and it's a ritual I look forward to every December.

How good are you at work/life balance?

Quite good I think. I love work, but I am also the mum of an energetic toddler, so it's important to give her lots of attention when I'm at home. She's a constant source of inspiration though. Her imagination knows no bounds and sometimes the best ideas come to me when we have conversations about nonsense, draw pictures and read stories.

Please tell us something you've recently discovered and which you'd recommend.

Baggu bags! Baggu makes simple, playful, sustainable and affordable bags designed for every day. I purchased my first a while ago and have since bought two more and a pouch in different colour ways. They are spacious, durable and machine washable. Whenever I use them, people ask where they're from.

Another recommendation is a short book of poems. Faber Books have just re-released 'The Orange and Other Poems' by Wendy Cope, and I recently received it as a gift. You can read it from cover to cover in under an hour, and many of the poems serve as a great reminder not to take life too seriously and savour the small things every day rather than wishing the days away for the weekends.

Who is your favourite artist or designer?

Meirion Ginsberg is from the area I grew up in in North Wales. I recently came across his work and I really like it. The Dada-ish figures he creates are colourful and captivating, but also have an enigmatic edge to them. I can see why he is gaining widespread attention as one of the most exciting Welsh painters of today.

What's a piece of advice that has stuck with you?

This, from a Caitlin Moran article I read: 'Choose your friends because you feel most like yourself around them, because the jokes are easy and you feel like you're in your best outfit when you're with them, even though you're just in a T-shirt.'

Find out more about Lowri at
Instagram: @lowrinz

[Fig 1.] Old Man, 2012, Meirion Ginsberg.

[Fig 2.] The Orange and Other Poems' by Wendy Cope.

[Fig 3.] Frankie Goes To Hollywood, The Power of Love.

Food & Drink Craft



Timorous Beastie Whisky.

Great Glen Charcuterie

Jono Smart

Scotland is a hotbed of creativity and entrepreneurship, particularly in terms of food, drink and craft, all of which are our thing at Glen Dye. So I thought that *Hearth* should cover a few of our favourite makers.

Of course, we can't begin to list everyone we love (that would take up most of this magazine) and so this is just a list of some of the very best and not *the* very best.

FOOD

Aye Pickled make delicious kimchi and pickles. My favourites are their Bread and Butter Pickles and Pickled Slaw.
ayepickled.com

Blackthorn Salt. An ambitious and inspiring project to produce world class salt in Ayrshire.
blackthornsalt.co.uk

The Lobster Shop is around 45 minutes from Glen Dye in the beautiful coastal village of Johnshaven. They do what it says on the tin, and they do it exceptionally well.
thelobster.shop

Great Glen Charcuterie supply us with their exceptional cured meats. They are modern pioneers of sustainability and provenance.
greatglencharcuterie.com

Courie Courie Bakery. On an inauspicious industrial estate in Aboyne, you'll find outstanding sourdough croissants and bread.
couriecourie.co.uk

DRINK

The Strong Water Co in Banchory make their own gin and it is exceptional.
thestrongwaterco.com

Burnside Brewery. An excellent and highly inventive brewery based about twenty minutes from Glen Dye, in Laurencekirk.
burnsidebrewery.co.uk

Timorous Beastie Whisky. This unusual, non-coloured whisky has a great name (it is anything but faint hearted) and a terrific label. It took me a while to get used to it, but now I love it.
Available from thestrongwaterco.com



CRAFT

Jono Smart. There are many wonderful ceramicists in Scotland, but Jono's work's clean lines and perfect proportions mean that his stuff flies off the shelves on release.
jonosmart.co.uk

Hilary Grant makes exceptional blankets, throws, scarves and more on Orkney.
hilarygrant.co.uk

McLean of Braemar. We recently bought some lovely silver-plated roe antler candle sticks for a project, from this traditional maker, and they're great.
@mcleanoofbraemar

AND FINALLY...

Bard in Edinburgh are curators and retailers of a wide range of Scottish craft.
bard-scotland.com



New for 2024

You may know that The Saw Mill was one of our first holiday properties at Glen Dye. We lovingly and painstakingly renovated it in 2018, decades after it had been allowed to collapse into ruin. This had long been a dream for me because I remembered it as a functioning estate saw mill, powered entirely by water, when I was young.

It's an almost sacred site to those of us at Glen Dye, not just because of its aching beauty but for having originally been a place where bobbins were made for the fabled local textile industries centered on Dundee.

Anyway, during that grim series of named storms during late 2023 and early 2024, when gale after gale and downpour after downpour thrashed and lashed and wrecked and ruined, The Saw Mill suffered some pretty nasty damage which led us not to despair but to search for, and find, some silver linings in those grumpy, rain-soaked clouds. We decided to open The Saw Mill to all of our guests.

The idea is this:

First, The Saw Mill will become The Discovery and Adventure Centre for our residential guests' exclusive use. We're building a Discovery and Adventure Trail that will occupy all ages and abilities with challenging, interesting and surprising twists and turns and will open this summer. There will also be a library of nature books, a sauna, cold water tanks, a space for drawing or drinking coffee or just sitting around, and there will be a kitchen area and changing rooms and lots more.

Second, and in response to endless requests, we are launching a small, simple and very high-end restaurant at The Saw Mill, called The Seed Store (because it will be housed in The Seed Store). When I say 'high-end', I mean in a contemporary way: very relaxed and low key but also small and super-focused on excellent seasonal ingredients from Glen Dye, some cooked over fire. It will be open occasionally and our residential guests will always have first dibs on booking. This isn't our first restaurant venture, we have two in Wales, at Hawarden and for many years Caroline worked with that late, fabled chef Bill Granger, so we feel confident enough to give it a go.

Charlie. April 2024.

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HEY EVERYONE!

LET'S PUT TOGETHER A SMALL
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WE CAN WRITE AND DESIGN IT
OURSELVES, FEATURE LOTS OF THE
PEOPLE, PLACES AND IDEAS
THAT WE LOVE (ESPECIALLY
IN SCOTLAND) AND TALK ABOUT
ALL OF THE AMAZING THINGS
THAT WE DO.

PERHAPS WE CAN CALL IT HEARTH
WHICH HAS A LOVELY RESONANCE
OF HOME AND WARMTH AND ALL
OF THAT.

IT'LL BE FUN TO DO AND SOMETHING
THAT WILL SHOW PEOPLE HOW AND
WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO.

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