

## Glenthorne Report 2024.

44 people attended the East Cheshire Glenthorne weekend, including a 1 year old, a 3, an 8 and an eleven year old. We were sorry to have to turn away one other person, because of a shortage of rooms for disabled people. We suspect he could have been accommodated, had we had details of what each room offered, as some rooms are more disabled friendly than others. In any case, we are not allowed more than 44 people, and we had 45 applicants. In the past we could overflow into the village for bed and breakfast, but this was impossible, as the limit of 44 also applies to activities during the day. As the weekend was just after Yealand, we were surprised to have so many bookings. We had anticipated needing to widen participation to other local meetings, perhaps South Manchester, but we did not need to do that. Some Stockport Friends were able to book an extra night directly with Glenthorne.

The programme was whatever participants offered, and included a get to know you session, two singing sessions, a walk, an epilogue, an Easter egg hunt, poetry, Alexander Technique, a quiz, table tennis and all age worship. Some sessions were cancelled because of bad weather or other issues, but there was variety on offer. Friends could participate in these sessions as much as they wanted.

We were able to raise the cost Glenthorne charged, but this could be difficult if there were more children involved, as children are charged half price or nothing, depending on age. I hope the Area Meeting would be prepared to cover a loss if necessary, if more places are occupied by children. Children's participation is after all part of what Glenthorne is for. When we fix the charge, we do not know who will wish to come.

There are only 26 bedrooms, which means some Friends need to be prepared to share. The rooms are not all en suite, and Friends need to be prepared to share bath or shower rooms.

As far as I am aware, the weekend went smoothly, and it was an appreciated opportunity to meet together and enjoy ourselves, while not neglecting spiritual matters. I hope we can book Glenthorne again. I suggest that in future there should be a handover between the previous occasion's organisers and those of the current year. This could be done by email or Zoom. In particular, it would help the organisers to have a copy of the contract with Glenthorne, the room list, and the floor plans, as soon as planning begins. I suggest that booking forms be sent by applicants both to the accommodation organiser and the financial organiser, as both need legible forms. Where Friends do not have printers, perhaps clerks or other Friends could offer printed copies for those who need them. I found myself trying to decipher fuzzy scans of application forms, hand-written in blue ink, or having to find the necessary information somewhere in wordy hand-written letters.

In the past I had to organise Glenthorne weekends on my own, and it was very helpful having Brenda Crothers and Frances Hill dealing with the finances. Thank you to them.

Margaret Moss.