

PORTFOLIO

HERO-CREATIVE.COM





I started HERO Creative in 2011, mainly as a graphic design service but now offering a much wider selection of creative services including photography, filming and editing, illustration, animation and music sourcing and composition.

In addition I can tap into a wider pool of creative personnel to assemble the ideal team to take on any size project.

In the last 14 years I have built up a fantastic and valued client list and have evolved my skills to follow current trends and technology development.

Prior to going freelance I held the Senior Designer role at Edinburgh Napier University, where I delivered multiple projects internally including flagship publications such as annual reviews as well as external advertising, photo shoots and day to day ad hoc requests.

I am a graduate of University of Ulster, Belfast, where I lived until settling in Edinburgh in 1998.



GRAPHIC DESIGN
ILLUSTRATION
ANIMATION
PHOTOGRAPHY
VIDEO SHOOT & EDIT
MUSIC COMPOSITION

Notable Experience

These are just some of the incredible clients I've been lucky enough to work with over the last 14 years as a freelancer and previously in full-time employment.

Freelance Creative: August 2011 - present

The Old Course Hotel, Golf Resort & Spa I took on a 12 month contract with this 5 red star hotel and was responsible for the production of all the advertising and promotional projects including art direction, brand protection and implementation. The contract was extended to 30 months and soon led me to help with design work for Kohler's other venture, Hamilton Grand; a luxury apartment refurbishment in the heart of St Andrews and additionally the building's new bar and grill,

Dalkeith Country Park

Hams Hame.

During a particularly busy time, and in need of some different creative input, Dalkeith Country Park invited me to help with their Christmas 'Winterfest' event promotions, which led to further project work in the last couple of years and most recently with a Summer Campaign appearing around some of Edinburgh's large scale digital screens.

University of Edinburgh

I have worked many times with this world-famous University, completing a variety of projects including an Annual Review, branding for the 'Welcome' campaign and a most recently a series of character driven animations for a sedentary awareness campaign.

Platinum Wave & Franchise Moves

I joined these franchising experts in 2015 as a design consultant, led by award-winning entrepreneur, Suzie McCafferty. My role includes creating varied marketing collateral using design, photography and video. My involvement with PW also extends to creating marketing assets for their growing client list.

Fettes College

Fettes' marketing team approached me to produce their Annual Bursaries Brochures, which required design, illustration and some photography and which led to working with the team on other internal and external marketing collateral.

George Watson's College

The Communications team at George Watson's approached me to produce their annual brochure, 'Caritas'. Working with the college led to further design cover, producing a wide variety of work, to help the in-house design team in busier times.

Crolla's Gelateria & Gelatoburger Restaurant & Factory Operations

I started a freelance retainer with Crolla's in 2016 to help create social media campaigns and general advertising materials targeting all ages, including design, illustration, photography and video before the contract expanded to include two Gelatoburger restaurants. My role covers print and digital marketing/design.

Nathan Connolly (Snow Patrol / Third Bar)

A long-time association with Snow patrol guitarist, Nathan Connolly, led me to an art-working job for his first solo album 'The Strange Order of Things' and, through Nathan, work with his associated record company, Third Bar, to create promo materials for some of their current artists.

Former full-time employement: In-house Graphic Designer

Middleweight & Senior Designer, Edinburgh Napier University: 1999 – 2011

At Edinburgh Napier I was responsible for the design of a broad range of materials to promote the University's public events and course study/materials to appeal to Undergraduate and Postgraduate audiences UK-wide and internationally. I was also the keeper of the University's brand and responsible for monitoring its use, internally and externally.

Projects included Annual Reviews, Annual Plans, Graduation materials, leaflets, posters, digital advertising and more. I took on art direction and project management for larger, longer-running projects and, during the University's name change in 2009, I created a flagship 'Commemorative History' brochure which won the UK-wide University Print Managers' Group (UPMG) award for in-house design.

Junior Graphic Designer, Impro Printing: 1997 - 1999

This was my first role in a professional design and print company as a Junior Designer, creating a wide variety of design projects including school brochures, hotel marketing pieces and instructional brochures.

Education

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER, BELFAST GRADUATE: 1994 – 1996 CAMPBELL COLLEGE, BELFAST 1987 – 1993

Client History













































































































































Kind Words

I approached Alan through a recommendation. Having very quickly built an excellent rapport with Alan, I took him on to create a new brand and logo for my new company. He quickly grasped the culture and image I wanted to create and helped me to develop a fantastic new logo and brand image for my company, setting us apart from our competitors! Alan is a real joy to work with and his creative talents speak for themselves!

Suzie McCafferty
Director, Platinum Wave

For over two years Kemosabe Capital have sent our marketing work from Sydney to Alan in Edinburgh on the recommendation of a friend. I don't know much about branding and have never been to Edinburgh but it has not stopped us taking the compliments that we get about how our branding looks. We liked the 'vibe' and clients like the look and feel. Alan has been great to work with and took our jumbled concept into something that we are really proud of.

Richard McGrath MD, Kemosabe Capital Alan is a talented, creative and highly professional graphic designer. In my time as Marketing and PR Manager at the Old Course Hotel Alan provided our lead design. He understood our need to create industry leading campaigns, managing to push the boundaries whilst staying within the confines of a 5 star brand. Alan has been an absolute delight to work with. He has a true understanding of how to manage his client relationships and deliver exceptional work and I would have no hesitation recommending Alan as a stand out professional in his field.

Debbie Rose Old Course Hotel & EICC

I have worked with Alan since 2013, Alan helped us create the majority of our collateral for our new real estate project, he is extremely easy to work with, always professional and very talented. He always manages to fit in all our last minute requests, Alan is a pleasure to work with.

Jo Halliday Private Client Manager, Hamilton Grand Alan is a creative, fast-working and totally reliable graphic designer with an eye for detail and a flair for bringing a brief to life. I have every confidence that work placed with him is in safe hands.

Nick Barnes Senior Publications Officer, University of Edinburgh

Alan was our "go to" person for all things creative and design. He understands his craft and delivers not only creative and engaging campaigns and ideas but in a way that can be used across both digital and traditional platforms. Always positive, extremely hard working and delivers on time and to brief. Alan is reliable, diligent and great fun too!

Caroline Deutsch Select Appointments

Alan has worked on many publications for us! His fresh ideas were just what we needed to create something appealing and eye-catching. Alan is great to work with and I would highly recommend him for his design and photography skills as well as his attention to detail.

Claudia Wellwood Fettes College Alan has proven to be a diligent and talented illustrator who interprets what we want and adds his own flair. His wide array of skills include illustration, branding, promotional media, photography and video. We are in the process of publishing a series of books and building a brand and Alan has added weight and creativity to the quality of the books and our promotional materials. We have often asked him to respond at the last minute and he has always been very responsive in meeting our tight deadlines.

Ronnie Park Taste 'n' Tell Books

We found Alan excellent to work with. Alan's blend of creativity, vision and professionalism was exactly what we were looking for. Alan was extremely organised, easy to communicate with, timely and very responsive. The end product was both attractive and adaptable and really reflective of the corporate identify we are trying to create. We have really enjoyed working with Alan and would highly recommend him.

Emma Little, ExecSpace & ExecMove



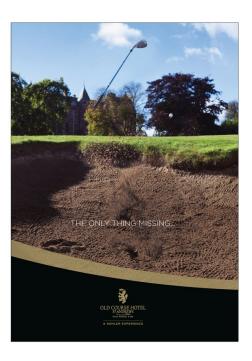


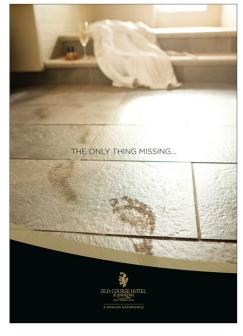
KOHLER is one of the biggest companies in the world, famous for their high-end bathroom furnishings. They own a variety of brands including the 5 red star, Old Course Hotel and the luxury apartment building Hamilton Grand, both situated in St Andrews.

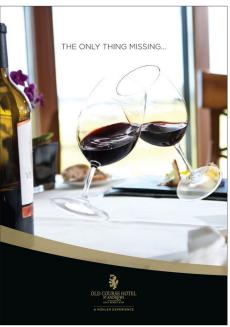
During my time with the Old Course Hotel
I created a wide variety of materials including
digital adverts, posters, package sell sheets,
promo items and working with photographers
to art-direct a range of photo shoots and
handling image post-production, including this
general campaign entitled:

'The only thing missing...is you.'

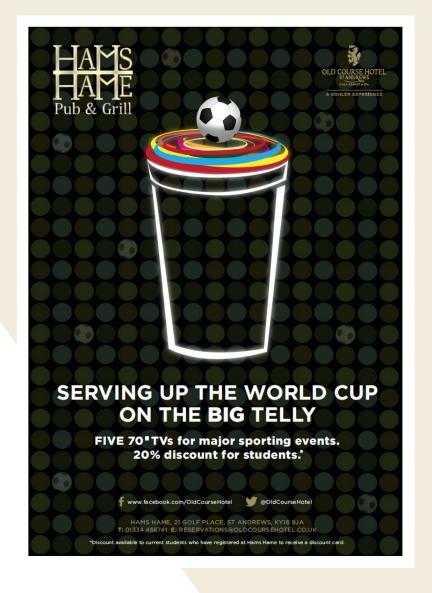












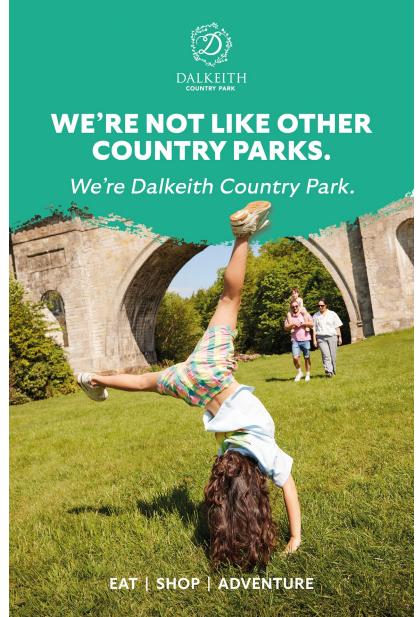


Dalkeith Country Park are part of Buccleugh Estates. The Marketing team approached me to help create assets for several campaigns - namely Christmas, Easter and Summer.

Most recently the Summer digital campaign appeared on large screens around Edinburgh over the course of a couple of weeks.

Using a hand-painted then digitised graphic, bespoke imagery (adding some cut-out effects) helped create an eye-catching campaign.











Some Easter and Christmas campaign samples...









Dalkeith Country Park

29 November – 5 January

What's on

Ice Rink

A Tale with Santa Breakfast with Santa

Wreath Making Workshops

Kids' Craft & Gingerbread House Decorating Workshops Elf Storytelling

1k & 5k Doddie Dash Christmas trees for sale

Plus, lots of Christmas cheer!



SCAN DO DO TO BOOK TICKETS

dalkeithcountrypark.co.uk



You're invited to Restoration Yard's

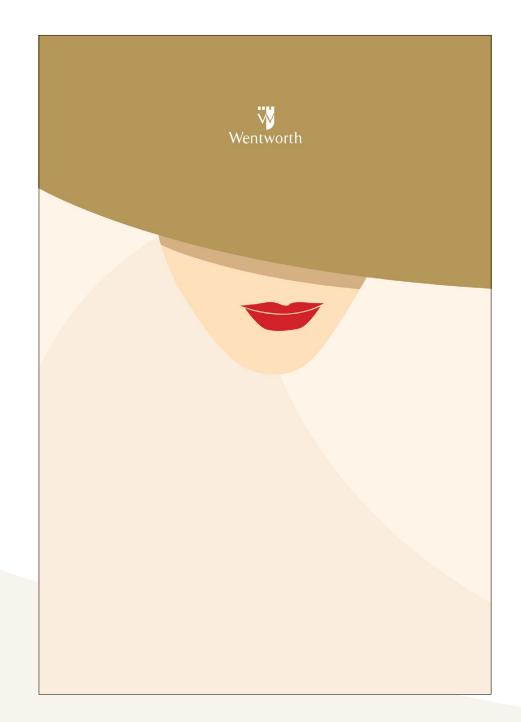
FESTIVE SHOPPING EVENING

7 November | 5pm - 9pm



An illustrated poster promo template for events happening in the prestigious Wentworth Health Club in the run up to, and during, Ascot.







A sub-brand design for confectionery shop, Chocolate Fayre, to advertise their tea and coffee range.



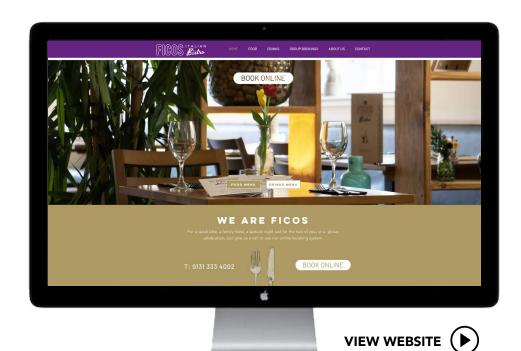


FIGOS Bistro

I've been creating a variety of promos for Ficos since they opened in 2021.

Work includes menus, social promos, photography, e-shots and most recently a complete rebuild of the website.



























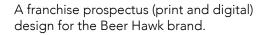








ON-LINE. ON TAP. ON SHELF.





THE MARKET

According to The Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA) interest In, and demand for, craft beer is growing all the time thanks to a greater professionalism across the industry in the UK.

Within the beer sector as a whole, craft remains one of the fastest growing categories, with Marston's On-Trade Report suggesting craft will continue to grow market share for the next five years as standard lager and keg ales declined by as much as 22.5% and 27.8% respectively.

66 The consumer demand for premium products is key to craft's on-going success. As the Millennial generation (currently aged 23-38) gives way to Generation Z (currently aged under 22), all indications are that consumers will be drinking less, but drinking better - choosing quality products such as local craft beer over mainstream beers.

Beer Hawk is perfectly placed to meet these changing demands and to really lead the way in innovation and style. The following trends play precisely to our strengths:

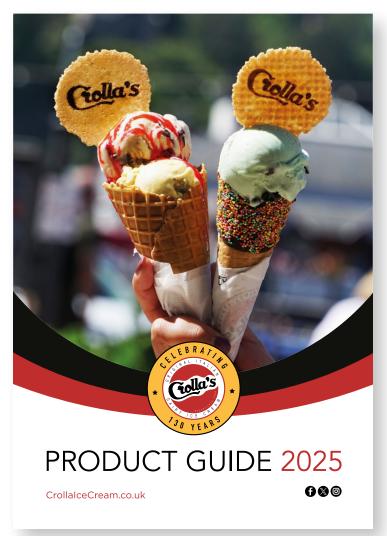
- Customers are generally younger and more focused on quality and variety
- More women are drinking beer and they want a safe, welcoming, unisex environment to drink in
- Consumers want a greater customer experience that better reflects their own love of beer and they want to be in the company of other likeminded people
- People are expecting much more from non or low alcohol drinks



A continuing contract with Crolla's Gelateria (and associated business, Gelatoburger) requires the creation of a huge variety of promotional marketing pieces including photography, print and digital advertising (including video) and day-to-day assets e.g. menus, flyers, posters and social promos.



















Design, illustration, photography and video editing.



Covid promo



Chocolate Fountain Promo



6 Nations animated promo



Product photos with background treatments



Gelatoburger is a sister company of Crolla's, with restaurants in Dumbarton and Oban. Projects reflect similar work for Crolla's including social promos, photography, menus and posters.



Champions League Promo



Weekly Promo



Shop front promo



Table-set meal promo

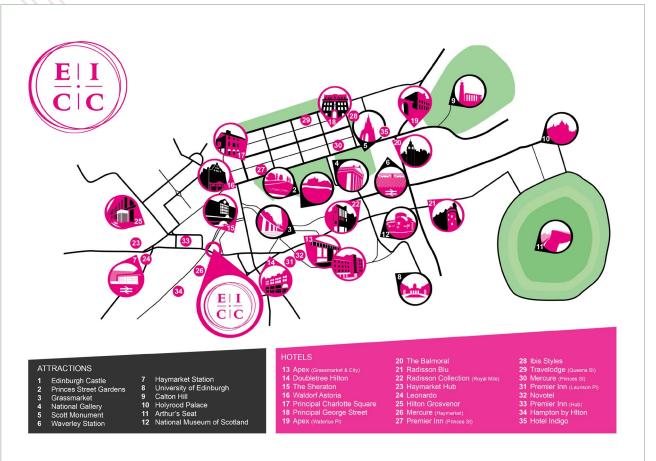


The Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC) have engaged me to create a variety of assets over the last 9 years. From maps and videos to hilarious promos for their Halloween Movie Nights!

This page shows a simple map with noted locations and vistor attractions for visting delegates.

Below is an adapted Beetlejuice poster featuring EICC building, Edinurgh skyline and the former Director!





I shot and edited a variety of promotional videos over the last few years, to boost EICC's position in the venue hiring industry. Several samples are on the HERO Creative YouTube channel.



Lord Provost Edinburgh Promo



ITAKOM Promo



Exchange Initiative Promo



Halloween Night Promo



Brand design, photography, merchandise and video for this award-winning franchising consultancy.











Some social media promos for this UK-wide recruitment franchise.

I worked a two year contract for Select before their buy-out several years ago, liaising with and creating marketing materials for 14 franchise outlets.







ExecSpace Brand & Design

Emma engaged me as part of a marketing team to create a new brand for ExecSpace including a secondary logo to mark the 5th anniversary of the company. I worked on the logos but also the general brand look and feel and the initial website relaunch.





Logo adaption as well as icon designs to work in a Virtual Reality App.











ExecSpace Brand & Design

A variety of design samples for various events for ExecSpace.

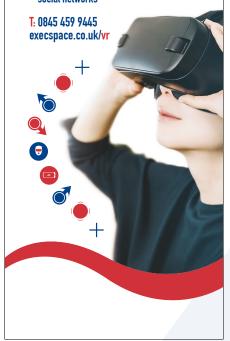






VIRTUAL REALITY VENUE TOURS

- Create a memorable customer experience
- Increase sales and conversion
- Reach your customers wherever they are using any device
- Embed on websites and share on social networks









A new brand project to brand new estate agency, Tagg - becoming a sister company to Mactaggart & Co Solicitors in Largs.

This project covered every detail from a brand new logo and colour scheme, to the premises style, for sale signs, window cards website (under construction) and more.













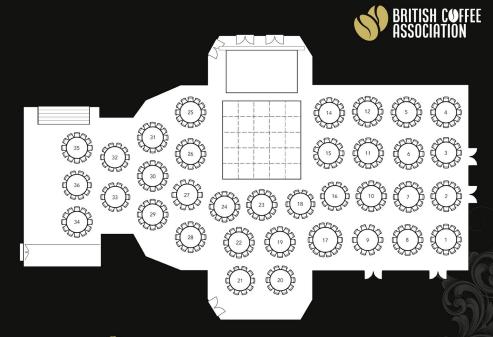


Save the Date and table plan examples for the British Coffee Association Dinner events in London.









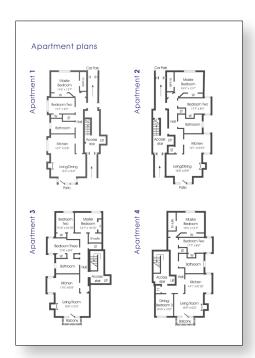


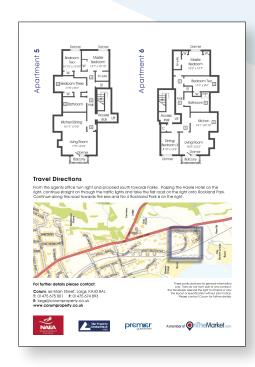
The 72nd London Coffee Dinner Friday 14th June 2024

> The Dorchester Park Lane, London



A brochure design for the Rockland Park development in Largs, through Corum.











Rockland Park A beautiful, quiet opportunity...with a view.

No 4 Rockland Park, Largs, KA30 8HB

www.corumproperty.co.uk

Rockland Park is one of Largs' most recognised and sought after avenues. Its quiet cul-de-sac location and superb uninterrupted views over the Firth of Clyde to Cumbrae and Arran make it a popular choice with a client wishing a quiet but easily accessible address to reside. No 4 Rockland Park is well placed for ease of access to the seafront, Largs Marina which has berths for 730 craft and also offers superb restaurant and bar facilities and Largs Golf Club which is an 18 hole parkland course offering spectacular views over the Clyde. Largs town centre and train station are approximately half a mile from the development itself.

Accommodation

No 4 Rockland Park is a select development of six newly constructed executive apartments of impressive internal proportion and specification, all with sea, Cumbrae and Arran views. Set over three levels, the upper apartments will have stair and lift access and external balconies. The ground floor apartments will have a payed terrace accessed via French doors. The front of the development has a westerly aspect letting owners enjoy direct sunlight in the afternoon and evenings. Particular attention has been given to the internal layout to include fully fitted dining kitchens, four piece bathrooms, excellent built in wardrobe storage in the bedrooms and ensuite facilities in the master bedroom. Gas central heating will be standard, coupled with quality double glazing, ample owner and visitor parking and attractive landscaped garden grounds. A number of individual garages can be provided on a first come, first served basis at an additional cost to

All homes will carry a Premier Guarantee



A look outside. Surrounding Area

Largs is a popular holiday destination and is becoming increasingly popular for those looking for a seaside home in a town with a good range of amenities and recreational facilities. There are a number of primary and secondary schools serving the area with excellent travel links including railway station, bus routes and easy access to the major road networks. There are many restaurants and hotels in the area, with the yacht marina and seafront being an attraction for many. Prestwick and Glasgow Airport offer regular flights throughout Britain, Ireland and Europe.

increasingly popular for those looking for a seaside home





and bar







impressive internal proportion and

specification

















This page: The 'Welcome' campaign was a project to create a sub-brand for the student arrivals from year to year.

As well as creating the primary and secondary logos for the campaign I was required to design a variety of posters, adverts, badges and online banners/adverts and an App icon to push the visual link for students to easily associate with the brand on their arrival at the University.

I also developed a set of brand guidelines for the campaign. The emblem is still being used today, nearly 10 years later.

Next page: While working a three month cover for the marketing team at the University, I was involved in producing day to day promotional work but notably their 2016-17 Annual Review.

The Annual Review was a mixture of design, illustration, image sourcing and info graphic creation and featured a edge index style and fold out flaps on the cover.



















This page: 1/3 A4 leaflet design for charity, Dean & Cauvin and their secondary service Room 4 U.

Next page: Some photography for a series of new marketing assets including leaflets, posters and website updates.

Why Foster Teens?

- Fostering teens is exciting, challenging and rewarding. Stability, at this stage, can have an incredibly positive impact for life.
- For many teens foster care is the most appropriate care setting. Some of our foster carers are also approved to care for young mothers.
- All teens need guidance and support, but many are ready to take on new responsibilities in areas such as education and working towards independent living.



Why choose Room4U?

- Room4U is part of Dean and Cauvin Young People's Trust who have supported young people in and around Edinburgh since 1733.
- You will receive full and ongoing training, your own designated supervising social worker and 24/7 on call support.
- · Optional support groups with your fellow foster parents and family days for your whole foster family.
- Room4U prioritises the careful matching of young people to families who can meet their needs and provide long-term care.

We pay a competitive rate of fees and allowances, totalling £665 per week for each young person.



Could you foster?

You may already have what it takes to be a foster parent!

- A spare bedroom
- Prior experience of living or working with children or young people (necessary).
- We ask that at least one foster parent is available at all times. If this is not possible for you, speak to us about short breaks fostering!

Visit the FAQ page on our website or give us a call to see if fostering could be a good fit for you.



The Statistics

- The number of fostering households in Scotland is decreasing with recent numbers showing there are now around 3400 across
- Around 4350 children and young people in Scotland are in a fostering household or in need of one.
- Over 400 children and young people in need of a family were referred to Room4U in 2022.



Make room. Make a difference.

ultimately there's no better job or job more worthwhile than investing in a human being.

Visit our website for more information and request your information pack today:

www.room4ufostering.org.uk

If you have any queries, please get in touch:

T: 0131 297 7320

E: fostering@deanandcauvin.org.uk

@room4ufostering

son's life!























Fettes Foundation

The marketing team at Fettes approached me to design a Bursaries Brochure, following and evolving the Fettes brand. This is now a yearly project alongside other marketing assets.











Fettes has benefited from have helped make life students we support. I am deeply grateful to you all. It is my sincere hope that loyal donors will continue be joined by many more enabling the Fettes Foundation to continue income towards bursaries.

The gift of a good education The gift of a good education changes lives far beyond that of the individual recipient. Iknow this from personal experience.

Line gift of a good education changes for the control of the

My own education and that of Susanna, my wife, was made possible as a result of members of our respective families receiving major bursary support. We understand how the provide transform the lives

support of benefactors that make such opportunities

not only of individuals but of

richly diverse community within which all of our students live, learn and flourish.

which helps shape every student at Fettes, regardless of where they come from or families across generations. It motivates them to stretch them to think of those around them. I believe Sir William Fettes would be principles live on at Fettes today.

Geoffrey Stanford

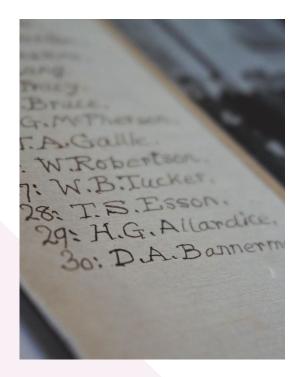




44 Young people today should leave school not just with a decent set of examination results but with an idea of how to be responsible citizens and effective contributors. The working world contributors. The working world requires and expects junior employees to possess a soft skill set applicable in a variety of contexts. Fettesians obtain these skills during their school careers in multiple ways. The vibrancy and different dimensions of the make-up of the student body is greatly enhanced when bursaries are on up of the student body is greatly enhanced when bursaries are on offer. Working with, living with and valuing one another teaches our students what it means to be a responsible member of society, contributing in the workplace and how to professionally flourish where Tutor Having pupils with different

about self-motivation and where it can take you. I received a bursary for a private secondary school and I became the first member of my family to go to university. Now I am a Head of Department at Fettes!))

Head of Department





The 150th Anniversary of the Bursaries Brochure.





Message from the Head: Helen Harrison

all-round boarding education. I want every Fettesian to leave with an understanding of how lucky they are to have benefited from their time at this remarkable school and knowing they will be part of the Fettes family throughout their lives. With privilege comes responsibility, and we are determined the school and the 50th anniversary of girls to continue providing opportunities for children that could most benefit from a Fettes education but do not have the financial means to access this.

pupils who would thrive on the experience and environment on offer at Fettes but would us. For these students, a bursary is profoundly and uncertainty for many people, I hope life-changing with both an immediate and long-term impact.

We have a long and proud history of providing financial assistance to young people bursaries. I have seen the real difference not ordinarily in a position to benefit from a Fettes education. For 150 years, the school has been steeped in a generosity of spirit which extends to those who have supported are able. us philanthropically, and I am deeply grateful

to all of our donors. We are so fortunate to have genuine and enduring connections amongst Old Fettesians and an exceptional strength of support from parents and former family coming together recently, albeit virtually, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of attending the College. It is an honour to be Head at this momentous time.

Support for bursaries is a huge investment I am contacted by many deserving prospective Our bursary programme demonstrates our commitment to a diverse and inclusive school community. In this landmark year, which continues to be full of unforeseen challenges that those members of our community who are in a position to do so will consider giving something back to Fettes by supporting this 150th anniversary appeal towards 100% that bursaries can make to improve the life chances of these deserving, ambitious and inspiring children. Please do support us if you







This animated project was in support of a campaign to tackle sedentary behaviour, with so many people now working from home.

The project involved character and set design and working with an animator to complete a series of 12 animations.





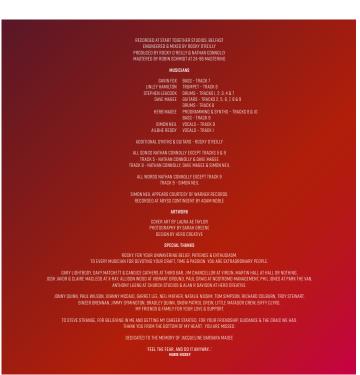






NATHAN CONNOLLY **SNOW PATROL**

Nathan approached me to create artwork for his solo record, 'The Strange Order of Things', using inspiration from a cover illustration by tatoo artist, Laura AE Taylor. I also created several promotional assets including a single cover for 'Fires' which featured Biffy Clyro singer, Simon Neil.









APPRETONS IND DISCREAMS RESURRECT THEIR HOLD ON MI HAZO AS I TRYTO PLAL FREE I DAN'T ESCAPE THE ATROPHY STRANSERS SHARE A STOLEN GLANCE A LIFE IMAGINED IN THEIR EYES, THEY FALL NO FEAR, JUST LETTING CO YOUR CHOST, RUNNING IN MY DREAMS AGAIN YOUR CHOST NE LIVE, WE LOVE, WE HURT, WE HEAL, WE LONG, WE HOPE, WE DREAM, WE DRY WE LIVE, WE LOVE, WE HURT, WE HEAL, WE LONG, WE HOPE, WE DREAM, WE DRY

DIES IN TIME WILL IT CEART TO FADE, DIES IN TIME WILL IT CEART TO HEAL IT COMES IN WAYED DIES IN TIME WILL IT CEART TO FADE, DIES IN TIME WILL IT CEART TO HEAL IT COMES IN WAYES THE LAST TIME I NULL BLEED AND HIME TO HOLD IT ALL THE LAST TIME I NULL KNEEL AFRAID TO CARRY ON THE LAST TIME I WILL BLITTO AND HART TO HOLD IT A THE LAST TIME I WILL KNETL AFRAID TO CARDY ON THE IS THE LAST TIME MY HEART WILL RUN OUT ON ME THE IS THE LAST TIME MY HEART WILL RUN OUT

IT WUST ME, YOU'LE, RING THAT MAKE HARD TO LET CO YOU'S HEAT BELT WITH MINE, DID IT EVER FEEL, WIN EVEN TEST SET JUST PURING US RUSINER ARMST OWN TABLE SIVE CRASE TOM! WE KARW IT SHAD! WORTH DIS FRONT

IN TIME, IN TIME WE'LL FIND OUR WAY IF YOU FALL, YOU FALL, YOUR TEARS WILL DO WE ARE NOT ALDNE IN OUR WIGHT SONGS WE ARE NOT ALDNE IN OUR WIGHT SONGS IF YOU FAIL, YOU FAIL THE HURT WILL FADE IN TIME, IN TIME YOUR HEART WILL MEND WE ARE NOT ALDNE IN OUR NIGHT SONGS WE ARE NOT ALDNE IN OUR NIGHT SONGS

HOW CAN'T BE DROWNING IN THE RREP HOW CAN'T BE DROWNING IN THE RREP



Major investments company, Aegon, engaged me to create some PowerPoint templates for the various teams in the company to use as a standard look.

This included illustrating a bank of icons which could be used in presentations.





Kemosabe Capital are a exclusive financial advice company – based in Sydney, Australia, offering an exclusive and high-end service.

Recommended by a former colleague and successful entrepreneur, I became Kemosabe Capital's design and brand go-to, creating everything from branding to stationery, splash website and even clothing liners.



Richard McGrath Mcomm, SA Fin, CFP, SSA SMSF Specialist Advisor Certified Financial Planner

T: +61 2 9232 5111 F: +61 2 9233 7950

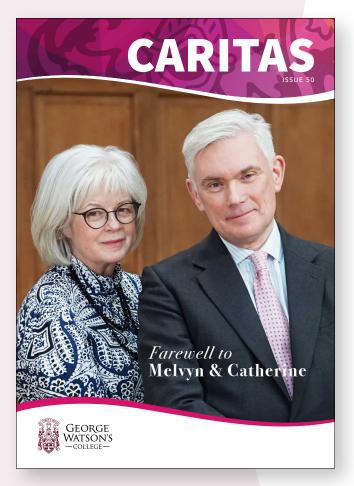
E: r.mcgrath@kemosabe.com

www.kemosabe-capital.com





George Watson's College approached me to update the look of their annual Caritas alumni magazine, which included design and photography. This has become an annual project among other assets.











TASTE 'N' TELL is a series of educational children's books designed to introduce healthy foods, featuring fun characters.

I was brought on board to bring the character designs to life and to illustrate the books from cover to cover. I also designed and artworked the books for print and provided photography.

The first two books won several awards and the Taste 'n' Tell brand has now extended to a schools and nurseries programme.











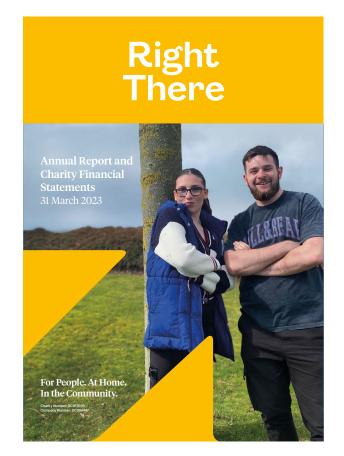


Watch an illustration sampler

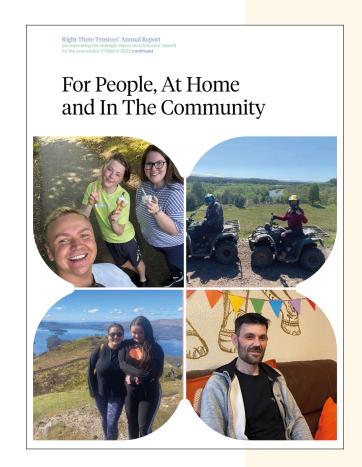


Right There

Working with charity, Right There, to produce their Annual Report.



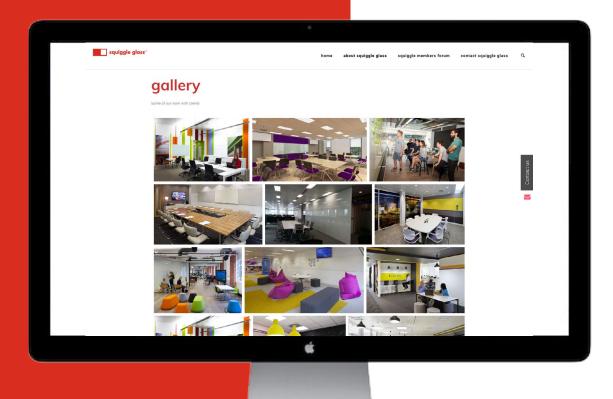


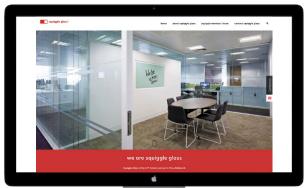






I worked with associates, Untangled Web, to design and build a new website and brochure for this expanding company.











Brand design for a start-up building company.





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