

Speakers included...

Jane Walker MBE – CEO Purple Community Fund



In 1996, disillusioned with her with her career in the newspaper industry, Jane Walker headed over to the Philippines for a rethink about her future. What was supposed to be a short break ended up being the start of a brand new life. After building the world’s first school out of recycled shipping container vans and transforming the lives of thousands of families, the School became a purple beacon of hope.

Corinne Hutton – Finding Your Feet<

Cor Hutton embodies survival, perseverance and humour in the face of adversity. Since losing her hands and legs below the knee to sepsis in 2013, she has started an award-winning charity for amputees, constantly challenged herself and been a voice for inclusion in society for all.

Cor was the first Scot to receive a double hand transplant, the fourth person in history to be awarded the Freedom of Renfrewshire and the first female quadruple amputee to climb Kilimanjaro. Her motivational talks across the UK have been met with acclaim and have helped many others push themselves to grow in ability and confidence.



Gail Macdonald – Chair of Chernobyl Children’s Lifeline Forth Valley Link



As a family we got involved with Chernobyl Children's Lifeline Charity back in 2010 and loved offering children caught up in the ongoing Chernobyl fallout a refuge where they can feel safe and comfortable, better their health, make new friends, learn about Scotland and grow as young people as they explore new experiences not on offer to them at home in Ukraine or Belarus.

John Miles - Global Sight Solutions

Global Sight Solutions is a registered charity whose aim is to provide free eye care and eye surgery to the very poor in the developing world.

There are estimated to be as many as 650 million people worldwide who, due to poverty, are just too poor to access the necessary medical solutions for themselves. Of that number around 50 million fall within a category often known as the avoidably, or preventably, blind. The vast majority of these 50 million people are in need of what is invariably a straight-forward cataract operation.

John spoke at our last conference in Aviemore and will expand on other aspects of the charity's work.



Clarke & Carrie Carlisle



Clarke Carlisle is an English former premier league footballer and was chairman of the Professional Footballers' Association. Having suffered bouts of depression and suicidal feelings in the past he and his wife Carrie set up a new service for frontline workers whose mental health has been impacted by Coronavirus, and they are motivational speakers on behalf of mental health services.

Gerard Burns

Gerard left a successful post as principal of art at St Aloysius College Glasgow to pursue his painting full time. Since 1999 this commitment has resulted in his current standing as one of Scotland’s most respected artists. In 2016 his portraits of Former First Minister Alex Salmond and author Denise Mina were entered into the permanent collection at the Scottish National portrait gallery, and his portrait of politician Margo McDonald was installed permanently in the Scottish Parliament.

For those coming to Gerard’s work for the first time it is worth taking into account that although we are presented with an image which could be described as representational, even photographic, each of the various pictorial elements also contains a deeper symbolic meaning. He is ploughing a lone furrow straddling the world of representational painting and the world of conceptual art and the simple fact of the matter is, that with greater awareness of his talent, so his fan base grows.

