



I have always loved the tale of Alice in Wonderland. I grew up in Guilford, where Lewis Carroll lived briefly and where he is buried in the cemetery on The Mount. I also love the 1951 Disney adaptation of Alice in Wonderland and watched it over and over as a child (and now make my children watch over and over!). As such, I have been surrounded by all things Alice ever since I can remember.

But how does a fascination with Lewis Carroll's most famous tale become the cornerstone for a business?



My story will be familiar to many mums out there. I went back to work after having my first child but long hours in an office and even longer hours in a nursery for my son just didn't make either of us very happy. My husband already worked in property and so we decided to transform a small cottage that we owned into a holiday rental. I had no interest, however, in designing something bland and beige and, from the outset, knew that I wanted to create the kind of fantastical world that Lewis Carroll was famous for. I have to say that my husband was not terribly keen to start with! However, the house was soon transformed and opened as Looking Glass Cottage in 2011 to great success.

Inspired by its popularity, we then renovated a second home that was much larger and provided an even greater canvas for my Alice in Wonderland-inspired ideas. This home became Wonderland House and opened its doors in December 2013. Our first guest were a local Brighton company who hired the property for their Christmas party. Since then we have not looked back and have welcomed birthday parties, corporate gatherings, office away days, hen do's, family reunions and more in both properties.



Telephone: **+44(0)7950 328093**

Email: **info@brightonwonderland.co.uk**

 wonderlandhousebrighton  brightonwonderland

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HOUSE

wonderlandhouse.co.uk

**LOOKING GLASS**  
COTTAGE

lookingglasscottage.co.uk

