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Welcome to my homepage!

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<h3>About Me</h3>

<p>Hello! Thanks for visiting my homepage. You’ve found your way to the ‘About Me’ section so prepare yourself to be regaled with a heavily redacted story of my life.</p>

<p>Once upon a time I was a small boy growing up in Kent in the south east of England, a youngest child with three irritating sisters. My early days were mostly filled with exploring the nearby hills and seaside, seeking out mischief, playing video games and being used as a pawn in elder sibling squabbles.</p>

<p>When it came time to find my way in life I left for London where I studied Computer Science and eventually settled. At first I earned my way working in a bookshop before finding myself in the pharmaceutical industry where I stayed for ~~too~~ many years.</p>

<p>When not holding my nose to the grindstone I like seeking out live music, cocktail making (and drinking), hiking in beautiful locations around the UK, and keeping fit with trail running and swimming. I’m also still partial to video games.</p>

<p>Having recently decided I had done my bit for corporate pharma I left to pursue a long held dream to be a half decent web developer, and here I am studying CS50’s Web Programming with Python and JavaScript. Wish me luck!</p>

<h3>Nintendo Collection</h3>

<p>I am a huge fan of video games, which you’ll already know if you’ve bored yourself with my ‘About Me’ section. In particular I love all things Nintendo, an affair that began around 1990 when I got my first console, the NES. Ever since I have been building my collection and now have around a dozen consoles and hundreds of games.</p>

<p>Although the NES wasn’t my earliest gaming experience (that honour went to Dad’s Sinclair ZX Spectrum!) it was the one that combined the excitement of having my very own system and my introduction to the timeless game design of Nintendo.</p>

<p>My favourite Nintendo console would have to be the Super Nintendo (SNES), which also happens to be home to my favourite Nintendo game, Super Mario World 2: Yoshi’s Island. The SNES era was in my opinion the golden age of 2D gaming and pixel art and indeed inspires many indie game developers today who continue to create metroidvania and JRPG games very reminiscent of the time.</p>

<p>

<h6>My top five Super Mario games</h6>

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Game | Console |
| 1. SMW2: Yoshi’s Island | Super Nintendo |
| 2. Super Mario Bros. 3 | NES |
| 3. Super Mario 64 | Nintendo 64 |
| 4. Super Mario World | Super Nintendo |
| 5. Super Mario Sunshine | Gamecube |

Collection Gallery

<h3>Richmond Park</h3>

<p>Since moving to London one place stands out as my most cherished of all, Richmond Park. At 2500 acres it is the largest of London’s many Royal Parks and is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, European Special Area of Conservation and National Nature Reserve.</p>

<p>The park’s grasslands and ancient woodland are home to roaming deer and numerous species of bird, insect and wildflower. Within the walls you’ll also find locations such as Pembroke Lodge with its Georgian Tea Rooms and views of the Thames Valley, White Lodge, home of the Royal Ballet Lower School, the Pen Ponds, and the Isabella Plantation, a 40 acre woodland garden.</p>

<p>While the royal connection with the area dates back to at least the 11th century, the park we know today began to take shape in 1625 when King Charles I relocated his court to Richmond Palace as a result of plague in the nearby capital. The park was created for the purposes of hunting deer and later enclosed with only limited access for pedestrians. It continued as a country retreat for several royals over the coming centuries until an Act of Parliament in 1872 established full public access.</p>

<h6>Here is some of my own photography from this wonderful location:</h6>

[Deer circle] | [Deer in snow] | [The ponds] | [Thawing snow]