

## Countdown to Summer School Begins

**This year's Dartington International Summer School promises to be full of novelty when it celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> with a varied programme of commissions.**

Highlights include an extraordinary piece by Orlando Gough, *One, Two* to be performed in week 4 by numerous sets of identical twins in the Great Hall, combining music, movement and dance. John Woolrich is composer in residence, directing the advanced composition course. His new work, commissioned by the Summer School, will be performed in week 5 by the New Century Players from CalArts, the leading arts institution in LA.

In week 3 Nicolas Hodges will premiere Patrick Ozzard-Low's sonata no 2 for piano and Helen Read will premiere a sequence of five piano commissions, based on synaesthesia, the interaction of visual and musical imagery.

Three generations of the Wallfisch family will be with us on Monday 6 and Tuesday 7 August in a concert involving cellist, Raphael, and his son, Simon, performing a commissioned work by another son, Ben. Raphael's mother, Anita Lasker-Wallfisch will also be giving a lecture on her experiences as a cellist in Auschwitz during the war.

Other new activity includes a saxophone masterclass course with Gerard McChrystal in week 4, not advertised in the course brochure. DISS also welcomes the Royal Opera House to the Summer School for the first time in that week. Its *Write an Opera* course equips school teachers with all the practical skills and structures for devising and staging an opera with student performers in a school environment.

A number of different seams run through the concert season. Works by Bach, John Field, Haydn, and Mozart and many more will be performed throughout the late-night concert series. This includes a three-night series in week 4 dedicated to the complete Chopin Nocturnes, performed by the regular



Choir rehearsal, Dartington international Summer School, 2006 Photo: Kate Mount

accompanists whose commitment and hard work are an indispensable part of Summer School. On Wednesday 25 July in week 1, a day of lectures and concerts is dedicated to the Commedia dell' Arte, culminating in a late-night performance of Schoenberg's seminal work, *Pierrot Lunaire*, on the following day. Another theme this year is the musical setting of poetry by the Sitwell family, including *Belshazzar's Feast* by Walton and Lambert's *Rio Grande* and many others. We are delighted that William, grandson of Sacheverell Sitwell, will be joining us to narrate part of Walton's *Façade*.

Many courses are selling out now, but there are still some spaces so apply quickly if you are intending to book. In particular, Summer School needs a clarinettist and double bass player for the chamber music course in both weeks 2 & 3, in order to offer the broadest possible range of repertoire.

Dartington International Summer School runs from 21 July to 25 August. Concert tickets go on sale on 11 June: Box Office number 01803 847070.

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# Festival For Sale!!!



# 2007

In order to secure the long-term future of the Totnes Festival the Committee are going to auction off the chance to be the main sponsor. The Totnes Festival 2006 captured the imagination of locals and visitors alike going from a standing start to over 70 events in its very first year. The diversity of events reflected the town's reputation as a truly vibrant place for art, music, fashion, film, food, ecology and alternative lifestyles. This year's Festival promises to be even bigger and better!

Councillor Judy Westacott, Chair of the Festival Committee, said, "Now is somebody's chance to be credited as the Totnes Festival Main Sponsor, the Committee are inviting sealed bids from anyone interested in putting

their name to the festival. If you win, you will get front cover acknowledgement for you or your company and a full page advert in the extremely stylish brochure, 20000 of which will be circulated across the region from the beginning of July. You will also get featured on the brand new website [www.totnesfestival.com](http://www.totnesfestival.com)."

**In true Totnes tradition the committee** are aiming to make the Festival as sustainable as possible and all money raised from sponsorship will go towards covering ongoing publicity costs and firmly establishing the festival on the South West's calendar.

How much will this cost? You decide! If you would like more information about

sponsorship or getting your event in the brochure call Mark Barton-Donald, Devon Artsculture's Communications Officer at Dartington on 01803 847095 or email [m.bartondonald@dartingtonplus.org.uk](mailto:m.bartondonald@dartingtonplus.org.uk).

Event organisers have until 11 June to get their festival activities included in the brochure. Please email text and images to Mark at Devon Artsculture, [m.bartondonald@dartingtonplus.org.uk](mailto:m.bartondonald@dartingtonplus.org.uk). Also people wishing to advertise in the brochure should get their adverts to us by that date too. Full information can be found on the brand new website [www.totnesfestival.com](http://www.totnesfestival.com) in the 'About Us' section.

## Exciting Developments for Dartington Plus & Transatlantic Arts Consortium

**The Transatlantic Arts Consortium enters an exciting new phase with the news that it has secured \$750K from the Pierson Lovelace Foundation in the US to kick-start a three-year programme of new commissions.**

The Transatlantic Arts Consortium began in May 2005 and is an international collaboration between Dartington Plus, CalArts and Idyllwild Arts, both in the US. To date, the consortium has worked together on international creative exchanges for artists and young people and the development of Music & Dance Exchange (M&DE) and the Dartington Summer Youth Programme. TAC has already secured over \$1m for these projects from a range of US philanthropists.

This new commissioning programme and new funding is the latest development for the consortium and ties in closely with Dartington's aim to become an international centre for the creation of new work. It also enables the consortium to expand the involvement of other partners in the UK, US, Europe and Asia who are all committed to the creation of new work across a range of arts disciplines and involving both emerging and established artists, together with young people, in the creation and subsequent performance of the new work.

The aims of the new commissioning programme are to support artists in the creation of new work, to promote cultural understanding across national and political divides, and to bridge the gap between professional and amateur activity in the arts,

reaffirming the power of the arts as a participative activity for all.

**The new commission ideas include:**

*Stephan Koplowitz's Task Force*, an international group of artists drawn from the field of dance, music & film. This small company will work across a range of US and European locations, collaborating with artists from each location to create a site-specific work in response to a range of unusual, inspiring and challenging spaces.

*Stephen Montague's Midnight Stories*, a new work weaving together local stories, folk and classical traditions to create a 90-minute nocturnal piece, blurring boundaries between audience and performers. The production will challenge the traditional theatrical and concert format, delivering instead a powerful collective experience of coming together to share in a ritual of music, stories and ceremony.

*Operation Wandering Soul*. This is a remarkable book by Richard Powers, chronicling the slow-motion breakdown of a young doctor confronting the harrowing realities of a paediatric ward on a Los Angeles hospital. The book will inspire the creation of a new music theatre production of enormous power and reach.

*International Young Composers Project*. A selected group of school age and higher education students from various international locations will join forces with two established and cutting edge composers to create a multi-movement voice and instrumental composition. The theme will revolve around international communication and peace.

*Meredith Monk*. The highly regarded American artist will be commissioned to compose a participative work for voice and movement.

The work would be created with different community groups in various locations linked to the TAC partnership, with final site-specific presentations in these locations.

*River Voices*. This project has emerged from an evolving collaboration between KEVICC, Totnes, and Mathieson School in Calcutta. Its aim is to create a journey of cultural exploration in parallel with the journeys of two rivers – the Hooghly running through Calcutta and the Dart running through Dartington.

*Film and Media across cultures*. This project aims to enable young people from a variety of international locations to collaborate through the medium of film and media. It will bring together communities from US, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe by creating a series of short documentary films made with selected groups of young film-makers from each country.

*MAX Commission*. Sir Peter Maxwell Davies will be in residence at Dartington in 2008 for the International Summer School. Following this, we hope to stimulate a major commissioning project for a participatory work involving children and young people. This would lead to a Max Fest in LA, with CalArts / Redcat. New Century Players and potentially the LA Philharmonic Orchestra.

An eclectic mix and the project management starts very soon, particularly with the Stephan Koplowitz Task Force, Meredith Monk and Stephen Montague's *Midnight Stories* projects. The recently secured \$750K will be used to unlock further funding to ensure all the above ideas become a reality! Matt Griffiths, Director of Dartington Plus thanks all at Dartington involved for their energetic input to date.

# Recollections of Imogen Holst

**Visit High Cross House, on the Dartington Hall estate and you will find displayed the original manuscript of Imogen Holst's String Quartet No 1, music that recently featured on BBC Radio 3's 'Composers of the Week'. A highly regarded choral conductor, both she and her father, composer Gustav Holst, were celebrated during Easter week on the lunchtime radio programme, which commemorated the centenary of Imogen's birth. Dartington, where she taught music to a succession of students, celebrates the centenary too with an exhibition of original documents, text and photographs derived from The Dartington Hall Trust Archive.**

Imogen dedicated the manuscript of the String Quartet No 1 to Dartington Hall Trust founders, Dorothy and Leonard Elmhirst, who in 1942 invited her to spend time at Dartington. She had been working as one of six music travellers for C.E.M.A. (Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts), who were appointed to foster amateur music-making in wartime rural England with the whole of the South West as her responsibility. Benjamin Britten was a regular visitor to Dartington and after nine years of teaching, Imogen accepted the celebrated composer's invitation to take up a post at Aldeburgh as his music assistant.

Imogen Holst believed in her father's maxim that music should be done by anyone keen and enthusiastic enough to want to take it up, regardless of ability. One of her Dartington students later recalled how 'occasionally the Friday Evening Singers, some of them marvellously unprofessional, would be rewarded for their efforts by Imo's delighted remark, "J S B himself walked in!"' She was able to get a wide range of ordinary people to listen, play and sing.

Other recollections from students illustrate her passion for Bach and her dislike of Chopin.



Imogen Holst conducting in the courtyard at Dartington Hall

"The music she didn't like I didn't learn," one Dartington student recalled later in life. Her students worked hard and long on Bach's B Minor Mass; to her 'the greatest music in the world' according to one. The 'St John Passion' involved all students and staff alike in the emotional wear and tear of detailed work and study; even the lengths of the pauses between sections were musically organised.

Whilst at Dartington Imogen Holst spent two months in West Bengal, Northern India, at Santiniketan University, founded by the philosopher and poet Rabindranath Tagore, with whom Leonard Elmhirst had worked prior to the purchase of Dartington Hall in 1925. There she met a great singing teacher who to her delight looked exactly like Bach: he wore his hair in long silver-white ringlets.

**High Cross House, a superb example of International Modernism, was built for the**

headmaster of the famous Dartington Hall School and designed by Swiss American architect William Lescaze. It is furnished of the period and includes pieces by Alvar Aalto, Mies van der Rohe, Gerald Summers and Lescaze, as well as furniture made at Dartington in the modern idiom. Items from the Trust's Collection of significant ceramics and paintings are on display and, in addition to the Imogen Holst material, there is an exhibition illustrating the history of The Dartington Hall Trust from 1925 to the present day.

The house is currently open to the public on Tuesday to Friday, 2 to 4.30pm, until 26 October, with the addition of Tuesday to Friday, 10.30-12.30, from the 24 July to the 31 August. It also opens on Saturday 8 September, 10-12.30 and 2-4.30pm as part of the Heritage Open Days weekend.

Editor

## Top-Notch Event for South West Sound

**Report from the Dartington Arts team on the Music Convention held from 24 to 28 April**

Another South West Sound landed this April, and it was possibly our best convention yet. Overall attendance was up on last year, the programme was absolutely top-notch and the participant feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

The range of live music performed was incredible, with a series of showcases from DCA students, some rocking gigs in the Rat & Emu, beautiful acoustic vibes in the Roundhouse,

and two very impressive and very different concerts in the Great Hall, including 'space' jazz from Jerry Dammers and the cosmic engineers – the first, and likely last, time we'll see the UK's top jazz musicians performing in a 14<sup>th</sup> century hall dressed as astronauts!

The arts team would like to thank everyone that made the event such a success, especially Dartington's catering and accommodation staff for hospitality and Dartington College of Arts for kind use of their spaces.

Many thanks also to all those who attended, whether speaker, delegate, audience member

or musician... you all helped to create a really fantastic event.

A report on this year's convention, plus images and transcripts of the keynote speeches by Billy Bragg, Jeannette Lee, Korda Marshall and Tom Bewick will be online soon at [www.southwestsound.org.uk](http://www.southwestsound.org.uk)



# Central School of Speech & Drama appoints Gavin Henderson Principal

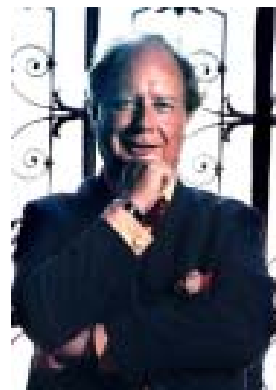
**Gavin Henderson CBE, who is Artistic Director of Dartington International Summer School, has been appointed Principal of the Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London.**

Paul Taiano, Chairman of the Board of Governors of Central School, where Gavin will succeed Professor Gary Crossley, said: 'We are absolutely delighted that Gavin Henderson will be our new Principal. He brings enormous experience of the theatre, and indeed across all the arts, as well as a distinguished track record in Higher Education. Gavin will be able to build upon the success of Gary Crossley's tenure, which has seen Central designated as the Centre for Excellence in Training for Theatre (CETT) by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), become a Federal College within the University of London, absorb the Webber Douglas Academy and gain Taught Degree Awarding Powers in its own right. We look forward to moving towards Phase 5 of our estate development at Swiss Cottage, and to developing a range of international partnerships.'

Paul Taiano is happy that Gavin should continue in his role as Artistic Director of Dartington's International Summer School. Gavin, who takes up his new role in September, has always admired the excellence of Central's work, and its commitment to new ideas. "From the outset, when Elsie Fogerty established the School within the Royal Albert Hall, over a century ago, Central has lived up to its name in making speech and drama central to the way we live our lives. It is, without doubt, at the very forefront of international practice. It will be a great privilege to take Central into the next chapter of its progression as a world leader in its field, and also as one of the friendliest and most positive centres for the development of theatre arts. The opportunities before us are truly remarkable."

Sir Graeme Davies, Vice Chancellor of the University of London, is delighted to welcome Gavin back into the University as Principal of the Central School of Speech and Drama. He sees him as having scope to build upon his recent and distinguished work with Trinity College of Music and Laban, and the creation of the Jerwood Library of Performing Arts. "He has many years of experience in producing

international theatre at various festivals and arts centres, a world into which he moved after his post-graduate studentship at the University of London, having been at the Slade School within University College."



Gavin Henderson

Vaughan Lindsay, Chief Executive of The Dartington Hall Trust, said, "Gavin has always brought valuable insight, and many friendships and partnerships to Dartington through the work he has done elsewhere – such as Brighton Festival, Trinity College of Music, Laban, Youth Music and the European Festivals Association. We feel sure that his new life with Central will be just as fruitful. He will continue in his capacity as Artistic Director of Summer School. We wish Gavin and Central all success for the future."

## Excellent Award for Dinsdale Petch

**Devon Artsculture member, bronze founder Dinsdale Petch (right), was awarded the Giftware Association Award for Excellence at the prestigious British Trade Craft Fair in Harrogate in April, a showcase for 500 of the cream of British Designer Makers presenting their work to shops & galleries.**



Dinsdale Petch specialises in hot casting bronze fine art sculpture from his foundry in East Buckland near Barnstaple, North Devon. His stunning range of solid bronze fruit & nuts impressed the judges who were looking at the criteria of hand made British craftsmanship to the highest standard, presentation and commercial viability.

Dinsdale received support from Dartington's Devon Artsculture to show his work at Harrogate under their Trade Fair Support Scheme, which is designed to raise profiles, increase sales potential and get members to the shows and fairs that really matter. Dinsdale is also one of Devon Artsculture's 'Devon Creatives', a group of promising artists and craftspeople who are receiving an intensive programme of support to help develop their businesses. More of Dinsdale's work can be seen at [www.dinsdalepetch.co.uk](http://www.dinsdalepetch.co.uk)



Face painting at Park School Strawberry Fair, 2006



## News from Park School

The **Annual Strawberry Fair** is at Park School, Park Road on Friday, 15 June from 3-7pm. Everyone welcome.

**Richard Hickman** continues as Teacher in Charge to the end of Spring Term 2008 and Amanda Bellamy, currently teacher of the middle group, will take over as Teacher in Charge in Summer 2008. This term ends on 20 July 2007.

**The Young Dartington Activity** weeks for 8-14 year olds, which take place at the school premises, are weeks beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> July. Further details and bookings can be made on 01803 868533 or see [www.youngdartington.co.uk](http://www.youngdartington.co.uk).

# Nature's Due

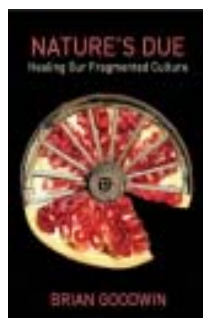
## Healing Our Fragmented Culture

A new text by Brian Goodwin, Schumacher College

**Professor Brian Goodwin, Scholar in Residence and MSc Course Tutor at Schumacher College, is celebrating the publication of his new book, which progressively challenges the fundamentals of modern scientific culture. It takes you on a journey, progressively bringing together nature and culture. In fact, this is a journey humanity needs to take; a natural and necessary transformation to deal with the grave situation we find ourselves in when considering climate change and degradation of the planet in the widest terms.**

Science has largely entailed groups of specialists working in separate disciplines, seeking answers to narrowly defined questions. With a refreshingly holistic approach, Brian takes you through a history of science in the most engaging of ways. He explores concepts of health, shifts in understanding quantity and quality, evolution, chaos and complexity, and readily accessible use of Goethean science. He shows us that essential qualities of the natural world are revealed through direct experience, as they are in culture, giving us reliable insight

into appropriate, skilful action. We must embrace the complexity of nature and adopt new ways of engaging with it through art, design and economics. The educative potential of this realisation will help us open the window of change in culture and science. Ultimately and holistically this will play an essential role in the transformation of humanity. We will give nature its due.



### An extract from Brian's introduction

"The theme of this book is rethinking and extending scientific insight in such a way that nature and culture are understood to be one continuous and unified creative process, not two domains that are distinguished by unique human attributes. Distinctions there certainly are, between non-living and living nature, and between each of the many species of organism that have come into existence on earth. However, I wish to show that the whole sweep of cosmic evolution is characterised by properties

similar to those that we jealously regard as our unique attributes, which we use to define the distinction between nature and culture. It has turned out we do not have the upper hand regarding intelligent behaviour; rather, that position is held by nature, which has turned out to be not 'simply mechanical' as our current scientific culture encourages us to believe.

The links between nature and culture that I shall explore throughout the book, in different chapters in different ways, revolve around coherence, wholeness, and meaning. Coherence and wholeness we use to describe natural phenomena, such as lasers and living organisms, but meaning tends to be reserved for humans. I shall develop the position that these three concepts belong together and describe similar processes of creativity in different realms. Our unique attributes of language and consciousness are regarded as the portals that give us access to understanding the meaning of life and of our universe. I shall suggest that looking for the meaning of life is a distracting chimaera, while what we are actually looking for is lives of meaning through relationship. I shall indicate how nature is engaged in a similar process of finding meaning, coherence and wholeness in relationship, and that this is the basis of its intelligibility to us. Meaning, in fact, permeates the creative cosmos that we know."

This book is available from the publisher at [www.florisbooks.co.uk](http://www.florisbooks.co.uk)

## Dartington Man wins BAFTA

**On Sunday, May 20th, Peter Nicholson who originates from Dartington, was awarded a BAFTA for his Channel 4 television film 'Nuremberg - Goering's Last Stand', a docu-drama marking the 60th anniversary of the most famous trial in history. It had been nominated in the Huw Wheldon Specialist Factual category at this year's ceremony.**

Peter was educated at Dartington Hall School, attending there from 1969 to 1980. After a gap year travelling in the United States, he went to University College London to study Human Geography, gaining a 1st Class degree. During his second year summer vacation he made a 35-minute video based on his studies of the regentrification of London's Docklands, which led to his interest to continue in this field after leaving UCL. He was accepted by Middlesex Polytechnic where he was awarded a full scholarship to take their post-graduate course in Film and Television Production. After graduating from Middlesex, Peter started work as a researcher for the late Denis Mitchell. He began directing his first documentary for Channel 4 in 1986 under the guidance of Mitchell and became a free-lance Director in 1989, directing over 40 films for UK and international broadcasters. Prior to the recent success with 'Nuremberg', Peter directed 'Pompeii - the Last Day' for BBC 1, which received a BAFTA nomination and won the prime-time US EMMY award.

Peter's family has had a long association with Dartington and the Dartington Hall Trust. His grandfather, John Wales, came to Dartington as early as 1926 to sort, catalogue and establish a library for Leonard and Dorothy Elmhirst, who had bought the Estate a year earlier. John was so entranced with the beauty of the place and excited by all that was going on that he urged his fiancée, Peggy, to join him. They were married a year later and their wedding reception was held on the Private Lawn at Dartington Hall. John and Peggy's children, Shirley, Mary Bride

and their adopted son Adam, all attended Dartington Hall School, where both Peter's grandparents then worked - John as teacher of History and Latin and Peggy as Matron.

Peter's mother, now Mary Bride Nicholson, later returned to Dartington in

1962 at the invitation of Dorothy Elmhirst to become her personal secretary and, after Dorothy's death in December 1968, she was asked to work for Maurice Ash, the Elmhirsts' son-in-law who later, after Leonard's retirement, became Chairman of the Dartington Hall Trust. She continued to work for him until his death in 2003. Mary Bride still lives in Dartington and is a Governor of the Dartington Primary School and a member of the Dartington Community Choir, which she helped to found in 1982.

Peter lives in London with his wife, Jane, and 9-year old son, Adam, who, Peter told viewers, knowing that competition included the *Planet Earth* series, had told his father that he "hadn't a chance!" Other programmes in the running were *Munich: Mossad's Revenge* and Simon Schama's *Power of Art*. Above Peter with BAFTA at High Cross House.



## Obituaries

### A tribute to Victor Bonham-Carter

#### A RECORD OF HARD WORK & HISTORY AT DARTINGTON

**Victor Bonham-Carter died on 13 March 2007, aged 93. His death was well documented in the national press, including *The Times* and the *Daily Telegraph*. Educated at Winchester and Magdalene College, Cambridge, Victor was a farmer, writer and publisher, whose principal interests lay in rural life and military history, and who is noted for his campaign to gain public lending rights for his fellow writers.**

Victor's first contact with Leonard and Dorothy Elmhirst was in 1950 when he met them to secure permission for the making of a BBC radio programme about Dartington Hall. Victor was then running a farm on Exmoor and busy with lectures and broadcasts for the BBC West Region at Bristol.

Much of what he had heard about Dartington was hearsay, many of them funny or horror stories about the School or the Hall, but he soon formed the impression that if you talked to an agricultural scientist, a forester, or an artist, someone who had worked continuously in one of the departments, then you learned something constructive, if not always favourable to the estate. "Dartington was," Victor Bonham-Carter wrote about those earlier days, "at the same time a Lotus land and a wart upon the fair face of Devon, but a happy hunting ground for all those who got inside."

The Elmhirsts were initially reluctant. Dartington had been on the air before, and in other ways had had plenty of publicity, some of it adverse and unbalanced and damaging. Victor was, however, deeply impressed by their sincerity, intelligence, and transparent idealism. Dorothy said comparatively little, but asked one or two penetrating questions about his qualifications; Leonard exchanged ideas about rural planning and land use and gave an inkling of the extraordinary diversity of his interests. Permission for the programme was given, provided he 'played fair'.

It was broadcast in June 1951. Later Victor admitted that it was virtually impossible to convey accurately and intelligibly in an hour all that had happened at Dartington over the previous 25 years. Using sound only he was confined to livening up the programme with noises of textile machinery, farm work, music and so on, which might have come from anywhere. Its value lay in its authenticity with the voices and opinions of people involved in the life of the estate.

**A month later he was offered a job writing the definitive history of the estate since its**



Victor Bonham-Carter & Dorothy Elmhirst, Foundation Day, Long Service Awards ceremony 1964, Photo; The Dartington Hall Trust Archive

purchase in 1925, which he expected would take two years. Others approached previously had sunk beneath the weight of material and the complexity of the subject. It proved to be the beginning of a totally absorbing 15 year commitment that involved the sorting of several tons of paper, filing thousands of letters and documents, reports, minutes, financial accounts - many rescued at the eleventh hour from the salvage men - and maps, photographs, notices and programmes. Some papers related only indirectly to the estate, owing to the host of outside interests that the Elmhirsts had, while their private correspondence often gave the clue to their public actions.

Robin Johnson, then Public Relations Officer and editor of *News of the Day*, assigned as assistant, began by taking Victor up to the tiny Muniments Room in the courtyard tower and giving him all the copies of the Dartington paper to read, dating from 1927. The huge dump of departmental papers that had arisen were then sorted, disposed of, or saved, and a Records Office was formed in a room at the Trust's Central Office at Shinnars Bridge. Victor consulted the Somerset County Archivist who came to Dartington and advised on the setting up and preservation of the records, using boxes, folders and guide cards, and the correct materials. The essential core of the records retained constitutes much of The Dartington Hall Trust Archive today.

The second assistant was C Eric McNally, known as Mc, who taught printing and bookbinding at Dartington Hall School, and was invaluable in rescuing and preserving the visual records, constructing albums for these and other special documents. A system was established with departments to maintain the continuity of the records with the ongoing collecting, sorting and box-filing of material.

The writing of the history itself produced a major reference work, entitled the Main Report and covers the years 1925-1956, divided into

two parts to cover the commercial and non-commercial activities under the headings of Dartington Hall Ltd, and Dartington Hall Trust respectively and is held in the Archive. On completion of the Report, Victor wrote a book *Dartington Hall: the history of an Experiment*, published with a section by headmaster William Curry, on Dartington Hall School.

By the end of 1966 Victor had written supplements to the History covering the years 1956-65 and was now ready to move on to a new post as secretary of the Society of Authors in London. He produced a history of the Society, *Authors by Profession*, and also worked for the Royal Literary Fund, until retiring in 1982, but continued to write and publish.

**In 1992 Victor was invited to plant a tree in memory of Robin Johnson, who had worked as Records Officer until his retirement in 1984, and had died that year.** This renewed contact with Dartington led to a series of essays on Trust activities written over the following three years covering some of the 30 intervening years.

Writing in his book *Dartington Hall The Formative Years 1925-1957*, published 1958 and 1970, Victor writes: "I would like to make clear that no pressure has been brought upon me at any time to impart a particularly favourable view, nor to gloss over criticism, nor to write anything but an honest account of what I consider Dartington stands for....Dartington is far too large and significant an enterprise to escape adverse criticism in detail. In the final judgment, however, I have no hesitation in declaring my view - that Dartington is the most important private enterprise ever undertaken in the economic, social and cultural rehabilitation of a rural area....."

In the final chapter, he writes: ".....Dartington will not die with the Elmhirsts. But organization is not enough. Everything will depend upon the qualities of future Trustees; not only upon their ability to administer the

## Carito Rodriguez: SPANISH REPUBLICAN REFUGEE

**Etain Todds, nee Kabraji, writes**

There are things we have to thank Franco for! Dartington Hall School benefitted vividly from the Spanish Republican refugees, Carito and Marina Rodriguez, Margarita Camps, Federico de la Iglesia and his family, who joined its staff in the 1940s.

Carito Rodriguez, who died in her Totnes home on 20 March 2007, was one of the 4,000 Basque refugee children brought over to England in 1937 after the bombing of Guernica. She and her younger sister, Marina, came from Bilbao in that huge group without their parents, landed in Southampton after a horrible overcrowded sea journey, and camped in tents, until they were moved to Colchester and were looked after by members of the Peace Pledge Union. There they met and impressed Dr Margarita Camps, a distinguished biologist from Madrid University but then working with the Quakers. When Margarita was given a teaching post at the school she told Bill Curry, the Headmaster, that the sisters were natural Dartingtonians and together they sponsored their coming to Dartington with a scholarship from a Spanish Trust. They studied for the Froebel teaching diploma with Margaret Isherwood and in 1945 joined the School staff.

Carito had a Junior School group at the Postern and later at Aller Park. Marina taught Biology and Spanish in the Middle School and was also a Housemother at Foxhole. They worked at the School for nearly 40 years so generations of children look back on their time in 'the Spanies' classes as formative, beneficial and fun. Carito's generous spirit, anarchic humour and warm championship of each child in her care made for self confidence and independence. "She created a family atmosphere and made



Marina and Carito Rodriguez at Foxhole, soon after coming to Dartington Photo: The Dartington Hall Trust Archive

us each feel *very* special," said one.

To me a pupil at the Senior School in the 1940s, they brought Internationalism and I relished the passionate intensity of their political commitment. Their mother had later escaped to Paris and worked for UNESCO, only coming to live in Totnes on her retirement. But a return to Spain was out of the question till Franco's death. Then they bought a house near Alicante and filled it with Dartington and Spanish friends.

Small and stylish, Carito was a good cook, a neat footed dancer, a warm-hearted friend and a merry companion. Her pupils and many friends will always remember her with the greatest affection.

## Richard Gardner

**Richard Gardner, long-time piano curator and tuner at Dartington, died peacefully at home in his sleep on 9 May 2007.**

Staff at the Dartington International Summer School say that Richard's death leaves a huge hole in the Summer School, which will be impossible to fill. His wife, Marlene, wrote in 2002: "Richard joined Dartington College in 1966 as their piano technician. But this was not his first encounter with the College – Richard's father Rex was the Elmhirst's first architect and Richard was born in an estate house in Dartington. It was shortly after this that he became involved with the Summer School – he always blames John Amis for this – and started a long-running relationship with the festival and its participants, from the late William Glock, Bee Musson and George Malcolm. Richard has always been a stalwart champion of Dartington International Summer School and its aims. He took this dedication to Bath Festival for 25 years, only resigning in 2000. William Glock told Richard after one of his lectures that he was a natural lecturer and the funniest thing since Jaques Tati (*Monsieur Hulot's Holiday*). His great love affair with the piano and music has been his life. For 35 years this has included Dartington and the Summer School. His family are now resigned to Richard wearing his Summer School hat; his professionalism, dedication and loyalty to music and his colleagues are what Richard is all about."

<< opposite **Victor Bonham-Carter**

Estate and solve the problems of their day, but above all upon their ability to *inspire*. In the last analysis that is the real contribution of Leonard and Dorothy Elmhirst – not the material results of their ideas, but the spiritual impetus which they have communicated."

Victor's second wife Cynthia Sanford survives him, with the two sons of his first marriage and his stepson and stepdaughter.

**Victor Bonham-Carter 13 December 1913 to 13 March 2007.**

Editor



Piano moving in the Great Hall with Richard Gardner centre, DISS 2005 Photo: Emily Hoare

Artistic Director of Summer School, Gavin Henderson, wrote the following tribute to Richard in 2002: "Behind the scenes in every walk of life there are people taken for granted without whom achievements could not be made by those who take so much credit. Piano tuning and maintenance must rank high in this regard amongst musicians. Anyone who works regularly in the music world will know the full value of skilled and sensitive preparation of the piano. I have worked extensively in festivals, with orchestras, at art centres and theatres – and never have I encountered someone of the dedication and mastery of his craft as Richard Gardner. We are truly blessed to have his constant attention to the demands and foibles we place before him each summer at Dartington."

**Richard's father, Rex Gardner, was appointed Estate architect in 1927 and responsible for the construction of several buildings on the estate, including the cottages at 5 to 8 Park Road, the Craftsman's Studio, now home to the Dartington Toyshop, the Summer House on the Great Lawn and the foundations of the Dance School at Lower Close, as well as the reconstruction of several buildings including the Shiners Bridge farmhouse, the Old Postern and some cottages and houses.**

## NOTICES & EVENTS

**Reward of £100 for information leading to the recovery of MODELS OF THE CLIPPER SHIPS, CUTTY SARK AND MIDDLESEX, taken from High Cross House, c1968. Phone 01803 862093**

### **Dartington Summer Youth Programme 23 July to 9 August**

Offers a wide range of non-residential creative courses for young people in music, dance, theatre, visual arts and photography. Led by experienced professional tutors alongside young emerging arts leaders, the courses are aimed at a range of levels so there is something for everyone. Booking Office: 01803 847077; Admin: 01803 847066; s.arnaud@dartington.org

### **TEXT-PRINT-ARTISTS-BOOKS EXHIBITION OF ARTISTS' WORK at Library, Dartington College of Arts Until 14 June**

An outcome of a 5-week course in printing & bookbinding run by Mary Bartlett of Dartington Craft Centre & Deborah Price of Dartington College of Arts. This was a pilot project supported by Dartington Creative Enterprise Innovation Fund, Dartington Hall Trust, and the Writing Department at Dartington College of Arts.

### **Dartington Property Limited Office Accommodation to Let at the Foxhole Centre, Dartington**

Office accommodation is currently available at the Foxhole Centre to let on an initial six month licence, followed by a three year lease. Free parking available.

#### **Room 1, Courtyard**

264 square foot ground floor office. Rental £165.00 per calendar month. All inclusive service charge £165.00 per calendar month. Plus business rates after initial six months

#### **Room D14**

320 square foot office located on the second floor. Rental £186.67 per calendar month. All inclusive service charge £200.00 per calendar month. Plus business rates after initial six months.

For further information and/or to arrange a viewing, contact Diane Hern at Foxhole on 01803 862567, foxhole@dartington.org

### **Ways With Words Dartington Hall Festival 6 - 16 July 2007**

Ways With Words is a vibrant and joyful 10-day festival, a chance for those who read books to meet those who write them. The setting is glorious, the atmosphere is invigorating. People come together in spectacular surroundings to share the pleasure and power of language. The warmth and energy of this lively gathering make it a memorable occasion.

Details: 01803 867373;

office@wayswithwords.co.uk;

www.wayswithwords.co.uk

## Schumacher College, Dartington

**Open Evenings** with tutors from the Short Course programme - usually held on Wednesdays at 8pm at the College or in Totnes. A donation of between £2 and £4 at the door. **Note: Guest speakers and venues are subject to change - please call in advance to confirm the latest details. Tel: 01803 865934.**

**11 June (Monday)** Vandana Shiva and others: *Food and Farming in Transition*, Great Hall, Dartington, In association with TTT\*

**13 June** Vandana Shiva, Schumacher College

**20 June** Wolfgang Sachs, Schumacher College

**4 July** Rupert Sheldrake, Schumacher College  
**11 July**, Alastair McIntosh: *Land Reform? Lessons from Eigg*, St. John's Church, Bridgetown. In association with TTT\*

**18 July** Marianne Williamson: *Personal Transformation, Planetary Transformation*, St. John's Church, Bridgetown. In association with TTT\*

\* TTT Transition Town Totnes

#### **Courses**

**June 3-22** The New Economics: From Growth to Wellbeing *Andrew Simms, Nic Marks, Vandana Shiva & Wolfgang Sachs*

**July 1-20** Earth and the Sacred: The Personal and the Planetary

*Rupert Sheldrake, Alastair McIntosh, Verene Nicolas & Marianne Williamson.*

### **The Playgoers Society of Dartington Hall present THE WINTER'S TALE by William Shakespeare**

Fri 22 June – Sat 30 June (excl. Sun 24 June), 7.30pm Private Garden

*The Winter's Tale* has been described as "Shakespeare's Sistine Chapel" and one of his most moving and exuberant achievements. First performed in 1611, and here directed by Leslie Davis, it explores human jealousy. Leontes, King of Sicily, suspects his wife of adultery and his paranoia seems destined to produce a tragic outcome. Over the course of 16 years, and across two generations, destruction ends in reconciliation and grief becomes joy. Set in two separate social worlds – Sicily and Bohemia - this intriguing fable combines tragedy, comedy and fantasy in a remarkable and poignant story.

Performances in Great Hall if wet. Picnicking is permitted for audiences from 6pm. Limited additional tickets will be available from the box office on the day of the performance.

**Charity night** Mon 25 June in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

**Tickets:** Centre £10.00, Side £9.00, Concs £1.00 off, Students/Young People £5.00

### **News/Letters/Notices/Ads Editor, Yvonne Widger**

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Newsletter in colour at The Dartington Hall Trust website :www.dartington.org

The articles and opinions in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the policies of The Dartington Hall Trust.

Let the Editor know if you no longer wish to receive a copy of this newsletter.

## Dartington Arts

### **Events: Jun - Aug 07**

**Box Office 01803 847070;** www.dartington.org/arts  
**Dartington College of Arts Festival 07**

Wed 20 June - Sun 24 June, DCA Campus  
A free, 5-day vibrant festival of student work over a broad range of contemporary arts practices: Fine art, music, art & performance, theatre writing, choreography and arts & cultural management. Innovation, creativity and diversity from the artists of tomorrow. www.dartington.ac.uk/festival07

#### **Brian Goodwin presents**

**Nature's Due - Healing our Fragmented Culture**  
Fri 29 June, 6.30pm, Barn Theatre Brian Goodwin, biology professor, Schumacher College lecturer and acclaimed author of *How the Leopard Changed Its Spots*, explains the key themes in his new book, see p5 of this Newsletter. There will be a signing session in the Roundhouse Café immediately after this event, and a chance to purchase *Nature's Due*. Tickets £4.00

#### **Travelling Light presents Clown**

Sat 30 June, 2 & 4.30pm (running time 50 mins, no interval), Barn Theatre. Enter the colourful, wonder-filled world of author-illustrator Quentin Blake. A memorable silent show for young children. Tickets £5.50, Students & Young People £4.50, Family [2+2] £17.50

#### **Schubert Ensemble**

Tue 3 July, 7.30pm, Great Hall  
Schumann, Piano Quintet in E flat, op.44; Errollyn Wallen, Music for Tigers; Dvorák, Piano Quintet in A Major, op.81. This ensemble is firmly established as one of the world's leading exponents of chamber music and has become a familiar fixture on stages worldwide, and on TV and radio. Tickets £12.50, Concs £11.50, Students & Young People £5.00

### **Dartington International Summer School A selection of some DISS concerts 2007**

**Dante Quartet:** Tue 7 August, 8.15pm, St Mary's Church, Totnes  
Haydn: The Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross, Tickets £10 unreserved

**Poulenc La Voix Humaine; Walton Façade**  
Fri 17 August, 8.15pm, Barn Theatre, Richard Williams - director. *Walton's Façade*, set to the poetry of Edith Sitwell, is here narrated by her great nephew William Sitwell. Tickets £15 full price, £10 concs.

**The Barber of Seville** by Gioachino Rossini,  
Sat 25 & Sun 26 August, 7.30pm, Great Hall  
Alexander Oliver - director.

In Italian by students on the Advanced Opera course, with the Dartington Festival Orchestra and conducted by students from the Advanced Conducting class. Tickets: Reserved £20.00, Unreserved £15.00, Students/Yng People £5.00

**Music for Soprano, Trumpet and Organ**, Wed 22 August 8.15pm, St John's Church, Totnes.  
David Titterton organ; Julie Kennard soprano; Daniel Rosenboom trumpet. Includes the world première of *The Lake of Heavenly Delights* by Pavel Novak, commissioned by DISS, plus works by Lutoslawski, Niels Gade and Buxtehude. Tickets £10 unreserved

**Full details: 01803 847080;**

**www.dartingtonsummerschool.org.uk.**

### **THE ROUNDHOUSE CAFE**

**Barn Theatre, Dartington**  
**Opening hours: midday - 8:00pm**  
**7 days a week!**