

Member Newsletter #4: Autumn 2017

Welcome

Welcome to your Member newsletter for autumn – always a wonderful time of season to visit the Dartington Hall estate thanks in no small part to the gold, copper, russet, scarlet and orange hues we see in glorious abundance here.

In this issue, you'll hear about our upcoming Member Conversations and events, including details of a talk by one of the students on the very first Dartington School Exchange programme. And if you were unable to make it to Members Day last month, we have a little treat in store for you.

We also have a very exciting project underway to restore Queen's Marsh into a wetland and wildlife habitat, and we hope you might consider responding to our appeal to support the ongoing conservation of this incredible area of the estate.

Thank you for your Membership and for supporting The Dartington Hall Trust and our vision of inspiring a 'many-sided-life' here – one that you can be a part of, help shape and enjoy.

As always, we love hearing from you and welcome your feedback. This way we can continue to improve our communication and do our best to incorporate content and events around your interests. Email membership@dartington.org at any time.

Thank you.

In this newsletter:

Enthusiastic support at Members Day. A look back at this year's annual event, which featured updates from the Trust in our Barn Cinema followed by delicious treats from our new Green Table café team.



New Member events. Your Member event line-up from now until Christmas, including the latest Member conversation with former Dartington Hall school boy Graham Fenn, plus an opportunity to learn the secrets of great coffee making.



Member Q&A. For our latest Member interview we spoke to Janet Chapman: keen diver, cheetah cuddler and volunteer with many projects across the Dartington estate.



Enthusiastic support at Members Day

It was wonderful to see so many faces – both familiar and new – at Members Day this year, which was held at the Barn Cinema on 16 September.

Led by our chair of trustees, Greg Parston, the morning was full of insight into how the Trust is addressing the challenge of creating an exciting and sustainable future and where we're heading in terms of the funding we need to make it all happen. Our CEO, Rhodri Samuel, provided context and detail on all this – the Trust's five-year plan for transformation. He urged Members to support the work here as actively as they can and he trailed plans for some specific investment opportunities into the Trust's future. More on this soon.



Members, speakers and trustees in the Upper Gatehouse

The new estate development director, Martyn Evans, spoke passionately about the inspiring plans to create new homes, places and communities on the estate. Included in this is the desire to revive certain unused/underused properties and bring new life and purpose back into them. Arts director Amy Bere, meanwhile, regaled Members with an impressive list of creative accomplishments over the year, sharing her vision of Dartington remaining a platform for artistic freedom, cultural diversity and creative education.

A 10-minute PowerPoint slideshow, **The last year in pictures**, captured memorable moments from the last 12 months to the beautiful soundtrack of Thomas Gould performing excerpts of Bach's Violin Concerto in A Minor here in the Gardens during our Summer School & Festival.

See it again (or for the first time) above – we have converted it into a short film format.

After lunch and some animated conversation with speakers and trustees in the Upper Gatehouse, some Members braved

the uncertain weather and continued on to short tours of the Deer Park and Gardens. For anyone unable to join in the tours on Members Day, there is still an opportunity for you to sign up on one over the next few weeks:

Volunteer-Led Garden Tours

Every Wednesday 11am – 12:30pm, until mid October. [Find out more here ⇒](#)

Deer Park Guided Walks

Every Friday at 11:30am – 12:30pm, until the end of October (and thereafter please refer to our website). [Find out more here ⇒](#)

Share Dartington



Those attending Members Day were encouraged to share their love of Dartington with others, to help our Membership continue to grow and thrive. Members were the first to receive our new brochures, headed LOVE DARTINGTON, JOIN DARTINGTON, to take home to give to friends or family. They illustrate how Membership can connect people (just like you) to the heart of Dartington and offer opportunities to develop a closer association with us. This kind of Membership is crucial to safeguarding this precious place for now and for generations to come.

Copies are available from the Visitor Centre and across the estate. Information is available online. If you have any specific requests, please email membership@dartington.org.

Backpacks for mini explorers



Backpacks full of fascinating facts and things to do are now available to help children get the most out of their Deer Park adventure. Examples include binoculars, a magnifying glass, spotter sheets, colouring in crayons, a wildlife reference book, a rubbing kit, a compass and even a fun antler headband and finger puppet!

You can hire them for the day from the Visitor Centre for a deposit of £5.

Your Member event line-up from now until Christmas

'My Spell as a Dartington School Boy' – with Graham Fenn

From terraced houses to green swards

Wednesday 29 November 2017, 11am at Dartington Hall

We're really looking forward to hearing from sculptor and Yorkshireman, Graham Fenn, at our November event.

Graham was one of the first students on the Dartington Hall School exchange programme with Northcliffe Community High School in the mining town of Conisbrough (Yorkshire) in 1969.

His schoolboy recollections, where his love of stone carving began, will delight Members who were either 'there' themselves, or who would find it fascinating to have a first-hand account of what things were like then. He has especially fond memories of classes in full swing at Dartington's landmark Art Deco building, High Cross House, and being taught by the inspirational late artist and sculptor there, Ernie Oliver.

Graham's draws inspiration for his beautiful and interactive alabaster stone carvings from his continued connection with Dartington. This has been the steady undercurrent for his humorously modern takes on traditional pieces.

We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend what promises to be a very revealing talk.

[Book your free tickets to hear Graham Fenn here =>](#)



Barista Training

Ever wondered what makes great coffee? The beans and their provenance? The water? The brewing method? To hear about all this and more, we're offering Barista training sessions at the White Hart Inn for you this December for just £5 per person (to cover costs only). You'll get to learn about all the different types of coffee and be shown how to make some fun seasonal latte art to impress your guests this Christmas. Enjoy your very own specially made coffee and a mince pie at the end of the session.

There are three one-hour sessions to choose from on Tuesday morning 5 December, Wednesday morning 6 December and Wednesday morning 13 December, with limited spaces on each, so please book quickly to secure your spot.

[Book your tickets to Barista Training here ⇒](#)



A bewitching fairy tale performance comes to Dartington this Christmas



As well as our wonderful 'Member only' events in the lead up to Christmas this year, we thought you might be interested in this captivating show throughout December in association with Dartington Arts.

The award-winning local theatre company, 'The Wrong Crowd', bring their critically acclaimed, sell-out show to Studio 1 at Dartington. **The Girl with the Iron Claws** is a dark fairy tale, which shares its roots with Beauty and the Beast.

Stunning puppetry, bewitching music, deft humour and a touch of snow combine to dazzling effect in this coming-of-age tale to enthral audiences young and old. [Click here to find out more about this event ⇒](#)

Members will be entitled to concessionary rates for any showing from 7-30 December. Simply book in person at the box office or telephone 01803 847070 (concession rate is not applicable to online bookings).

Member Q&A with Janet Chapman

Tell us three interesting things about yourself

I once held a wild cheetah in my arms. I've scuba dived in many places, but most exciting was St Kilda, way off the west coast of Scotland. And in 1989 I suffered a severe diving incident. My quick thinking buddies saved my life, but I think I know what it is like to die.

Describe The Dartington Hall Trust/estate in three words

Inspiring, restoring, exciting.

What's your favourite place on the estate (and why)?

There was a time when I took the bus to Shidders Bridge, walked up past Foxhole, struggled up the hill and entered the top garden gate. Now, the walking was level – then suddenly the whole garden opens up in front of you and WOW! I felt instantly better. There is something in that aspect that both encloses and protects and opens up and inspires. That's my favourite place.

What's your favourite event(s) on the Dartington calendar (and why)?

Summer School. So many world class musicians coming to perform close to home. There is also plenty of opportunity to bump into them around the estate, ask questions or tell them how much you enjoyed their performance. Everyone is so friendly.

How long have you been a Member and what made you decide to join?

I've been a Member for only a couple of years, but was a 'Friend' before that. It's a bit of a no-brainer as it's a way to help Dartington for just a small amount of money and also reap many benefits.

Do you have a memory of Dartington worth sharing with us?

I've enjoyed leading **garden tours** since 2015. I meet so many nice people that way and learn something new from them every time. I recently took a party of 30 Italian students round. Bit too big a group really and I wasn't getting much feedback from them. But at the end I got a round of applause and one young man stayed behind. 'You have told us a lot of important things,' he said, 'and you obviously love this place.'

Dartington is keen to create a 'many-sided life' here. What does that mean to you personally?

Taking part in all sorts of different activities – from helping Mike Newby with dormouse surveys and meeting asylum seekers at events at Foxhole, to taking craft courses and stewarding for films and concerts. Best of all it's an opportunity to meet like-minded people and make new friends.

If Dartington were a film, what would it be (and why)?

'Iluminados por el fuego' – it's one of my top 10 films and tells the story from the other side. ('Blessed by Fire', its English translation, is an Argentine film about the Falklands War.)

Are there any ways in which you'd like to get more involved with Dartington?

Hardly! I already do most things and spend a large proportion of my life at Dartington. I can really recommend **volunteering** here. There are so many enjoyable ways to get involved, and you only need to come back if you enjoy it.

Any ideas for future Member events?

Learning about different activities on the estate. The last meeting was good as there was the chance to input ideas, but then Rhodri is always open to new suggestions.



Become a Volunteer

If you've felt inspired by Janet's involvement with Dartington, why not consider volunteering yourself? It's a great way for Members to become even more connected with Dartington, and an opportunity to give in a practical way.

To view the current volunteer opportunities at Dartington, [click here](#). Amongst these roles, we'd like to highlight our need for volunteers based at our Visitor Centre here at Dartington Hall. This would include a special focus on promoting our Heritage Lottery-funded Deer Park.

We know that many Members have a strong understanding of the history and grounds at Dartington, and who better to chat to the public than yourselves? To read more about this role, [click here](#).

Support our latest project to transform Queen's Marsh into a wetland and wildlife habitat



The conservation and restoration project at Queen's Marsh is now well underway, with the aim of encouraging a vast array of wildlife such as otters, bats, kingfishers, wading birds and fish to come and make a home here.

Two new ponds and seven scrapes have been created so far, and Members can support the ongoing work by making a donation today. Your gift will contribute to the next phase of works to restore the stream habitat of Bidwell Brook.

[\[button link="https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/queensmarsh" target="1" colour="Dark Green"\]](https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/queensmarsh) Find out more about this exciting project and donate here =>[button]

Also, plans have been revealed to create a bird hide at Queen's Marsh, thanks to some creative architecture students from Plymouth University. The winning design has now been chosen - you can find out more about it, and provide feedback on

Own a piece of authentic Leach Pottery



At The Shops at Dartington and our Visitor Centre you'll find some hand-thrown pots by none other than John Leach, the eldest grandson of Bernard Leach, who founded the Dartington Pottery in 1935 and is continuing in the family tradition. Look out for their distinctive 'toasted' finish.

Don't forget to show your Membership card to receive your 10% discount on any full price purchase made.

[Read here all about the history of Pottery at Dartington](#), from the very beginnings, when Bernard Leach was invited to visit the estate by Dorothy and Leonard Elmhirst in 1927, to his establishment of Dartington Pottery, then later when Marianne De Trey took over the pottery in 1947, and her years spent at Leach's Cabin on the Dartington Hall estate.

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**“Dartington is not one thing,
but a complex unity of activities.”**

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