

Member Newsletter #6: Spring/Summer 2018

Welcome

Welcome to your spring/summer Member newsletter. In this issue you'll hear about the events we've lined up for the next few months including invitations to Schumacher lunches, a peek into the past, present and future of the craft scene at Dartington, as well as dates for all of our exciting events lined up this summer.

As always, we love hearing from you and welcome your feedback. Please email us at membership@dartington.org with your thoughts and experiences, and we will endeavor to tailor content and events to your interests.

In this newsletter:

Upcoming Member events. Join us for one of our fabulous community lunches from the Schumacher College kitchen team, and gain an insight into the Dartington craft evolution from Bernard Leach to present-day courses - plus more dates for your diary.



Our Living Community. We met Alan and Patricia Crook, who shared fascinating memories and anecdotes of life on the Dartington estate under both the Elmhursts and the previous owners, the Champnownes.



Catch up on Open House

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Open House event in March, where we were able to share our future plans, which will shape Dartington Hall's future for generations to come.

Gardener Dan Pearson shared his masterplan for the Dartington Gardens, and if you missed out on the presentation, you can catch up with his exciting vision below. In it he has successfully balanced his sensitivity to the historic character of the gardens with the spirit of creativity and innovation for which he is renowned. He has addressed many of the challenges associated with the management of the gardens, including protecting quiet and serene areas of the historic garden while adding exciting new spaces around the periphery of the garden for making, growing and play. This combination will protect the best of the old, while bringing fresh life and vitality to the garden involving people of all ages.

The three day Open House event also included talks concerning plans for refurbishment and repurposing of specific buildings on the estate, including Foxhole, the Roundhouse café and High Cross House, plus interactive talks on the future of arts, social justice, learning and food and drink at Dartington, which we hope many of you felt enthused by. For more on Open House and the various plans in place, [catch up on it all here](#).

[Watch: Dan Pearson Presents the Dartington Gardens Master Plan >](#)

Member Review: Schumacher talk, tour and lunch

From Labyrinth tramping to learning all about low input eco systems, Members who were quick to book onto the Schumacher talk, tour and lunch earlier this month were treated to an insightful morning exploring The Old Postern and its grounds. Resident horticulture intern Carlotta Bryne provided an educational tour of Henri's Field where Schumacher students cultivate, explore and grow much of their sustainable foods from designated plots, including their micro grain forest, herb garden, propagation tunnels and agroforestry fields.

Experimentation with dying plants, permaculture practice and even managing a chicken system are all part of learning at Schumacher. Stephan Harding gave a short talk in the sunshine about the history of the college, and the holistic science programmes that they offer. He described The Old Postern as a healing place with a deep connection with nature, and a college where leading influencers have been inspired and gone on to help in world causes. Schumacher is an independent college, and if you are interested in assisting us to support students financially, you can do so by [donating online towards our Schumacher College Bursary Fund](#).

The morning finished off with a taste of the foods being grown on the grounds with a wonderful freshly prepared Schumacher lunch. If you missed this event but would be interested in it if we were to offer it again, please email membership@dartington.org to register your interest.



Our stories

Meeting Patricia and Alan Crook



Alan Crook is fourth of eight children born to Frank and Annie May Crook, who lived in the courtyard when Dorothy and Leonard Elmhirst arrived at Dartington Hall in 1925.

Alan, 88, now lives in Kingsbridge with his wife Patricia. They were kind enough to spend some time with us and share their fascinating memories and anecdotes of life on the Dartington estate under both the Elmhirsts and the previous owners, the Champernownes.

[Read the full interview =>](#)

New Trustee: Emma Stenning



We have appointed the Bristol Old Vic CEO, Emma Stenning, onto our board in a solid show of commitment to our arts programming, creativity and innovation.

Emma says: 'This is a unique and audacious experiment - one unrivalled in the UK arts world, and one that I very much want to be a part of.'

[Full story ⇒](#)

Upcoming events

13 June, 1pm: Schumacher Lunch at Higher Close Refectory, Dartington Hall estate

The last remaining Schumacher Lunch at Higher Close, which Members are welcome to attend. Simply email membership@dartington.org if you would like to come along, so that we can inform the kitchen of expected numbers. Cost is £5 per person, payable on the day.

4 July: Dartington Craft – past, present and future

Members will be invited to gain an insight into the Dartington craft evolution - from the very beginnings with the birth of the Bernard Leach project, to resident artists including Richenda McGregor and then to future makers on Dartington's Craft Revolution courses. Keep an eye out for further emails from us or check back to our [Member Events](#) page from time to time.

Dates for your diary:

- [Food Fair at the Shops, 27 – 28 May](#)
- [Community Day, 30 May](#)
- [Party In The Town, Sat 9 June](#)
- [Open Farm Sunday, 10 June](#)
- [Camp Dartington now open for 2018](#)
- [70th Anniversary Summer School, 28 July – 25 August \(10% off all 5pm and 10pm concerts for Members\)](#)
- [Ways With Words, 6 – 16 July](#)

Deer Park and Garden Tours



Our volunteer-led Deer Park heritage tours are currently running, and if you haven't already been on one and are interested to learn little more about the heritage and wildlife on the estate, then this is a great tour to join.

The tours are free and there is no need to book. They run at 11am every Friday and will continue until mid-October. The tours take approximately an hour, and walking boots are recommended. Meeting point is under the archway next to the Visitor Centre.

If you've already visited the Deer Park then do tell us what you think. This online survey will take just a few minutes of your time, and we would appreciate your feedback – [click here to complete it \(opens in new tab\)](#).



Our popular volunteer led Garden Tours are back in full swing, and will run at 11am every Wednesday through to mid-October. Tours take approximately an hour and are free to all; there's no need to book. Meeting point is under the archway next to the Visitor Centre.

One attendee said: "I thought all the volunteers were great. I was impressed with their knowledge of the history of the estate and the Elmhirsts. The content of the tour was an excellent mix of history, garden design, and plant knowledge; that was spot-on."

It's not just Garden Tours that volunteers are regularly involved with at Dartington Hall, there are also a number of opportunities to help on the estate. If volunteering is something you might be interested in, we would love to hear from you. [Take a look at our current volunteering opportunities here](#) and do get in touch.

Making the most of your Membership

Our Members are central to The Dartington Hall Trust, and we're improving the way that you can connect with us. Keep an eye out for changes that will make it much easier to access your Members Area and to take advantage of the various discounts available to you online. There is so much happening on our wonderful estate, and we want to make sure that you are connected to as much of it as you wish to be.

Below is a short Member Survey which will take just two minutes of your time and will help us to understand how you are engaging with the estate and what Membership means to you. As always we thank you for your feedback.

Dartington

An **old place**
with a **new story**

About us

Events & tickets

Visit

Get involved

Venue hire

Contact us

You are here: [Home](#) » [Get involved](#) » [Members Area](#) » [Member Newsletter #6: Spring/Summer 2018](#)

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

Follow Us: [✉ Sign up for our emails](#) [f /DartingtonHall](#) [t @dartingtonhall](#) [i /dartingtonhall](#)

Dartington Hall, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 6EL

We use cookies to ensure that we give you the best experience on our website. If you continue to use this site we will assume that you are happy with it.

[Ok](#) [Read more](#)