

## Member Newsletter #11: Spring 2021

All the latest news as we emerge from hibernation!



### WELCOME TO YOUR SPRING MEMBER NEWSLETTER

Spring has arrived, and we're so happy to be able to finally emerge after what has seemed like the longest winter.

Firstly – a **warm welcome to the 200+ new members** who have joined us in the last month alone. We can't thank you enough for your crucial support.

We've all been working really hard to get everything ready and you'll notice a few changes which we hope you will enjoy. We've expanded our outdoor seating in The White Hart, and The Green Table is serving takeaways from a delicious brunch and lunch menu. Our campsite, B&B and River Dart Cabin are all open in various forms, too. [Head to our Visit pages](#) for the latest info on all of these.

Our wonderful estate food lead Tara Vaughan-Hughes has been featured in Devon Life (we [caught up with her for a chat](#) earlier this month), we've had a TV production company filming in the gardens for an exciting new programme about painting and one of our former students at Schumacher College, Emma

Kidd was highly commended for a Green Gown Award (Sustainability in Education) for her work in Sustainable Fashion.

The shops have re-opened, with a return of a familiar name to many, The Cider Press Centre, which we felt better reflected our passion for local food, arts and crafts. The Green Table Deli is our latest addition, run by Pip Vaughan-Hughes (yes – food is a family affair here) with its mouth-watering ethically and locally produced charcuterie, cheeses, crackers and condiments. It also serves freshly made sandwiches, soups, great coffee, tea and soft drinks.

Our programme of **short courses** has also returned including sculpting, bookbinding, printmaking, poetry and even creating your own herbal medicines. We're also really excited to host **both a course and a concert with Black Voices Gospel Choir** – the latter our first indoor live music event for over a year! We're working behind the scenes on a spring festival – 'Thrive' – at the end of May (details coming soon – keep an eye on the website for that one). Plenty more events are coming up, too, including a Member Gardens Tea Party – see the 'events' section below for more.

Looking ahead to June, we're hopeful more restrictions will be relaxed and we can fully open up all our events on the estate from June 21. Whatever happens, we're enormously grateful for your ongoing support, as ever, and hope to see you here soon!

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## HEADLINES

### OUR GARDENS REOPEN

**Our gardens and conservation team have worked incredibly hard ahead of the re-opening of our new-look Grade II\* listed gardens.** Improvements include making the gardens more accessible for wheelchair users and buggies with step-free access routes running all the way to the Whispering Circle, as well a new children's activity trail. There are also new interpretation boards revealing more of the rich history of the gardens, including our treasured 'Champion Trees'.

The decision to charge was a difficult one, but maintaining the grounds to a high standard is costly. However we have listened to visitors' feedback and have decided to reduce prices making the gardens more accessible to locals and those who are on a very low income. We also plan to hold 'open house' free days' twice a year.

The gardens continue to be free for members, and you are also welcome to bring a guest. We will also be reaching out to members who visit to provide feedback on their experience (keep an eye on your inbox for details).

[BOOK GARDENS TICKETS HERE >](#)





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## STUDENTS RETURN TO THE ESTATE, AS OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS CONTINUE

It's a particularly special year for Schumacher College as it celebrates 30 years of progressive education around ecology and sustainability. A programme of events and initiatives is ongoing, spearheaded by our Bursary Campaign, which aims to equip the next generation with the tools to address the social, environmental and economic challenges we all face.

Other events include a commemorative book launch for a new collection of essays from some of the pioneers of environmental movement, and we've also teamed up with Resurgence & Ecologist Magazine to offer a unique essay competition. [For details on all our 30th anniversary activity, click here.](#)

With all that's happening, we're delighted to finally welcome our current students back on site, with students on a six-month horticulture residency studying alongside those on our brand new Engaged Ecology MA at Schumacher College. In addition, students from the Dartington Arts School are now with us for our unique [MA Arts and Place](#) course – on which they get the chance to create work at five different locations around the UK (including an off-grid tree house in Scotland!). And we are still taking applications for the UK's first ever degree in sustainable farming, our [BSc Regenerative Food and Farming](#).



## OUR PLEA FOR DOG OWNERS TO TAKE CARE

Lockdown has not been without its challenges – with sadly a few people not caring for the estate as you our members, and most of our visitors. We've had problems with people dropping litter, not picking up after their dog and sometimes causing damage.

This has been particularly worrying as we still have vulnerable students from Bidwell Brook who have been temporarily using Hex, so they can study in smaller school are in a school 'bubble' until the end of July. We've also sadly had two deer killed by people allowing their dogs off the leash on the estate and one of our tenant farmers, Jon Perkin has found the last year particularly tough – you can [read more here](#).

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## EVENTS

We've picked out some of the key highlights coming up below, but make sure you check out our [full events listings](#) too. And don't forget that your members discount applies automatically during checkout on applicable events. Look for the 'members discount' message on event pages, and refer to the [member benefits](#) page to see what's available.

### MEMBER GARDENS TEA PARTY

**Private Lawn, Saturday 19 June 2:30pm**

Join us in for this members-only event to raise funds for the Gardens. A small group of members are hosting a tea party in the private garden as an expression of thanks for the enormous pleasure the gardens have given during lockdown.

The purpose is to raise funds specifically for much-needed plant replacements and to thank the dedicated team of gardeners for their hard work in keeping the grounds looking wonderful year-round. There will be an opportunity to buy plants and enjoy some tea and cakes. Over £1,000 has already been raised.

[BOOK YOUR FREE PLACE NOW >](#)

An independent fund has been set up by Totnes Trust to receive the donations and the money raised will be used specifically for the purchase of new plants and planting equipment.

Donations can now be made by BACS to CAFBank: Account: Totnes Trust; sort code 40-52-40; Account: 00025901. Or send a cheque, payable to Totnes Trust, to Jeremy Logie at 15 Heath Way, Totnes, TQ9 5GP.

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## SUMMER SCHOOL & FESTIVAL 2021



**24 Jul – 21 Aug.** After an enforced pause last year, we are thrilled that the Dartington Music Summer School & Festival Runs will run this year under the eye of artistic director, Radio 3 broadcaster, Sara Mohr Pietsch. Courses are already on sale, but concert tickets will be available later than usual this year as we await information about social distancing guidelines (hopefully the end of May).

[BOOK NOW >](#)

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**MEMBER SESSIONS WITH THE EXECUTIVE TEAM**

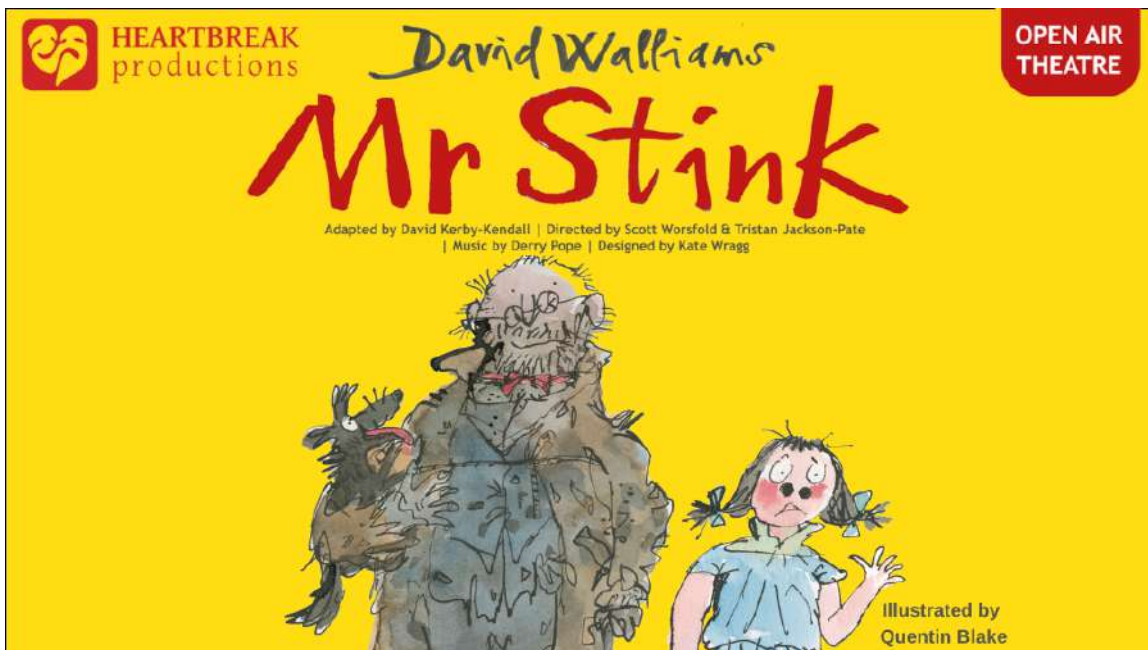


**5 and 17 May.** Following on with the open dialogue, where members have the opportunity to ask our executive team questions and find out more about the Trust's future plans, there are two further dates to be held via zoom in May which you can now book online.

[BOOK NOW >](#)

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## MR STINK



**Jun 2 & 3:** Outdoor theatre group Heartbreak Productions have become a regular summer fixture here at Dartington with their inventive brand of comic family shows: this year it's the David Walliams classic, Mr Stink. 10% member discount applies.

[BOOK NOW >](#)

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## SUMMER SKIES, BLOOMS AND BUTTERFLIES



**19-20 Jun.** To make the most of our glorious Gardens in summer, join printmaker Lou Tonkin on her new weekend course! You'll search the Gardens for natural objects to draw, and make your own lino cut and print. 10% member discount applies.

[BOOK NOW >](#)

### AND FINALLY...

Did you know that there's a network of over 200 businesses operating on the estate? From wellbeing and counselling, to architecture services and more, we are pleased have such variety on our doorstep and would like to encourage our members to seek out their services.

You can find out more about the Dartington Collaborative Network [here](#).

### GIFT MEMBERSHIP

In a time when we all need to look after our health and mental wellbeing, Dartington offers the space, community and creativity to really lift people's spirits. Membership starts from £25, and includes Gardens access, a huge range of benefits, exclusive events and more – a real gift with a difference.

[BUY GIFT MEMBERSHIP HERE >](#)

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