



Member Newsletter #15: Spring 2022

Music, birdsong and hope

WELCOME TO YOUR SPRING MEMBER NEWSLETTER

The warmth of spring has arrived at Dartington with lots to look forward to including Thrive; a joyful spring festival of Indian music, birdsong and hope with family workshops, live music and more.

We've a whole host of activities lined up including a private viewing at The Gallery, plus Easter fun for families including a family concert, Easter Egg Hunt and children's theatre later in spring.

There's news about our new Poet in Residence, plus dates announced for our much loved Summer School and Festival concerts tickets to go on sale, as well as plenty of courses and events to choose from.

We're also busy planning some dates for the next set of member meetings where you can meet the directors and find out about specific things happening on the estate, including the latest in our land conservation and management plans, plus learning and arts updates.

HEADLINES

ART GALLERY – PRIVATE VIEWING 1 APRIL 5 – 7PM

We have a varied and exciting programme of exhibitions to look forward to at The Gallery this year, from traditional ceramics and woodland paintings to new media art and sound installation.

Next week launches THE SHIPPON ARTISTS show, which comprises a collection from resident artists based here on the estate, whose creative practices include stone sculpture, drawing, installation, painting and printmaking. The exhibition will run from 31 March – 15 May. Alongside this, they will be showcasing what they do in 'open studio' events at their studios located behind The Gallery.

Artists include Maria Moorhouse (sculptworks.co.uk), Anthony Garratt (agarratt.com), Oona Wagstaff and Barton Hargreaves.

Members are invited to a private viewing to meet the Shippon artists on Friday 1 April 5 – 7 pm with drinks. Numbers are limited, so if you would like to come along please email gallery@dartington.org.

[MORE ABOUT THE GALLERY >](#)



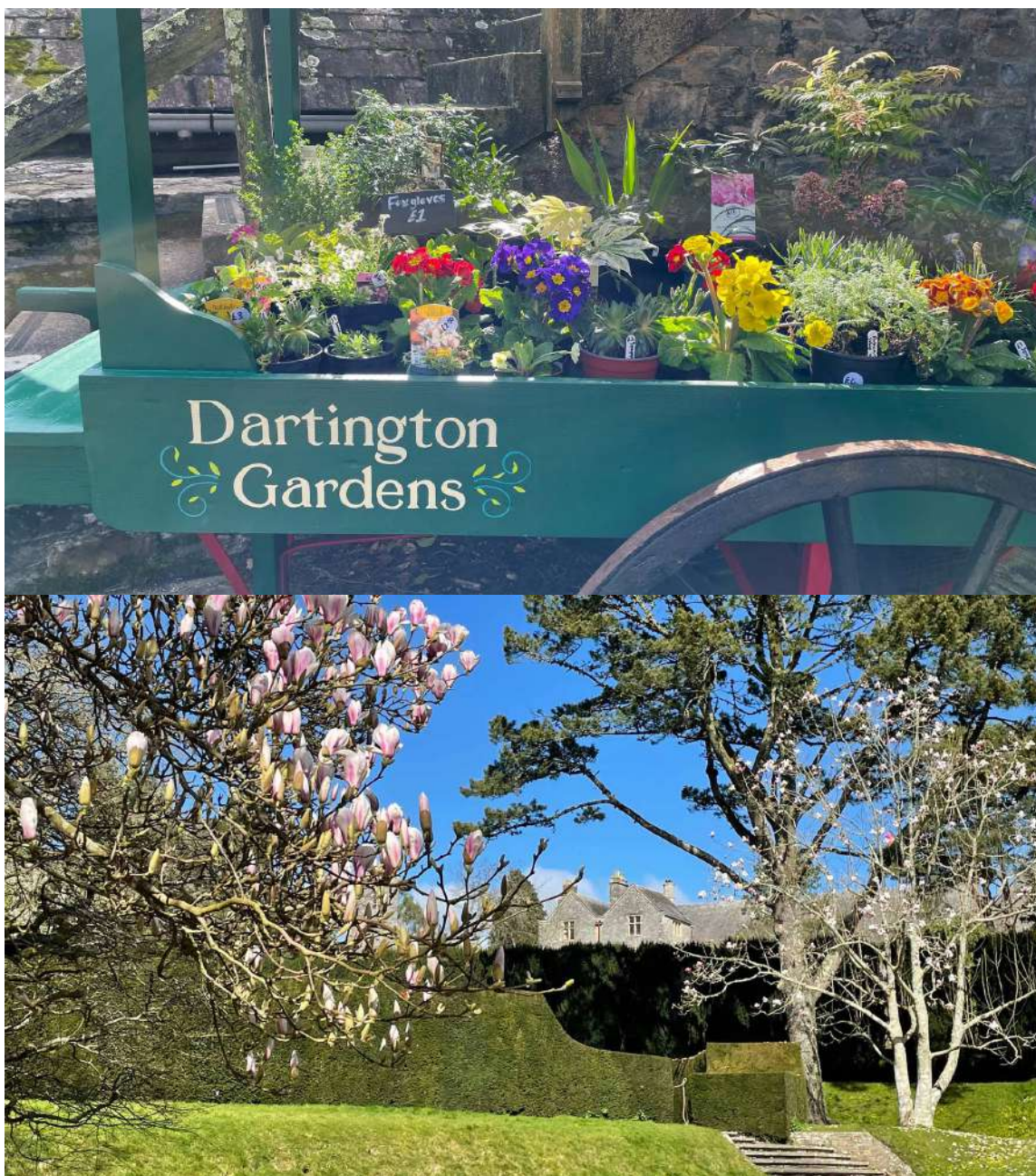
GARDENS UPDATE

The Gardens are looking splendid again with the Magnolia trees in bloom and a fantastic array of spring bulbs popping up across the meadow banks. Garden tours are also back for spring; running every Friday at 11am thanks to our amazing team of dedicated and very knowledgeable volunteers. Tours are free to all with a garden ticket and [can be booked online here](#) (a reminder that members can bring a guest for free). The plant trolley is also back, bringing colour to the courtyard, where you can purchase plants from our glorious gardens to take home with you.

The partnership with the RHS this year has brought much attention to the Gardens and we continue to thank all those who generously support us via kind donations, membership and bookings, which all contribute to the upkeep of these incredible gardens for all to enjoy.

Text GARDENS to 70450 to give £5...

...OR DONATE ONLINE HERE >



NEW POET IN RESIDENCE FOR THE GARDENS

We are very excited to announce our first ever **Poet in Residence** for the estate's Grade II* Listed Gardens.

Ella Frears, who is originally from St. Ives, is a poet and visual artist and will now spend a year as the Poet in Residence at Dartington, exploring the changing landscape through the seasons, and delving into the rich history of the gardens and the landscape architects and gardeners who have created it over the years.

Ella's collection *Shine, Darling* (Offord Road Books, 2020) was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best First Collection and the T. S. Eliot Prize for Poetry. She was a finalist for the Arts Foundation Poetry Fellowship and has been Poet in Residence for the National Trust, K6 Gallery, Royal Holloway University physics department, and the John Hansard Gallery where she wrote *I AM THE MOTHER CAT* (Rough Trade Books, 2021). Ella's poems about the St Ives Modernists are currently on display at Tate St Ives.

Ella says: "I'm absolutely thrilled! What a beautiful place to write. What a rich and fascinating history to engage with. After being locked down with no garden for much of the pandemic, I can't wait to spend

some time with the yew trees, walking the tiltyard, chatting to gardeners, observing the seasons... as well as communing with the artists and writers who have occupied this space before.”

Dartington announced the search for a poet in residence last November and was overwhelmed by the response. Applicants were judged by poet Alice Oswald and writer Dr Martin Shaw, both of whom are core teaching staff for [MA Poetics of Imagination at Dartington Arts School](#).



CAMPING AND GLAMPING IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

With a hint of warmth in the air, we are reopening the campsite for Easter, so don't forget your 10% members discount on all stays at Dartington, including our campsite pitches, glamping pods and the beautiful new River Dart Cabin for an off-grid experience in the North Woods.

[Explore our accommodation options here](#), and why not think about us as an overnight getaway if you're coming to an event or course this year, or even just a walking break with acres of footpaths to explore and wild swimming too.



COURSES AND 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.

DARTINGTON MUSIC SUMMER SCHOOL & FESTIVAL – TICKETS ON SALE SOON!

From 10am, Wednesday 30th March our concerts and events programme will be live and bookable on our website and over the phone!

Sara Mohr Pietsch, Artistic Director, writes: “Many ancient cultures believed there were five elements to life on our planet: earth, air, water, fire and aether. Of them all, aether seems to come closest to describing the essence of music: spiritual, ephemeral and deeply mysterious.

“Our 2022 Festival celebrates the ethereal power of music through the other four elements. Over four weeks, we journey from the watery beginnings of Monteverdi’s 1610 Vespers in Venice and the fiery drama of Handel’s biblical oratorio Athalia, to the earthy lament of Brahms’ Requiem and the airy mysticism of choral music by Vaughan Williams.

“I hope you’ll join us for an elemental summer of music!”

We’re offering Dartington Members and Summer School Friends and Patrons an **Early Bird Discount of 10%** off concert tickets over £10, if you book before the 30th April.

Bookings will be available from Wednesday 30th March either through [our website](#) or call the Box Office on **018063 847070**.

[MORE SUMMER SCHOOL >](#)



THRIVE FESTIVAL



Thrive Festival, 29 April – 2 May: Thrive seeks to harness the joy, sunshine and hope that the season represents, and includes concerts in the Great Hall, craft and music workshops for children and adults, music on the lawn, and **The Owl Who Was Afraid Of The Dark** – a mesmerising shadow-puppet show for the whole family based on the much-loved novel by Jill Tomlinson.

[FULL PROGRAMME >](#)

EASTER FUN FOR FAMILIES



Look out for our **Big Dartington Egg Hunt** which promises fun and games for families – and don't forget members discounts apply on easter gifts at the Cider Press Centre and our Shop in Totnes. More info coming soon.

Plus: Magnard Ensemble Family Concert, Wednesday 20 April, 10:30am. An interactive family concert of music, games and instrument demos, hosted by Magnard Ensemble.

[BOOK NOW >](#)

LIVE CONCERTS IN THE GREAT HALL



Join us for some world-class folk, classical, jazz and world performances in the most beautiful of settings.

Adriano Adewale 3io, Saturday 9 April, 7:30pm: Afro-Brazilian percussionist and composer Adriano Adewale presents a new trio with exquisite soundscapes featuring Gustavo Roriz on Acoustic bass and Sam Watts on Piano.

[BOOK NOW >](#)

Jon Boden and the Remnant Strings, Sunday 10 April: Drawn from the line-up of Jon's genre-busting big band the Remnant Kings, Jon Boden and the Remnant Strings features Jon Boden (fiddle, guitars, concertina, stomp-box), Helen Bell (viola), Morven Bryce (violin) and Lucy Revis (cello).

[BOOK NOW >](#)

SHORT COURSE HIGHLIGHTS



Sculpting from Life with Elisabeth Hadley, Saturday 26 – Sunday 27 March: A weekend developing your life sculpture skills in the studio at Dartington led by Elisabeth Hadley, a talented local sculptor.

[BOOK NOW >](#)

The Crush Course, multiple dates available (8-10 April, 6-8 May, 9-11 September): Our widely acclaimed immersive weekend course in wine and wine-making is back for 2022! This course is extremely good fun, and includes excellent food and accommodation in comfortable courtyard rooms.

[BOOK NOW >](#)

Soulful Connection with Trees, two weekend dates available (22-24 April, 16-18 September): A weekend of connecting deeply with trees in diverse ways, from identifying species to deep soulful connection.

[BOOK NOW >](#)

ALL SHORT COURSES >

BARN CINEMA PICK



The Phantom of the Open [12A]: 25 – 31 March: Mark Rylance (Bridge of Spies, Dunkirk) plays British golfing eccentric Maurice Flitcroft in Craig Roberts's crowd-pleasing sports comedy.

[BOOK NOW >](#)

EARTH TALK



Earth Talk: My Life Drawing – Rob Unett, Thursday 7 April, 8pm: As well as running a week-long course in the art studios at Dartington in April, Rob Unett is also hosting an electric evening on stage at Dartington, drawing live in front of the audience and talking about his extraordinary career in fashion and portraiture.

[BOOK NOW >](#)

AND FINALLY...

LEARNING UPDATE

On the learning front, we are very pleased to announce that two Dartington Arts School students have been selected for British Council Fellowships. Students Tegen Tossell from our MA Arts and Place and Tom Stainer from our MA Poetics of Imagination programme will spend a month at the 2022 Venice Biennale stewarding the Sonia Boyce exhibition in the British Pavilion and pursuing their own creative research project.

Meanwhile, on the estate our Regenerative Farming students have been out trying traditional hedgelaying with a Devon-based expert Tom Hynes of Devon Hedge Group. They made great progress laying a hedge by hand on the perimeter of Broadlears agroforestry field – [read more about that here](#).

And on the Schumacher College blog, Satish Kumar has shared [three short films calling for peace in Ukraine](#).

JOIN OUR LEARNING COMMUNITY

We are now inviting applications for students to join our degrees for the next academic year. If you or anyone you know would like to find out more, do come along to our next Open Day on 8 April. All welcome!

[Register here \(includes a free lunch!\) >](#)

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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