



Member Newsletter #16: Summer 2022

The hills are alive...

WELCOME TO YOUR SUMMER MEMBER NEWSLETTER

We hope you are finding ample shade in this glorious weather and making the most of the sunshine! There's certainly a hive of activity on the estate again this summer, with our campsite filling up and the Summer School & Festival underway - and with preparations ramping up for more higher education students arriving in September, there's plenty of anticipation in the air.

In this update you'll hear all the latest news from the Arts and Gardens teams, plus an update on the Old Postern works, and a snapshot of the incredible line up of [music, workshops and events](#) you can expect over the next few weeks at this year's Summer Festival.

HEADLINES

LET THE MUSIC BEGIN: OUR SUMMER FESTIVAL HAS ARRIVED!

Following the buzz of our opening weekend with concerts from the brilliant City Musick and Fretwork, our Summer Festival is now underway with a fantastic programme of courses, workshops, and concerts driving four weeks of beautiful music.

Concerts and events – with some of the world’s most talented musicians and composers, and genres from Baroque to folk and jazz – are starting to sell out, so now’s definitely the time to book so that you don’t miss out!

For parents and carers of children, there are lots of fun family workshops and concerts – great for bringing the kids along to.

[Browse the full programme here](#) – or read on for [some selected highlights](#).

CALLING ALL SINGERS

We’re also looking for singers who’d like to be a part of the big [Vaughan Williams 150th anniversary celebration](#) (a week-long course with morning sessions from 14-19 August): you’ll be singing a beautiful repertoire of a cappella music including Five Mystical Songs in the closing performance of the Summer School, so it will be a very special experience! Please don’t hesitate to get in touch with the Summer School team at summerschool@dartington.org to book your single course week-long pass.



THE OLD POSTERN IS BACK

After years of work and generous support, the door to the Old Postern is open! Though work on the interior is still in progress, there is something symbolic about the building returning to life for the community here at Schumacher College and Dartington Trust.

Some of our staff went in yesterday to start thinking practically about refurbishing the spaces and getting things ready for students to move in hopefully by September.

We plan to offer a Members tour of the building in the autumn, so keep an eye out for your invitation to this.

...AND IN OTHER SCHUMACHER NEWS

Growers at Schumacher College have built two new polytunnels which will save money and food miles by increasing the amount of produce grown on campus, and doubling the amount of summer veg produced this year! [Read the full story here >](#)



RHS HAMPTON COURT

Carla (from our Communications team) had the opportunity to visit Hampton Court Flower Show as part of the RHS Partnership this year. She said: "It was wonderful to get a sense of the incredible standards of the RHS with the magnificent show gardens and resourceful displays. For Dartington to be part of this nationally recognised scheme as a Partner Garden is such a privilege and testament to the beautiful gardens we manage and maintain here on the estate."

If you'd like to be in with a chance of winning tickets to Hampton Court Flower Show 2023, including a luxury two-night stay, be sure to enter this year's RHS Partner Garden Of The Year competition where you can vote for us as your top 'feel good garden'!

[VOTE HERE >](#)

BRONZE AT THE DEVON COUNTY SHOW

This year we had our first-ever presence at the Devon County Show. With thousands of visitors each year, it was worth pulling out all the stops and the hard work certainly paid off as we won Bronze in the Best Educational Stand category! We'll definitely be back!



Carla at RHS Hampton Court



Staff members Kate and Sildy at the Devon County Show

LATEST FROM OUR HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

To give you an insight into what our students are up to, here's a blog from one of them. Rosie May Jones is a student on the MA Arts & Place at Dartington Arts School and she's been on a residency as part of her second module at Ovada Gallery in Oxford. [Read more here >](#)

And it's not just our students who are going places! Regenerative Food & Farming lead Nathan Einbinder has just returned from a research trip to Central America where he has been building

relationships with local agroecologists and learning from ancestral farming practices in the region.
[Read 'Our Man in Guatamala' here >](#)

'A GARDENER'S MUSINGS: THE GREEN STUFF' BY HEAD GARDENER NEVILLE EVANS

We are fortunate enough to live in the lush and tranquil county of Devon. Many people would give their right arm to live in the rolling hills with its pleasant climate. So what is it that makes it such a special place? I think it is the amount of green on show and that connection to nature wherever you go. Whether it is forests or fields, green is the predominant colour.

It is the plants that envelop every form of nature and have been responsible for all living beings existence. Cyanobacteria became the first oxygen producers 3 billion years ago, changing our atmosphere and allowing evolution to unfold to the present day. While we are all so busy with our lives it is important to remember how small we really are in the bigger picture of the Earth's timeframe. It should make us think about how fortunate we are – from friends, family, and the food we eat together to the experiences we have had or are yet to have.

Plants provide everything for us. As humans and our ape-like ancestors we relied on plants for our food, fruit, nuts, berries, seeds and so on. Plants have fuelled our progress to where we are now and will continue until humans have served their time on this planet.

For our own time on Earth, plants bring us so much more than the just the essential air we breathe. Plants and their flowers provide happiness, relaxation, comfort, joy and in my case thankfully, a job. Plants are the key to all the fauna and natural environments that surround us. Even though it is so easy to take it all for granted they are still there regardless, we just need to make the time to show our appreciation.

It is great to be alive – thank you plants!



Above: Blue Atlas Cedar on The Great Lawn.

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 FESTIVAL: HIGHLIGHTS



The fantastically talented Radio 3 New Generation Baroque Ensemble, **Ensemble Molière**, will be kicking off **Week Two** with a selection of music to accompany Louis XIV, the 'Sun King', on Saturday 30 July.

On Tuesday 2 August two Dartington favourites – countertenor **Andrew Watts** (renowned for his incredible stage presence and breadth of repertoire) and pianist Gavin Roberts – are giving a special late-night song recital.

And finally, we're really lucky to have acclaimed soprano **Carolyn Sampson** return to Dartington this year – she'll be doing a concert on Thursday 4 August with an unmissable recital exploring the power of language and honouring the poets and writers – from William Shakespeare to Emily Dickinson – whose words have inspired composers over the centuries.



During **Week Three** we will have the honour of hosting the **Brodsky Quartet**, who are celebrating their 50th anniversary, and acclaimed soprano and composer **Sarah Dacey** will be performing a special late-night song recital with pianist Gavin Roberts on Tuesday 9 August.

This year we're really proud of our talented conducting students, who under the leadership of Alice Farnham and Sian Edwards will be directing a **special concert** on Thursday 11 August exploring the creations of some of the last century's most adventurous musical minds, including Benjamin Britten, Stravinsky, Varese, and Wagner.



Week Four will enjoy some of the best jazz musicians of their generation, including **Peter Edwards & Friends** on Saturday 13 August, **Sarah Gabriel** singing a programme of songs from Hollywood on Sunday 14 August, **Quatuor Bozzini with Juliet Fraser** on Monday 15 August, **Eliza McCarthy** performing an intimate nocturnal piano recital on Monday 15 August, and **Rolf Hind** with a meditative evening of piano on Tuesday 16 August.

There's also a brilliant opportunity for brass players of all ages **8+**: brass tutors **Brett Baker and Paul Archibald** will be leading a fun, open session for brass band players in the Totnes Civic Hall 6-7pm, Wednesday 17 August.

And finally do join us for the **grande finale of this year's festival**: a special evening of a cappella choral music including works by Vaughan Williams, Gustav and Imogen Holst, and others. It's going to be a beautiful closing performance led by the fantastic musical director William Vann.

SHORT COURSES COMING UP

Our autumn programme is now available to book online, covering everything from **oil painting, basket-making** and **viticulture** to explorations of **ageing**, the **menopause**, how we **relate to darkness** and even **how we perceive time**. Dive in and discover the full range [here](#).

We also have a brilliant line-up of **family events** this summer holiday, including forest bathing, foraging and creative nature workshops, plus a selection of family concerts and singing and music workshops.

And don't forget that all of our short courses have non-residential options for those who live locally, and members get a 10% discount too – plus there's an option to apply for a **discretionary bursary** to help cover the cost.

[ALL SHORT COURSES >](#)



BARN CINEMA PICK



Fire of Love, screenings 5-11 August: For two decades, the intrepid French volcanologist couple Katia and Maurice Krafft roamed the planet chasing eruptions, documenting their discoveries, and leaving an astonishing legacy that forever enriched our knowledge of the natural world. This awe-inspiring documentary follows the two explorers into the unknown.

[BOOK NOW >](#)

EARTH TALK



Earth Talk: The Great Melt, 6 September: Join journalist Alister Doyle, author of *The Great Melt*, who travelled the world meeting those on the front lines of climate change, and hear how the fate of the world's coasts rests on a knife edge as global warming melts ice sheets and glaciers from the Alps to the Andes.

[BOOK NOW >](#)

MEMBER EVENT REVIEWS

MEMBERS SESSION WITH CREATIVE DIRECTOR, EMILY HOARE

There's been a huge programme of events, courses and festivals that Emily has been overseeing recently, and for those who missed last month's Members Session with her, Emily shared an account of all things going on with the Arts at Dartington. These included changes we can expect to see, plus things we have to look forward to seeing in the future – such as more family film and events taking place in the Great Hall (for example).

Emily also highlighted the importance of our ongoing community partners – such as the likes of the Community Choir and Dartington Playgoers who regularly perform here and play a vital role in our community engagement.

Some special projects are taking place too with Lifeworks and other youth organisations, who are being invited to learn and perform in different ways on the estate.

Our musical programming is picking up with lots of successful live band performances regularly being enjoyed in the Great Hall, and festivals have been introduced this year with specific themes. **Thrive** was our spring festival, and we saw hundreds of people coming to the estate to take part in the many workshops, events and activities around it. With **Summer School** now underway the festival next on the horizon will be **Ferment**, taking place in September, with a focus on food and fermentation including talks, debates and workshops and a free arts trail. We'll be working with local producers and schools to deliver this very exciting festival... so keep an eye out for more to come!

Emily also shared news on the **Artists in Residence** programme, where we are able to offer studio space to artists. Recent artists have included performance group Action Hero, sound artist Jason Singh, and

poet Ella Frears. Emily said, “This is a new and exciting area for us. We would love to see it grow and offer more residency time to artists on the estate. Aside to this we will soon be launching a new **Artist Studio Access Scheme**, enabling artists to apply for studio time for performance, personal or community project use, with the first session provided free.”

Another new area in the Arts has been partnership working with the likes of **Black Atlantic**, a three-day symposium looking at race, land and identity for which we partnered with **Serpentine Galleries**. The next group you can expect to see coming to the estate will be **Counterpoints Arts**, coming in October. Counterpoints Arts work with artists from refugee backgrounds and will be looking at contemporary elements of art focussing on gaming, comedy and film.

Emily and her team are also currently exploring the development of outreach work with the community around music, art and activity, visiting local schools and inviting them on to the estate.

MEMBERS WILDLIFE TOURS: IMMERSSED IN NATURE



We recently held a number of members’ wildlife and conservation tours with Mark Jefferys from our Conservation and Grounds Team, and the feedback has been wonderful.

Mark took members on an immersive journey, where they were invited to switch off from their daily lives and spend time in nature on an informative guided walk through the Deer Park.

The tour was more than just a walk however, and included a seat at nature’s orchestra, third eye observation of the trees, discovery of the old medieval viewing platform where the Deer Park hunts would congregate, and fun wildlife facts such as 14 different bat species that can be found here on the estate!

The journey ended at a pop-up woodland café serving nettle tea!

COFFEE WITH THE GARDENERS



It was wonderful to see so many members at this event earlier this month, where the gardening team were able to share plans, highlight key areas of work they are currently tackling, and reveal what's next on the agenda. Members had the opportunity to meet and hear from our new Head Gardener Neville Evans, who strongly welcomes Members' input and has some exciting plans afoot. Members were also given an insight into the unpredictable daily work of the gardeners, as one of the team had to be excused momentarily to handle a grass snake situation mid-way through the morning! Grass snake resolved, the morning ended with a tour around the gardens in the glorious sunshine.

If you are interested in helping us in the gardens, be it leaf raking, de-weeding, planting or pruning, there is always lots to do to maintain 26 acres of grounds! Please do get in touch with our Volunteer Manager via volunteering@dartington.org or contact us in the membership team.

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 >](#)