

Member Newsletter #17: Autumn 2022

Returning students and a jam-packed events programme - the estate is a hive of activity this autumn



WELCOME TO YOUR AUTUMN MEMBER NEWSLETTER

This season's update is brimming with news on our undergraduate programme that's now underway, the latest in our series of festivals, concerts and films, upcoming member events to look forward to, plus what's new down at the Cider Press Centre.

If you have been up to the estate recently you will have seen our latest Arts Trail as part of the Ferment festival, exploring technology through an artistic lens, and we are now looking ahead to our upcoming Winter Craft Fair planned for 2-4 December.

We have also scheduled several Member Events - including meetings with our Executive Team, a film club-style chat, and a private Gallery viewing. These are coming up very soon - so book fast to secure your place.

Read on to find out more...





MEMBER SESSION WITH THE EXECUTIVE TEAM: GOING CARBON NEUTRAL

Upper Gatehouse, 20 Oct, 12 noon – 1pm

This session will be with CEO, Alan Boldon, and Director of Learning and Land, Pavel Cenkl. We will be focussing on our carbon neutral efforts – including what we are doing at the Trust to transform our buildings towards zero carbon, and how we are looking at new ways to limit our energy use on the estate and shift more towards renewables.

[REGISTER HERE >](#)



FILM FOCUS WITH ALI DONKIN

Barn Cinema Café Bar, 14 Oct, 7pm (for 8pm film start)

Join us for a relaxed talk preceding the acclaimed film *Amsterdam*. Programme Cinema Manager Ali Donkin will be giving members a prelude to the film to ignite thought and intrigue, and spark discussion around the film and plot.

[REGISTER HERE >](#)



PRIVATE VIEW – ZOE BENBOW

The Gallery, 5 – 7pm, Thu 6 Oct

We are delighted to be exhibiting [Zoe Benbow's woodland-inspired paintings](#) at Dartington this autumn, and would like to invite members to join us for a glass of wine.

To book, please RSVP to gallery@dartington.org. We hope to see you there!

HEADLINES

LEARNING: UNDERGRADUATES RETURN TO DARTINGTON

Amongst our largest cohort yet of students arriving at Dartington this year, undergraduate students have now returned to study here after a hiatus of 12 years.

The new programme, the [BSc Regenerative Food and Farming](#), which is the UK's first undergraduate degree of its kind, builds on the growing interest in more ecological approaches to agriculture and land use we've been exploring across the estate, and we are delighted to have the new cohort with us in person now investigating exactly this for the next three years. Recent changes in the Trust's overall strategy has brought a renewed focus on learning here, and we have worked hard to make our unique arts and ecology-themed degrees more accessible than ever before.



The result is a continued growth in student numbers at Schumacher College and Dartington Arts School, new programmes coming on stream, and a growing faculty of lecturers and specialists researching into the latest innovations in our niche. If you would like to find out more about the courses we offer, [explore our dedicated higher education website here](#).



THE CIDER PRESS: SHOP LOCAL

We're so pleased to share that almost ninety percent of products at Dartington's new-look food shop in the [Cider Press Centre](#) now come from within a 30-mile radius of the store!

In recent months the shop has been transformed with a focus on local, ethical and sustainable produce, with every product carefully scrutinised to make sure it meets with the ethos of the Trust.

"We've really been looking at the way people are growing their food," said food buyer Sara Dollins.

"We look at how they're producing it, the impact on the environment, whether it has low food miles, but we also want to offer just really good quality produce."

However Sara admits striking the balance between offering commercially viable products that are ethically and sustainably sourced, without charging prohibitively high prices has been a real challenge.

"We made the commercial decision to reduce our margins a bit. We know that everyone is feeling poorer at the moment and suppliers are increasing their prices to us, but we are doing our bit by reducing our profits slightly."

With each producer comes a story, she said, that reflects the care in the way they create their different products.

Whether its Anna and Andy Taylor of chocolate company Honey Cacao, from Paignton, who don't use additives or sugar and only sweeten their chocolate with honey from independent beekeepers, or the delicious wood-roasted coffee from The Curator in Totnes – the only coffee roasters in the UK using a wood-fired coffee roaster which uses sustainable local wood.

Where it is not possible to source close to home, they will go further afield to other parts of Devon and the West Country with only a small amount of products, around 12 percent, coming from further afield.

"It just goes to show how many amazing producers we have in this area," she added.

[⊕ FULL STORY](#)





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.

COMING UP FOR FAMILIES THIS HALF TERM

There's lots to look forward to this half term. We have two lovely family-friendly arts events: [Peut-Être Theatre](#) are bringing their production of *The Dark* (adapted from the Lemony Snicket book) to the estate; and the kids can get hands-on with instruments at Family Orchestra Day (in collaboration with Torbay Symphony Orchestra).

For those keen to get into the great outdoors, come on down to Pumpkin Day at Henri's Field or join a Family Bat Walk - rounded off, perhaps, with a Sunday Roast or kids' meal deal at the White Hart.

[BROWSE HALF TERM EVENTS >](#)





ECOLOGICAL TALKS THIS MONTH



EARTH TALK: DUSK AND DAWN

The Deer Park, 6 Oct, 6pm

£10 (£9 for members) suitable for age 16+

Join Duncan Passmore and friends for a gathering at the Deer Park to discuss the threat of the ash tree species. If you like, you can bring something to share, read, eat or drink around the fire in the woods.

[BOOK NOW >](#)





BOOKSHOP TALK: ISABEL LOSADA

Dartington Trust Shop in Totnes, 13 Oct, doors open 5.30pm for 6-7.30pm

Tickets £5 (redeemable against the purchase of Isabel's book)

Join us for the next in a series of Bookshop talks at the Totnes shop with author, comedienne and environmentalist Isabel Losada, author of 'The Joyful Environmentalist: How to Practice without Preaching'.

[BOOK NOW >](#)

GREAT CRAFT TO ENJOY THIS WINTER



CHRISTMAS CRAFT SERIES

Weekends of 12-13 Nov, 19-20 Nov, 3-4 Dec



Members discount applies on all courses

Make a wreath, get to grips with embossing, carve your own festive gifts, create a linocut to your own design – and much more!

Whatever your preference – this wonderfully festive collection of courses with a range of highly experienced makers has you covered. And there's classes for kids, too!

[MORE INFO >](#)



THE GREAT HALL WINTER CRAFT FAIR

2-4 December

Join us in The Great Hall this December for a wonderful gathering of makers and designers from the South West and across the UK.

Over 40 stalls will showcase a wide selection of contemporary craft and design including jewellery, ceramics, prints, textiles and much more!

[MORE INFO >](#)

SHORT COURSES: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Don't forget members get a 10% discount on all of our short courses too. From half-day family workshops to weekend courses and immersive week-long retreats, we offer a unique range of learning experiences in arts, crafts, writing and ecology.





LAST CHANCE: Dark River Rising with Anthony Garratt – a landscape painting course with a difference. Don't miss this chance to spend a week by the Dart with one of the foremost abstract landscape artists working today.

Anthony will guide you in exploring experimental techniques, including found materials and local pigments, to help you look at your subject in new ways and discover your own unique mark.

[BOOK NOW >](#)

ALSO COMING UP:

- **Into The Night** – Get acquainted with the dark this autumn on a week-long retreat here on the Dartington Estate, with author and Wildwise founder Chris Salisbury and Schumacher's Fiona Tilley. Note that we are offering one **fully funded** residential place for a young person aged 18-25 for this course!
- **The Labyrinth and The Dancing Floor** – A six-week online course with Schumacher College and the Dark Mountain Project to forge a co-creative practice that can challenge the dominance of modernity and regain our original kinship with the more-than-human world.
- **Immersed Landscape Charcoal Drawing** – Develop your repertoire of mark-making techniques, working from photographs, to capture the evocative landscapes of Dartmoor and Dartington, with Kate Boucher.
- **Beyond Economic Growth** – Join this module of Schumacher's Regenerative Economics MA as an unaccredited student and explore ecologically minded alternatives to our damaging growth economy.
- **Archetypal Geometry** – A hands-on exploration of geometric structure. Our drawings will then be used as a springboard for discussions on the nature of space, science and consciousness.
- **Portrait Painting In Oils** – Learn how to paint a portrait from life as well as from your own family photographs with renowned artist Jane French.
- **Garden Design for Beginners** – Learn about your own garden's soil care and sustainability and create a functional layout and planting plan, with Kew Gardens and Schumacher College's former head gardener, Jane Gleeson.

[FULL SHORT COURSE PROGRAMME >](#)



AND FINALLY...

A WELCOME TO OUR LIFETIME MEMBERS!

We recently welcomed a number of Lifetime Members to the Trust. Lifetime Membership is a wonderful way you can support the Trust, enjoying a deeper engagement with us as well as membership and parking for years to come, including some special joiner gifts. If this is of interest to you, please do get in touch with us at membership@dartington.org or [find out more here](#).

MEMBER OFFER

Blossom Tree Children's Clinic – £10 off first treatment offer to all members

Based at Chimmels on the Dartington Estate, qualified acupuncturists Charlotte and Mim have recently opened a low-cost community acupuncture clinic for the treatment of common emotional and physical conditions in children and teenagers, and are offering all members £10 off their first booking. Treatments include using child-friendly acupuncture needles and needle-free techniques, such as low-level laser, massage, Moxa, press seeds and cupping.

The clinic is open on Thursday afternoons from 2 – 5pm. Both Charlotte and Min are qualified acupuncturist with specialist post-graduate diplomas in Paediatric treatment and membership of the British Acupuncture Council and of the Hub of Paediatric Acupuncture.

Charlotte says, "Autumn can be a really good time of year for your child to come for treatment as it is the time corresponding to the Lungs in Chinese Medicine. A good time to strengthen the immune system before the coughs and colds of winter."

To book simply call 07910 453 794 or email children@blossomtreeclinic.com to avail your member offer.



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 >](#)

