

Member Newsletter #18: December 2022

Capping off a jam-packed year with festive news and events



WELCOME TO YOUR WINTER MEMBER NEWSLETTER

A wintery welcome to your final newsletter for 2022, as always packed with the latest news and updates from the Trust – including the new Chair of Trustees announcement, garden projects that are underway, an update on our carbon emissions, a special Barn Cinema screening fundraiser, Christmas family highlights, and what’s coming up in January.

Following our recent Great Hall Craft Fair and the wonderful concerts we’ve been hosting here lately, there’s certainly a magical feeling at Dartington this December, and we’ve got lots more lined up to spread even more Christmas cheer this year including late night shopping at the Cider Press Centre, a reindeer trail in the gardens, festive feasts at the White Hart, a fantastic accommodation offer plus an exciting offer for members at our Totnes Shop – next week only! Read on to find out more...

MEMBER EVENT

FILM FOCUS WITH ALI DONKIN: EMPIRE OF LIGHT (2022)

The Barn Cinema Café Bar
Friday 13 January 7pm (for 8pm film)

One for the film lovers! Join us for a relaxed talk preceding Empire of Light, a film directed by Academy Award-winning director Sam Mendes. Cinema Manager Ali Donkin will be giving members a prelude to the film which draws on a powerful and poignant story about human connection and the magic of cinema.

The bar will be open for drinks and snacks too. The talk is free, but you will just need to book your film tickets separately when tickets go on sale soon - don't forget your member discounts apply.

[AVAILABLE SOON VIA THIS LINK >](#)

EMPIRE OF LIGHT | Official Trailer | Searchlight Pictures



HEADLINES

LORD TRIESMAN: OUR NEW CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

We are delighted to announce that after an extensive search process we have appointed the Rt Hon Lord David Triesman to be the next Chair of the Trust. Lord Triesman will assume his position in March next year when current Chair, Dr Greg Parston, comes to the end of his term of office.

Lord Triesman's outstanding career in politics, finance, education, publishing and fine art and his unwavering commitment to public service equip him well to lead the Dartington Trust into our next 100 years as we approach our centenary celebrations in 2025. His long association with Dartington began with his close friendship with Lord Michael Young and over the years he has maintained an active interest in the Trust.

Lord Triesman said: "I am delighted to have the opportunity to chair the Dartington Trust. Dartington is truly unique. It brings together excellent art and design and, increasingly, innovative holistic work in social and environmental sciences and ecology. Its contribution to a just and sustainable future is legendary".

[FULL STORY >](#)



MEMBER EVENT REVIEW: CARBON NEUTRAL EFFORTS

Last month members were introduced to Nick Harris, our Head of Facilities on the Dartington Estate. Nick shared the latest developments in our strategy to reduce our carbon output, including the huge steps taken to help move towards a more sustainable net zero organisation.

Out of Dartington's 60 modernist and historic buildings across the estate, 42 are listed, and the nature of which generates challenges in terms of heating and insulation.

As we gradually phase out gas and oil, we are using biomass boiler systems using either pellets or wood chips as an interim solution to our energy supply. We now operate five biomass boilers across the estate, and have recently connected Higher Close to the wood pellet boiler behind the Green Table. We are now planning to upgrade the biomass boiler at Blacklers.

By connecting up Higher Close we have reduced the annual cost to less than one sixth of its former bill – just over £25,000. In addition the cost of the switch from the old oil burner system will be paid for by the savings in just seven months, Nick advises. Last year alone we saved over £80,000 in heating bills and 80,000 tonnes in oil from using biomass, cutting the Trust's carbon emissions by 400 tonnes per year!

[⊕ FULL STORY](#)



Above: Members' Session with Alan Boldon, Pavel Cenkl and Nick Harris

Head Gardener, Neville Evans, writes:

They say time flies when you're having fun and I can't believe it's almost been eight months since my tenure as Head Gardener began. We have been busy in the gardens with lots of clearing, weeding and lots of watering through the summer months.



Above: New planting around Playhouse borders

It has been a privilege to see the gardens change over the seasons. We have made a start on planting around the Playhouse borders and will continue our botanical flourishes through the Wilderness Garden (or Woodland Garden) and Magnolia steps. I am a believer in covering soil for our enjoyment, wildlife and ease of maintenance. This will take time but it is an exciting prospect. There will be successes and failures as the garden evolves while keeping the spirit of it thriving.

As we come to the end of the second year of charging an entrance fee to the gardens, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you. The gardens here at Dartington cost thousands of pounds to maintain annually and the gardens team are committed and enthused going forward.

Dartington's gardens are as unique and as diverse is its flora, its art and also its audience. I appreciate that charging had been a divisive issue, but it safeguards the gardens for the future and allows us to nurture this special place. Whatever your reason for having membership, thank you for supporting the Trust. It means a lot to those who work here that people like yourselves are passionate and care about the wide range of work and activities that are on offer.

I hope to meet more of you in future 'coffee with the gardeners' events in the spring, to look at the gardens and to hear your thoughts and ideas.

UPCOMING 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.

FESTIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Paddington 2 [PG]: Dartington Swimming Pool Fundraiser

Barn Cinema, 19 December

Come along for a very special festive screening of Paddington 2 and help us fundraise towards the Dartington Swimming Pool refurbishment project at Meadowbrook. From 1pm there will be fun in the foyer including Paddington-related games and Christmas crafting. Children can come along dressed in their best Christmas pyjamas with their Paddington Bears, and each ticket will be automatically entered into a prize draw to be drawn on the day. The café will even have a special marmalade-themed menu as well as festive treats on offer! Tickets for this special screening are 'pay what you can', and all profits will go directly into the Dartington Swimming Pool refurbishment project.

To support Dartington Swimming Pool head to Facebook @DartingtonRA and @Dartingtonswimmingpool or e-mail dartingtonswimmingpool@gmail.com to find out more, get involved or discuss making a donation.

[BOOK NOW >](#)





HUGE 20% MEMBER DISCOUNT AT OUR TOTNES SHOP

Includes late night shopping evenings

There's an exciting 20% off for members at our shop in Totnes on all children's books from 12-18 December! Plus, we're extending the general opening hours of the shop until 6pm from the 12th December right up until Christmas Eve, for any last-minute and after work Christmas shopping.

[ABOUT THE TOTNES SHOP >](#)



CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WEEKENDS AT THE CIDER PRESS CENTRE

Every weekend until Christmas

Enjoy live entertainment, kids' craft, food tastings and more while you shop at the Cider Press Centre in the weekends leading up to Christmas! Pop down with your members card and get 10% off from a wide range of departments.

[FULL PROGRAMME >](#)



FAMILY FILM AT THE BARN CINEMA

Throughout the holiday period

In addition to our Paddington 2 fundraising event (see above), our Barn Cinema schedule is packed with treats – including Roald Dahl’s Matilda the Musical and Guillermo del Toro’s extraordinary, stop-motion Pinocchio.

[ALL BARN CINEMA FILM >](#)



FIND THE REINDEER TRAIL

Every day during December.

Free to Members – head to the Welcome Centre to pick up your trail map

Explore our beautiful Gardens and spot Rudolph and friends grazing around various spots along the trail!

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)



AKA TRIO

The Great Hall, Sun 11 Dec, 7.30pm

Tickets £18 (£16.20 for members)

This is the last chance for tickets to see AKA Trio perform this Sunday in the Great Hall. Take a fabulous journey through Africa, Europe and South America with awe-inspiring, joyful, uplifting and life-affirming performances as well as incredible moments of improvisation.

[BOOK NOW >](#)

COMING UP IN THE NEW YEAR



Don't forget that your member's discount applies to short courses too!

Our spring / summer 2023 programme is now available to book online, featuring everything from [garden design courses](#) to [poetry workshops with award-winning writers](#), plus [alternative Valentine's events](#), leadership courses, a series of retreats encouraging reflection and connection, and a very special new [virtual enquiry group](#) invoking the presence of rivers worldwide.

[FULL SHORT COURSE PROGRAMME >](#)

IN OTHER NEWS



FESTIVE FEASTS

It's not too late to book our Festive Lunches and Christmas Party Nights at Dartington, where our new chef Adam is bringing all the flavours of Christmas together for special lunches and suppers hosted in cosy private dining rooms and The White Hart inn – ideal for friends and family groups looking to get together in the lead up to Christmas.

This year's menu has been curated by our Green Table / White Hart chefs with the best local and ethical produce, featuring all your festive favourites bursting with seasonal flavours. To book or find out more contact bookings@dartingtonhall.com.



GIFT VOUCHERS FOR CHRISTMAS

Membership makes a great gift, and this year we have beautiful gift cards available at the box office (open from 1:30pm – 7pm daily) where you can buy a gift card voucher that than be redeemed towards membership, film, gardens entry, short courses and events here at Dartington.

Or [order your voucher online here](#) and collect your free gift card at the Box Office. (Limited free cards available while stocks last.)

DECEMBER MADNESS

We're offering ALL double rooms – including our luxurious Superior Bedrooms at the incredible price of £99/night (£59/night for single rooms) for stays taken from now right up until 23 December.

All rates include a delicious breakfast. Ideal if you have visitors coming or simply want a short pre-Christmas getaway yourself. Book online below or via bookings@dartington.org – be quick, once they are gone, they're gone!

[BOOK NOW >](#)



AND FINALLY...

NEW CHINESE MEDICINE GARDEN

A group of tenants on the Dartington Estate are creating a medicinal herb garden which they hope will become a place of learning and of relaxation. The Garden is situated between Chimmels and Blacklers. A team of volunteers has already started to prepare the ground. The group aims to plant the majority of trees and shrubs next autumn which could include things like honeysuckle, rhubarb, forsythia, mulberry and sage.

The group has been given a donation by the National Gardening Scheme of over £2000 and have now launched a crowdfunding campaign to complete their £13,500 project, and [you can find out more about the garden and donate towards it here.](#)

MEMBER OFFER: BAGEL MAKING WORKSHOPS WITH MONTREAL STYLE BAGELS

There's an exciting new smell on the estate, and it's coming from the new Montreal Style Bagels who have just moved into the Shippon Studios, directly opposite the Green Table. If you've ever wondered how these amazing bagels are made, then here's your chance to find out...

Sacha and her team from Montreal Style Bagels are offering members an introductory and exclusive **10% off their new bagel making workshops throughout January**. The workshops will be running on Thursdays and Saturdays, and you can book online below using the code **Dartington10** at the checkout, or contact Sacha direct on 079458 307131 / sacha@montrealstylebagels.co.uk.

[BROWSE BAGEL MAKING WORKSHOPS >](#)

