



Treasure And Transform: Conserving And Evolving The Dartington Estate

We have chosen the theme ‘Treasure and Transform’ because we are interested in the relationship between conservation and evolution. Throughout the exhibition we are exploring how to revitalise the estate whilst honouring its history and caring for its land, wildlife and buildings.

‘Reverence for the old and a joy in the new’
Dorothy Elmhirst

Dartington **OPEN HOUSE**

In March 2018, we held our first Open House event designed to showcase our vision for the future of Dartington. Over 2,000 tickets were given away and hundreds attended workshops, presentations, arts events and more.

The success of this event was proof of the importance of this place to our community and a reminder our responsibility to deliver a successful new Dartington for the 21st century.

In setting out a vision for the future, the new senior management team has always been acutely aware of the need to involve our community. From the first Open Space events held in 2015, to the more recent Open House in March, we have been impressed by the depth of feeling for Dartington and by the generosity of our community in contributing time, ideas and support.

Your suggestions have influenced many of the plans we are presenting here, and we know that your passion and commitment are vital to a successful future for Dartington.

Our Foundation

The Dartington experiment began in 1925 when visionaries Dorothy and Leonard Elmhirst bought the crumbling estate and began to explore how a place could change the world – attracting some of the greatest artists, educators and political philosophers of the 20th century in the process. Important British institutions, including the NHS and the Arts Council, emerged and ground-breaking experiments in land use, farming and education took place.

The Elmhirsts understood that the world and its people are complex. There are many sides to every story and to every human being. It is only in embracing complexity that we can start to solve problems. We need environments that encourage our whole being to flourish, in connection with nature and each other.

This extraordinary project is now being reinvigorated for the 21st century.



The New Dartington Project: A Manifesto

Our 1,200 acre estate will become a place of radical experimentation, a model of rural regeneration, and a centre for progressive ideas and innovation. We will welcome visitors and build a living and working community.

Over the next 5–7 years:

Our events programme will bring people together – to delight in and learn from artists, educators, makers and each other

Our learning programmes will innovate and explore new models of teaching – providing ‘learning by doing’ for a new generation of change-makers

Our land will be a source of inspiration – exploring how to grow food sustainably and conserve our environment

Our buildings will be a hub of enterprise, creativity and community – rewriting the rulebook in order to develop the estate sensitively, sustainably and inventively

With your help we will create the Dartington we have all been waiting for.

A Few Of Our Forthcoming Projects

For opportunities to learn more and get involved in these projects as they develop, keep an eye on dartington.org/future



Shops

Reinvigorating the Elmhirsts' original vision of rural employment and regeneration, our concept for The Shops at Dartington is for a table top of our region's artisan food, drink and crafts: a showcase that is Devon in flavour, where star brewers, butchers, bakers, potters and furniture makers will feel at home.

An exhibition showcasing our ideas and plans is open this weekend at the Café at The Shops. Our aim is to better reflect the rest of the estate as we increase food production and celebrate our successful craft and making community.



Land and Farming

We aspire to position our estate at the forefront of experimental land use - an exemplar of diversity and rural regeneration. That emphasis continues with a second 5-year Land Use Review, with agroecology as our focus. Following the completion of our most recent programme, Land Use Review 2 will seek to continue the innovative approach that marks The Dartington Hall Trust out as one of the most progressive land stewards in the UK.



Barn Cinema & Café

In the mid 1930s, one of the 20th century's most influential architects and a founder of the Bauhaus Movement, Walter Gropius, came to Dartington - one of the many connections the Elmhirsts fostered with progressive artists and performers fleeing Hitler's Germany. Along with fellow architect Robert Hening, he helped transform the barn into a theatre. Now it is the Barn Cinema, a proudly independent, award-winning cinema in an extraordinary setting.

We hope to soon transform the Roundhouse (the current café adjacent to the cinema) into a new foyer café serving delicious locally sourced food.



Gardens

When we spoke to the community at our various open events held over the last few years, it was clear that the gardens are one of the most treasured parts of the estate for many people. We want to protect this magical place and improve the areas around it. So we are working with one of the leading landscape designers of our time, Dan Pearson, to gently restore them to their full potential. Dan's presentation of the masterplan is available to view on our website and is a wonderful way to understand how this precious asset will be revitalised over the years to come.

We will need support from our Members and supporters in order to do everything we want to do, and to fulfil our commitment to keeping the gardens free and open to all.



High Cross House

High Cross House is one of the most important early Modernist buildings in the UK. Designed by American architectural pioneer, William Lescaze, it was built as a home for the legendary headmaster of Dartington Hall School, William Curry. We want to bring it back to life as a Learning Lab with plans to host educators from around the world as they explore new models of learning.

We have begun initial work, with support from specialist heritage architects, to understand the complexity of restoring this building. We are committed to securing the funding to allow us to start work soon.



The White Hart

The White Hart, sited in the 14th century kitchens of the Great Hall, was once a thriving pub on the estate - a cosy place for a drink and a bite to eat. We plan to bring this once-loved institution back to life as a key part of the experience of staying at our hotel and eating on the estate. Already the White Hart is changing. We have a new menu which epitomises our ethos of celebrating local, sustainably produced, seasonal food.

In 2019, we plan to start the refurbishment process taking account of the feedback we received during Open House 01, which called for a better thought-out, warmer and friendlier space.



Dartington Hall Hotel

At the heart of the estate, next to the Great Hall and the Private House where the Elmhirst family once lived, is Dartington's courtyard hotel with its distinctive and individual rooms. Staying in our small hotel is a chance to experience the beauty and understand the ethos that created this unique place.

In 2019 we hope to refurbish the courtyard hotel. The 1925 restoration of the medieval hall and surrounding buildings was revolutionary for its time. Our aim is to follow the same approach, combining the highest quality restoration with creativity and innovation.



Homes and Communities

Working with South Hams District Council, Historic England and Dartington Parish Council, we hope that the emerging Local Plan will offer us an opportunity to build up to 300 homes across our estate. Our homes will respond to local needs and offer the very best in rural community building. We will work with experimental architects, builders and residents to create innovative and sustainable places.



Foxhole

The Foxhole campus, the site of Dartington Hall's famously progressive school for over 50 years, is to be restored and developed as a home for education and enterprise. The first step in creating our new multi-disciplinary learning campus is relocating the School for Social Entrepreneurs to Foxhole to create an enterprise start-up facility. We are exploring how to develop the rest of the complex as a new home for Schumacher College - placing it at the heart of a truly innovative learning environment incorporating our arts, craft and social justice programmes.

The building needs a great deal of work to restore it to its former glory and a full programme of design is currently underway.



Whitney-Elmhirst Centre

The founders of the original Dartington experiment, Dorothy and Leonard Elmhirst, lived in the building next to the Great Hall, known for many years as the Private House. Our plan is to transform this into a space to explore and interpret their exceptional lives and legacy, showcasing the family's art collection, and much more.

Over the next year, we will be experimenting with how we bring this centre to life and make it a vital and relevant resource for our community, as well as a way to understand the importance of the Elmhirsts' work during their time at Dartington Hall.

Other Activity Happening Around The Estate

As well as transformation of land and buildings,
we are committed to growing our programme
of public events and activities.

We aim to be a place of gathering and we want
to attract new audiences from near and far.

Here are just a few things to look forward
to this winter season:

People Make Dartington

A photography exhibition by
Totnes-born photographer Aubrey
Simpson, capturing those who work
across the Dartington Hall estate.

25 Oct – 7 December

The White Hart, The Green Table,
Roundhouse Café

Summit by Andy Smith and Fuel

In a blend of languages, including fully
integrated BSL, three performers tell
a story from three perspectives. It is
the story of an international meeting. A
meeting at which something happened,
and in that moment everything changed.

9–10 November

Space Studios

NT Live: *The Madness Of George III* [12A]

Multi-award-winning drama *The Madness
of George III* will be broadcast live
to cinemas, in National Theatre Live's
first ever broadcast from Nottingham
Playhouse.

20 November

Barn Cinema

Flight by Darkfield

Flight is the second work presented
by Darkfield, the creators of 2017
Edinburgh Festival sell out hit *Séance*. The
performance takes place in a 40ft high
cube container in absolute darkness and
lasts for 30 minutes.

21 November – 2 December

Darkfield container

WONDERLAND

Meet over 40 of the best makers in
the South West. A place to stop, eat,
drink, shop, play, make, dance, sing,
listen and enjoy. Expect fire, expect fun,
expect desire. From spoon making to
building your tiny home, brewing beer
to dressmaking, cheese making to kiln
building, to crafting your own wooden
surfboard.

29 November – 2 December

The Shippon Square

ROH Live: *The Nutcracker*

A Christmas treat for the whole family and
a classic with a special place in the hearts
of ballet fans around the world.

3 December

Barn Cinema

***Bedtime Stories* by Upswing,**

Award Winning Circus Theatre Company

Celebrate the magical time of the day
when the stresses and strains of life melt
away and enter a world of imagination and
dreams with *Bedtime Stories*.

6 December – 6 January

Space Studios

The Shops At Dartington:

Christmas Fair

Join us for Christmas gin distilling, carols,
live jazz, food marquee, cafés and street
food, children's entertainment, shops,
bespoke hampers and more...

15–16 December

The Shops at Dartington

Boxing Day Dinner & Dance

Join us and The Drat Pack for a magical
evening in the beautiful Great Hall at
Dartington. For one evening, return to
the glamour and elegance of the past.

26 December

Great Hall

The Arts Are Fundamental

The Arts have always been and will always be central to Dartington's purpose. From the émigré artists who found refuge here in the 1930s to the reinvention of contemporary practice that dominated Dartington College of Arts between 1960 and 2010; from the artist residencies of Leach and de Trey to 70 years of summer music making; the Arts at Dartington has always been firmly at the heart of Dorothy and Leonard Elmhirst's concept of human completeness.

Today our Arts programme is inclusive, participatory and framed by an ambitious aspiration of quality and excellence. Themes of change-making, learning, social engagement and risk-taking feature across music, performance and the visual arts.

Dartington International Summer School & Festival

This summer we celebrated 70 years of the Dartington International Summer School & Festival. We welcomed leading lights of the classical music world, as well as exceptional jazz, folk and world musicians.

Next year is the final year of Joanna MacGregor's tenure as Artistic Director. We have already been able to confirm performances by Harrison Birtwistle, Stile Antico and Emma Kirkby and look forward to works as diverse as Handel's *Saul* and Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*. There will also be the usual eclectic and magical mix of folk, jazz and contemporary music in our Summer Concerts series.

Barn Cinema

Our independent, award-winning cinema, curates an innovative programme of films ranging from first-run features to art-house films and special events. We hope to make the experience of coming to the cinema, housed in a beautiful 15th century barn, even more special by renovating the Roundhouse café and creating a lovely new Barn Cinema Café.

Dartington Live

Dartington Live brings acclaimed artists and thinkers from around the world to Dartington and the programme tackles modern challenges in imaginative and transformative ways.

Now in its second year, this autumn season offers a diverse range of productions including Darkfield's shipping container production, *Flight*, which gives audiences a chance to explore their darkest fears (21 November – 2 December), and Upswing's *Bedtime Stories*, which will delight family audiences (6 December – 6 January).

'Meanwhile' use of Aller Park

Earlier this year, we invited the acclaimed Devon-based artist, Sarah Gillespie, to take up a residency at Aller Park to help us begin to understand the needs of working artists as we develop our visual arts strategy.

With so many other major projects on the go, we are keen for Aller Park to remain a flexible development opportunity for the future. However, we are actively exploring 'meanwhile' opportunities for the building that help to generate new life on the estate and support our strategy. This may include using part of the building as a space for a temporary community of artists.

We are working with Sarah Gillespie and others to develop our plans. Meanwhile Sarah continues to hold open studio sessions where wider community consultation can take place with talented visual artists, working in the region and beyond.

The Future Of Learning

Dartington has been a pioneer in progressive education since 1925. We are currently reshaping and reinventing our learning programme for all ages, focused on ecology, arts, heritage, social justice, progressive enterprise, crafts, food and farming. Radical pedagogies and new patterns of education, both formal and informal, are being explored and modelled on site, inspired by the original Dartington concepts of 'education as adventure' and 'learning by doing'.

Solving today's wicked* problems

As part of the programme to expand learning at Dartington, we are planning a Learning Lab programme at High Cross House. This will bring people together to explore what progressive learning means today.

In the coming year we will host labs to consider the future of:
creative learning / social justice learning and research /
inclusive economy / the future of food / and much more...

The Learning Lab programme will:

- establish Dartington within an international network designed to explore solutions to today's big questions and wicked problems
 - develop models of intensive learning to support vocational, higher and lifelong learning
 - provide a forum for clusters of research programmes to accelerate key learning, test fresh insight and deliver increased institutional reach and impact

*wicked problem: a problem that is difficult or impossible to solve because of incomplete, contradictory and changing requirements that are often difficult to recognise.