

# Place of Creativity

A combination of excellent courses and breathtaking locations make the Dartmoor Arts Summer School a unique place of creativity



Every July, the charming Dartmoor village of Drewsteignton is transformed into a hub of creative activity when the Dartmoor Arts summer school is in full swing. For an entire week, established artists from the South West and around the UK come to teach a range of innovative and exciting courses. Traditional skills such as iron casting, stone carving and cob techniques are taught alongside digital photography, documentary filmmaking and spatial structures. Artists, makers and students travel from all over the country and abroad to participate in the workshops and engage in lively debate and creative exchange. The summer school is recognised as a significant annual event on the cultural calendar and puts Dartmoor firmly on

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the map as an important centre for artistic activity.

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Throughout the week courses are hosted in and around Drewsteignton

old restored barns and stunning leafy woodland valleys make up the classroom spaces.

#### Inspirational courses and tutors

Students get to work with the most amazing artist/teachers, many who live and practise in the Dartmoor area.

- Earth Art is taught by artists and cob specialists Abey Smallcombe (Jackie Abey and Jill Smallcombe) and potter Rupert Johnstone. Abey Smallcombe has completed major commissions for the Eden Project and the National Trust and will be teaching the sculptural possibilities of earth materials. Rupert is a local potter and teacher, and one half of RAMP (Roop & Al Make Pots).

- Digital Photography: well-known Dartmoor photographer Chris Chapman leads this 5-day course, taking students out into the wild Dartmoor landscape then back to his studio to learn to process and print their own images.

- Landscape Painting: painter Daniel Adams will lead a group of students through the process of painting from sketchbook to working with oils, using the Dartmoor landscape as inspiration.

- Stone Carving: David Brampton-Greene, also based on Dartmoor, has taught widely and run workshops at the Natural History Museum and Yorkshire Sculpture Park. He has had a long-term collaborative relationship with Peter Randall-Page, who will be a visiting tutor on the course with David this year.

- Stone Carving: David Brampton-Greene, also based on Dartmoor, has taught widely and run workshops at the Natural History Museum and Yorkshire Sculpture Park. He has had a long-term collaborative relationship with Peter Randall-Page, who will be a visiting tutor on the course with David this year.

- Iron casting: this is one of the most popular and spectacular courses culminating in an iron pour at the end of the week – both fiery and awe-inspiring.

- Spatial Structures: award-winning architect Piers Taylor and timber





Charley have won many awards and been featured widely in the media, including Channel 4's *Grand Designs*. The structure they made with students last year, called 'Room with a View', is still in situ along the bank of the Teign between Single Bridge and Clifford Bridge, Drewsteignton.

- Drawing into Painting (The Human Head): led by Atul Vohora who currently teaches at The Slade.
- Documentary Filmmaking: with Hugh and Anson Hartford, Chris Jones and Nathaniel Lane, who have won many awards and have screened their work on BBC, Channel 4 and all over the world.
- Drawing Masterclass: this is taught over five days with a different tutor each day, each with their own exciting approach to drawing. Benedict Rubbra, Alistair Lambert, Tim Knowles, Kate Davies and Stephen Park share their skills and techniques in this popular course.

### Desert Island images

Students participate in the workshops by day and all come together in the evening at the Drewe Arms in Drewsteignton for plenty of animated discussion and the sharing of creative ideas. Special events

take place every night that include artists talks, music, film screenings and performance. High-profile artists such as Antony Gormley, Richard Wilson and David Mach have given talks in previous years.

One of our most popular evening events is 'Desert Island Images', Dartmoor Arts' own artistic take on *Desert Island Discs*, where a select panel of castaway artists present their top eight art works they would take to a desert island. This event takes place on the opening night of the summer school (25 July) and this year includes an impressive line-up: works they would take to a desert island. This event takes place on the opening night of the summer school (25 July) and this year includes an impressive line-up: artist Jackie Abey, potter Rupert Johnstone, stone carver David Brampton-Greene, and sculptor and musician Marcus Vergette. The works chosen by the panel are often surprising and include pieces that have inspired and informed their artistic practice over the years.

All of the evening events are open to the public and provide an opportunity for local people to come and hear well-known artists speak right on their doorstep, and enjoy the ambience and variety of other things on offer. □

**MANDY BARBER**



**Dartmoor Arts Summer School:  
25-30 July**

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**Desert island images:** 25 July, 7.30pm, Drewe Arms, Drewsteignton. £3 on the door, no need to book. All welcome

**Evening events:** All open to the public and held at the Drewe Arms, Drewsteignton. See website for full schedule: [www.dartmoorarts.com](http://www.dartmoorarts.com), 01647 281295.

The Dartmoor Arts Project is a non-profit organisation supported by the Arts Council, West Devon Borough Council and the Dartmoor National Park.

Go to  
[devon.greatbritishlife.co.uk](http://devon.greatbritishlife.co.uk)  
To enter our competition

**arts**  
ForArt'sSake

## WIN A PLACE ON THIS YEAR'S COURSE!

The summer school is open to people of all abilities and at any stage of their artistic development. Dartmoor Arts supports young artists and operates a bursary scheme offering financial assistance towards course fees for those who cannot afford it. Details of how to apply are on the Dartmoor Arts website.

While this year's summer school is now fully booked, Dartmoor Arts has reserved a place for one lucky *Devon*

*Life* reader on any of the following courses: Drawing into Painting, Painting in the Landscape, Spatial Structures, Earth Art: Combined Cob & Ceramics, and a Drawing Masterclass.

For your chance to win, simply state (in less than 150 words) why you should be offered a place on the course (state preference), and submit your application to Mandy Barber: [mandy@dartmoorarts.com](mailto:mandy@dartmoorarts.com) by 15 July. Please mark your e-mail 'Summer

School Competition' and state your full name, address and age. Winner will be selected and notified by 18 July.

The prize includes tuition and materials during the summer school week, evening meals and free entry to all the evening events. The winner will need to arrange and pay for their own accommodation. There is cheap camping and a range of B&Bs in the area if the winner wishes to stay in Drewsteignton during the school.

