

Dartington Trust

Corporate & Governmental Leadership

Global Leadership Conference

Masterclass for Leaders and Aspiring Leaders

Dartington Hall Trust is delighted to announce a unique series of Global Leadership conferences in 2025. The first is devoted to **Corporate & Governmental Leadership**, between **Monday 31 March to Thursday 3 April 2025**.

Aim

To provide leaders across a myriad of relevant sectors with unique insights into the strategic leadership styles adopted in government decision-making, international business, private/public sector partnerships and conflict resolution. Delegates will reassess and strengthen their own strategic leadership styles through insights from leading practitioners.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the intellectual constructs for effective strategic, resilient leadership.
 - Appreciate the interplay between national and regional governments and top-end businesses.
 - Assess how to create a winning strategy between government and businesses.
 - Identify leadership challenges and successful strategies for consensus building across historically deeply divided communities.
 - Demonstrate how to scale businesses for successful national/international growth.
 - Gain unique insights into the strategic leadership experiences from renowned practitioners in international business, government decision-making, high-level negotiation, and gender equality.
 - How to approach disputes constructively, focusing on collaboration over confrontation.
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The Venue

The conference will be held on the picturesque **Dartington Estate**, which is in over 800 acres of beautiful Devon countryside adjacent to Totnes and the River Dart.

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Keynote speaker addresses and plenary sessions will take place in the 14th-century **Great Hall**, a Grade I listed building with a capacity of over 300 delegates. Additional workshops and small group sessions will utilise the bespoke facilities across the estate.

The location, facilities and ambience will ensure conference delegates have a most convivial and memorable learning experience in one of the country's heritage locations.

Keynote Speakers

1. **Baroness Arlene Foster**
Former First Minister of Northern Ireland
2. **Professor Jackie McCoy MBE**
Professor of Management Development, Ulster University
3. **Rene Schuster**
International Business Leader
4. **Professor Sue Prince**
Senior Law Academic, University of Exeter
5. **Kevin Murray**
Leadership and Communications Specialist

Leading in a contested space – How to find common ground when there appears to be none and how to sustain agreements after they are made.

Baroness Arlene Foster, Former First Minister of Northern Ireland



How does an effective leader find common ground when there is apparently very little? What style of leadership is best suited to a divided society? How do you build resilience to deal with the modern challenges of leadership? Using her experience of being a government minister in Northern Ireland for many years, Arlene Foster will share her insight from first-hand knowledge and her reflections on leadership in the era of social media and AI.

Profile – Described in 2017 as the second most powerful woman in UK politics, Arlene Foster made her first appearance on BBC Newsnight aged 17, after her school bus was bombed by the Provisional IRA and she has been involved in Northern Ireland politics since being a student at Queen's University, Belfast.

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A solicitor by profession, Arlene was instrumental in establishing power sharing in Northern Ireland and served as a Minister in several capacities prior to becoming First Minister in 2016

In particular, she served as **Minister for the Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment**, a position she held from 2008 until 2015. During this period, she was instrumental in promoting Northern Ireland's tourism industry, bringing major events like the MTV EMA awards, the Irish Open and Giro d'Italia to Northern Ireland and securing record levels of investment into the economy. As, Enterprise, Trade and Investment Minister for Northern Ireland Arlene was the primary ministerial contact for overseas interest in Northern Ireland as a place to invest in and do business with. She travelled extensively to the Middle East, (Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Qatar, Oman), India, and the Far East including China and Singapore. She served as **Minister of Finance & Personnel** between 2015-16.

After the UK General Election of June 2017, Arlene led her Party into a Confidence and Supply Agreement with the Conservative Party to secure stable government for the UK. The period between the election and the formation of a new Government has been described as one of the most significant constitutional periods in generations.

She was initially appointed as **First Minister of Northern Ireland** on 11 January 2016 becoming Northern Ireland's first female First Minister and remained as such, excluding periods when devolution collapsed in Northern Ireland, until 2021.

Arlene has been to the forefront of advocating for more women in public life and has led by example in many ways, not least becoming the first female First Minister of Northern Ireland and first woman to lead her Party thus empowering more young women, and women from disadvantaged communities. She now sits as a non-affiliated peer in the House of Lords and has recently been appointed as Chair of Inter-Trade UK by the new UK Government.

Leadership Challenges of Consensus-Building Across Political, Economic, Social and Religious Divides

Professor Jackie McCoy MBE



The EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland, which became known as PEACE I, was established by the European Union to make a positive response to the opportunities presented by developments in the Northern Ireland peace process during 1994, especially after the announcements of cessation of violence by the main republican and loyalist paramilitary organisations.

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Between 1995 and 2013, there were three PEACE programmes, with a financial contribution of EUR 1.3 billion. The task of allocating monies and monitoring the spend and outcomes fell on Government Departments and appointed Local Strategy Partnership Boards across Northern Ireland. As a Board Member, and later as Chair of the largest Local Strategy Board for the city of Belfast, Professor Jackie McCoy, MBE will address the leadership challenges of consensus-building across political, economic, social and religious divides.

Profile – Jackie McCoy is Professor of Management Development and Associate Dean at the Ulster University Business School. She is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, Advance HE (UK) and Member of the IoD. She was awarded an Ulster University Distinguished Fellowship for outstanding contribution to business and the community in Northern Ireland in 2004. Jackie sits on several voluntary Boards and has been Chair of Belfast International Arts Festival for the past 7 years. She was awarded the MBE in the New Year’s Honours List 2022 for services to Higher Education, Business and the Arts.

Scaling a Business for Growth

Rene Schuster



failures.

How do you scale a successful regional business into a national or international company in 18 to 24 months? How do you know when to partner vs white label? Indirect go-to-market strategies are a key decision you will have to face. Scalability is all about access to new customers and getting more from the customers you have. These are issues that all boards and CEOs need to have a plan for before embarking on your journey. Mr Schuster will go through real life examples of companies and how they dealt with these challenges and

Profile – Over 25 years of executive experience at CXO level, Rene has built a career as a recognised international leader amongst industry giants such as KPMG, Telefonica, Vodafone, Hewlett Packard and Compaq, to name a few.

Rene has a wealth of knowledge in helping businesses respond to challenges - from urgent performance improvements, complex restructuring to accelerated digital transformations, he has acquired skills in advisory, management consulting, strategic planning, go-to-market strategies, business growth and customer data monetisation.

Rene's previous experience stretches across a wide range of industries. In recent years, he has specialised in the Internet & Software, Telecommunications, IT Services, Media, Consumer & Retail, and Healthcare industries.

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Dispute Resolution – The Changing Scenario

Professor Sue Prince



The focus of this themed presentation is to demonstrate the changing nature of dispute resolution. It will include a summary of the current UK Government position policy on dispute resolution and why this has become more imperative since Covid. It will highlight especially the move from adversarial methods towards a more collaborative and less confrontational approach to resolving disputes. This move is also reflected internationally, and this presentation will also consider how other countries are approaching dispute resolution. It will also

include some analysis of the role of technology and AI and how various companies in the private sector use technology as a form of mediator to resolve disputes. This general shift in approach has implications for business through an emphasis on practices and skills, encouraging co-operation, collaboration and problem-solving.

Profile – Professor Sue Prince is a senior law academic at the University of Exeter with significant experience in senior University management. She is a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Authority and has been awarded a University Fellowship Award for Excellence in Teaching. Further, she has won national awards for her innovative projects supporting pro bono.

She was appointed by the Lord Chancellor as a member of the Civil Justice Council, where she co-chairs the Legal Futures Group, currently working on AI/ law tech and digital disadvantage. Her research interests focus on access to justice in the civil courts, looking specifically at the role of dispute resolution and the use of AI and technology. She also has additional roles as an Assessor with the Office for Students and as a member of the Learning and Development Group for the Law Society of England and Wales. Finally, she is an accredited CEDR mediator and a community mediator and regularly presents and contributes to shaping the conversation on mediation and dispute resolution.

How to be an Inspiring Leader

Kevin Murray



To be successful, leaders must inspire others to achieve great results. How ironic, then, that few leaders are taught the critical skills that enable them to be more motivating.

The simple truth is this: How well you perform as a leader, will depend on how well as a leader you communicate. You can have the best plan, the best resources and the best people, but if you don't communicate well,

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you won't persuade people to your cause, and you will fail. It is that simple.

Yet any leader can easily derive competitive advantage by learning how to be more inspiring. It is much easier than you might think. In this talk, Kevin Murray will take you through research involving 120 CEOs, 5000 senior managers and 8000 employees and reveal the skills that will provide the super-fuel to make you even more effective as a leader.

Profile - Kevin Murray is a leadership and communications specialist with more than 45 years of experience and four best-selling management books to his credit. He speaks at conferences and leadership events around the world and is an accomplished executive leadership coach. He is author of the "The Language of Leaders", "Communicate to Inspire", "People with Purpose" and "Charismatic Leadership."

Kevin was, for almost 20 years, Chairman of the public relations division of Chime Communications PLC, the global marketing services company. In this role, he led 17 companies while also undertaking consulting work with the CEOs and leadership teams of many global organisations, across a wide range of sectors.

Previously he was the director of communications for British Airways and, before that, Director of Corporate Affairs for AEA Technology, the business that was floated off from the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. Prior to AEA, Kevin was Group Public Relations Manager for Bayer companies in the UK. Bayer is one of the world's major chemicals-to-pharmaceuticals companies.

In his earlier career, Kevin was a national newspaper journalist, magazine publisher and marketing director, having started as a crime reporter on The Star newspaper in Johannesburg.

Kevin is a Companion of the Chartered Management Institute and, as chairman of one of the UK's leading 54-hole championship golf estates, Frilford Heath, enjoys combining his lifelong love of golf with his years of leadership expertise in one role.

Conference Pedagogy

The conference will have a discernible inter-active participatory ethos whereby delegates will have the opportunity to share their own professional experiences with the keynote speakers and fellow delegates.

Accordingly, conference will include:

- Themed incisive scene set talks
- Plenary Sessions
- Workshops
- Role Play

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- Networking
- Question & Answer Sessions

Target Audience

- Government Ministers & Members of Parliament
- Leaders of regional and local government bodies
- CEOs of major corporates
- Those involved in shaping business development to facilitate national growth and transformation
- Senior staff with leadership responsibility in the public and private sector

Conference Programme & Duration

Three days residential at Dartington

Monday 31 March 2025

- Arrival & Registration 2.30-4pm
- Welcome, Introductions & Scene Set – 4-5pm
- First Substantive Session - 5.30 – 7pm – Baroness Foster followed by an interactive discursive session
- Evening Dinner

Tuesday 1 April - Full Conference Programme

- Session One 10 – 11.15am Baroness Foster followed by an interactive discursive session
- Morning Coffee 11.15 - 11.30am
- Session Two – 11.30 -1pm Plenary Session & Workshop
- Lunch 1-2pm
- Session Three – 2- 3.15pm – Professor Jackie McCoy followed by a question and answer session
- Afternoon Tea – 3.15-3.30pm
- Session Four – 3.30 – 4.30pm - AN Other
- Plenary Session & Workshop – 4.45 – 5pm
- Pre-Dinner Networking – 7-8pm

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- Evening Dinner – 8pm

Wednesday 2 April 2025 - Full Conference Programme

- Session One 10 – 11.15am - Professor Jackie McCoy followed by a question and answer session
- Morning Coffee 11.15 - 11.30am
- Session Two – 11.30 -12.30pm – A N Other
- Lunch 12.45-1.30pm

Afternoon Showcasing the Dartington Estate and adjacent parts of Devon

- Tour from 2pm
- Gala Dinner, Chamber Orchestra & Presentation of Certificates 8-10pm

Thursday 3 April 2025

- Wrap up Session – 9.30 -11.15am - Various
- Morning Coffee – 11.15-11.30am
- Delegates Depart Dartington after coffee

Deliverables

- Focused, thought provoking and incisive key note themed talks & lectures
- Set of conference notes, power points etc
- Networking details and materials reference 'resources bank'.

Conference Fee

£2,500 or £2.995 per delegate

The conference fee includes the following –

- Accommodation
- Subsistence (main meals) during the conference
- Administrative Fee
- Tours & visits which form part of the course
- Lectures/workshops and miscellaneous tuition
- Certification

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- Gala Dinner & Awards Ceremony
- Pick up from & return to Totnes railway station

The fee excludes travel to and from Dartington.

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