

# Sangha Without Boundaries

## The Newsletter of Edinburgh's Buddhist Community

### Inter-Sangha Activities

#### Compassion in Action

The recently –revitalized Engaged Buddhism group spearheaded by Charlotte Procter is now meeting regularly as Compassion in Action. The group's next meeting, scheduled for 1 October at 10 am, will begin with a 30-minute meditation and close with letter-writing for Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche. The group is working on a logo and is encouraging participation in peace activities such as the Long Walk for Peace. The group has also created an on-line forum, at [www.compassion.heartwoodmusic.com](http://www.compassion.heartwoodmusic.com). For more information, please contact Charlotte at [charlotteproc-ter@supanet.com](mailto:charlotteproc-ter@supanet.com) or 0131 447 9861.

#### Autumn Inter-Sangha Gathering

The date for the December inter-sangha gathering has been changed from 3 to 10 December.

#### Planning for the 2007 retreat

Gill Mathews has booked Wiston Lodge for 27-29 April of next year for our next inter-sangha retreat.

#### Inter-sangha Newsletter

Our subscriptions to date are covering costs for this issue. We hope future issues will be possible.

#### Long Walk for Peace

Scotland's Long Walk for Peace will be held Sept. 14-19, with arrival at the Scottish Parliament scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 19. To help organize a group of Buddhists to attend one or more days, contact Charlotte Procter (contacts details as above).

### History of Buddhism in Edinburgh

*This is the first installment of an article written by Rawdon Goodier.*

#### 1. Introduction

Some years ago I was encouraged to try to gather information on the development of Buddhism in Edinburgh by a short essay, prepared by the late Morton Bryce, on the history of the Edinburgh Buddhist Group. This group was the main focus of Buddhist activity in Edinburgh between 1966 and 1993. In the event it has proved quite difficult to gather sufficient information on this subject to enable a comprehensive account to be written. However I would like to offer these working notes to Edinburgh Sangha members as a tribute to the sustained commitment by Morton Bryce over many years to the establishment of Buddhism in Edinburgh and in the hope that others may be stimulated to contribute additional information.

#### 2. Pre-history

It seems likely that the earliest explorations of Buddhism in Edinburgh took place under the auspices of the Theosophical Society. Thus the Orient Lodge of the Edinburgh Theosophical Society, which was

founded in 1910, at its meeting at 28 Great King Street of April 1912, discussed a paper on Buddhism and afterwards listened to a reading of Edwin Arnold's *The Light of Asia*. In 1914 they presented a series of discussions on "Meditation in terms of the Great Religious teachers".

It is recorded that the well known Zen Buddhist teacher D T Suzuki lectured on Zen Buddhism in Edinburgh in 1936 and that in 1958 he toured Edinburgh.

In the issue of the *Middle Way* (the Journal of the London Buddhist Society) for 1952-53 the announcement was made of the formation of a branch of the Buddhist Society in Edinburgh in 1952 under the presidency of a Mr W H Pass from Dunbar. Meetings were held in the Chinese Institute on George IV Bridge. In May 1953 the Edinburgh Society promoted a Wesak celebration at which "the Venerable Y Siri Nyana led Pansil and gave an address". I have found no further mention of this Group.

No further reference occurs in the *Middle Way* until the announcement of the establishment of the Edinburgh Buddhist Group under the guidance of Mr Fraser

*(History of Buddhism, continued on page 3)*



*Walking meditation led by Thich Nhat Hanh. Photo supplied by John Bagust, the Edinburgh Community of Interbeing.*

## News from the Sanghas

### Rigpa Group

Recently some 10 members of Rigpa Edinburgh spent two weeks at Lerab Ling in France for the opening of a new Tibetan Temple in the hills near Montpellier in the South of France. Four members will stay, taking part in varying lengths of time in retreat, with Mary and John staying for 3 years. The opening was celebrated by 2000 international students and several lamas from Tibet. We had ceremonies of Rab Ne for the many statues, images and Thangkas in the temple.

Sogyal Rinpoche gave us teachings on how to take part in the retreat while at home, which many in the Rigpa Sangha will be following.

Mary Deans is now caretaker at Bonnyrigg. She can be reached at 0131 663 7564, and the e.mail address is [rigpa@rigpaedinburgh.com](mailto:rigpa@rigpaedinburgh.com)

The date of the meditation course, "Finding Peace " is earlier than indicated in the last issue of this newsletter. The 10 week course will start on Monday 25th September, at 7.45pm at the Salisbury Centre. Everyone is welcome. The price is £5/£3.

### Soto Zen

We have enjoyed a lovely summer here at the Priory and are working on our Autumn schedule. Firstly, for those who are new to our tradition, we will run our 'Introduction to Serene Reflection Meditation' evenings on the second Friday of each month. We also have extended meditation days one Sunday per month for those who would like to have a day retreat. This is all in addition to our daily schedule of meditation in the mornings and evenings. We also have a renewal of precepts ceremony one Sunday per month.

The Priory is part of a wider order (the O.B.C.) that celebrates many festivals in the year. We have a few festivals coming up; the *Festival of Bodhidharma* in September, the *Festival of Bhaisajyaguru Tathagata* and the *Festival of Feeding of the Hungry Ghosts* (otherwise known as *Segaki*) in October. Festivals in November will commemorate the Founder of the 'Order of Buddhist Contemplatives' (O.B.C), Great Master Houn Jiyu, and her Master, Great Master Keido Chisan.

If you would like any further information on any of these festivals please visit the website of Throssel Hole Buddhist Abbey at [www.throssel.org.uk](http://www.throssel.org.uk).

### Community of Interbeing

We practice in the Interbeing tradition of Zen Master, Ven. Thich Nhat Hanh. Our Thursday evening practice starts with a guided meditation, followed by walking and silent meditation. We recite from Buddhist teachings and sutras, ending with a period of sharing. The practice starts at 7.30pm at St. Mark's Unitarian Church, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh. We ask friends visiting for the first time to arrive at 7.15pm, which enables us to briefly introduce the practice.

Also at St. Mark's on the last Thursday of each month are our Sangha Suppers, starting at 6 pm. It's a lovely opportunity to share our practice and to eat mindfully together. Please bring your own food to share.

We also have a Mindfulness @ Lunchtime practice at St. Mark's, Tuesdays from 12:15pm-2pm. And Mornings of Mindfulness (at Kate's) are held on the first Saturday or Sunday of each month, starting at 10:15 am (1/10, 4/11, 3/12/06).

For more information, please contact Jon Bagust ([bagust.chang@virgin.net](mailto:bagust.chang@virgin.net)), or visit [www.interbeing.org.uk](http://www.interbeing.org.uk) or [www.plumvillage.org](http://www.plumvillage.org).

### Theravadan Forest Sangha

Edinburgh's Theravadan Forest Sangha is very pleased to share the news that one of the senior Theravada nuns in the UK, Ajahn Candasiri, is for the time being staying in Edinburgh. A temporary arrangement, it means that for the time she is here, the Ajahn often joins with us for our regular Thursday evening meditation and group discussion. We are grateful for and benefit tremendously from her presence.

Additional visits by monastics will include visits by monks from the Harnham monastery on Nov. 2 and Dec. 7. Our group meets every Thursday evening at 7:30 pm at Christ Church, Holy Corner in Edinburgh's Morningside area. All are welcome.

A practice day will be held on December 3.

For more information, please contact Neil on 0131 226 5044 or Jody on 0131 332 7987.

### Add Your Tradition

To add your group or event, send your update to [editor@HeartwoodMusic.com](mailto:editor@HeartwoodMusic.com). Please include contact person, contact info, and the name of the person to credit for the article.

## Calendar & Events

- 1 Oct. *Compassion in Action* meeting**, 10 am—12:30 pm  
Edinburgh Buddhist Centre  
*Charlotte Procter*, 0131 447 9861
- 17 Oct. *NonViolent Communication Practice Group***,  
2-4 pm, Edinburgh Buddhist Centre
- 2 Nov. *Monk's visit***, Forest Sangha  
*Neil*, 0131 226 5044
- 18 Nov. *NonViolent Communication Practice Group***,  
2-4 pm, Edinburgh Buddhist Centre
- 7 Dec. *Monk's visit***, Forest Sangha  
*Neil*, 0131 226 5044
- 10 Dec. *Edinburgh Buddhist Gathering***, Salisbury House  
*Kimberley Cadden*, [kimberleycadden@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kimberleycadden@yahoo.co.uk)
- Apr. 27-29 *3rd Annual Edinburgh Buddhist Retreat***  
Costs to be determined  
*Gill Mathews*, [angel14\\_75@hotmail.com](mailto:angel14_75@hotmail.com)

## Opportunities — Get involved!

### Angulimala Prison Chaplancy

A program to bring Buddhist ideas and principles into the prison system.

—Charlotte Procter on  
charlotteprocter@supanet.com or  
0131 447 9861

### Compassion in Action — Socially Engaged Buddhism group

Recently-revived group for those wishing to become more socially engaged with their Buddhist practice.

—Charlotte Procter (see Angulimala above for contact info).

### NonViolent Communication Practice Group

A support group to facilitate everyday practice of nonviolent communication (NVC).

—Kalyanavaca on 0131 662 6699  
or Dhkalyanavaca@yahoo.co.uk

### Stillpoint

On-line support for meditation practice for those who are isolated due to chronic illness.

—Joelle, joelle@stillpoint  
meditation.org.uk

### Women's Interfaith group

Janice Clerk, 0131 667 1465

Have an opportunity to list here?  
Please send program info, a brief  
description and contact info to editor@heartwoodmusic.com.

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32 Preston Terrace, Linlithgow EH49 6HU

(History of Buddhism, continued from page 1)  
Anderson in 1966.

The years around 1950 seem to mark a transition in British Buddhism. In the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century most of the available translations were of the Pali scriptures and Buddhism was largely equated with the Theravadin tradition which predominated in the then Ceylon, Burma and Thailand. After 1950 the scene becomes much more diverse with the influx of teachers from the Mahayana schools of Tibet, China and Japan and these turned out to contain much variety. Translation of the literature of these schools began to become available.

## Save the Dates!



### All-Edinburgh Buddhist Retreat

April 27-29 has been booked for the 2007 All-Edinburgh Buddhist retreat. This will be a wonderful opportunity to share your own tradition and learn about other traditions. We hope that all the traditions represented in the Edinburgh area will be represented with one or more persons able to attend the entire retreat.

This retreat is being organized by Gill Mathews (e-mail angel14\_75@hotmail.com).

All-Edinburgh Buddhist Retreat, 27-29 April, Wiston Lodge

## Inter-Sangha Gathering

On December 10th, Edinburgh Buddhists will gather to celebrate the Buddha's enlightenment. For more information or to add your suggestion for the evening, please contact Kimberley at <kimberleycadden@yahoo.co.uk>.

### All-Edinburgh Buddhist Gathering

**December 10, 2006**  
Salisbury Centre, Edinburgh  
6:15 - 9:30 pm  
By donation

Please note:  
This gathering has  
been rescheduled from  
the original date of  
Dec. 3 to Dec. 10.

## Meditations & Courses

### Weekly meditations

- Monday 7:15-8:15 Early-bird Meditation  
Edinburgh Buddhist Centre
- Tuesday 12:15 pm Mindfulness@lunchtime  
*Community of Interbeing*  
St. Mark's Unitarian Church
- Wed. 12:15 pm Lunchtime meditation  
Edinburgh Buddhist Centre
- 7:30 pm Service, meditation and discussion  
Portobello Buddhist Priority
- Thursday 7:30 pm, *Theravadan Buddhist Group*  
Meditation and group discussion
- 7:30 pm, *Community of Interbeing*  
Meditation and sharing
- Friday 7:15-8:15 am Early-bird Meditation  
Edinburgh Buddhist Centre
- Sunday 9:30 am Service, meditation and discussion  
Portobello Buddhist Priority

### Buddhism & meditation courses

- 25 Sept Finding Peace course begins, *Rigpa group*,  
7:45 pm, Salisbury Centre
- 18 Oct 6-week course begins, *FWBO*  
Edinburgh Buddhist Centre
- 19 Oct 4-week "Going Deeper" course begins, *FWBO*  
Edinburgh Buddhist Centre
- 1 Nov—13 Dec All levels welcome *New Kadampa Tradition*,  
Wed, 7:30 pm,  
Yoga Centre, 1 Meadow Place, Edinburgh

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32 Preston Terrace  
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[www.MySangha.org.uk](http://www.MySangha.org.uk)

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