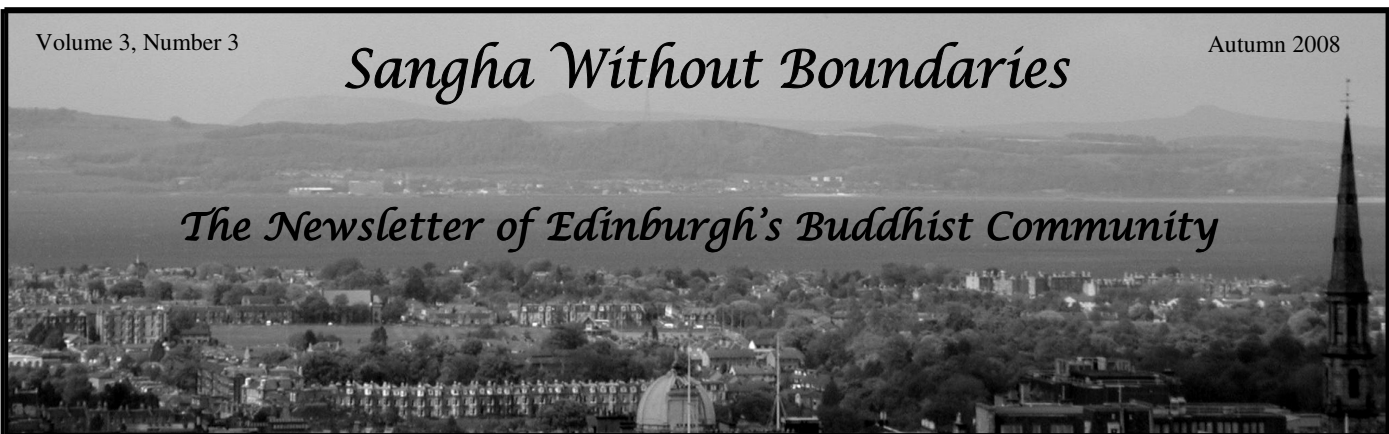


# Sangha Without Boundaries

## The Newsletter of Edinburgh's Buddhist Community



### Planning ahead Inter-Sangha Gatherings

#### Annual Winter Gathering 19 Dec, 6:30 pm

Our usual winter gathering will be at the Salisbury Centre, this year on a Friday evening. Please bring vegetarian food to share, 6:15 for a 6:30 pm start. For more information, contact Gill at [angel14\\_75@hotmail.com](mailto:angel14_75@hotmail.com).

#### Autumn Inter-Sangha Retreat 28-30 November

Cancelled due to low interest.

#### Wiston Lodge Inter-sangha retreat 24-26 April

The annual spring inter-sangha retreat will be held once again at Wiston Lodge, near Biggar. The 2009 is being organised by the FWBO. Details on cost are not yet available. For more information, please contact Kamalajoti at [xbmac@hotmail.com](mailto:xbmac@hotmail.com).

#### Remembering Jody Higgs early February

The Edinburgh Inter Faith Association, in which our dear friend Jody was so active for many years, is considering organising a remembrance for her near the first anniversary of her passing. Please check [www.eifa.org.uk](http://www.eifa.org.uk) for the latest information.

### Changes at the Edinburgh Buddhist Centre

Saturday 13 September saw the Friends of the Western Buddhist Order (FWBO) Edinburgh Buddhist Centre decked out in prayer flags and flowers for the official handover ceremony of the Chair of the Centre from Kalyanavaca to Vajrahridaya.

The occasion was led by Parami, the Centre President, and was attended by friends, mitras and Order members from Edinburgh, Glasgow and as far away as London. As is customary in FWBO events of this nature, the ceremony revolved around rejoicing in

*(Buddhist Centre, continued on page 2)*



*The Edinburgh Buddhist Centre saw the official handover ceremony of the Chair of the Centre from Kalyanavaca to Vajrahridaya on 13 Sept.*

*—photo by Kevin McConnell*

### Inter-Faith Week

As part of this year's Inter-Faith Week, 23-30 November, the Thai Buddhist monastery on Slateford Road is holding an event called "Meet your Buddhist Neighbour." Scheduled for Sunday 30th Nov., 2-4 pm, the Thai Buddhist Community invites all to look around their temple and meet community members both ordained and lay. Visitors will hear a short introductory talk on Thai Buddhism and the temple. There will also be a short question and answer time.

Edinburgh has a particularly long and active Inter-Faith Week, with events actually starting well before the 23rd and running on into December. Scottish Inter-Faith Week was created in an effort to promote

dialogue, understanding and cooperation among the religious communities in Scotland, aiming to build bonds of friendship.

Inter-Faith Week is supported by religious leaders, the Edinburgh Inter Faith Association, the Scottish Executive and Scottish Parliament. The full programme for Edinburgh events, including a women's event, a Habitat for Humanity event, and Meet your Muslim Neighbor, can be found at: [www.eifa.org.uk/](http://www.eifa.org.uk/)

## News from the Sanghas

### COI

*(Buddhist Centre, continued from page 1)*

the merits of Kalyanavaca and Vajrahridaya and, as can be the case at the EBC, we over-ran our schedule.

Kalyanavaca was Centre Director and Chair of the Centre for over seven years, from the time when it was a nomadic sangha using what temporary home could be found, through to rented premises and then the decision to buy a place on the edge of the Meadows.

Throughout these changes and upheavals, Kalyanavaca not only dealt with the practical business side but was also deeply involved in planning and running courses, study and drop-in classes. Then too, Kalyanavaca had the important role of nurturing the vision for the spiritual life of the sangha, which flourished with the time and energy she put into her activities and friendships within the sangha. As many of you will know, Kalyanavaca has been deeply committed developing inter-sangha and inter-faith connections in Edinburgh. This led to the now annual Inter-sangha weekends at Wiston Lodge.

Vajrahridaya had lived and worked at Dhanakosa retreat centre for six years but was inspired to take over from Kalyanavaca. The moment you meet Vajrahridaya you cannot help but notice his enthusiasm, grounded practice and the joy at teaching the Dharma (not to mention his skill at cooking.)

It takes a special type of person to chair a Buddhist charity, looking to the spiritual welfare of the sangha as well as the administration involved. But Kalyanavaca has carried out this task skilfully, kindly, patiently, intelligently and with good humour. Many of us probably were not really aware of the amount of time and effort that she put in these past years.

Vajrahridaya has taken on the challenge to carry forward the vision for the Centre, teach the Dharma to those that wish to hear, and make lasting sangha and inter-sangha connections.

*- text & photo offered by Kevin McConnell with contributions from Taradakini*

We continue our usual programme of Thursday evening practice at St Mark's Unitarian Church, Tuesday Mindfulness at Lunchtime, morning meditation at Ani's (M-F, 7:15—8:15 am, 13 Inverleith Place Lane). Ani also offers DVD Sundays at 4:30 pm. Please phone ahead to confirm, 0131 552 4251.

In August, Thich Nhat Hanh's visited the UK, with an evening public talk in London that was fully booked and oversubscribed, and a residential retreat 24th to 29th August held at the University of Nottingham.

The Scottish Interbeing Sangha has organized a COI sangha AGM retreat to come together in a long overdue sangha-business gathering. And the local Wild Geese sangha was happy to receive a piece of calligraphy in Thay's own hand, pictured above.

The UK Community of Interbeing is running a Dharma Training Programme from Jan. 2009—April 2010. The title is the Path of Understanding, an exploration of the sutras in the light of your own experience. It is open to anyone with some experience of the practice, as taught by Thich Nhat Hanh. The 2009 programme for 2009 consists of 3 retreats: 30 Jan - 1 Feb or 27 Feb-1 Mar, 14-19 April, and 9-11 Oct.

— Offered by Jon Bagust & Joelle Marlow

### Forest Sangha

Late October saw the Kathina ceremony at the monastery in Harnham. As usual, a number of people from our group were able to make it down for the day. Ajahn Candasiri was there as well (one of the senior nuns in our tradition who is originally from Edinburgh). We were very happy she was able to come up to Edinburgh and join us for our usual Thursday evening puja.

In an effort to do some active sangha-building, we've been organizing a few group activities. In October, we arranged for a shared meal, and in November we organized a retreat at Kusala House, the retreat house at Harnham that was finished this year. The weekend was a very helpful time to be and practice together, and we may well organize more of these weekend retreats next year.

### Farewell to a friend

Just a few days ago word came that our dear friend in the Forest Sangha, Annie Currie, had passed away. She had been living with cancer for several years. After a time in Hospice, she returned home, where she passed away on Friday, 14 November.

Annie was one of the very solid members of our group, supporting both the Forest Sangha and inter-sangha activities. Very generous with her time, she often offered dana to a visiting monastic. And she served as an editor for this newsletter from its inception until only a few months ago. Her eagle eye as an editor is sorely missed.

Her memorial service is planned for 22 November, and Ajahn Candasiri will be coming to lead it.

**Portobello  
Buddhist Priory**

Tenth Anniversary, Oct. 2008

It seems to me there is something remarkable in the fact that a group of people came together ten years ago to obtain a building so they could sit together facing a wall. What does that tell us about that instinct in us to wake up to our True Nature; the way, if we let it, it gives focus and direction to our lives.

The Priory here at Portobello is a relatively small building but with a good sized front room and a high ceiling that does well to accommodate those occasions when the sangha turns out in force. It is a physical space that provides a form and context for the 'work' of practice. But this physical space has over-time witnessed and as it were absorbed into its walls much sincere looking into hearts and minds and the rooms presence in turn offers a still quality of refuge to those

who come.

Rev. Master Daishin recently spoke about an ancient church in Wales which had been used by many generations of human beings and had witnessed many births, deaths and centuries of prayer. Our places of training seem to both share in the life of practice and serve as symbols for that 'open aware space', which in our meditative looking is able to give room to and embrace all the comings and goings of our busy minds and troubled hearts. This 'space' too has a presence, words like 'stillness' and 'aliveness' perhaps point to it. 'Stillness' because it is present and aware in the midst of changing conditions, without itself been dragged around by them, and 'aliveness' because its revelation is always in the now, directly present.

Although there is a great depth and the necessity for an ongoing exploration of this ungraspable 'space' in our meditation, isn't there also an amazing ordinariness here in its direct meeting with every thought, feeling and experience as they arise; something so familiar we hardly notice it as a true refuge. All this happily brings me back to these four walls, our Priory and a deeper appreciation of those people who acquired it and to our sangha members who continue to maintain it and take refuge here.

— Offered by Rev Favian

*Calendar*

- 23-30 Nov** **Inter-Faith Week**  
various events  
*Edinburgh Inter Faith Assn*
- 30 Nov** **Meet Your Thai Buddhist Neighbour**  
*Thai Buddhist Community*
- 4 Dec** **Monk's visit**  
7:30 pm *Forest Sangha, Christ Church in Morningside*
- 19 Dec** **Inter-sangha gathering**  
6:30 pm *Salisbury Centre*
- April** **Annual Inter-sangha Wiston Lodge retreat**  
24-26 *Annual inter-sangha retreat*



Check [www.mysangha.org.uk](http://www.mysangha.org.uk) for latest

**EDINBURGH CALENDAR OF WEEKLY MEDITATIONS, PUJAS, and DISCUSSIONS**

*Open to all. No charge — either free or by donation.*

*To list your event or activity, please send details to [info@mysangha.org.uk](mailto:info@mysangha.org.uk). We ask that events listed be open to all and by donation (no fees).*

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
6 am & 6 pm <b>Thai Buddhist Monastery</b> Daily puja, 199 Slateford Road	6 am & 6 pm <b>Thai Buddhist Monastery</b> Daily puja  7:30 pm <b>Kagyū Samye Dzong,</b> Theosophical Society, 28 Great King St.	6 am & 6 pm <b>Thai Monastery,</b> daily puja  7-8 am & 7:30-8:30 pm <b>Soto Zen</b> Meditation, Portobello Priory  12:15 — 2:00 pm <b>Community of Interbeing,</b> Mindfulness@lunchtime St. Mark's Unitarian Church	6 am & 6 pm <b>Thai Monastery,</b> daily puja  7:00-8:00 am <b>Soto Zen</b> Meditation, Portobello Priory  7:30 pm <b>Soto Zen</b> Service, meditation, discussion, Portobello Priory	6 am & 6 pm <b>Thai Monastery,</b> daily puja  7-8 am & 7:30-8:30 pm <b>Soto Zen</b> Meditation, Portobello Priory  7:30 pm <b>Forest Sangha</b> meditation and discussion, Christ Church Morningside  7:30 pm, <b>Community of Interbeing,</b> Meditation & sharing, St Mark's	6 am & 6 pm <b>Thai Monastery,</b> daily puja  7-8 am & 7:30-8:30 pm <b>Soto Zen</b> Meditation, Portobello Priory  2nd Fri. every month, <b>Soto Zen</b> Introductory evening, Portobello Priory	6 am & 6 pm <b>Thai Monastery,</b> daily puja  7-8 am & 7:30-8:30 pm <b>Soto Zen</b> Meditation, Portobello Priory

*Please visit us at [www.mysangha.org.uk](http://www.mysangha.org.uk)*

# Sangha Without Boundaries



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Autumn 2008

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

## Sangha Contacts & Weekly Meeting Info

### Samye Dzong

Pete Baynes  
pete.baynes@virgin.net  
www.edinburgh.samye.org  
Mondays, 7:30 pm  
Many activities—visit website for more info  
Theosophical Society, 28 Great King St.

### Community of Interbeing

Gill Mathews 0131 336 2480  
angel14\_75@hotmail.com  
www.interbeing.org.uk/sanghas/  
wildgeese  
Thursdays, 7:30 pm, Tuesdays, 12:15 pm  
St Mark's Unitarian Church, Castle Terrace

### Forest Sangha

Neil Howell 0131 226 5044  
www.theravadanbuddhists.org.uk  
Thursdays, 7:30 pm  
Christ Church, Holy Corner  
Morningside

### FWBO

Kevin McConnell  
kmfife@live.co.uk  
30 Melville Terrace  
Edinburgh EH9 1LP  
www.edinburghbuddhistcentre.org.uk  
Tuesdays (sangha night)  
Many activities—visit website for more info  
Edinburgh Buddhist Centre, 30 Melville Ter.

### Rigpa

Mary Deans 0131 663 7564  
2 Eldindean Place, Bonnyrigg  
rigpa@rigpaedinburgh.com  
www.rigpa.org.uk  
Mondays, 7:30 pm  
The Salisbury Centre

### Thai Tradition

Prmahar Wisit (Head Monk)  
199 Slateford Road  
Edinburgh EH14 1LA  
0131 443 1010  
Dhammapadipa@hotmail.com

### Soto Zen

Kimberley Cadden  
kimberleycadden@yahoo.co.uk  
Wed., 7:30 pm  
Portobello Buddhist Priory

### New Kadampa Tradition

Devi 0141 946 1027  
info@meditateinglasgow.org  
www.Meditateinglasgow.org  
7:30 pm drop-in meditation class,  
St. George's West Church, Shandwick Pl.

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