

Hampshire Buddhist Society

Newsletter for Summer 2016

The object of the Hampshire Buddhist Society is to make known the principles of Buddhism and to encourage the study and practice of those principles.

Special Events

On **Saturday 11th June** the Society will hold a public meeting at the Friends Meeting House in Southampton to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Details are below.

On **Sunday 21st August** there will be a visit to Chithurst Buddhist Monastery, organised by the Theravada Group.

If you would like to come to any of our special events, please tell us. We share cars for events at remote locations so the cost is very reasonable.

HBS Public Meeting

Roberta Mansell

We are very happy to announce the public meeting celebrating the 50th anniversary of our founding in January 1966 by Jane Browne, Brian Dyas, Patty Elwood and others.

We are meeting on Saturday 11th June at the Friends Meeting House, 1a Ordnance Road, Southampton, SO15 2AZ. Doors open at

7pm. The meeting will start at 7.30 and continue until 9.30.

There will be two speakers: Venerable Sogen from Fairlight Zen Buddhist Monastery and Venerable Karuniko from Chithurst Buddhist Monastery. Each will speak for a while, followed by a Q&A session. After that, refreshments will be served, with a chance to mingle and speak to the monks informally.

HBS Theravada Group

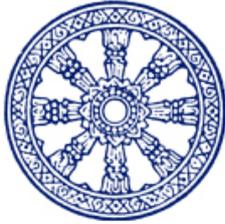
Angela Cotton



The Theravada group is thriving. Upcoming meeting topics (led by our members) 5 May:

Ajahn Sumedho's teachings, 19 May: Mahasi Buddhist tradition, 2 June: Ajahn Kittisaro on "joy", 16 June: the poetry of Thich Nhat Hanh.

Longer term we also hope to run more meditation-only meetings on Thursdays in between our formal meetings. These are run in our format but are open to those of all schools. We have set up a Google group which we use to update members on upcoming events – if you would like to join please email Keith on keithmc@gmx.com.



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HBS Web Site



Over the last year the Society has, with very limited resources, developed a web site. It is

substantially complete. You can see it at: hampshirebuddhistsociety.weebly.com.

We intend to publish it soon with the name hampshirebuddhistsociety.org.uk. This last step will cost us £84.23, which is a lot for HBS. Any extra donations, by cash or cheque, will be very welcome!

Any suggestions for improvement will be welcome.

HBS Member News

The previous newsletter included some information about Robert Elliot's illness. Robert died peacefully in his nursing home on Boxing Day. Robert was for many years Secretary of the Society and leader of the Theravada Group.

A tree will be planted in his memory at Chithurst Buddhist Monastery on Saturday 7th May.

What usually happens on these occasions is that people arrive with their food offerings before 11am in time for the 11.30am food offering. People can also go from 8.30am if they wish to cook. After the meal-blessing chants, everyone joins together for the meal and then gather again at about 1pm for the tree planting.

Fairlight Zen Buddhist Monastery 20th Anniversary

Steve Mansell

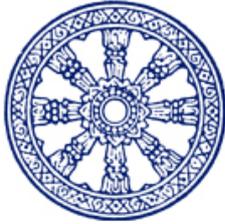


On Saturday 9th April some members of the Zen Group travelled to Fairlight to participate in its 20th anniversary open day. Venerable

Sogen gave a talk in the Shrine Room, which included the words used for the inauguration on 8th April 1996. They are reproduced here from the June 1996 edition of Zen Traces:

'The ceremony started in the grounds. A small altar was set up and Ven. Myokyo-ni asked the continued good will of the local deities who had so supported us from the first day we arrived.

"To you, spirits and deities of the place, we announce that today we are opening on this



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mountainside a Zen Buddhist Monastery. Aware of your benevolence ever since we arrived here, we reverently ask your continued good will and protection for us and all those who come here seeking the Way of the Buddha.”

‘Then the altar was placed on the threshold and the name giving was performed.

“The Buddha born in far-off lands, his message has reached our shores: There is an end of suffering. May this place serve as does a lamp to light the Buddha’s Ancient Way. Fairlight we call this monastery.”

‘Just stepping in, the now open monastery was dedicated.

“Quiet and caring, in joyful service to all things according to their need, this is the Way of the Zen Monk.”

‘All went into the Buddha-Hall (Shrine Room) and Zendo, filling both rooms and both were inaugurated respectively –

“A new leaf has sprouted on the old Bo-Tree. The same Dharma prevails East and West as the same sun shines and lights our darkness. Serenely on his Lotus Throne sits the Buddha. He is our Guide on the Way.”

and

“If you wish to walk the Way of the Buddha, just stay here and sit it out! When nothing is left, wide opens the gate and freely the spirit steps forth and benefits all sentient beings.”

‘The Refuges were chanted and a short talk by Ven. Myokyo-ni followed, giving some of the history and stressing the universal value of the Buddha’s Teachings for all times and hoping to make it available in the new monastery. A chanting of the Four Great Vows ended the ceremony.’

Chithurst Buddhist Monastery Events



The Vesak Day Celebration will be on Sunday 15th May. This day marks the birth,

enlightenment (Nirvana) and death (Parinirvana) of the Buddha.

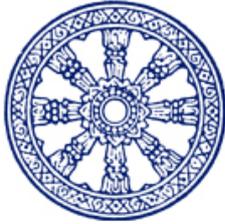
The International Thod Pha Pa will take place on Sunday 19th June. This is a gathering to offer support to Cittaviveka, Chithurst Buddhist Monastery. 'Thod Pha Pa' in Thai means 'to offer forest cloth'.

Public Talk by Ringu Tulku Rinpoche

This year Rinpoche is delivering his public talk at Hamblin Hall, Bosham. This will be an introduction to Buddhism for anyone who's interested. He is an excellent speaker and very popular so there will be high demand. You are recommended to arrive around

6:00pm and are welcome to wander round the gardens at this lovely venue.

Bhodicharya Buddhist Group, Hamblin Hall, Bosham House, Main Road, Bosham, Chichester, PO18 8PJ.



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Ekuthuleni Retreats



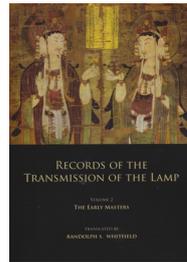
Ekuthuleni is a retreat centre in south west France. They host retreats in the Forest Sangha tradition of Ajahn Chah and Ajahn Sumedho. Details of this year's retreats can be found on their web site:

ekuthuleni-retreat.blogspot.co.uk

Additions to the Library



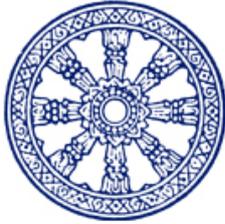
'Investigating the Dhamma' brings together eight essays of Bhikkhu Bodhi. Most of the essays are critical responses to various modern interpretations of the Dhamma that the author considers to be at odds with the Buddha's teachings, in particular as transmitted and interpreted by the Theravada school of Buddhism. The other essays are in depth discussions of important Buddhist doctrinal terms.



'Records of the Transmission of the Lamp, Volume 2: The Early Masters' translated by Randolph S Whitfield is the second part of an 11th century Chinese compilation of biographies of the Ch'an (Zen) patriarchs. Randolph is a long standing member of the Zen Centre group.



'Working with the Five Hindrances' by Ajahn Thiradhammo is the latest publication by Aruno Publications. It was donated to the Society by Ajahn Gavesako at his talk to the Theravada Group in April.



Hampshire Buddhist Society

Contact Details

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SO15 5AS
hampshirebuddhistsociety@gmail.com
023 8049 6315

The Buddhist Society

58 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1PH
www.thebuddhistsociety.org
020 7834 5858

Chithurst Buddhist Monastery

Chithurst, Nr. Rogate, Petersfield,
Hampshire, GU31 5EU
www.cittaviveka.org

The Zen Centre

58 Marlborough Place, London, NW8 0PL
www.rinzaizencentre.org.uk
020 7624 4987

Amaravati Buddhist Monastery

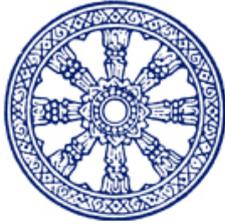
Great Gaddesden, Hemel Hempstead,
Hertfordshire, HP1 3BZ
www.amaravati.org

The Zen Gateway

www.thezengateway.com

Contributions to the newsletter are welcome. Please send them to us by email or post.

If you would like to be removed from the mailing list, please tell us.



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Programme for Summer 2016

May

Wed	4	Zen	Zazen
Thurs	5	Theravada	Meditation & Dhamma
Sat	7	Joint	Tree Planting for Robert Elliot, Chithurst Buddhist Monastery
Wed	11	Zen	Zazen
Wed	18	Zen	Zazen
Thurs	19	Theravada	Meditation & Dhamma
Sun	22	Zen	Zen Sunday, The Buddhist Society, London
Wed	25	Zen	Open Meeting

June

Wed	1	Zen	Zazen
Thurs	2	Theravada	Meditation & Dhamma
Wed	8	Zen	Soko Roshi's Anniversary
Wed	15	Zen	Zazen
Thurs	16	Theravada	Meditation & Dhamma
Wed	22	Zen	Zazen
Sun	26	Zen	Zen Sunday, The Buddhist Society, London
Wed	29	Zen	Open Meeting

July

Wed	6	Zen	Zazen
Thurs	7	Theravada	Meditation & Dhamma
Wed	13	Zen	Sojun Kannun Roshi's Anniversary
Wed	20	Zen	Open Meeting
Thurs	21	Theravada	Meditation & Dhamma
Wed	27	Zen	Open Meeting
Sun	31	Zen	Zen Sunday, The Buddhist Society, London

August

Wed	3	Zen	Zazen
Thurs	4	Theravada	Meditation & Dhamma
Wed	10	Zen	Zazen
Wed	17	Zen	Summer Recess
Thurs	18	Theravada	Meditation & Dhamma
Sun	21	Theravada	Visit to Chithurst Buddhist Monastery
Wed	24	Zen	Summer Recess
Wed	31	Zen	Open Meeting

September

Thurs	1	Theravada	Meditation & Dhamma
Wed	7	Zen	Zazen

Local meetings start at 7.30 pm. Please arrive early.