

# WESTERN CHAN FELLOWSHIP

## Retreat Programme 2005 and Newsletter 14

**For flexibility, we have combined the Retreat Programme and Newsletter into this single publication. So please look inside whether you are interested in local meditation group events, news, our residential retreat programme, or any other WCF matters.**

### Retreat Hut

Recent visitors to Maenllwyd will have noticed the new construction in the field behind the Chan Hall. We have constructed a chalet-style retreat hut which will be available for use on future retreats. It has several potential uses: overflow accommodation for two (or maybe three) persons so as to turn away fewer people on popular retreats; separate accommodation for light sleepers; separate accommodation for restless sleepers who might disturb others; visiting teacher's accommodation; solitary retreats; interview room; maybe you can think of some more! It does not have toilets, instead the toilets in the nearby Chan Hall can be used, but it does have good insulation and heating and plans for cooking facilities.

It has been funded from donations to the WCF property fund, mostly from one large anonymous donation. This was boosted by a significant 28% tax reclaim from the Inland Revenue since it was given under Gift Aid. Furthermore, as we are a registered charity, some of the cost of construction was exempt from VAT.

### Payroll Giving

The WCF is now registered under the payroll-giving scheme. If your employer operates this scheme then you may now make use of it to make regular tax-efficient donations to the Western Chan Fellowship. The reference number that you need to quote is Western Ch'an Fellowship 000435969. Details of this scheme can be found at [www.giveasyouearn.org](http://www.giveasyouearn.org)

Other methods of making tax-efficient charitable donations to the WCF are listed at [westernchanfellowship.org/charity/](http://westernchanfellowship.org/charity/)

### Notes from the NBO

#### Next Meeting

Our next Quarterly Meeting will be held in London, on September 11th. Following on from John Crook's presentation in Birmingham in June, in which he talked about Koans, we shall be examining Faith and Insight with Professor Sato of the Three Wheels Centre and (hopefully) Sister Candasiri from Amaravati Monastery. Further details are on our website [www.nbo.org.uk](http://www.nbo.org.uk)

#### Arts Festival, June 2005

Plans are coming together very nicely and there has been a very encouraging flurry of interest. A section of the website will be devoted to it, and we have had an offer of help with the organisation. Do feel free to contact me if you would like to be involved in any way - offers of help with the running of it would be particularly welcome. As we are not a large, well-financed Network, this Festival will depend very much on enthusiasm "at the grassroots". It will not be 'heavily managed' from the top down. This may be a real advantage in terms of innovation, diversity, and maximising the opportunities for people to come into contact with Buddhists in their local area.

Sally Masheder, Tel: 0845 345 8978, email: [secretary@nbo.org.uk](mailto:secretary@nbo.org.uk)

## **Illuminating Silence – Available at Discount Pricing**

The WCF has bought a stock of the book “Illuminating Silence” and is now able to sell it at £8.99 which is less than the cover price and also includes free UK postage and packing. This is a key book for us, including as it does the teachings at two Maenllwyd retreats with Master Shengyen on the method of Silent Illumination, and also other texts and retreat reports by John Crook. To order your copy (everyone should have at least one!) send payment to Simon Child (WCF secretary), cheques payable to “Western Chan Fellowship”.

## **WCF/BCG Sponsored Monk in Mustang**

While John and his party were in Mustang last year, it was agreed with Lama Wangdue Sangbo that the WCF and Bristol Chan Group would sponsor a young monk. Wangdue Sangbo is the Principal of Tsechhen Shedrub Ling Mon Gon Lobdra which is, to quote from their own letterhead, ‘Great Compassion Sakyapa Monastic School’, established 1994 and part of ancient Chhoedra gompa in Lomanthang (the capital of the kingdom). The young monk was subsequently chosen and his name is Jampa Gyatso. Earlier this year, Aurie and I were asked if we would be prepared to act as the link between the WCF/Bristol Chan Group and Jampa Gyatso and Wangdue Sangpo. Having spent some time in Nepal trekking and on retreat in 2002, I confirmed at the WCF AGM this year that we would be happy to take on the role.



Communication was easy at the start, because the teachers and students over-winter in Kathmandu rather than at 12,000ft in Lomanthang, where luxuries like computers are lacking. I emailed the Principal to introduce us and Aurie wrote a friendly letter of introduction to Jampa Gyatso. In reply, Wangdue Sangpo Lama thanks the WCF for their help in sponsoring Jampa Gyatso; "It is good to preserve our traditional Tibetan culture". He continues: "Our Tenji Festival is coming soon. We celebrate it for 3 days. Each year we celebrate according to our Tibetan calendar. Generally it falls on end of April to mid of May. We celebrate it for to remove bad days and globally peace!!" (his exclamation marks). And: "Jampa Gyatso is in Grade Eight. After completion of Grade Eight he will be joined in Shedra (Tibetan Higher Buddhist philosophy). He is doing well". From Jampa Gyatso we have a beautiful photo of the dance festival with (we think) J.G. himself dancing. He writes: "I hope you are fine. Every morning I pray to Tara for your long life and success all you are do with good. Now I am in class eight. Great attention in my studying and devotion. I always be honest and friendship with all the monk. I don't fidget while having our class. I am 17 years old. I have 7 members in my family".

Dave & Aurie McKay, Newbury, 21<sup>st</sup> Aug 2004.

## Western Chan Fellowship Retreats

The Western Chan Fellowship offers retreats providing training in Zen insight and fresh ways of being. The Maenllwyd retreat centre has been providing disciplined Zen, Tibetan and Chan (Chinese Zen) retreats for nearly 30 years. Participants need not be Buddhist, and indeed, probably the majority are not.



The programme of retreats with the Western Chan Fellowship provides a progressive series of events designed to deepen self-understanding and insight into the Buddhist path. Serious practitioners, and this includes beginners, are invited to take advantage of these rare opportunities for practice and self-discovery in an atmosphere of warmth and the cultivation of kindness.

Western Zen Retreats and Shorter Chan Retreats are open to beginners and adepts alike. Mahamudra and full Chan (Koan and Silent Illumination) retreats are open to those who have already attended a Western Zen Retreat or have relevant prior retreat experience elsewhere (details required on application).

These retreats are serious and quite demanding. Participants gain important insights into their lives and into the Buddhist path and many return for further retreats. Some indeed make these retreats their main practice. The atmosphere is caring and supportive and interviews (opportunities to speak to the teacher) are always available. You are welcome to enquire further when considering whether a retreat is right for you.

Retreats may be led by John Crook, PhD. DSc *Chuan-deng Jing-di*, Simon Child *Chuan-fa Jing-hong*, or Hilary Richards. Both John Crook and Simon Child are Dharma heirs of Chan Master Shengyen of the Institute of Chung-Hwa Buddhist Culture, Taipei and New York, and are fully authorised teachers in the lineages of Linji and Caodong Chan. Hilary Richards is a long-term practitioner with Dr John Crook and Master Shengyen, is a past Chair of the Western Chan Fellowship, and leads retreats at Maenllwyd and at Gaia House.

## Retreat Descriptions

**WESTERN ZEN RETREAT** A simple monastic regime enables the mind to face the major paradox - Who am I? - in creative mutual questioning. People work in pairs in exploring this fundamental Koan. The intensive focus drives each into a self-presentation that is difficult to experience in other ways. The outcome may be a profound sense of the unity of self and possibly a direct insight into the 'ground of being', in traditional Zen considered to be a glimpse of Enlightenment. Whether or not such an insight happens, participants share a rich experience in new self-knowledge and understanding others. Open equally to beginners and established trainees. *Leader: Simon Child.*

**INTRODUCTORY CHAN RETREAT** Alone with others, just sitting, this weekend will be about the practice of meditation. We will provide a space for anyone to experience silence for four days within the structure of a Chan Retreat. The format will be as in a full Chan retreat, rising early with meditation and exercise periods throughout the day. The schedule is rigorous requiring both gentle persistence and great determination. We will offer basic meditation instruction and guidance throughout, supporting each person through short talks and individual discussion in interviews. The retreat is suitable for both beginners and more experienced practitioners but will not necessarily be an easy or comfortable option. *Leader: Hilary Richards*

**SILENT ILLUMINATION CHAN RETREAT** This traditional week long retreat (Saturday to Saturday) will allow the time and space for serious practitioners to learn, practice and cultivate the method of Silent Illumination. Simple yet difficult, within this space you may encounter an opening that allows you to come to rest and find freedom, peace and lucidity. This is not a place to opt out but enables effective engagement with daily life. Facilitated in a kindly and supportive manner we will present the teaching and methods of Master Shengyen, through practice, talks and individual interviews. The format will be that of a full Chan retreat, rising early, a rigorous schedule of meditation and exercise, with work periods for food preparation and keeping the Maenllwyd (Grey Mountain) log fires glowing. In the still heart of Wales, join us for this intensive Seven Day Chan Retreat. *Leaders: John Crook (January), Simon Child (April).*

**KOAN RETREAT** This retreat focuses on traditional koans as a means of training. This retreat is designed for Westerners based in the writings of Linji, Hsu-yun, Hakuin, and Dogen, and incorporates both Chinese and Japanese approaches in a fresh format. Previous experience of either a Western Zen Retreat or Chan retreat is required. *Leader: John Crook.*

**MAHAMUDRA ON THE TANTRIC PATH** An opportunity for practitioners to deepen their insight through an introduction to a profound Tibetan meditation system that originated in India during the richest period of Mahayana evolution. Preliminary exercises create the motivation for receiving an empowerment to practice methods evoking compassion and wisdom with humility and self-understanding. The retreat provides the first steps in "becoming a Buddha in one lifetime" through the mental yogas of the Mahamudra meditation system. *Leader: John Crook.*

**LEADERS TRAINING RETREAT** A retreat for group leaders in the WCF providing instruction through practice and discussion on how to teach meditation and run small Dharma groups. The WCF AGM will follow on at the end of this event. *By invitation only.*

## Three-Week Celebratory Retreat

To celebrate our thirtieth anniversary year we are trying an experiment. We propose a Three Week Retreat in which we will present the key fundamental methods for which our Fellowship's retreats at the Maenllwyd are becoming known - Silent Illumination, Koan and Mahamudra. Each retreat will be a week long with changeover days between them, and a relaxed re-entry period at the end. The full event offers Fellows and others an especial opportunity for deep practice in the Dharma with two of Master Shengyen's Dharma Heirs functioning as Retreat Masters under the overall direction of John Crook (*Chuan deng Jing di*) acting as "Abbot". The retreat will provide a fine opportunity to create a Zen monastic atmosphere for an exceptional period of training.

Priority, and a discount, will be given to those who can undertake the whole three weeks of retreat, and the teaching will be structured on the basis that this is a continuous three-week event. It will however be possible for some to attend one or two of the retreats during the series. In the case of two retreats these should be consecutive; for example Silent Illumination and Koan, or Koan and Mahamudra.

In Silent Illumination we calm the mind and open ourselves to insight into its nature. The work with Koans, in our new WCF style suited for Westerners, increases the opportunities for insight and deepens understanding of Dharma and the traditions of Chan/Zen. In the Mahamudra retreat we warm the heart in the mellow evocation of the tantric "deities" of compassion and wisdom. The "yidam" for this event will be Padmasambhava. This is a training by which Bodhisattvas walk the way. Those who wish to teach or promote the Dharma will be especially welcomed.

Between each retreat there is a day of relaxation to allow ease of changeover. Retreats end after breakfast, those continuing have a day of relaxed practice or walks, and newcomers must arrive by 5 pm. The full retreat ends with a Fire Puja of celebration, blessing and empowerment and two days of relaxed Silent Illumination practice (both for final participants only), before returning to Samsara! It is a requirement that Mahamudra retreat participants will commit to stay on for these ending ceremonies and days of Silent Illumination practice.

Old hands are especially welcomed and newcomers are also welcomed providing they have experienced a Western Zen Retreat or have relevant prior retreat experience elsewhere. Those with other backgrounds may write to us in application.

### Details

Dates. April 30th- May 21<sup>st</sup>. Direction: Dr John Crook. *Chuan-deng Jing-di*.

- *Silent Illumination*. Retreat Master: Simon Child. Sat April 30<sup>th</sup> - Sat May 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - Change-over day: Sat May 7<sup>th</sup>
- *Koan Retreat*. Retreat Master: John Crook. Sat May 7<sup>th</sup> - Sat May 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - Change-over day: Sat May 14<sup>th</sup>
- *Mahamudra Retreat*. Retreat Master: John Crook. Sat May 14<sup>th</sup> - Sat May 21<sup>st</sup>
  - *Mahamudra practice* Sat May 14<sup>th</sup> – Thu May 19<sup>th</sup>
  - *Fire Puja and celebration*. Thu May 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - *Silent Illumination Practice*. Thu May 19<sup>th</sup> - Sat 21<sup>st</sup>.
- End of Retreat: after Breakfast Sat 21<sup>st</sup>.

John Crook. (*Chuan-deng Jing-di*)

## RETREATS

The following events are scheduled at the Maenllwyd during 2004/5

<b>December 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Mahamudra	John Crook <b>£190</b>
<b>January 22<sup>nd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup></b>	Shining Silence: Silent Illumination	John Crook <b>£255</b>
<b>February 19<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup></b>	*Western Zen Retreat*	Simon Child <b>£190</b>
<b>February 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup></b>	Leaders Retreat and WCF AGM	
<b>THREE WEEK RETREAT</b>		
<b>April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Shining Silence: Silent Illumination	Simon Child <b>£255</b>
<b>May 7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Koan Retreat	John Crook <b>£255</b>
<b>May 14<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Mahamudra	John Crook <b>£255</b>
Discounted total fee for those who participate for the full three weeks:		<b>£650</b>
<i>Bursaries will also be available in the usual way (see page 7)</i>		
<b>Aug 25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup></b>	*Introductory Chan Retreat*	Hilary Richards <b>£190</b>
<b>October 14<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup></b>	*Western Zen Retreat*	Simon Child <b>£190</b>
<b>November 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Koan Retreat	John Crook <b>£215</b>
<b>December 9<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Mahamudra	John Crook <b>£190</b>

\* indicates suitable for beginners \*

This programme is subject to changes, cancellations, and additions. Updates will be posted on our website at [www.WesternChanFellowship.org](http://www.WesternChanFellowship.org)

Retreats usually start about 7pm on the first evening. Full-length retreats finish after breakfast, shorter retreats either mid-morning or after lunch.

Full details and directions are sent on booking.

Note that there are further retreats at other centres listed on page 9.

# How To Book A Place On A Retreat

Use the **application form** which is printed on the back page of this brochure, and is also available from the retreats page of the website [westernchanfellowship.org/retreats/](http://westernchanfellowship.org/retreats/)

Anyone can apply to attend beginners retreats. For other retreats please indicate your prior retreat experience with your application.

General Enquiries: [Bookings@WesternChanFellowship.org](mailto:Bookings@WesternChanFellowship.org), Tel 01793 740659.

To discuss a retreat with John Crook email [Teacher@WesternChanFellowship.org](mailto:Teacher@WesternChanFellowship.org) or phone/fax 01934 842231, evenings when available.

## ***Please Book Early***

- Sometimes retreats fill up quickly and we have to turn people away.
- Sometimes retreats book up slowly and at the time that we send out booking confirmation letters (about a month beforehand) we have to decide whether to cancel an under-booked retreat.

Please try to book retreat places well in advance, so as to secure a place for yourself and to help us with the planning and organisation.

## **Bursaries (Concessions) For Low or No-Waged Applicants**

The Western Chan Fellowship (WCF) is registered as a charity and has received donations to provide a bursary fund to help people with low or no-waged income to attend the WCF retreats. There will be a limited number of bursary places per retreat and financial support will vary according to the applicant's needs, typically a discount of 50% of the retreat fee. Please write giving details of your requirements, if you would like to apply for bursary-funded support to attend a WCF retreat.

**Bursaries must be applied for in writing in advance of the retreat**, either prior to or at the time of booking.

**Please contact the treasurer if you would like to make a donation to the bursary fund or to other WCF projects.**

## **Data Protection Notice – Please Read**

The WCF maintains a computer database of our contacts, which is used for keeping you informed of Western Chan Fellowship activities, e.g. for mailings such as this one, and for notifying local group leaders of possible contacts in their vicinity.

Please notify the Membership Secretary if you do not wish your details to be kept on a computer database or if you do not want to receive any further mailings.

## Maenllwyd Retreat Centre

Maenllwyd is an old farm-building, several hundred years old in parts, in a remote valley in mid-Wales. Modernisation extends to mains water only. There is no electricity, and no telephone, and no reception for mobile phones. Heat and light come from candles, lamps, fires, and gas or paraffin stoves. No one passes by except occasional local sheep-farmers with their flocks. It provides an ideal environment for intensive meditation practice, which is the main emphasis of our retreats. The centre is not open to casual visitors, only for pre-booked residential retreats.

The meditation hall (Chan hall) is kept clean and dry and warm. It is a converted barn which enjoys the benefit of a modern wood-burning stove that both keeps the hall warm and fuels the hot showers. It also boasts modern, eco-friendly, composting toilets.

Sleeping accommodation is best described as basic. The nearest equivalent is a sleeping barn as used by the YHA. Think, "tent with stone walls" and you will have the idea. Several people of the same sex sleep in close proximity, each with their own futon. Typically this will be in the eaves of one of the main buildings with the roof beams visible above. Such areas are naturally draughty and dusty and may have been visited by local wildlife such as field mice. Heating in these areas is minimal and this requires you to have adequate warm sleeping-bags and blankets along with warm night-clothing. Autumn, winter and spring can be surprisingly cold in these Welsh hills.

The yard is a traditional farmyard, complete with a spring that turns the yard to mud in wet weather. Wellingtons or boots are advised for this area and for walks on the hillside.

Vegetarian food is cooked for us by an imaginative Zen cook, using fresh and largely organic supplies, and bread and cakes are made on the premises. Special diets can be catered for if the cook is advised in advance.

Unfortunately, being an old un-modernised property, Maenllwyd is not suitable for wheelchair access and several other disabilities. We are preparing a disability access audit which will be published on the website when it is completed, or you could request a copy from the WCF secretary. In the meantime if you have any disability please enquire of the membership secretary before making your retreat booking, so as to check whether or not we shall be able to accommodate you.

### Further Reading

**On Maenllwyd Retreat Centre** See: [www.westernchanfellowship.org/maenllwyd/](http://www.westernchanfellowship.org/maenllwyd/)

**On Western Zen Retreats** See: Chapters 8 and 13 in *Space in Mind: East-West Psychology and Contemporary Buddhism*. (eds John Crook and David Fontana) Element Press 1991.

**On Chan** See: Any of the works by Master Sheng Yen. Dharma Drum Press. With particular reference to Maenllwyd see: *Illuminating Silence*, Master Sheng Yen, with introductions and commentaries by Dr John Crook, Watkins 2002, available from WCF secretary £8.99 including UK p&p.

**On Mahamudra.** See: Crook J. and J. Low 1997. *The Yogins of Ladakh*. Motilal Banarsidass. Delhi. Available from John Crook, Winterhead Hill Farm, Winscombe, N. Somerset, BS25 1RS £17 plus p&p.

**Retreat Reports by Past Participants** may be read on the website at [westernchanfellowship.org](http://westernchanfellowship.org), and in our journal *New Chan Forum* (Send £10.50 to the membership secretary for a subscription for three issues).



## Other Events

### Weekend Retreat in East Sussex

The South-East groups will hold a residential weekend retreat November 26th – 28th, led by Hilary Richards. They have rebooked the excellent venue that they used last November, Hourne Farm in East Sussex. Contact Stuart McLeod [mcroberts@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:mcroberts@tinyworld.co.uk) Tel 01634 571659, for further details.

### Bristol Weekend Retreat

*A Weekend of Teaching and Meditation on the Buddhist Precepts* Given by Ned Reiter, Hugh Carroll and Alysun Jones, of the Western Chan Fellowship.

Saturday, 16th October 2004, 10 am - 6 pm and Sunday, 17th October 2004, 10 am - 4 pm at the Unitarian Meeting House Brunswick Square, Bristol.

Enquiries to 0117 924 8819 or [enquiries@bristol-chan.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bristol-chan.co.uk)

### Manchester Group Day Retreats

The Manchester group continues to hold regular day retreats – details are posted on the website <http://manchester.westernchanfellowship.org>

### York

The York group now plan to have regular sittings early on Thursday mornings, and four one-day retreats per year, in addition to their regular Monday evening meetings.

### Norway

John Crook is leading a retreat in Norway October 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>. There might be a few spaces available for people from outside Norway. They will take care of a place to stay and sightseeing for a couple of days extra. Contact John Crook, or Bryn [bryn@chello.no](mailto:bryn@chello.no) for more information. They also now have a website: [www.hridaya.no](http://www.hridaya.no).

### More Retreats Elsewhere

**Gaia House Weekend Retreat January 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>** led by Simon Child and Hilary Richards. Apply to Gaia House Tel 01626 333613 [www.gaiahouse.co.uk](http://www.gaiahouse.co.uk)

**New York, USA, Western Zen Retreat, March 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>**: John Crook, Simon Child, and Hilary Richards will lead a Western Zen Retreat in New York. Details [www.chancenter.org](http://www.chancenter.org).

**John Crook will also lead retreats in Norway (October 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>), Poland, and perhaps other countries.** Contact [teacher@westernchanfellowship.org](mailto:teacher@westernchanfellowship.org) Phone/Fax +44 (0) 1934 842231 Evenings when available.

### Free Solitary Retreats at Winterhead House

During the three week retreat John Crook offers Winterhead Retreat House to a solitary retreatant who will act as Caretaker for the property during his absence. No charge will be made for this retreat. The form of the retreat will be agreed in advance and conform to the specifications for Solitary Retreats already published.

In addition John is sometimes away abroad and during these times free Caretaking Retreats may be offered. If you wish to take advantage of these offers please contact John ([teacher@westernchanfellowship.org](mailto:teacher@westernchanfellowship.org)). Enquiries will be gratefully received.

Further information on Winterhead House and the facilities for solitary retreats are available here: [westernchanfellowship.org/retreats/winterhead.html](http://westernchanfellowship.org/retreats/winterhead.html)

## The Land Of The Dawn-Lit Mountains

A visit to the major Tibetan monasteries and nunneries of ARUNACHAL PRADESH.

John Crook is negotiating preliminary arrangements for a new Himalayan journey - this time to the remote North Eastern Himalayas of India. Arunachal Pradesh has only recently been opened to Western visitors and remains in a relatively undeveloped condition, unspoilt by tourism. Special permits are required for entry allowing ten-day visits. The state contains great forests, enormous mountains, a lot of wildlife and tribal peoples of a remarkable variety. The main cultures are Shamanism and Tibetan Buddhism. It borders on Bhutan to the West, Tibet to the North and Burma (Myanmar) to the East.

We will visit the spectacular district of Tawang (10,500ft approx) which requires an ascent through wild forests into the snowy mountains. The area resembles Bhutan in many ways but the highest mountain monasteries are more accessible. At Tawang we find the vast fortress-like Galden Namgyal Lhatse monastery founded in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the birthplace of the 6th Dalai lama. It is said to be home to some 500 monks and to house many treasures. Since we are in India the practice of Tibetan Buddhism is here quite unrestricted by politics. Also in the region are several other gompas and two major nunneries. These will make an interesting visit as nunneries are not so common. We hope to do short treks and walks in the region among high altitude lakes, small meditation caves and so on.

The tour will begin in Calcutta (Kolkata). We fly to Guwahati in Assam and cross the Brahmaputra to enter Arunachal Pradesh at Tezpur. The journey into the mountains involves long coach rides through fantastic scenery but we will break these journeys as often as possible.

Dates: Either last two weeks of September 2005 or slightly later. Total duration 15 days.

Price not yet determined. Very rough estimate £2000.

Details still under negotiation.

Those seriously interested should contact John *Johcro@compuserve.com* now. Places on this unusual trip will be limited and first applicants will have precedence. A full brochure will be provided once the negotiations over arrangements have been made.

### New Chan Forum

The journal of the Western Chan Fellowship is called "New Chan Forum". It has been published two or three issues per year since 1990 and has now reached issue 30. It is available by subscription to the printed version (send £10.50 to the membership secretary for a subscription of three issues, stating which from which issue you wish your subscription to commence, cheques payable to Western Chan Fellowship), or free of charge from the website NCF page at *westernchanfellowship.org/ncf/*

### Call for Articles and Artwork

We always welcome submissions of articles and artwork or photographs for consideration for inclusion in New Chan Forum. We don't promise to publish or even acknowledge everything that we receive, but please do send us anything you think may be of interest to others – serious critical articles, humorous items, poems, drawings, photographs, reports of events, book reviews, etc. Send articles to *editorial@WesternChanFellowship.org* or by post to John Crook. Send artwork to Simon Child.

## About The Western Chan Fellowship

The Western Chan Fellowship was formed in 1997 and registered as a charity in 1998. It was based on a network of local groups which formed following the first teaching visit to the UK in 1989 of the Venerable Chan Master Dr Shengyen. Master Shengyen is the Abbot of two monasteries in Taiwan and head of the Institutes of Chung Hwa Buddhist Culture in Taiwan and New York.

Master Shengyen has visited the UK four times and has passed on to us a view of the Dharma (teaching) based on his experience in both the main lineages of Chan - Linji (Rinzai) and Caodong (Soto). He is a second-generation teacher in the lineage of the Great Master Hsu-yun who did so much to restore Chan to China in the early years of the 20th century. Master Shengyen has also trained in Japan following the tradition of Harada Roshi, from whom several lineages of American Zen are currently descended. In Japan he also received a doctorate in Buddhist studies and is today a much-respected scholar. In attempting to transmit the wisdom of Master Shengyen, we have a tradition on which we can rely. John Crook received Dharma transmission from Master Shengyen in 1993, as did Simon Child in 2000, and thus both are fully authorised teachers in the same lineages.

We are a group of lay practitioners with properly authenticated teachers. The Western Chan Fellowship retreats are supported by a number of local groups which hold periodic meetings for meditation practice and are led by certificated meditation instructors. Our evening meetings are linked to both informal local day-retreats led by the local group meditation instructors, and to more disciplined and intensive residential retreats held at Maenllwyd. An introductory retreat – the Western Zen Retreat – is recommended before participation in a full Chan retreat.

### Local Groups

#### *Associated Groups*

**Aberystwyth** Ken Jones 01970 880603  
**Cardiff** Eddy Street 029 2069 1146  
**Guildford** Roger Taylor 01483 202422  
**Newbury** Dave/Aurie McKay 01635 46139

See the website for more details of local groups

### *Affiliated Groups*

**Bristol** Sally Masheder 0117 924 8819  
**Medway Towns** Stuart McLeod 01634 571659  
**Glastonbury** Ned Reiter 01458 833663  
**Lizard** Sophie Muir 01326 221651  
**Manchester** Simon Child 0161 761 1945  
**Oslo** Bryn Risnes + 47 9756 3317  
**Swindon** Hughie Carroll 01793 343447  
**Totnes** Pete Lowry 01364 643560  
**York** James McCarthy 01904 330977  
or Jannie Mead 01904 628536

### Contacts for New Chan Forum and the Western Chan Fellowship

**WCF Secretary:** Simon Child, 24 Woodgate Ave, Bury, LANCs, BL9 7RU.

Tel: 0161 761 1945, Fax: 0161 763 3221 (work). [Secretary@WesternChanFellowship.org](mailto:Secretary@WesternChanFellowship.org)

**Membership Secretary, NCF Subscriptions** (£10. 50 per three issues), *Retreat Bookings* Peter Howard, 22 Butts Road, Chiseldon, Wiltshire, SN4 0NW, Tel 01793 740659 [Retreats@WesternChanFellowship.org](mailto:Retreats@WesternChanFellowship.org)

**Chair of the WCF:** Eddy Street, 19 Velindre, Whitchurch, Cardiff CF10 2TE, Tel: 029 20 691146, [Chair@WesternChanFellowship.org](mailto:Chair@WesternChanFellowship.org)

**Teacher of the WCF:** Dr John Crook, Winterhead Hill Farm, Shipham, N. Somerset, BS25 1RS, [Teacher@WesternChanFellowship.org](mailto:Teacher@WesternChanFellowship.org)

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**WCF Treasurer:** Jake Lyne, 13 Belle Vue Terrace, York, YO10 5AZ, [Treasurer@WesternChanFellowship.org](mailto:Treasurer@WesternChanFellowship.org)

## RETREAT BOOKING FORM – PLEASE PHOTOCOPY

**To:** Peter Howard  
 WCF Membership Secretary  
 22 Butts Rd  
 Chiseldon  
 Wilts SN4 0NW  
 United Kingdom

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** During late 2004 or early 2005 the address for bookings will change and bookings sent to the wrong address may be delayed or lost. Before submitting your booking please check the website for the current booking address.



I would like to book a place on the following retreat:

Date of application:

Retreat Name		Start Date		End Date	
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My personal details are as follows [PLEASE PRINT]:

Name		Home/Contact phone no.	
Address		Mobile phone no.	
		Fax	
		Email address	
		Sex:	M / F
Post Code		Date of Birth:	

Please indicate how you will be travelling to the retreat. If you tick the “Able to give a lift” box, then your contact details will be given to those people who need a lift. If you do not want your details to be given out in this way, then please tick “Need a lift” and ignore the contact list you receive. The contact list will be sent out with the final information letter about 1 month before the retreat. The origin of retreat attendees is random and no guarantee can be made that a lift will be available even if you request one.

Able to give a lift     
  Need a lift

Previous retreat experience:
Special dietary requirements:
Any other requirements:

To book a retreat, complete the form and send with a deposit to the Western Chan Fellowship Membership Secretary at the address above. **Applications without a deposit will not be accepted**

- For UK applicants the deposit is £80 (£50 if applying for a bursary), or double this if applying for two or three weeks of the three-week retreat.
- For applicants from outside the UK the deposit is €200 or \$200 (or £150), or double this if applying for two or three weeks of the three-week retreat.
- **The deposit is non-refundable** if you cancel or change your booking within 4 weeks of the start of the retreat.

**Please make UK Sterling cheques payable to the ‘Western Chan Fellowship’.** In order to minimise bank charges for both parties, overseas applicants should send their deposit as a bank note[s] for any of the above amounts. This will be converted at the prevailing exchange rate on the day of receipt. Any risk of loss of currency in the post is your risk.