

Retreat Programme

Following the Foot and Mouth disease outbreak we have been able to resume the retreat programme at Maenllwyd and it has been well supported, indeed overbooked latterly. The January Koan retreat is fully booked but there is still room on the Shorter Ch'an Retreat at Easter. We haven't yet prepared an extension to the retreat programme, but when we do so we shall post it on the website and send it out with our next mailing.

From 22nd – 29th June 2002 John Crook and Simon Child will lead a Ch'an Retreat at Gaia House, and also Simon will lead a weekend retreat there 12th - 14th April. Bookings are through Gaia House www.gn.apc.org/gaiahouse/ Tel 01626 333613

Local Group Changes

The organiser of the Mid-Wales group has moved away and that group is no longer meeting, and also the Hampstead group is taking a rest. Meanwhile a new group has set up in Newbury, and one may start in the New Year in West London. More information on local group events and contact details inside.

Silk Road Journey

John Crook is arranging another of his popular overseas journeys, probably in May 2002, this time to follow the route of the silk road, starting in Beijing and travelling West. Details and a brochure are available from John Crook.

Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting will be on Saturday 19th January. If you have any matters that you wish the committee to consider then please contact a committee member well before then (some of us will be attending the Koan retreat and staying on at Maenllwyd afterwards, and so we shall not be able to receive any messages sent to our homes after we set out to the Koan retreat).

WCF AGM

The next AGM will be held at Maenllwyd on Sunday 3rd March. There will be elections for the post of Treasurer and one other committee member. Please consider whether you wish to stand for either of these posts. Tim Blanc may not be available to stand for re-election as treasurer, and if you may be interested in this post then please contact Tim beforehand to find out what is involved. Tim currently undertakes the two jobs of treasurer (accounts, banking, invoices etc) and membership secretary (retreat bookings, NCF subscriptions, WCF fellowship applications/renewals etc) and we plan to split these roles between at least two people. Nomination papers will be sent out with the AGM agenda etc by three weeks before the AGM and must be returned to the secretary no later than a week before the AGM.



Charity Cards

The WCF is registered with the Charities Aid Foundation CharityCard Scheme, and so any of you who hold CharityCards and wish to make donations in that way for tax efficiency are welcome to do so. See www.charitycard.org Tel 01732 520 050. Please remember that these cannot be used for retreat fees or for subscriptions, but only for donations to either our general funds or to one of our specific funds (we have property, publishing, equipment, and bursary funds).

Notes from the Network of Buddhist Organisations

I must apologise for the long silence since my last report from the NBO. It is not that nothing has been happening, far from it, but the various organisational problems to which I have referred in the past have taken up a lot of time, but do not make good reading. However, I will now try to bring anyone who is interested up to date.

The Safety Net It has been agreed in principle that the NBO will hold a list of respected members of the Sangha, and of therapists, by way of a 'Safety Net'. These practitioners will be in a position to offer to anyone who approaches them through the NBO a brief intervention in terms of Dharma advice or counselling. It is intended that this service will be offered to those who have 'fallen out' with their own teachers or sangha, in circumstances in which the usual methods of reconciliation are not applicable.

The details of how this will be put in place have yet to be worked out, so it would be inappropriate to say more at this stage. I shall be involved in the ongoing discussions and I would be pleased to hear the views and suggestions of WCF members. My contact details are at the end of this document.

The Constitution Observers of these notes will have been aware that I have expressed grave doubts in the past about the viability of the NBO in its present form on both financial and organisational grounds. I am now feeling more optimistic than I have felt for a long time, not because we have solved all the problems, but because they have been recognised and we have started to make moves to find ways to tackle them. An 'Activities Committee' has been set up on an interim basis to give support and assistance to the Secretary. Better still, we have agreed to start a fundamental review of the Constitution. The NBO has changed a lot in the course of the five or six years that have elapsed since the constitution was agreed, and there is wide agreement that it is time for an overhaul.

Apart from anything else, we hope to function much better as the network that we are supposed to be. That has implications for those of us who represent our parent organizations. I must try harder to keep you informed about what is going on. In return, do please contact me with your views, opinions and ideas. In order to speak on your behalf, I need to know how you feel about things. I hope that my new email address will be helpful.

The Buddhist Hospice Trust This organization aims to provide spiritual support and comfort to the dying, wherever they may be. It has no premises, but tries to create a 'Hospice in the Heart'. Ray Wills was editor of their publication 'Raft' and worked hard to promote their aims. He died suddenly on November 1st. If you wish to send a message of support or to find out more about them, please contact Dennis Sibley at 1, Laurel House, Trafalgar Rd., Newport, Isle of Wight. Tel 01983 526945. email dsibley@ukonline.co.uk. They have a website at www.buddhishospice.org

The House of Lords Some people began to get excited at the prospect that their might be a Buddhist member of the House of Lords under the Government's plans to reform the Lords and broaden the representation of the different Faith communities. Don't hold your breath. It is unlikely to happen because of the difficulty of finding appropriate nominees among a disparate bunch of people who do not recognise a hierarchy such as that which dominates the Church. However, maybe the Inter Faith network can come up with some ideas.

My Details

If you wish to contact me, my home address is 6 Tyne Rd, Bishopston, Bristol BS7 8EE
Tel 0117 924 8819 sallymash@lineone.net

LOCAL GROUP EVENTS

Bristol

Check for updates at: www.bristol-chan.co.uk

Saturday 2nd Feb 1:00 pm - 9:00 pm (with break for supper) and Sunday 3rd Feb 2002, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm **Ken Jones** "*Dogen For Ch'an Practitioners*". Booking does not open until after Christmas, and further details will be available from the Bristol group then.

Bury

Check www.w-c-f.org.uk/bury.html for dates of day retreats held on Sundays about once every 6 – 8 weeks, the next is 27th January.

Gillingham/Hampstead

Will Turner and Stuart McLeod are considering the idea of a local weekend retreat for people in the South East, looking at a late January date. If anyone's interested, i.e. people that Will and Stuart are not in contact with, they're very welcome to call Stuart: 01634 571659

LOCAL GROUPS CONTACTS

Affiliated groups are groups which principally practice Ch'an and are closely associated with the WCF.

Associated groups are groups which include friends and practitioners of the WCF, but may follow other traditions in addition to Ch'an.

Affiliated Groups

Bristol Sally Masheder 0117 924 8819

Bury N Manchester Simon Child 0161 7611945

Cheadle S Manchester Ron Henshall 0161 491 0612

Gillingham Stuart McLeod 01634 571659

Glastonbury Ned Reiter 01458 833663

London Bruce Stevenson 020 8961 7802

York James McCarthy 01904 330977

Associated Groups

Aberystwyth Ken Jones 01970 880603

Cardiff Eddy Street 029 2069 1146

Guildford Roger Taylor 01483 202422

Newbury Dave/Aurie McKay 0163546139

Swindon Hughie Carroll 01793 343447

BOUND VOLUMES OF THE FIRST TEN YEARS OF NEW CH'AN FORUM

Bound volumes containing issues 1 – 21 of New Ch'an Forum are now available. These are fine volumes, with probably better quality printing than the original issues, and with some of the pictures in colour. These are made to order and so must be paid for in advance, £65 per copy including p&p, payable to WCF and sent to Tim Blanc. You can see an example of these bound editions in the Maenllwyd library.

MASTER SHENG-YEN'S BOOKS

Some, including the most recent and also forthcoming (There Is No Suffering: A Commentary on the Heart Sutra), are available at discounted prices at :

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/exec/obidos/Author=Sheng-Yen>

Data Protection Act The Western Ch'an Fellowship has taken over responsibility for John Crook's Maenllwyd Retreat and the New Ch'an Forum (previously held by the Bristol Ch'an Group) mailing lists. Your details are kept on a computer database, which will be used for keeping you informed of Western Ch'an Fellowship activities. Please notify me 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. Thank You.

Tim Blanc (Membership Secretary).

Western Ch'an Fellowship Contacts

Teacher Dr John Crook, Winterhead Hill Farm, Winscombe, N. Somerset, BS25 1RS
Tel/Fax 01934 842231 *teacher@w-c-f.org.uk*

Chair Hilary Richards, 8 Park Terrace The Park Nottingham, NG1 5DN
Tel 0115 924 2075 *chair@w-c-f.org.uk*

Secretary Simon Child, 24 Woodgate Ave, Bury, Lancs, BL9 7RU
Tel 0161 761 1945 Fax 0161 763 3221 *secretary@w-c-f.org.uk*

Treasurer and Membership Secretary *NOTE NEW ADDRESS*

Tim Blanc, 29 Gwilliam Street, Windmill Hill, Bristol, BS3 4LT *treasurer@w-c-f.org.uk*

New Ch'an Forum Editor - Marian Partington, Ty Lottyn, Llawr y glyn, Caersws Powys SY17 5RJ
marian@salvagingsacred.demon.co.uk

Send material for consideration for publication preferably by email to *editor@w-c-f.org.uk*.

Send illustrations to Simon Child.

Western Ch'an Fellowship Webpages *www.w-c-f.org.uk*

(includes past issues of New Ch'an Forum, retreat programme updates, etc)

WCF-L Ch'an Email List Email *secretary@w-c-f.org.uk* and ask to be added to the list

For information about **retreats in New York with Master Sheng-yen** contact:

Ch'an Meditation Center, Institute of Chung Hwa Buddhist Culture,
00 56 Corona Ave. Elmhurst, New York 11272 USA

NEW CH'AN FORUM

New Ch'an Forum includes retreat reports written by participants of retreats at Maenllwyd, Dharma talks by John Crook and Master Sheng-yen, social commentary, articles on lay practice, poetry photos and artwork, etc. Submissions welcome.

Subscriptions to New Ch'an Forum: WCF Fellows receive NCF as a benefit of Fellowship. Others may subscribe by writing with payment enclosed as below.

✂-----

New Ch'an Forum subscription: Send a £7.50 cheque, payable to: **Western Ch'an Fellowship**, to: Tim Blanc, 29 Gwilliam Street, Windmill Hill, Bristol, BS3 4LT

This will pay for three issues, which are published approximately three times per year (variable). Back issues **if available** can be obtained for £4 per issue (otherwise please download from the website).

Details may be kept on a computer database, which will be used for subscription administration and for keeping you informed of Western Ch'an Fellowship activities. Please indicate if you do not wish your details to be kept on a computer database.

Name

Tel

Address

Fax

e-mail