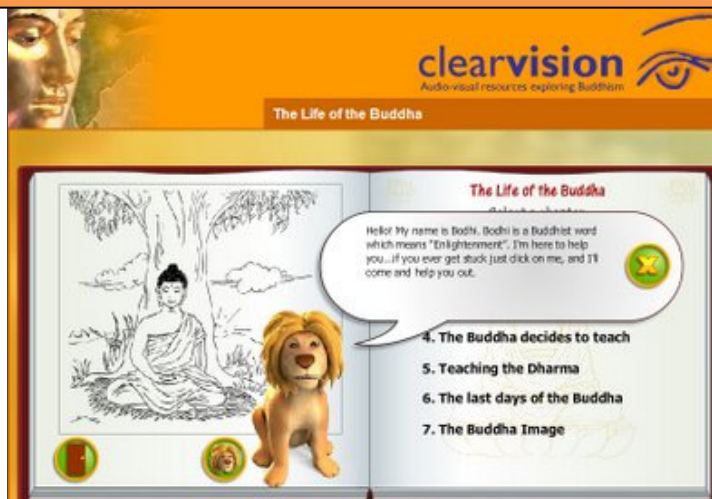




# FWBO and TBMSG News

## February-March 2009

**Inside this month:**  
news from India, Sweden, Holland, US, UK. New Dharma training course for mitras launched; interactive Dharma from ClearVision; full report from Chairs Assembly; plans take shape for 'International Urban Retreat'; 500 attend International Order Convention in Bodh Gaya...



## FWBO News

presents a monthly or bi-monthly anthology of stories illustrating some of what's going on across the FWBO – the worldwide network of Buddhist centres, businesses, communities, arts events, and individual projects that makes up the Friends of the Western Buddhist Order and the Trailokya Bauddha Mahasangha in India.

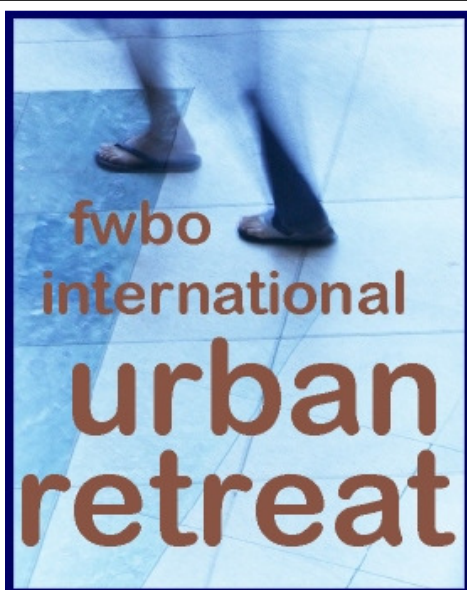
Enjoy...

[more inside»](#)

**on the web at:**

**[www.fwbo-news.org](http://www.fwbo-news.org) | [news@fwbo-news.org](mailto:news@fwbo-news.org)**

## Three ideas for 2009...



June 2009 will see the FWBO's first ever International Urban retreat.

These have been pioneered at a few FWBO centres over the past few years, and have proven both popular and effective.

The dates are **20-27th June 2009.**

All readers of FWBO News world-wide are welcome to take part, whether or not they are near an FWBO Centre. Find it on Facebook – look for the **International Urban Retreat 2009.**

## Ethical banking with Triodos

Could this be the year you switch to ethical banking? Following the recent wave of financial crisis and scandal, Triodos, the UK's most actively ethical bank, report - "61% of those interviewed who have a banking product, said that they now wanted to know more about how their bank invests their money".

FWBO members in the UK already have over £750,000 deposited with Triodos, and they have for many years been the lender of choice for new FWBO projects, financing many of the FWBO's communities and Right Livelihood businesses.

Triodos have recently launched a new range of **savings accounts** - and there's a free copy of the popular 'Go Slow England' book on offer to new customers. If you want to know more about where your savings are going, and to be more confident they're being used for the good; try looking into Triodos...

When you join there's an option to donate some of the interest payable to one or another charity - including the FWBO.

Although small compared to the high street giants, Triodos are a fully-fledged bank, describing themselves as "a fully independent bank and a pioneer of sustainable and transparent banking". They say "Our mission is to make money work for positive social, environmental and cultural change."

The Triodos Bank logo, featuring the word "Triodos" in a white, serif font, a green circular icon with a white symbol inside, and the word "Bank" in a white, sans-serif font, all set against a dark blue background.



### Got some time? Want to work on yourself? Do a Karuna appeal!

Since 1980 the FWBO's Karuna Trust has been funding social and Dhamma projects amongst India's poorest and most disadvantaged communities. The majority of its funds are raised by volunteer fundraisers, who live and work as a spiritual community during the five or so weeks of the door-knocking appeal. This form of fundraising was pioneered by Karuna in 1982: ever since, Karuna's been developing such fundraising as a context for engaged Buddhist practice.



**Karuna are currently recruiting for their 2009 Appeals.**

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2009

## A death in the Order



Amrutdeep has written to FWBO News to inform us of a death in the Order. He says -

"This is to inform you of the extremely sad news of the death of Dhammachari Akasabodhi from Pune, India. Akasabodhi died at approximately 7.00 a.m. Indian time on Wednesday March 11th. He died of a sudden and unexpected heart attack.

"Akasabodhi was aged 49, and he was ordained in 1994, with Suvajra as his private preceptor and Subhuti as his public preceptor. His sadhana was Sakyamuni. The funeral took place the same evening, first at the Mahavihara and then at the nearby cremation ghat. There were maybe 3,000 people present, from Dapodi and surrounding areas where he was very well known and much respected and loved, and also from many other parts of Maharashtra as people had set out for Pune immediately on hearing the shocking news of his death.

"Only last night Akasabodhi had given a vote of thanks after a talk by Sudarshan on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of the inauguration of the Mahavihara, and then he joined others in performing a song of Maitri. Those who heard him said that he was in a very positive mental state indeed. The previous week he had been at the International Convention at Bodhgaya which he found greatly inspiring and immediately preceding this he had visited Sarnath, Vaishali and Nalanda with friends.

"Akasabodhi was a poet and singer, a hugely friendly man who made strong connections not only with many Order members but also with those from other Buddhist groups and political parties, and always he made friends not only with individuals but also with their whole families. For several years he was Chairman of our centre in Dapodi (Mahavihara).

"It's very shocking for us that Akasabodhi has left us, especially so suddenly, and he is going to be greatly missed.



Yours in the Sangha, Dhammachari Amrutdeep, Order Convening Team, India.

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## Wildmind on Love, Sex, Non-Attachment, and living in the age of distraction...



**Wildmind** is the FWBO's US-based website dedicated to teaching meditation.

They've recently launched a new **Wildmind Facebook page** and Twitter feed, which will deliver 'tweets' right into your Twitter in-box each time they post an article - sign up at [twitter.com/medit8](https://twitter.com/medit8).

MONDAY, MARCH 09, 2009

## New FWBO Dharma Training Course for Mitras launched



The new FWBO Dharma Training Course for Mitras was launched on a recent Order Weekend at Padmaloka. This is an important new development for Dharma teaching within the FWBO.

The full course is four years long and comprises a Foundation Year followed by a three-year study program. The Foundation Year is based around the three declarations people make on becoming a Mitra: being a Buddhist; practising the Dharma; and participating in the FWBO. Each section contains material extracted from the Buddhist texts, Sangharakshita's writings, and writings by other contemporary Buddhist teachers, backed up with reference material and teacher's notes.

The course has its own dedicated website at [www.fwbomitracourse.com](http://www.fwbomitracourse.com), where the Foundation Year and part of Year 2 are now available. Subsequent modules will be rolled out over the next few months, and the whole course should be on-line by the summer.

Saccanama, the course's creator, has been working on it for the past 18 months; it's a major new 'synthesis of the FWBO's approach to the dharma. He launched it at Padmaloka with a talk entitled 'Giving the Gift of the Dharma', which you can listen on FreeBuddhistAudio here: [www.freebuddhistaudio.com/talks/details?num=LOC87](http://www.freebuddhistaudio.com/talks/details?num=LOC87).

FRIDAY, MARCH 06, 2009

## Free Buddhist Audio News - New Content and Changes for Spring



Welcome to the news from **Free Buddhist Audio**, the free download, podcast and streaming service from the Dharmachakra audio and text archives. To receive more regular updates on the site, you can always subscribe to our own blog.

### New Content and Changes for Spring

Well, spring is on its way and it's the financial year-end here at FBA - not normally the time for introducing new features but we just couldn't help ourselves! So, some welcome little tweaks and essential additions to the site for your delectation and delight...

First up, we've some news on the **Community** section of the website. After a year of working with community users, we've now integrated uploaded talks from several places into the home page stream. So, starting this week community talks from Taraloka, Padmaloka, and talks given to the Order and from major FWBO events, will all be available via the front page. You'll find lots of new talks there already - and it's always worth using our [update service](#) to save you the trouble of checking it daily.

Another new feature is a handy option to quickly find talks from the same place as the one you're viewing. So, if you're looking at the details page for [a talk from Taraloka](#), for example, with one click you can see all the talks from there too. Check it out!

We'll be revamping the Community site in the summer, so we look forward to bringing you a lot more than...

Until next time!

THURSDAY, MARCH 05, 2009

## Sarvananda on the radio



March sees two radio plays by Sarvananda, a Scottish Order Member and writer.

Both have been broadcast by the BBC, where he goes by his old name of Alastair Jessiman.

Available on-line now is his third play about Thomas Soutar, a psychic who uses his gifts to help the police. In this latest play he is called in to investigate the disappearance of a gifted and beautiful music student; his investigation uncovers a number of uncomfortable truths – not least for Thomas himself who falls under the missing girl's spell.

'The Sensitive: A possession' is the Afternoon Play on BBC Radio4, and can be heard here: [www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/boohv3jo/Afternoon\\_Play\\_The\\_Sensitive\\_A\\_Possession/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/boohv3jo/Afternoon_Play_The_Sensitive_A_Possession/)

Coming up later in March is "Boxer and Doberman", also by Sarvananda and this time a 4-part comedy series broadcast on DAB and **BBC Digital Radio 7**. Each episode will be broadcast three times according to the following schedule;

- Episode one: Headless in Glasgow
    - » Monday 23rd March 2009: 9am - 9.30am, 8pm - 8.30pm; Tue 24th March: 1 - 1.30pm.
  - Episode two - the Killings in Kirkibrae
    - » Tue 24th March: 9am - 9.30am, 8pm - 8.30pm; Wed 25th March 1 - 1.30pm.
  - Episode three - the Big Cheese
    - » Wed 25th March: 9am - 9.30am, 8pm - 8.30pm; Thu 26th March 1 - 1.30pm.
  - Episode four - the Seat of Evil
    - » Thu 26th March: 9am - 9.30am, 8pm - 8.30pm; Fri 27th March 1 - 1.30pm.
- Enjoy...!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 04, 2009

## Taraloka on the radio



Maitrimala, Catering Manager at the FWBO's Taraloka retreat centre, was interviewed recently by BBC radio.

The interviewer's curiosity seems to have been prompted by news that Delia Smith, the famous chef, needs an hour of silence a day, which she describes as "time to be, just to be still", with Delia apparently advising her followers to time this period with a kitchen timer!

Maitrimala begins by describing the view from her bedroom window, then life at Taraloka more generally – and then what it might be like to go on a retreat there. She assuages the interviewer's anxiety about periods of silence by making it quite clear that it's ok to laugh while on a retreat!

The program is on the BBC's 'Mornings with Joanne Malin' program, described as "the radio version of the very best woman's magazine".

MONDAY, MARCH 02, 2009

## An FWBO retreat centre for the Low Countries



Akasasuri sends us this report from Holland-

“For over twenty years FWBO retreats have been held in The Netherlands. They were started by Vajragita in the eighties and later also in Belgium by Dhammaketu.

“Over the last four years we’ve held about twenty retreats a year, from a weekend to a fortnight, and most of them are reasonably booked up (about 20 -30 people). We hire three different locations ( a monastery and a youth hostel in Holland, and a monastery in Belgium) for the retreats, every time we have

to create the retreat environment from scratch. We have been a ‘virtual retreat centre’. Our charity is called Metta Vihara – please do have a look [www.mettavihara.nl](http://www.mettavihara.nl).

“But now I’m very happy to say it looks like we’re reaching the end of transporting cushions, mats, Buddha images, food, etc!!! After 4 years of property search in a densely populated country like The Netherlands we’ve finally found a suitable place in the South of Holland (not far from the Belgium border).

“In the photograph it’s the building on the left with in the distance the church of the small village Hengstdijk (521 inhabitants).



“The Netherlands being what it is, there are LOTS of regulations to satisfy before we can finally say we’ve done it.

“Although we’ve bought the property, it won’t be until the 1st of June that we’ll know whether or not we can renovate the farm into a retreat centre – and even then we’ll only be 90% sure. By January 2010 we’ll know for definite. At present the buildings include a set of pigstables, and as part of the work we will have to take them all down. In their place a purpose-built retreat centre will appear, designed by Peter Van Assche who is a Mitra.

“At the earliest we hope to open our doors in autumn/winter 2010!!!

“For the Dharma to take hold in a country takes a very long time, like holding a lotus flower next to a boulder and hoping it will take root. So waiting for another 1 ½ years should not be too difficult even though we are very very keen. Manigarbha and I will be so glad once we’ve done the last van run for our virtual retreat centre and settle into our own place.

“I’d like to use this opportunity to thank people in The Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and the UK who have encouraged, supported and helped us financially.

“We are truly all interconnected. Akasasuri”

SUNDAY, MARCH 01, 2009

## The Order Convention in Bodh Gaya



Mahamati, International Order Convenor and organiser of the Order Convention at Bodh Gaya, sends us news –

“The Western Buddhist Order’s biannual International Order Convention is taking place at Bodh Gaya from Feb 23rd - March 1st, and is the first ever International Order Convention held outside of UK. Attending are more than 160 Order Members from outside India and nearly 350 living in India (mostly Indian

of course, but some Westerners too). The event is being held on our own land on the outskirts of the town, though of course those present are spending plenty of time meditating and doing puja close to the Bodhi Tree.



Daily events included Refuge Tree practice in front of the Bodhi Tree, Evening Puja in front of the Bodhi Tree, talks, Book launches, Screening the interview with Bhante, separate programmes on the Women’s Day and Men’s Day, and a Tabla recital by Mukesh Jardo with accompaniment on our land.

“In an interview recorded specially for the occasion, Sangharakshita

addressed topics such as the significance of gathering at Bodh Gaya, his own decision not to attend, reflections on “The Essential Sangharakshita” (a very substantial compendium of his writing, recently released by Wisdom Publications), his thoughts on his ‘legacy’, and his comments on an oft-quoted remark by him, to the effect that members of the Order “can change everything except the Going for Refuge”.

“At the end of the interview he gives the new name for the land. It is ‘The Three Jewels Centre’. Amazingly, a day later the name was already up on the signboard, with our big Three Jewels order emblem as instructed by Bhante!



The interview is available on VideoSangha:

[www.videosangha.net/video/Sangharakshita-and-his-Legacy](http://www.videosangha.net/video/Sangharakshita-and-his-Legacy).

## Order Convention at Bodh Gaya



To give our readers a little more 'local colour' from Bodh Gaya, we present a piece from Aranyaka, newly ordained and in India for the first time in over 20 years... He writes -

### Glimpses of Buddhist Bodhgaya

Bodhgaya is amazing and mad....

On my first visit to the Mahabodhi temple I was struck by how beautiful the structure is – far more so than I had gleaned from Photos. The next thing that I found very striking is how definitely it is

NOT a dusty, crusty relic or museum but a living place full of devotion, aspiration and practice. There is the fantastic array of Dharma on display from all over the globe, in all sorts of strange and wonderful shapes, sizes, colours and forms – some of them particularly intriguing to my eye such as wrapping up the temple in a large length of golden cloth- and the cacophony of discordant pujas assaulting the ears simultaneously from all directions. Everybody is free to give expression to whatever form their devotion takes and does. And everyone is treated equally in this, Tibetan, Indian, Thai, Bhikkhu or Dalai Lama... Equally striking is how happy everyone is to allow everybody else to do their own thing with absolutely no sense of the annual punch-up that can be witnessed in Bethlehem! The worst that seems to happen is people quietly ignoring each other.

So highlights: The madness of the Nyingma Monlam (prayer festival): huge numbers of Nyingmapas doing pujas all over the temple, each with their own sound system, which always goes on until 11 and sometimes even 12 o'clock! I am very struck at how similar the Tibetan monastic system is and its place in the culture to what was around in medieval Europe say at the time of Cluny or Citieux. Huge institutions that are enormously wealthy and politically embroiled, full of large numbers of monks mechanically performing liturgy but which also act as central social institutions for education etc. Definitely not the naively romantic situation I suspect envisaged by many Western followers here.

A few weeks ago they brought out the relics of the Buddha, Sariputra and Maudgalyayana for the annual display of three days. There was to be a big procession around the town with the relics being paraded on elephants (along with monks, soldiers, obligatory dignitaries, carnival floats and several thousand school children). Nissoka and I offered to help and on the ended up in the escort for the elephant with the Buddhas relics in. It was needless to say all somewhat chaotic but I ended up walking alongside this lovely big elephant along with (completely unplanned) a Thai Bhikkhu, a Vietnamese Nun and a Tibetan Monk: Theravayana, Mahayana, Vajrayana and Navayana! How incredibly appropriate.

It was a fantastic day and really fun - the Vietnamese nun kept putting flowers in my ears and bursting out laughing!. All the while the relics were being showered with flower petals, and the monk in the palanquin would periodically throw some out to be collected by (usually) Tibetan devotees standing by. So I spent two hours being rained on with flower petals from that had been in contact with the Buddha relics. As you may know I am not one for such language but it was a bit like being in a Mahayana Sutra and being showered with Amrita, and by the end I realised that wherever I had been for the last couple of hours it had not been Bodhgaya. Perhaps not quite the Tusita heaven but....



The community who live on our land at Bodh Gaya gave some assistance to an impressive Ambedkarite Buddhist Lady called Sunniti, who we was here to help some friends as they single-handedly reintroduced the Bhikkhuni sangha into the Theravada. Couldn't resist a bit of controversy! It was apparently successful so the Theravada Bhikkhuni Sangha now exists again – though no doubt no one will recognize them and I have to say I feel it's all a bit misguided anyway (cf 43 Years Ago, one of my favourite and IMO most underappreciated books by Sangharakshita).

I have been living on the land here with the community (3 young but dedicated Indian Dhammamitras, Siladitya and occasional visitors) and helping out where I can with the preparation for the convention – which has been going very well. An amazing tent has risen out of the land in the last few weeks. The community is small but has suddenly expanded to about 15 in the last couple of days - not including the 25-strong convention team that have just arrived! But this being India we all just fit in!

We have also been holding an open chapter meeting each week for any order members in Bodhgaya. So far this has now included Nissoka, myself, Siladitya, Vajralila, Sudakini, Shantigosh, Rochani and most recently Parami. The fact that we do not necessarily speak the same language has not mattered a jot! What an interesting Sangha Bodhgaya shows us to be...

Till next time  
Metta, Aranyaka

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## Money Matters



'Money Matters' is the first in a series of three major articles about money by Siddhisambhava, the FWBO's fundraiser. She says -

"Although the Buddha certainly had things to say about money, money matters far more now than in the Buddha's time. It has the potential to do more harm – or good – than ever before. Given the current financial crisis it's all the more urgent that our understanding about this crucial area of our lives is relevant to what is happening, shows kindness and can help people".

Her long and thoughtful article is called

### **'Understanding money, understanding ourselves, and bringing money into our practice'.**

In it, encourages us to talk about money more and suggests reasons why we often find that so hard to do. She outlines the Buddha's approach to money and encourages us become clearer and more confident in that. She also touches on how the economy of the FWBO is changing and how we too may need to change to ensure the survival and growth of the FWBO.

The emphasis of the article though is on our individual relationship with money. It looks at what money is and what it can symbolise for us. What do we truly value? And are we able to fund those things? While the practice for all of us is skilful mental states whatever our circumstances, she emphasises that there is no one way 'to be' with money and shares some tips and tools on how we can become more money mature.

We will simply *feel better* when we are financially wise, assertive and generous, rather than financially stupid, victimised and selfish. Siddhisambhava ends by saying "Each of us has the

opportunity in our own lives to steward the flow of money; *whatever level comes our way*. I hope this article helps you do that. May you fully enjoy all the benefits that brings to yourself and others.”

The article is at: [www.fwbo-news.org/features/Siddhisambhava%20-%20money%20-%20bringing%20it%20into%20our%20practice.pdf](http://www.fwbo-news.org/features/Siddhisambhava%20-%20money%20-%20bringing%20it%20into%20our%20practice.pdf) – apologies for it being such a mouthful!

Siddhisambhava gave a version of this article as a talk at Manchester Buddhist Centre on 16 February which you can listen to at [www.freebuddhistaudio.com/community/local](http://www.freebuddhistaudio.com/community/local). She works as a fundraiser in the FWBO Development Team and acts as a consultant to FWBO centres and projects.

## Sangharakshita's Financial Life Story



Second in FWBO News' series of articles about money is an **interview with Sangharakshita on his financial life-story**.

Siddhisambhava, Fundraiser in the FWBO Development Team, conducted the interview last spring to help her with an appeal for the Order to take on the financial support of its founder. It reveals aspects of his life rarely mentioned in any of his memoirs. The interview begins with his childhood conditioning around money and covers the twists and turns of his financial fortunes from his twenty years in India – as beggar, monk, house-owner, farmer, employer and benefactor – to his return to Britain in the 1960's, and how he 'got by' while he set up the FWBO.

Originally published in Shabda, the monthly Order newsletter, FWBO News is pleased to make this fascinating account more widely available. The appeal for Bhante was launched at the Order 40th anniversary celebrations last spring and was concluded successfully on Bhante's 83rd birthday on 26 August 2008. It shifted his financial support from two of the movement's institutions that were struggling to financially maintain this commitment, the European FWBO Centres and Windhorse Evolution, to over 400 Order members making individual standing orders.

The appeal's success – as is the case with all fundraising – reaped more than financial benefits, by strengthening the connections between Order members and Bhante, as well as the bond between all those Order members who took on this commitment. If you'd like to see a short film about the appeal for Bhante, including some remarks by Bhante himself, visit **videosangha** - [www.videosangha.net/video/Sangharakshitas-Birthday-Celebr](http://www.videosangha.net/video/Sangharakshitas-Birthday-Celebr) .

“Ask of any money situation: how well is this facilitating relationship?”  
*from tuesday's article on money*

Looking at our money history, or telling our financial life-story, is one of the exercises suggested in 'Understanding money, understanding ourselves'. Perhaps you could find the money thread in your own life-story? It's there and it has meaning. What patterns of behaviour emerge? Did you create debts or savings? What degree of stinginess or generosity is revealed? How much control did you exercise? Most important of all: were you, are you, able to fund the things that matter most to you?

Sangharakshita's financial life story is on FWBO Features here: [www.fwbo-news.org/features/interview with Bhante on his financial life story 2008.pdf](http://www.fwbo-news.org/features/interview_with_Bhante_on_his_financial_life_story_2008.pdf).

## Dana Economies in the FWBO



The third and final article by Siddhisambhava in our series on money is ‘**Dana Economies**’, a look at how many FWBO centres run and fund themselves.

“....money and its uses, how we think about giving and receiving, how we define our role as Buddhists within a consumerist culture, and how Buddhist groups and centres fund themselves are among the most important moral and practical issues facing...Buddhism in the coming decades.”

*Santikaro, in his article on practising generosity in ‘Hooked: Buddhist Writings on Greed, Desire and the Urge to Consume.’*

Written for the European Chairs Assembly held at Taraloka in January, her article is based on research into the financial situation of fourteen centres: twelve urban centres in the UK, plus one retreat centre and Dublin. It begins with an outline of the inspiration behind centres running a ‘dana economy’ ie the Buddhist monastic tradition of an economy of gifts between the monks and the laity. It looks at the areas we need to attend to in our context today: the centre itself, its teachers and staff, including volunteers, and the other people the centre ‘serves’.

Some centres charge for most of their programme. One centre, Sheffield, runs a 100% dana economy ie everything is by donation. Most centres run what Siddhisambhava calls ‘a mixed economy’. The financial situation of centres varies enormously so it’s hard to make straightforward comparisons and there’s no one way to run a dana economy. It seems that the way that centres run their economies is often based as much on the practical needs of the situation as much as, if not more than, a clear vision – for very understandable reasons!. And Siddhisambhava certainly isn’t arguing for economic uniformity: an important principle of the FWBO is that centres are autonomous. Yet some common themes and questions emerge.

It’s an interesting snapshot of how FWBO centres are dealing with the financial challenges that face them. It raises issues and questions for every one of us who have ever benefited from going to a Buddhist centre – and who want to see the Dharma survive in the years ahead. How do you relate to the dana bowl?

Siddhisambhava’s article on Dana Economies is available on FWBO Features at [www.fwbo-news.org/features/Siddhisambhava%20-%20dana%20economies%20in%20the%20FWBO.pdf](http://www.fwbo-news.org/features/Siddhisambhava%20-%20dana%20economies%20in%20the%20FWBO.pdf).

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2009

### **Karuna supports street children in Mumbai - as publicised by Danny Boyle in ‘Slumdog Millionaire’**

‘Slumdog Millionaire’ is a high energy tale of hope and love reflected through the lives of slum dwellers and street children in Mumbai (Bombay), India. It’s recently swept the BAFTA Film Awards, winning in the Best Film, Director and five other categories - and the ‘Golden Globes’ last month where it won four honours including best drama. And - most recently - it won 8 Oscars including Danny Boyle as best director.

The film captures the technicolour chaos of India and regurgitates it into a cinematic experience. However, the director hasn’t shied away from



highlighting the issues still facing contemporary India including sectarian violence, high levels of poverty and child exploitation. But these issues are balanced with doses of humour including an obligatory toilet scene (something for which Danny Boyle is renowned).

Karuna, the FWBO's largest and longest-established fundraising charity, has worked for many years in Mumbai. One of its project partners there is Saathi ([www.saathi.org](http://www.saathi.org)), who provide shelter, counselling and vocational training to vulnerable children. Saathi focuses on runaway children arriving at Mumbai central railway station - who, not surprisingly, are particularly susceptible to exploitation. Indeed many scenes in the film are based in and around this station and highlight the vulnerability of street children in India. Saathi aims to prevent these children reaching the streets and establishing a life there.

Karuna raises most of its funds with the help of volunteers who take part in their Karuna Fundraising Appeals. They've contacted FWBO News to ask - would you like to help street children like those in Slumdog Millionaire escape a life of crime and poverty? If so, would you consider joining a Fundraising Appeal?

For information contact Jo, Khemajala or Santavajri on 0207 700 3434 or visit [www.appeals.karuna.org](http://www.appeals.karuna.org). If you would like more information about Karuna and the work they support in Asia please visit the Karuna website [www.karuna.org](http://www.karuna.org) - or to find out how to donate to Karuna please go to [www.karuna.org/donate](http://www.karuna.org/donate).

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2009

## Arts events across the FWBO

Arts have always been an integral part of the FWBO, being highlighted by Sangharakshita as one of the six 'distinctive emphases' of the FWBO. His talk exploring this is on [FreeBuddhistAudio](#).

A recent survey conducted on the FWBO's European Chairs Assembly illustrated the variety of arts events being held across the movement. We reproduce it here for readers' interest.



eastbourne house arts  
london buddhist arts centre

### Berlin

Berlin Buddhist Centre choir  
Weekend workshop on the arts including a gallery visit.

### Essen

Two 2-day workshops including public talks, on 'Aesthetic appreciation and the spiritual life', including visits to art exhibitions

Film nights including talk on the evening's film

### Paris

Weekend retreat and Friends' Night on 'Art and the Spiritual Life'

Policy of using FWBO artists' work on their book covers.

### London Buddhist Centre

Major commissions of painting by Aloka, also sculpture

Art shows at Wild Cherry

Poetry used in Dharma teaching

Film showings

### Buddhafield

The much-loved [Buddhafield Festival](#) is full of arts events – music, film, dance, drama, large-scale rituals...

Buddhafield has a long tradition of musical accompaniments to mantras And many opportunities for musicians etc to perform.

### Birmingham

Major commission of new FWBO Refuge Tree painting by Chintamani

Visits to CBSO concerts

Arts soirees

Bonfires!

### Amsterdam

Five-day thanka painting workshop

Amsterdam Buddhist Centre Choir (meets fortnightly)

Plans for monthly film night Creative writing weekend workshop

### Dharmapala College

[Seminars](#) on Shakespeare's 'Tempest'; Mahler's Third Symphony, and Dante's 'Divine Comedy'.

### Sheffield

Two arts exhibitions by sangha members

Poetry and music evenings

Regular poetry group  
Theatre group (including visits to local productions/concerts)  
Music-making and mantra-developing workshops

**Art and practice workshops**  
Seeking funding for arts project (audio-visual equipment and picture-hanging system)  
Purchase of painting by Aloka  
Donation of Tara painting by Sangha member

### **Glasgow**

Film nights showing 'Art-house' movies, including Indian movies  
Creative writing events  
Exhibitions of work by local artists and Buddhist artists  
Sangha visits to local exhibitions, concerts, poetry – and publicity for local arts events at the Centre  
Lots of talk in the Centre about the arts!

### **Ipswich**

Centre 'open-mike' nights encouraging sangha musicians to 'do a turn'.

### **North London**

Annual 'Wolf at the Door' creative writing weekend  
Sangha writers group.  
'Making Art' day focussing on the Dakini  
Sangha 'Cabaret' evenings with music, poetry, open mike  
Idea for local film club  
Idea for 'Arts Sangha' evenings  
**Lights in the Sky** movies shown  
**Stockholm**  
Cultural soiree evenings with music, dance, photos, poetry...

### **Bristol**

A program of 'Awakening Through Art' events  
Film club at Buddhist Centre

### **Brighton**

Participation in **Brighton Festival** with, eg stand-up comics, music (Jazz and Chopin), and arts exhibition  
Also participation in **Brighton Carnival** and Winter Solstice event

Major commission of painting by Aloka  
Monthly 'Dharma Eye into the World' events – including singing/debate/film/astronomy

Occasional music events  
Sangha creative writing group  
Brighton Centre choir  
Art exhibition planned for Centre in 2009

### **Cambridge**

The Windhorse pantomime!  
Check last year's on **YouTube**.  
**The Theatre!**  
Art exhibitions in Centre foyer  
Japanese monks visiting and chanting  
Sangha Poetry group  
Sangha Writers' group  
Sangha Singing group  
Sangha Music group  
**Wolf at the Door** creative writing weekends

### **Dhanakosa**

Five or six weeks worth of **retreats on arts themes** each year – including the groundbreaking 'Clowning and Insight'.

### **Print media**

The long-running Urthona arts magazine is at [www.urthona.com](http://www.urthona.com)

### **Websites**

Videosangha has a special section for **FWBO Arts movie clips**  
Visible Mantra, at [visiblemantra.org](http://visiblemantra.org) is an extraordinary resource for those interested in the art of mantra

On **FWBO Photos** there's collections of some **FWBO artists' work** – and of some of the **stupas** that have been created around the FWBO.

There's an **FWBO Arts community page** on the Free Buddhist Audio site.

The new FWBO.com website will be building in slots for FWBO artists' work.

And finally –

### **Personal sites by FWBO artists, teachers, and performers –**

**Wolf at the Door** have for many years run creative writing weekends.

Achalabodhi is a well-known woodcarver and teacher - [www.chrispye-woodcarving.com](http://www.chrispye-woodcarving.com)

Aloka is perhaps the Order's most prolific artist, and his large paintings of the Buddha grace at least five FWBO Centre shrines. A proper website for him is long overdue but you can see some of his work at [www.padmaloaka.org.uk/show.html](http://www.padmaloaka.org.uk/show.html)

Alokavira is a **professional photographer**, on his website you can see fine art pinhole photography from Guhyaloka as well as recent photographs of Bhante Sangharakshita.

Amitajyoti, painter, is at [www.amitajyoti.net](http://www.amitajyoti.net)

Jayacitta and **Red Noses Unlimited** (Clowning)

Jayarava, prolific writer, calligrapher, painter, sculptor, musician and essayist.

See [jayarava.org/art.html](http://jayarava.org/art.html) for his art,

[jayarava.org/music.html](http://jayarava.org/music.html) for his music.

Lilavati runs a Painting School at [www.harperart.com](http://www.harperart.com)

Padmavijaya is a well-established painter based in Sweden [www.paul-parker.com/index.html](http://www.paul-parker.com/index.html)

Padmayogini, painter and photographer, is at [www.padmayogini.co.uk](http://www.padmayogini.co.uk)

Vajradaka, meditation teacher offers **mentoring in creativity**.

Visuddhimati runs 'Buddhist Pictures', a personal site showcasing her work.

And last but by no means least, Sangharakshita himself is a poet, and his Collected Works are now available for free download on-line on his personal website - [www.sangharakshita.org/\\_books/complete-poems.pdf](http://www.sangharakshita.org/_books/complete-poems.pdf).

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2009

## Report from recent FWBO Chairs meeting

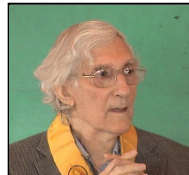


This is a report on the main features of the recent meeting of the FWBO's European Chairs Assembly, which came together recently for a week at Taraloka. Some 40 people from Centres and FWBO projects from across Europe were present during the week. Further details of many of the topics are available on-line, hyperlinks are included wherever possible.

It was a packed week – but one with a general mood of excitement and optimism underlying it – Dhammaketu arrived celebrating the Ghent centre's moving to new and larger premises; Amoghavajra Ipswich's; there was news of Metta Vihara's imminent purchase of a retreat centre for the Low Countries; Karuna's new strategy, plans for growth, ideas for involving more young people and more... A few details are given below. Of course lots of other stuff happened as well as the formal meeting sessions: Dhammagita was there to offer daily workouts (promising 'bums of steel' to attendees), and late-night cinema audiences worked their way through a series of Wallace and Gromit movies. So it wasn't all hard work...

There are always some new faces and some farewells at ECA meetings: this time we welcomed Aryaka, new chair of the Stockholm centre, also Samudraghosa from Southampton and Vajrahridaya from Edinburgh. Jnanadhara came as a guest from Dublin, and Parami from the Preceptors' College – and we marked Dhammaloka's stepping down from his post as Dharma Teaching Coordinator (though he will continue to attend the meetings on behalf of Dharmapala College).

### Visit by Sangharakshita

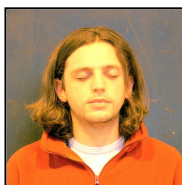


The meeting started with a talk by Bhante on the "Teachers of the Past" on the Refuge Tree, with Bhante explaining why he'd chosen to include some of them – mostly it turned out, for the example of their lives more than their specific teachings. Points from the talk (and other matters) were explored in a Question and Answer session, the meeting then said farewell to Bhante by chanting the White Tara mantra for him as he departed. Coincidentally, Wisdom's new publication 'The Essential Sangharakshita' had just been launched, and Bhante was able to bring some copies with him for the Chairs to browse – this has been reviewed on FWBO News – see [www.fwbo-news.org/2009/01/essential-sangharakshita-launched.html](http://www.fwbo-news.org/2009/01/essential-sangharakshita-launched.html).

### Windhorse:Evolution

Early in the meeting, Ratnaghosa updated everyone on the difficulties faced by Windhorse:Evolution which – like the rest of the UK retail sector – is facing very tough times in the year ahead. Nonetheless they are planning to open three new shops in 2009. Most of the points he made were reproduced in a piece on Windhorse in FWBO News – see [www.fwbo-news.org/2009/01/windhorseevolution-faces-credit-crunch.html](http://www.fwbo-news.org/2009/01/windhorseevolution-faces-credit-crunch.html).

### Young People



An evening was given over to a talk on '[Inspiring Young People with the Dharma](#)'. It was given by Lindsay, at 28 the youngest member (by 20 years!) of Taraloka's community. She had a lot to say about how "vibe" of the FWBO is increasingly unlikely to attract young people. (The statistics also show that this has very serious implications for the long term survival of the FWBO – for more info, see the Order Survey at [www.freebuddhistaudio.com/ordersurvey](http://www.freebuddhistaudio.com/ordersurvey) and also the talk by Vajragupta, mentioned below.)

Lindsay's talk was packed with suggestions for what we could and should do, and is available at FreeBuddhistAudio – see [www.freebuddhistaudio.com/talks/details?num=LOC70](http://www.freebuddhistaudio.com/talks/details?num=LOC70). Some of these are already beginning to happen – among them a Facebook group created to serve as a 'one-stop-shop' for anyone wanting to know what's available for young people in the FWBO – see [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=49821059114](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=49821059114).

### **Strategic Priorities**

After Bhante had left, the themes to be addressed by the meeting began to unfold. This process was initiated by Vajragupta, the Development Team's Director, who offered a personal, detailed, and fascinating overview of the FWBO's evolution over the last couple of decades and the broad issues currently facing the meeting. Vajragupta had recently finished first draft of a new 'history' of the FWBO, so was well-placed to comment. . A more general review of the meeting's 'strategic priorities' followed, these were originally drawn up in early 2007 and were due for review. Perhaps not surprisingly, 'Inspiring Young People with the Dharma' got large numbers of votes, with 'Money'; 'Right Livelihood', 'Decision-Making Processes' and 'Growth' all featuring strongly.

### **Dana Economy**

Siddhisambhava, the 'FWBO Fundraiser' led a Dana Economy Workshop, and presented her paper on "Understanding money, understanding ourselves, and bringing money into our practice" – appearing shortly as part of a series on Money on FWBO News. A lot of centres were interested in this, both because Dana Economies are so good for the Sangha, and because they can be good for Centres' 'bottom lines' too.

### **Mindfulness-Based Interventions**

A morning session looked at 'mindfulness-based interventions' (MBI), such as MBCT ('mindfulness-based cognitive therapy') or Breathworks' work on the relief of chronic pain, and their relationship to FWBO Buddhist Centres. Under the heading 'Opportunities or Dangers?' Paramabandhu (chair of the London Buddhist Centre and a consultant psychiatrist) introduced the subject and the 'landscape' surrounding it, followed by two presentations from Vidyamala and Sona on their work at Breathworks. The general conclusion was that 'mindfulness-based interventions' were likely to be a lasting influence that Buddhism bequeaths to western psychological thought and treatment.

### **Karuna**



There was an evening presentation from Santavajri on the Karuna Trust, the Chairs being asked to comment on a preliminary version of Karuna's next five-year strategy. This is currently in the final stages of drafting before being circulated for widespread comment from Karuna's many stakeholders: it includes ambitious targets for growth and professionalism as well as a much clearer perspective on the role the Dharma can play in Karuna's work and in its relationships with its project partners of all sorts.

### **Resources for Chairs**

A morning was spent looking at "What is a Centre Chair?" After the inevitable jokes ("its something everyone sits on haha..."), there were two very moving short talks on "Being a Chair as a spiritual practice", by Saddhanandi and Dhammarati, rich with both personal experience and spiritual teaching. Updated versions of the FWBO Chairs Handbook and FWBO Trustees Handbook were also presented.

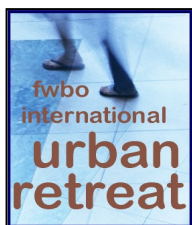
## Germany and Holland

One evening was given over to the traditional Centre Presentations, which on this occasion were more ambitious than usual with both speakers deciding to present an overview of FWBO activities in their country - Gunabhadri looking at Holland and Jnanacandra Germany. Given that the FWBO has been present in both countries for over 20 years there was a lot of ground to cover! Both speakers had brought slides - many photographs of the FWBO in both countries are available on [FWBO Photos](#) – see [www.flickr.com/photos/fwbo/sets](http://www.flickr.com/photos/fwbo/sets).

## Growth

A morning was given over to reports and proposals from the FWBO Development Team – Vajragupta reporting on developments in the FWBO's system of Centre Presidents; Lokabandhu on ideas for encouraging growth in the numbers and range of FWBO centres and groups. All present were asked to list the FWBO groups they were aware of, as a result it became apparent that there were quite a lot scattered across Europe no-one else had known about – proof, if any were needed, of the FWBO's decentralised approach! Details of these have been added to [fwbo.org](http://fwbo.org) – see [www.fwbo.org/contacts/addresses.html](http://www.fwbo.org/contacts/addresses.html).

## Urban Retreat



June 2009 will see the first ever International FWBO Urban Retreat, and plans for how this may run were outlined and discussed. Participating Centres will basically run their own simultaneous Urban Retreats, with an on-line version being offered via Facebook for those not living near Centres. This feels exciting; a great way to give us all a sense of common practice. Just after the ECA meeting ended, another group convened at Taraloka to discuss the next FWBO International Retreat, penciled in at Taraloka for 2010 – another great 'means of unification' for the Movement. A website introducing the Urban Retreat has been created at [www.theurbanretreat.org](http://www.theurbanretreat.org).

## fwbo.com

The new FWBO website (to be called [fwbo.com](http://fwbo.com)) was very much in the background throughout the week, with Candrasasa making about 8 informal presentations to groups of Chairs; also pointing out how the new site would be able to contribute to many of the topics being discussed. It will be very much a 'web 2.0' site, with centres and individuals from all over the world able to contribute content - centering on a planned "Great Stream of Practice" which will aggregate contributions from sangha members all over the world. Expect it to start appearing around the end of 2009...

## And finally...



Intense cold led to the Taraloka pond freezing, and one morning some intrepid folk were seen meditating on the ice – while others played frisbee on every possible occasion... Happily noone drowned!

All in all it was a great meeting, packed full but with enough time and space that noone exploded - and with a remarkable degree of harmony throughout. Big themes were discussed, some big new developments are in process. Economically, 2009 looks set to be a tough year, but spiritually the FWBO Chairs and the FWBO itself seem in good shape.



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2009

## FWBO People: introducing Vajradarshini



This Saturday's 'FWBO People' post features Vajradarshini. Until recently she was Chair of Tiratanaloka – the FWBO's retreat centre dedicated to helping women prepare for ordination – and now – she's an itinerant Dharma teacher, moving between Spain, the UK – and anywhere!

She says – "as of this year i am spending my time as a dharma teacher on the move, communicating sangharakshita's teachings in different venues around the FWBO. i'll be doing **retreats**, **urban retreats**, **weekends** and **talks** in various places around the uk and europe concentrating on some of my favorite **dharma themes**. when not on the road i'll be living in a very simple life in spain where my cost of living will be low and i hope that this will enable me to have some quiet time to do my own study and reflection.

Vajradarshini has always been a bit of a techno-whizz, and she runs her own website [www.vajradarshini.com](http://www.vajradarshini.com), **blog**, and **on-line photo archive** to help people get to know her in her new incarnation.

The website is full of gems, reflecting Vajradarshini's many interests, especially wabi sabi, and the yogacara – plus, of course, her upcoming **retreat schedule for 2009**. In a bold step into the unknown, she's decided to rely wholly on dana, or generosity, to support herself – you can read her dana statement on her website. To make this easier for would-be patrons, she has a page on the popular 'JustGiving' fundraising website – check [www.justgiving.com/vajradarshini](http://www.justgiving.com/vajradarshini). All contributions gratefully received!

She describes her blog [vajradarshini.livejournal.com/](http://vajradarshini.livejournal.com/) as a "diary of ordinary life, of things close to home, close to the heart". Most recently she's been covering her move from the busy life of a retreat centre to a new country and a far more solitary life in the mountains. She writes –

*"I do feel rather that I have disappeared, temporarily, into the mountains. I haven't felt all that communicative and am rather more out of touch than I used to be with what is going on in the world. I am making the most of this opportunity as I will be emerging, all being well, in March and from then until the end of October I have a pretty full schedule of retreats, weekends and events all around Europe. Feels like a slightly scary thought given that these days I hardly see a soul, oh well I've always enjoyed extremes".*

She continues – "Another project that I have on the go is learning CSS, which is the 'language' that you design websites in. I seem to have got that hang of html enough to have made my very simple website, I enjoyed it so much that I thought I would like to learn a bit more so I am in the process of learning CSS and of redesigning my website with it. It is like a rollercoaster of despair and euphoria!"

A little, perhaps, like life itself...

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2009

## Buddhafield: tree-planting in the snow



As many of us will know, Britain shivered in February under a carpet of thick snow. Spare a thought then, for the hardy folk of Buddhafield, nine of whom were bravely proceeding with their planned Tree-Planting Retreat on the Buddhafield land down in Devon. Camping, of course.

Abhayajit, the retreat leader, told FWBO News – “We’re still here, though its not been easy. A couple had to leave due to illness, but there’s still nine of us here now – and we have been managing to plant some trees! It was a bit mad one day, as there was a blizzard. To be honest I think

we have felt hit by the weather. Probably the hardest thing has been vehicle problems, which of course we depend upon absolutely for bringing in supplies. We’ve had some bad luck there - two punctures and some flat batteries. But we’re in good spirits.”

The retreat was on their land at Broadhembury, which they are increasingly using as a showcase for permaculture techniques. Later this year (hopefully in better weather!) they’ll be returning to the land to offer a **72-hour permaculture Design Course**, which will be co-led by the well-known permaculture teacher **Steve Read** and Dharmamrta, one of Buddhafield’s land managers and responsible for growing much of their vegetables through the year.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 09, 2009

## Upcoming: Buddhism and creativity conference - call for artists and performers

June will see the second conference in the ‘British Buddhist Landscape’ series. Entitled “Buddha Mind: Creative Mind?”, it’ll look at the relationship between the creative life, artistic expression and Buddhist thought and practice.

Areas to be covered include exploring the work of artists who have drawn on Buddhism in their creative practice, the twin topics of Buddhism influencing Art and Art influencing Buddhism; Buddhism and the creative life; and Buddhist Art through the ages – all to be explored via lectures, workshops, demonstrations, dialogues, performance, and exhibition.

The weekend will be of interest to anyone with an interest in Buddhism, creativity, art, performance and the creative life.

FWBO artists from the **London Buddhist Arts Centre** are already planning to take part.

The organisers are putting out a call to artists and performers – anyone interested in exhibiting work or performing (on a voluntary basis) is asked to contact them now at [jc@iopec.org](mailto:jc@iopec.org). The conference is organised by the Institute of Oriental Philosophy-UK in conjunction with the UK’s Network of Buddhist Organisations, of which the FWBO is an active member. It will be held at Taplow Court, IOP-UK’s beautiful headquarters, set in 85 acres of grounds overlooking the River Thames near Maidenhead. For full details, check [www.iopuk.org/oriental\\_lectures.aspx](http://www.iopuk.org/oriental_lectures.aspx)

**Buddha Mind: Creative Mind?**  
The Institute of Oriental Philosophy-UK  
invites you to a  
**Weekend of Exploration**  
at Taplow Court, Taplow, or Maidenhead, Berkshire  
Fri 12 June, Sat 13 June, Sun 14 June 2009

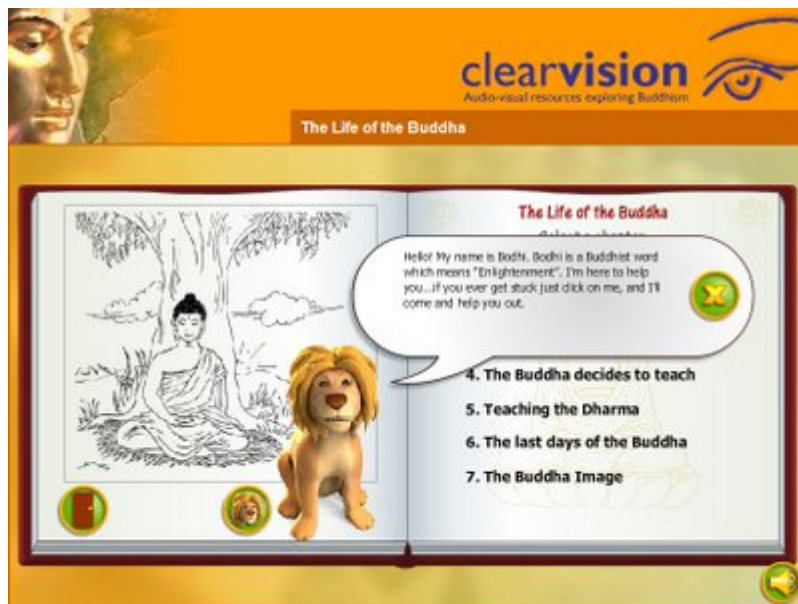
The weekend will focus on the relationship between the creative life, artistic expression and Buddhist thought and practice. Areas to be covered include: Artists who draw on Buddhism in their creative practice; Buddhism influencing Art; Art influencing Buddhism; Buddhism and the creative life; and Buddhist Art through the ages – to be explored via lectures, workshops, demonstrations, dialogues, performance, and exhibition. The weekend will be of interest to anyone with an interest in Buddhism, creativity, art, performance and the creative life. Call to Artists & Performers if you are interested in exhibiting work or performing (on a voluntary basis) please contact us now.

contact: Jasie Dorewell  
t: 01628 594213  
e: [jc@iopec.org](mailto:jc@iopec.org) | [www.iopuk.org](http://www.iopuk.org)

Costs: whole conference incl. vegetarian meals £110 | part-only available on application  
Early Bird offer: £95 for whole conference (18 March 2009)  
limited on-site accommodation avail £30/night  
Venue: Taplow Court is a beautiful Victorian mansion in Taplow village, set in 85 acres of grounds overlooking the River Thames, near Maidenhead.  
Travel: Fri & Sat train to Taplow station from Paddington or Reading. Road M4 or M40.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 05, 2009

## Interactive Buddhism from ClearVision



What would the Buddha have said if he'd known schools would be studying his life 2,500 years later - using online interactive media?

The 'Life of the Buddha Interactive' is an exciting new resource for 8-12 year-olds in Religious Education.

Clear Vision, the FWBO's educational charity based in Manchester UK, have a reputation for lively, informative, video-based materials for Buddhism in RE. With their first

interactive resource, they've become possibly the UK's first faith group to embrace the new opportunities offered by online learning in RE.

The Life of the Buddha Interactive features 7 video clips with questions, activities, extra information, teacher's notes and a friendly help-lion called Bodhi. (See if you recognise his voice!)

Later in the year a home-use version will be available – there's already a [sample section](#) available here.

Munisha, education officer at Clear Vision told FWBO News - "It's very exciting finding new ways of stimulating young people to examine their experience in the light of the Buddha's teaching. These new materials are really distinctive: we believe that new kinds of activities, involving carefully guided use of the internet, can offer schools unprecedented access to the contemporary Buddhist world."

The move from DVD to interactive online materials has been made possible through the generosity of a Manchester Friend who specialises in Flash software.

All product details may be found at [www.clear-vision.org/Teachers/LOB.aspx](http://www.clear-vision.org/Teachers/LOB.aspx), or contact them at the [Clear Vision Trust](#), 16-20 Turner Street, Manchester M4 1DZ. tel 0161 839 9579

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 04, 2009

## First ordination in Sweden



During a public ordination ceremony held on January 31st at the Stockholm Buddhist Centre, Sweden, Sanna Frost became Nagajyotis (Sanskrit, long first 'a'). Her name means 'light, splendour, radiance of the nagas (literally serpent-demons)'. Ratnadarini was private and public preceptor. Nagajyotis ordination was especially significant as it was (we believe) the first ordination to be held in Sweden.

Sadhu!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 03, 2009

## TBMSG activities expanding in North, South, East India.

The function of Dhamma is to cleanse the mind of its impurities and to make the world a kingdom of righteousness. Its function must promote learning open to all and must breakdown barriers between Man & Man, and should teach that Worth not Birth is the measure of man. — Dr. Ambedkar

**DHAMMAKRANTI MAHASHIVIR**

27th January 2009  
to  
31st January 2009

Spiritual Teacher  
Dhammachari Subhuti

The Dhammachakra Buddhist Center of New Delhi invites you to gather in the foot-steps of Sakyamuni Buddha for a four days meditation, Dhamma study and practice retreat. This retreat is inspired by the Buddha's teaching of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity and Bodhisattva Babasaheb's vision of Casteless society. Come gather with us to envision a more peaceful, egalitarian society, for the true liberation for all beings, and to fulfill the dream of Prabuddha Bharat.

Venue : Aggrwal Dharmshala, Ward No. 8,  
Mahroli Main Market, Mahroli, New Delhi

Donation: Rs. 350/-

**Contacts**

Dh. MaitriveerNagarjuna	9313394798	Dh. Mitra Charan Singh	9911339203
Kavushal Kishor	9869636124	Dh. Mitra Rajesh	9213540473
Anand Lathane	9899312218	Dh. Mitra Man Ram	9968345442
Dh. Mitra Ram Kishore	9711850871	Dh. Mitra Kuldinder	9968789987

RSVP  
DHAMMACHAKRA BUDDHIST CENTER, NEW DELHI

The Trailokya Bauddha Mahasangha, or TBMSG – as the FWBO is known in India – continues to expand the range and size of its activities. November through March are traditionally the season for ‘outreach’ and this year is no exception. In fact there are three large events coming up, in three corners of India -

### North India

In North India we’ve heard from Maitriveer Nagarjun, a young Order Member studying for a higher degree at the prestigious JNU university, he says -

“Here I am sending you an image of the PAMPHLETS for another step ahead for the Dhammakranti (Dhamma Revolution) in NORTH INDIA. It’s difficult to organise in a New Place like Delhi, but I am feeling satisfied to contribute one more step in Delhi and for the rest of the states in NORTH INDIA.

“Subhuti (from England) will be the main teacher. This Four-Day residential retreat, with food organized by Jawaharlal Nehru University Students for Social Human Welfare, will welcome people from all different cultures, communities and backgrounds to listen and study why we need BUDDHISM in human life, especially with reference to the work of BODHISATTVA BABASAHEB Dr. B. R. AMBEDKAR. . Subhuti will lead the retreat with Dhammacharies at our Venue”.

### Bodh Gaya



Next is a large 1000-person retreat to be held at Bodh Gaya, in North-Eastern India. They say –

“The 7th International Dhammakranti retreat will be held at Buddhagaya from 1st march evening to 6th evening.

“This will be the third and largest International Dhammakranti Retreat in Buddha Gaya organized by the Dhammakranti Social Institute, TBMSG, India. These retreats have already made a considerable impact

throughout India, giving people from all castes and classes an opportunity to practice Dhamma together and form a Casteless Society in the true sense. In India this is truly a precious opportunity.

“The major attractions on the retreat are Meditation under the Bodhi Tree, Dhamma Talks, Buddhist Rituals, Group Discussions & Cultural Activities. All present will be making a contribution to reviving the Dhammachakra (Dhamma Revolution) in the World. Dhammachari Subhuti will lead the Retreat. The retreat will be held at the Nyingma Monastery in Buddha Gaya.

“For more details please contact us at tel 0091-9371181404. Thank you”.

Continued...



### Tamil Nadu

1,500 miles away, in a completely different landscape, language, climate and culture – but still in India – we’ve heard from a group of graduates from TBMSG’s training program at Nagaloka. They say -

“Dear Dhamma Friends, Namō Buddha.

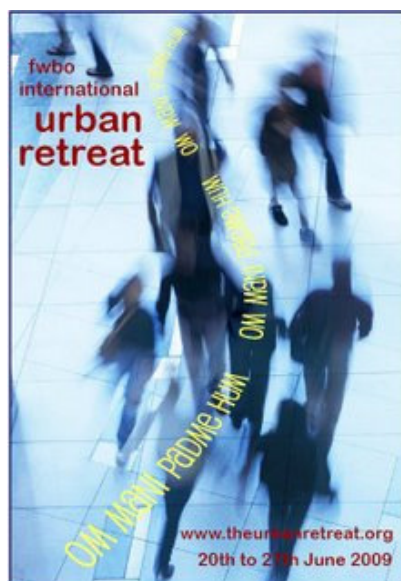
“The Friends of Nagarjuna Training Institute (NTI) is organizing the first Mass Retreat in

Tamil Nadu, India from 12th March evening to 15th March evening 2009. This retreat is organized to gather around 300 people from South India. It is a good opportunity to learn and practice the Dhamma with hundreds of followers of Buddha and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. This is truly a precious opportunity in South India to bring people together irrespective of class, caste and religious background. These retreats may have a considerable impact on society and an opportunity to explore the importance of practicing Dhamma to establish a casteless society in the true sense.

“The major components of the retreat are Group Meditation, Dhamma Talks, Buddhist Formalities, Chanting Buddhist songs, Group Discussions and Buddhists Cultural Activities. Dhammachari Lokamitra, a Buddhist spiritual leader will lead the Retreat. The retreat will be held at Shanthi Nilayam, Vedamary Community College, Mambazhapattu Road, Perumpakkam, Villupuram Dist, PIN – 605 301. Tamil Nadu.

“Many people from very poor economic backgrounds are expected to participate in the retreat. A donations scheme is being set up to help many of them to attend this. Your donation will help the Revival of Buddha Dhamma movement in South India. Come and join this historic event to transform our society in to a New Society – based on Liberty, Equality and Fraternity, and fulfill the dream of Bodhisattva Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.

For more details please contact us: email: [visuddhaloka@gmail.com](mailto:visuddhaloka@gmail.com) mobile: + 91 9841 255 342 web: [www.visuddhaloka.wordpress.com/](http://www.visuddhaloka.wordpress.com/)



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 02, 2009

### FWBO International Urban Retreat: plans take shape

Plans are taking shape for a major new FWBO event: the Movement's first 'International Urban Retreat'.

Vajragupta, who works for the FWBO's Development Team, says -

“This year we are running the first ever FWBO International Urban Retreat. All over the world, local FWBO Centres will run 'urban retreats', all during the same week in June.

"On an 'urban retreat' you carry on living and working in your normal circumstances, but with a difference...

"The week starts with a day retreat at your local FWBO Centre – this will be on Saturday 20th June. During that day you'll be helped and encouraged to set up the conditions to take your practice deeper. To support you during the week, there will be talks, led meditations, and other resources available, both locally and on-line.

"The urban retreat ends with another day event at your Centre on 27th June – this will include the opportunity to reflect on how it went, and where you want to take your practice next...

It's simple enough but the benefits are many –

\* you can gain confidence in your practice... the urban **retreat** shows you how you can create positive states of mind in the midst of everyday life.

\* you can go deeper... link-up with other people at your Centre and help each other to practice more intensively for a week.

\* you can be inspired... you'll be part of an international event, practising with people from FWBO Centres all over the world.

"For those who can't attend an urban retreat at a FWBO Centre, there is the chance to do the retreat on-line - for details check the website [www.theurbanretreat.org](http://www.theurbanretreat.org) (coming soon) or via the **FWBO Page on Facebook**.

"As part of the retreat we'll be collaborating with various FWBO projects – **Wildmind**, **Free Buddhist Audio**, **Videosangha**, and hopefully **Breathworks**. Watch this space - we'll be posting more details over the coming weeks".

## **FWBO Address List - major update published**



The FWBO's main address list has recently benefitted from a major overhaul, and as a consequence many FWBO groups have been listed there for the first time.

The new list is available on the main fwbo website at [www.fwbo.org/contacts/addresses.html](http://www.fwbo.org/contacts/addresses.html).

In addition an 'in-house' version has been prepared for use by those running FWBO Centres or groups – please contact FWBO News if you are interested in a copy of this. One delightful discovery was that there are no less than 57 residential FWBO communities still in existence, spread across nine countries. It's certainly true that a much smaller proportion of the FWBO now live in communities compared with ten or fifteen years ago, but community living is clearly alive and well in the FWBO Sangha.

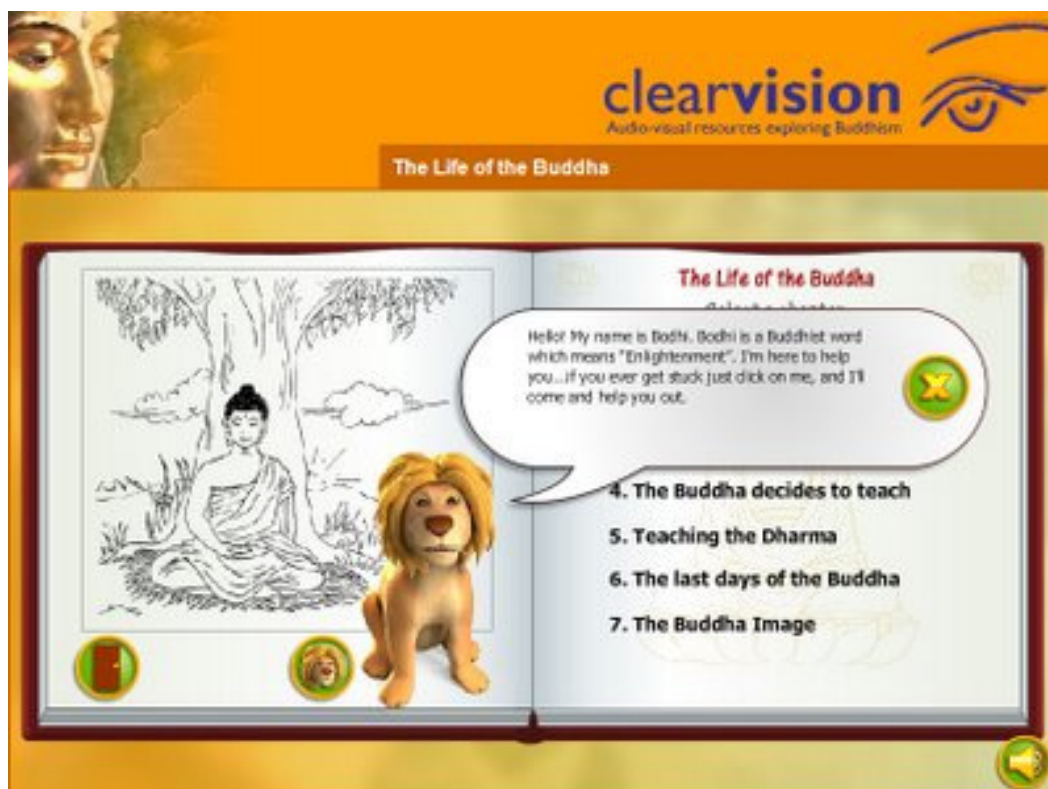
It also became apparent that since the list was last revised, new FWBO groups have sprung up in a substantial number of new places, especially around the UK but including such out-of-the-way places as the West of Ireland, where there are three groups - all run single-handedly by Sinhaketu!

In addition, some at least of the many TBMSG Centres in India have been added, in a lot of cases for the first time.

Any corrections to the list are welcome, please contact FWBO News at any time. Any readers interested to start an FWBO group where they live are also invited to get in touch.

## In this month's edition of FWBO News:

Interactive Buddhism from ClearVision; new Dharma training course launched; three articles on money; Sangharakshita's financial life-story; and more...



### Date for your diary: FWBO International Urban Retreat

June 2009 will see the FWBO's first ever International Urban retreat.

These have been pioneered at a few FWBO centres over the past few years, and have proven both popular and effective.

The dates are **20-27th June 2009**.

All readers of FWBO News world-wide are welcome to take part, whether or not they are near an FWBO Centre. Find it on Facebook – look for the **International Urban Retreat 2009**.

