

BODHI NEWSLETTER APRIL 06

Dear Bodhi members and supporters

Looking back at Bodhi activities over the past months, our residential weekend at Wiston Lodge in February stands out a particularly heartening and productive event. There were around 16 of us, spanning age 1 - 70, working and playing hard, clarifying directions for the next phase of our project. Some comments from participants: *lightness of leadership - sense of relaxed participation - looking after one another - being real with each other - we achieved a lot in a balanced way.*

Based on the exploratory workshops she led on the weekend, eco-architect Suzie Cotton has drawn up a plan of what the eco-village might look like. You will be able to view it soon on our new website www.bodhi-eco-village.org.uk. (Much thanks to Patrick Nicholson who helped set it up). We are also working on a business development plan that will see us to the point of purchasing land. We are definitely getting closer! Diarmid Baillie and Lusi Alderslow are making presentations to Local Authorities (LA) in Scotland to discuss our proposal and assess which LA is most likely to give us planning permission. Their power-point presentation is truly impressive - a few of us in the 'bodhi design study group' have grilled them with difficult questions in role-plays, pretending to be high ranking planning officers. We'll let you know the results soon. We have also worked on a 'social contract' that spells out, as a starting point for an evolving document, the do's and don'ts of the future community. Please get in touch if you want us to send you a copy.

In a way the village exists already, through our meetings, events and this newsletter. We very warmly welcome you to make contact (if you haven't done so already) and get to know us on one of these events, and respond to this newsletter with your ideas, poems, letters, reports about similar projects.

With spring greetings

Ratnadevi (chair)

BODHI *Building* EVENTS:

- **Working retreat** at Dhanakosa Retreat Centre, May 25 – 29, FREE. We will do light maintenance and gardening work for about 6 hours daily, with time for meditations, discussions, and free time to explore the wonderful scenery. Please ring Larry or Ratnadevi 0141 946 8096 to book and organise transport, by 18th May.
- **Ceilidh**, at (2/1) 27 Lacrosse Terrace, Glasgow, Friday 19th May 7.30. Bring veg. food, drink, poems, songs and stories to share. Please ring Diarmid to say you are coming. 0141 339 8101
- **W/E at Dunbaig**. David Blair's eco house, which we had been planning to visit for a while, very sadly burnt down recently. But David is still keen to have us come and visit his project. Activities that we could do would most likely be Rhodadendron removal (bashing) and repairing his deer barriers. Camping would be possible, with lots of good spots in the woods. The last two weekends in April are possibilities, please get in touch with Diarmid if you are interested. 0141 3398101
- **Non-Violent Communication Practice Group**. For those who have done the training another series of practice groups will be starting in May.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

- **Joanna Macy**, the Buddhist scholar and social activist is running a retreat on behalf of the Network of Engaged Buddhists called The Work that Reconnects, between 6010 July 2006 at Hourne Farm, Sussex. Costs £130/£90 enquiries Maitrisara@tiscali.co.uk or 01865 777297.
- **SCVO networking event** 21 to 25 June 2006 - Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre - Glasgow, Scotland especially with Scottish organisations. We need a couple of people who would like to represent Bodhi at a learning exchange event on the 23rd June. Interested? Phone Larry Butler to discuss (0141 946 8096) For more information, check their website: www.civicusassembly.org