

## BODHI NEWS August 06

In July we had a stall at the Big Tent in Falklands, Fife. There were eco groups all from all over Scotland. We did two workshop presentations about Bodhi and distributed hundreds of leaflets. We've had several enthusiastic supporters join since then. No news yet about charitable status, we should hear any day now. We are slowly gathering funds to implement our Business Development Plan which is now posted on our website. There have been visits to eco-projects in England and Germany and in September one new supporter will be visiting a 25-year-old eco-village in Italy.

### Research Visits

Over the summer, Lusi & Danny & Robin visited **Tinker's Bubble**, a small eco community in Somerset. Here are a few extracts from their notes:

Tinkers Bubble, in Somerset, is 7 miles from Yeovil in a rural location. There's no website/email. Phone no. 01935 881975

The vision is 'sustainable living on the land' for example there is a fossil fuel ban on site (except for emergency lighting). Another interviewee responded that the vision is 'sustainable land management'.

To become a resident you need to ask after a few visits. You are then given a 3 month probation, and then have to ask every 3 months for the first year whether you can continue to stay. Once you have been there a full year you can then become a shareholder.

To become a shareholder you have to ask at a monthly meeting. If everyone agrees then you wait a month before paying your dues (£2,000). In theory only shareholders have a 'vote' at meetings, but in practice everything is done by consensus including residents who are not shareholders.

They are off grid electric. They have on site solar (PV) and wind electricity generation. All houses/benders have lights, there are also some re-chargers (e.g. for the phone), and one person even runs his laptop there. They use compost toilets to make humanure which is spread around the fruit trees in the orchard. Grey water is just run off the hill. Food waste is given to the chickens/composted.

Their full report will be posted on our website soon. They did a workshop on eco villages at the Big Green Gathering ([www.big-green-gathering.com](http://www.big-green-gathering.com)) and have been invited to do a presentation at next year's Lib/Dem conference in Brighton.

Larry and Ratnadevi visited **Liebesgarten**, an eco-village that was established in Germany in 1985. Here are a few extracts from their report which will also be posted on our website:

Lebensgarten is a suburb of Steyerberg in Northern Germany. The nearest city is Hanover, about an hour by car. website: [www.lebensgarten.de](http://www.lebensgarten.de)

The project was set up in 1985 inspired by Findhorn. Two wealthy men bought the land and existing houses. The place has a sad history. It was built as a Nazi village where women would breed the perfect human race – Hitler’s children....

The village changes whenever someone comes or goes. Children have gone away, some have come back. There are many old injuries, personal hurts, unresolved. Now they are having what they call “Supervision” with support from another eco-village: Sieben Linden. After 10 years with no seminars on Permaculture, this is now being offered again....Margrit, one of the founder members said “the people who stay are able to give without expecting anything in return, are able to let go of their original vision”.

Alfgard was our host. She has a beautiful house on the edge of the village with guest accommodation for 7 people. Simply furnished, very welcoming. We shared a meal with her on our first evening and she offered many insights about LG from her 18 years as a member. For the past year she has been unwell with a heart condition and a recent accident. She participates in some groups but has withdrawn from active involvement. She told us that there is a big gap in the village between the “haves and have nots”. “Money is almost a taboo subject”. It is important for Bodhi that we are transparent about money.....

**Argyle and Bute Local Authority:** Our research development team (Lusi Alderslow and Diamid Baillie) did another presentation to local planners. They have two more presentations to do (East Ayrshire, Dumfries&Galloway) before writing a report and recommendations for further action.

### BODHI Building EVENTS:

**Introduction to Permaculture.** Bodhi have arranged for Ed Tyler to lead an Introduction to Permaculture day in Glasgow on **Saturday 2nd of September '06 – 10am to 5pm**. Ed is a trainer who teaches Permaculture design courses at Kilmartin House in Argyle <http://www.kilmartin.org/>.

*Diarmid says: ‘Along with a few other Bodhi members I have attended his full design course and I love his teaching style and depth of understanding of nature. Ed is charging £10 per person for the day which is an amazing rate. The introduction is intended to inspire you to attend the full training course. Ed will be adapting the day to the needs and concerns of the Bodhi Project.’*

The venue will be 14 Garrioch Drive & Kirklee Allotments. On Saturday evening will be an opportunity for a good Ceilidh until bedtime.

We see Permaculture as one of the foundations of the Bodhi project and it looks very likely that, as with NVC training, completion of a Permaculture design course will be a criterion for living in the village. Places are limited to 12. To book please send a cheque for £10 payable to “Bodhi” @ 14 Garrioch Drive Glasgow G20 8RS. Further details will be sent upon application

**Ceilidh on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September from 6pm @ 14 Garrioch Drive, Glasgow G20 8RS** Please bring veg. food, drink, poems, songs & stories to share. This is a chance to informally meet and get to know each other better. Please ring Larry to say if you are coming. 0141 946 8096

**Bodhi Eco Village Trust** (that's the name on our current constitution) will have an **AGM on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 7pm @ 14 Garrioch Drive**. This meeting is for active members/volunteers who have been helping with research and development. Please let us know if you would like to become an active member. We assume that most Bodhi supporters who live some distance want to simply be kept informed of our progress, and hopefully join us on longer events and workshops.

### **Regular groups:**

**NVC practice group** is open to Bodhi supporters who have done a weekend course in Non Violent Communication, or have learned the methods through reading and personal practice. We take turns facilitating the group and are committed to applying the principles in our daily lives. This group meets twice a month in different venues.

**Eco-Design Study Group** has been writing a draft Social Contract for how we intend to share our lives in the village. We share information we glean from reading about and visiting established eco projects. We try to follow and implement the principles of Permaculture both now and for our future village(s). We meet monthly usually at Lusi & Danny's house.

**A Peer Meditation Group** will be meeting weekly on a Sunday evenings from 8pm. The venue may change from week to week. This is open to people who have a regular meditation practice and are willing to share their experience. We will take turns leading the meditations. Contact Larry if you'd like to join: 0141 946 8096

### **Dates for the diary**

Winter/ Summer Solstice Retreats led by Ratnadevi & Larry: 15 to 22 December 2006  
And 15 to 22 June 2007. Further information from Dhanakosa: 01877384 213.  
[info@dhanakosa.com](mailto:info@dhanakosa.com) and [www.dhanakosa.com](http://www.dhanakosa.com)

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