



AUGUST 2007 NEWSLETTER

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1. NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

WELCOME to new Bodhi supporters. A couple of us have been looking at the website links page. We are trying to organise, annotate and extend it. If you have any favourite websites which you think are highly relevant to Bodhi, which you think we should link our site to, please could you email the site and a short description of it to info@bodhi-eco-project.org.uk -

Last week I attended a facilitator training course for the Great Turning and I believe it is a cornerstone for Bodhi. Here Chris Johnston says:

When people ask me what the Great Turning is, I describe it as a positive vision for what can happen in our times. Confronted by disturbing trends of global ills, the Great Turning is way of thinking about, and participating in, a constructive response. All our small steps can add, interact and weave together to create a much vaster turning towards a life sustaining society. But when you're in the middle of such a large-scale historic process, it can be difficult to recognise the bigger whole made of many smaller parts.

I recommend that Bodhi supporters subscribe to the Great Turning Times newsletter which comes out three times a year. See below.

2. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Bodhi Events	Date	Location
Mindful Living (residential weekend)	12 th – 14 th October	Wiston Lodge, near Biggar, Lanarkshire
Edinburgh Bodhi Lunch	15 th August	Drill Hall, Dalmeny Street
Other Events	Date	Location
'Making Light of Energy'	24 th July	Glasgow Science Centre
Critical Mass Bike Ride	27 th July, 31 st August	5.30pm George Sq, Glasgow
Big Green Gathering	1-5 th Aug	Somerset
Green Living Experience	11 th Aug	SCI, Fife
Belladrum music festival	9-12 th Aug	near Beauly, Inverness
Camp for Climate Action	14-21 st Aug	Heathrow airport
Alternatives to Violence Workshops	24 th – 26 th Aug 2 nd - 4 th Nov	Glasgow
Introduction to Permaculture	25 th August	Kilmartin House
Peace One Day events	21 st Sept	organise an event locally
Permaculture Design Course	29&30 th Sept 27&28 th Oct 17&18 th Nov	Kilmartin House, Argyll & Bute
Ecovillage Design Education	27 Oct–24 Nov	Findhorn Foundation

More details about these events and, in some cases, how you can help can be found later in the newsletter.

3. RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT REPORT FROM LUSI

Having attended both the Treefest in Edinburgh and the Big Tent in Fife, we got a lot of positive feedback and a few new members. The Treefest stall was impressive in that Eva and Justin managed to set up their yurt. The Big Tent stall was really impressive since, with minimal notice, Leilani made a beautifully creative display using plants, chard, potatoes, and even a toy giraffe (showing the different aspects of Bodhi e.g. permaculture, NVC etc). We met interesting people including someone in Fife council; a St Andrews University lecturer on sustainable development; a lecturer at Edinburgh University leading courses on sustainable architecture; a woman from the Quaker Housing Association (who are developing a co-housing project for 20-30 older folks); Gareth Roberts from Craigmillar Self-build in Edinburgh (an interesting group I hadn't heard of that are focusing on affordable self-build homes); and I (briefly) heard Mandy Haggith from Assynt speaking. All in all they were productive weekends.

Having sent out emails to 12 local authorities (which we had not previously contacted), I have received varied replies, from no response to a variety of questions particularly about sites and kinds of locations. However I have not yet successfully arranged any more meetings.

The site which Diarmid and I were shown around by the local planners in Lochgilphead, Argyll and Bute, is called Kilmory Home Farm. There is now a community group being set up locally who are wanting to develop it into a Centre for Sustainable Living. There may be scope here for Bodhi to be partners in this development in some form or another. The management committee decided that this is too far away to be Bodhi's main ecovillage centre (since it is 2.5 hours from Glasgow on the bus, and an hour from Oban by car since there is no public transport) but could see us being a partner of some sort.

Bodhi Eco-Project has been researching the possibility of some low rent office space, current use at one to two days a week. So far our enquiries have not met with any success, though there may be an opportunity in Edinburgh with the Melting Pot opening in September. If anybody has any ideas, please do let us know.

4. FUNDRAISING – an update from Mhairi

5. REPORT FROM FIFE MEETINGS – Education Group

On Sunday 10th June Ratnadevi, along with Eva and her children, visited a group of families and individuals in Fife who wanted to find out more about the Bodhi Eco-Project. While the kids played in and out of the small Charlottetown village hall, Ratnadevi gave a presentation on the Bodhi Eco-Project and there were lots of questions and discussion.

The Education Group met again on Monday the 16th of July, ably assisted by Justin and Hamid, as playmates for the kids. After a really interesting discussion, punctuated as always by small people falling over and needing wees, we decided that we'd really like to share our ideas with the group at the Wison gathering in October. We thought we could give a short presentation of our ideas so far, which everyone could attend, and follow this with a workshop for people who want to go into things further. This would also be a good point for people who'd like to get more involved with the group to do so.

6. REPORT FROM EDINBURGH GROUP MEETING

Bodhi East Coast group was launched yesterday, with 20 people attending the first meeting. We began with an unusual and practical ice-breaker: putting up a yurt (actually, we really needed the extra space, as our living room isn't big enough for that many people, but it was a really nice way of getting everyone joined in and working together!). Then we all tramped inside and squeezed ourselves neatly round the edges. Larry was asked to say a bit about how the Glasgow group works, and there were lots of other questions and thoughts about Bodhi. We spoke about our interests and ways in which we could connect with one another and feed in to the project. There's an open lunch invite from **12 till 2 on the 15th of August at the cafe of the Old Drill Hall, Dalmeny Street**, which is at the bottom of Leith Walk. And there's

a new email list for us to keep in touch and grow the group. Find it at:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bodhieastcoast/>

7. RECOMMENDED READING, VIEWING & SURFING

Great Turning Times: An excellent website is: www.greeturningtimes.org and all Bodhi supporters would be wise to subscribe to their newsletter. Here is a sample entry:

The first good news concerns plastic bags in the English town of Modbury. Britain gets through eight billion bags a year, while the world as a whole uses 1.2 trillion. But since May 1st this year, Modbury has become a plastic carrier bag free zone. All the shops, including supermarkets, have stopped supplying them. See

http://environment.guardian.co.uk/waste/story/0,,2080653,00.html?gusrc=rss&feed=29#article_continue for the inspiring story of how this happened. There's more information at <http://www.plasticbagfree.com/>

Ecovillages – a practical guide to Sustainable Communities by Jan Martin Bang. Floris Books 2005. ISBN 0-86315-480-8

8. EVENTS IN DETAIL

MINDFUL LIVING (Residential Weekend) **Wiston Lodge, by Tinto Hill, near Biggar** **12th – 14th October 2007**

Meet other Bodhi supporters. We are planning a relaxed programme of meditation, some bodywork (Yoga and Chikung) and workshops in some of the skills we want to see flourishing in our eco-village: compassionate communication, permaculture and the arts.

Wiston Lodge is in a quiet secluded corner of Lanarkshire surrounded by 55 acres of woodland at the base of Tinto Hill in the Upper Clyde valley.

Cost: £60.00 for Bodhi Supporters (including tuition, food, and accommodation). Reductions for people on low incomes and some bursary places.

Contact: To guarantee a place please send a £30 deposit (cheques should be made payable to 'Bodhi') to Larry Butler, 14 Garrioch Drive, Glasgow G20 8RS, Tel 0141 946 8096. email: info@bodhi-eco-projects.org.uk
(further details will be sent upon application)

Tuesday 24th July – **'Making Light of Energy'** Debate at the Science Show Theatre, Glasgow Science Centre. Doors open at 1830 for 1900 start.

Explore how understanding plants' use of solar energy could help us to harness the sun's power. Prof. James Barber (Imperial College) and Prof. Christine Raines (University of Essex) will describe how their research is making this new technology possible. Renewable energy expert Prof. Paul Mitchell and the social scientist Steve Yearley will discuss the wider implications and issues surrounding this technology.

Booking essential: to register for your free place, please email patrick.middleton@bbsrc.ac.uk

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE - FIFE

11th August: Green Living Experience day: Spend a whole day at the Earthship looking at easy and practical ways in which you can reduce your environmental impact, right now! Booking required. More information on <http://www.sci-scotland.org.uk/gle.html>

28th July, 25th August, 22nd September, 13th October

Power to the People micro renewables workshops.

One day workshops for people interested in installing micro renewable energy generation on their property. Booking required. More information on <http://www.sci-scotland.org.uk/pttp.html>

Earthship as a meeting place: The Earthship is available throughout the year to be booked as a unique meeting place for your organisation. More information on <http://www.sci-scotland.org.uk/meetingplace.html>

Esmond Tresidder - Earthship Visitor Centre Officer

esmond@sci-scotland.org.uk www.sci-scotland.org.uk

BIG GREEN GATHERING

1-5th August

Europe's biggest green gathering. Somerset, England.

See www.big-green-gathering.com

THE CAMP FOR CLIMATE ACTION 2007

Tuesday 14th August to Tuesday 21st August

Eight days of low-impact living, debates, learning skills, and high-impact direct action tackling the root causes of climate change. Why?

The science is clear - we have 10 years to save the world from catastrophic climate change. We must act now to take action against the worst polluters and create real sustainable futures. The fate of life itself for generations to come is in our hands. The time to act is now. For details, see

<http://www.climatecamp.org.uk/>

ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE WORKSHOPS 24th – 26th August and 2nd – 4th November in Glasgow

Do you ever feel *angry, frustrated, resentful, ignored, bullied, you might lose control*? Do you feel hurt by violence, or the threat of violence?
If you want to share those feelings and experiences with others and find your own alternatives to violence, then our workshops are for you.

Contact: For more information contact AVP Glasgow Coordinator Martin Mansell on 01505 842380 or email mamansell@hotmail.com

PERMACULTURE DESIGN COURSE

Several Bodhi members have completed various amounts of this course which is run by the renowned Ed Tyler. Ed's enthusiasm is infectious and the importance of permaculture to saving the planet cannot be emphasised enough. Although some people think it is just about gardening, from this course you will learn that there is a lot more to 'Permanent Culture' than growing organic food.

You can attend one, two or all of the modules listed below. We hope it will be running again next year too (so you can do any modules you have missed).

25th August - Introduction to Permaculture
29th & 30th September - Module 1 - Gardening
27th & 28th October - Module 2 – Architecture and Design.
17&18th November – module 3 – Site Surveys; understanding forests.
26th & 27th January – module 4 – Renewable Energy and Waste Treatment.
23rd & 24th February – module 5 – Community Development.

Venue: Kilmartin House, Argyll (except mod3). More info from www.kilmartin.org.

Please book with Sally Wilkin: sally@kilmartin.org or 01546 510278

ECOVILLAGE DESIGN EDUCATION

27th October – 24th November: Training for Trainers at Findhorn Foundation.

Module details

Social Design – Week 1: Oct 27 – Nov 2 Building Community & Embracing Diversity; Communication Skills, Conflict Facilitation and Decision-Making; Coaching, Personal Empowerment and Leadership, Celebrating Life: Creativity and Art

Ecological Design – Week 2: Nov 3 – 9 Whole Systems Approach to Ecological Design; Appropriate Technology: Water; Organic Agriculture and Local Food; Appropriate Technology: Energy; Green Building & Retrofitting

Economic Design – Week 3: Nov 10 – 16 Shifting the Global Economy to

Sustainability; How Money Works: Community Banks and Currencies; Right Livelihood; Social Enterprise, Nurturing Local Economies; Legal and Financial Issues

Worldview – Week 4: Nov 17 – 24 Holistic Worldview, Listening to and Reconnecting with Nature; Awakening & Transformation of Consciousness; Personal Health; Planetary Health; Socially Engaged Spirituality and Bioregionalism

Training fees

For the whole programme: £1345 /£1595 £1845

For one module: £350/£425/£510 according to income

Fees include tuition, accommodation, vegetarian meals and field trips

More info: www.findhorn.info/programmes/programme189.php

A BODHI SUPPORTER'S REQUEST

I'm setting up a business called **Genius Loci** – the Latin for “**spirit of place**”. I aim to help communities recreate “cultures of place” through the teaching of permaculture and the offering of permaculture designs for anything from individual plots through to the design of whole eco-communities.

I am also going to promote “**Our Climate Our Future**”, a forum-based website aimed at sharing and developing ideas so that communities and bio-regions can reduce their carbon footprint. This is done in a positive, friendly kind of way, showing people all the benefits of going green which I sum up in the word “convivial” i.e. creating social spaces where folk can have fun, enjoy each others' company and swap, exchange and share things.

One of the ideas is to encourage every community to have a “green hub” where people gather to look at a notice board with green “wants and offers”, preferably over a drink and food locally sourced and even organic! I'll be approaching various contacts in Argyll and Bute Councils and Glasgow City Council with these ideas.

If you you'd like me to teach introduction course, full design course, run a workshop, do a design for any project big or small, or get involved with “our Climate Our Future”, please send me a supportive email or write me a letter. Then I can forward it to Argyll Enterprise in the hope of getting a grant plus adviser support.

As soon as the website is up and running I'll send full details...

Ed Tyler: tyleredward@hotmail.com

CASTINGS

Mandy Haggith (Two Ravens Press, 2007) www.tworavenspress.com
£8.99, 69 pages, ISBN 978-1-906120-01-5

Who owns this landscape? The millionaire who bought it or the poacher staggering downhill in the early morning with a deer on his back? 'So asked Norman MacCaig...' and so began an article by Maggie Haggith in the journal for ReForesting Scotland. Haggith is a revolutionary writer, campaigner for forests and forest crofts and all living beings who depend on them. She was involved in the first community buy-out in Assynt on the mainland in NW Scotland.

Castings reflects her love of the land in three parts: *Casting Ashore* about home in Assynt, *Casting off* is a tribute to the River Kelvin in Glasgow, and *Casting Adrift* are encounters from around the world –

Wealth

an Outspan Valencian orange
grown in South Africa
bought in Siberia
eaten in China

globalisation: so sweet, so juicy, so far

I first came across Haggith's writing while she was doing an Mphil in Creative Writing at Glasgow University. She came to one of our events: Thresholds – the poetry of space & place. *Castings* has associations with knitting, angling, worm-casts, healing (plaster on a broken bone). Haggith weaves a magic spell evoking the voices of land, sky and water. Her poems illuminate our natural world with clarity and compassion. Her carefully chosen words seem effortless in their craft. She inhabits her poems as much as she inhabits the land wherever she is.

Larry Butler

Please send your contributions for next newsletter by the 28th September 2007 to:

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