



bodhi eco-project(s) spring newsletter 2007

Welcome to new supporters. This newsletter introduces Eileen Ellis, our new membership secretary dealing with correspondence both post and email; she may be in touch over the next few weeks confirming your contact details; and she will be overseeing our files (making sure I don't mess them up!), and generally keeping some order at the office. We also welcome Lusi Alderslow, our research & development consultant, for a 6 month, one day a week contract from the beginning of April; she will be responsible for moving the project(s) forward a few steps closer to when we buy land. Please note the new look logo which will be on all our publicity. A new leaflet has just been printed and we are seeking volunteers to distribute them to friends and groups throughout the UK. We have found that the best way to get new supporters for Bodhi is by word of mouth, re-enforced with a leaflet and a personal invitation to get involved.

Eileen says:

"I am the newbie with Bodhi and looking forward to helping the project and getting to know everyone involved. It is a wonderful chance to be part of such an exciting, green and timely development. I am enthusiastic about people living and working to their potential and here is a project that gives many the opportunity (myself included) to contribute their very best.

It is a bit of a dream come true, after raising my family and gaining a science degree. Now I can really focus on the work, the issues I carry closest to me and I am sure to many of yourselves also!"

Lusi says:

"I am not an unfamiliar name in the Bodhi newsletter, and many of the people who have attended events over the last eighteen months will also know my

face - I'm the red-haired lass with the baby (who has recently, miraculously turned into a toddler).

You may also remember that last year I wrote a newsletter article about Tinkers Bubble eco-village in Somerset, and that Diarmid and I met with five local authorities as part of the scoping exercise, researching where we would be most likely to get local authority support and planning permission. I also helped with some funding applications, some more successful than others.

I am very pleased that Bodhi were awarded funding from Awards for All, and part of these monies will be used to employ me one day a week to perform research and development work. My position description reads: " This job is on a self-employed basis contacting Local Authorities, networking with other eco-projects/villages, investigating funding opportunities, and representing Bodhi at conferences and events."

The plan is that, starting in April, I will work out of Larry and Ratnadevi's house on a Monday 10 – 4pm ish, with some flexibility, for example to attend a meeting on a different day of the week (and therefore take time off in lieu). If we are successful in finding sufficient funding then we hope to move the office out of Larry's bedroom and into some office space, so if anybody knows of any inexpensive office space in the Glasgow area, please let us know.

No doubt you will be hearing more from me over the coming months. Until then -so long, and thanks for all the support! “

Time Travellers' Tales – facilitated by Eva Schonfeld

The Time Travellers at the Quaker Meeting House in Edinburgh were a widely ranging group, all enthusiastic and committed to the job in hand! We spent the morning laying the ground, exploring our inner worlds a little, and checking in with where our lives are now. In the afternoon we tackled the time travel itself: quite a tall order to travel 20 years into the future, specially with an extremely long and noisy Orange march right outside the window, calling us back for the whole duration of the exercise!! Nonetheless, people managed very well, and came back with a variety of insights and information that will all help to take the dream a few steps further into reality. Many thanks to all concerned!

Hazel Gibson summarises our ecovillage vision in twenty years time: “we see - Space, harmony, time and care for each other, sense of peace, sense of hard work through the years, sense of achievement, a self sustaining community (eco businesses), generosity of spirit, sharing, spiritual practice and compassion, cooperation and productivity, personal growth, trust and deep bonds across members of the community, simplicity, living by nature's patterns, less material possessions, connection to the earth, meaningful human relationships, strong local focus on produce and energy, permaculture, community trades in skills exchange rather than material goods, cross generational contact, dwellings which allow their owners to express

themselves very well in the design, sense of catastrophe outside the community possibly making conditions inside the community more basic - "survivalist edge", a community with strong links with an urban environment - demonstration and links with other ecovillage communities around the world - the concept of the growth and diversification of Bodhi - "Bodhi eco-projects".

Following a Thread: a suggestion for discussion by Ratnadevi

I would like to suggest that a part of this newsletter could be devoted to exploring topics of interest. In this issue, for example I would like to open up the thread of climate change. If you have a response to it, or want to introduce a new thread, you could email it to Larry for inclusion in next month's issue.

Thread: Climate Change. Why should I give up on cheap air travel when my friends don't and other green house gas emissions are much higher anyway?

...like the enormous carbon dioxide contributions of the ships that transport most of our food across the oceans; and like the methane rising from the melting Siberian tundra. Are our efforts at abstinence merely *tokenistic*, as George Monbiot asks in his book 'Heat' (<http://www.turnuptheheat.org/>)? Is his observation true, that when it comes down to it, *we consume as much as our incomes allow?* I'm almost halfway through his book and find it overall helpful in trying to understand some of the intricate issues surrounding the climate change debate. I like his honesty when he says that it is really hard to know which research to trust. And I am grateful that he actually believes that it is not too late to save the planet and that it can be done without relying on nuclear power (unlike James Lovelock). I don't agree with him when he says that the way to do it is mainly a political one. We are dealing with ethical issues and legislation alone won't change people's attitudes; I believe that a fundamental shift in our perception of ourselves in relationship to the world is needed. I am glad though that there are people in the environmental movement who are more politically minded than me; change is needed on all fronts.

It is easy to feel a sense of powerlessness. I look with sadness at our vandalised allotment, at the tiny tadpoles trying to survive in the remaining puddle of our pond. Feeling heavy-hearted when confronted with this lust for destruction of some underprivileged kids – last month they killed the bees. Re-building the pond will cost a lot of hard work; and there is no guarantee that it will not again be destroyed. The thought that really helps me not to give up flows along the lines of mother Teresa: *People say my work is a drop in the ocean and I reply that the ocean is made of drops.* Being aware of the repercussion of even a small effort within the 'web of life'. Buddhism, deep ecology and systems theory all point to the same truth of interconnectedness. (See the 'web of life' retreat later this month for an opportunity to experience 'the work that reconnects' by Joanna Macy. In my experience her methods do help to shift consciousness.)

Coming back to cheap air travel. It's the one area of energy consumption where eco-technology can't provide an alternative; it is and will remain a contentious area that demand ethical decisions. I don't want to say I will never fly again; and I don't want to feel guilty when I do. But I will continue to look very carefully at my reasons. I haven't taken a holiday flight for 5 years or so, but have used a plane to see my family in Germany for example. And they are all flying over to Scotland this year for my 50th birthday ceilidh and I haven't said 'Don't come if you have to fly.'

In our NVC practice group last night I role-played a conversation with a friend who is taking another cheap flight holiday. I don't want her to feel guilty – how can I address the issue in a way that leads to deepening understanding between us? Her defensiveness breaks down when I communicate that I don't want to stop her having her holiday. She seems to really respond to my heartfelt expression of my fear for the world. An understanding emerges that I simply want to know that she will consider the possible climate change implications of her decision.

When I am in touch with this sense of interconnectedness, not following the example of friends who spend regular holidays abroad feels like less of a sacrifice. It is actually freeing, being able to express my love and care for the earth and its inhabitants in this way. Also, I am becoming more adept at spotting what my real needs are: perhaps it's not a geographical change I need but just some time to myself in nature for example. I come to see more and more clearly that freedom is not primarily to do with being able to do exactly what I want. But with being able to be creative within boundaries I accept. This is as much true for art-making as it is for my life as a whole. But how likely is it that a significant proportion of the population will adapt similar ethical guidelines? Well; I trust that this piece of writing will be another drop in the ocean and look forward to mingling with other drops on the same subject.

eco-renovation network – www.eco-renovation.org

This is a new group to help householders improve the sustainability of our homes by sharing information and expertise, buying in bulk and learning through talks, workshops and work-parties. The website is open to all web users, but members have special privileges. Network members can add businesses, links, post news stories to the main site. Network members can also blog their experiences of eco-renovation on the site.

Eco-Renovation encompasses all improvements to an existing building that makes it more environmentally sustainable or that use materials with reduced environmental impacts. For example: energy and resource efficiency, efficiency and reuse, renewable energy installations, reducing waste, using reclaimed and recycled materials, using products with reduced environmental impact (e.g. organic paints, sheep's wool insulation etc.)

Bodhi will have a link to this website and we plan to explore ways in which we can collaborate and support each other including the development of an urban centre for alternative technology.

Bolshie – 57 Bank Street Glasgow

Fair-trade, organic and ethical boutique: Organic coffee bar: Made to measure in organic and fair-trade fabric. <http://www.bolshieclothing.com/>

Recommended Reading

HEAT – How To Stop The Planet Burning, by George Monbiot (Allen Lane, a Penguin imprint 2006) <http://www.turnuptheheat.org/> “George Monbiot knows not only that things ought to change, but also the they can change”

The Green Building Bible, volume 1, editor: Keith Hall
All you need to know about ecobuilding; essential information to help you make your home and buildings less harmful to the environment, the community and your family. www.greenbuildingbible.co.uk

Printed on Water, new and selected poems, by Gerry Loose (Shearman Books in association with Mariscat Press, 2007). As it says on the backcover, Gerry Loose is a poet, dramatist, horticulturalist, ecologist, activist. . . and he’s led workshops on the poetry of space & place. His poems can be found in strange places carved in stone and wood – the hidden gardens behind the Tramway, the Glasgow Botanic Gardens. A close observer of the nature, he sees the world around him as it is: *the slow / rise of // the bird in / the instant // before / landing* . Gerry Loose’s poems are “intimate and personal, public and global: a consistent philosophy and personality at work through history, an individual in specific context tilling the contexts with implement and wood” (Tom Leonard)

Forthcoming events

The Web of Life

A Deep Ecology workshop based on the work of Joanna Macy

led by Akuppa and Ratnadevi

Friday 7pm to Sunday 5pm, 27 – 29th April (non-residential) at Rokpa House, 7 Ashley St. Glasgow

Suggested donations: £65/ £50 (£40 for bodhi supporters)

Joanna Macy is a well-respected social activist; and scholar of Buddhism, general systems theory, and deep ecology. The central purpose of the Work that Reconnects is to help people uncover and experience their innate connections with each other and with the self-healing powers in the web of life, so that they may be enlivened and motivated to play their part in creating a sustainable civilization. Akuppa is the author of ‘Touching the Earth: a Buddhist guide to saving the planet’ and Ratnadevi is the chairperson of the Bodhi eco project. Both are members of the Western Buddhist Order, experienced workshop leaders and trained in Joanna Macy’s inspiring and playful methods.

more information about ‘ The Work that Reconnects’: www.ioannamacy.net

To book a place please send a deposit of £20 payable to Bodhi along with your name, address, tel. & email if you have one. Ring Ratnadevi if you have any questions: 0141 946 8096. **Bodhi Eco Project, 14 Garrioch Drive, Glasgow G20 8RS. [www. Bodhi-eco-project.org.uk](http://www.Bodhi-eco-project.org.uk)**

Wesak: The Celebration of the Buddha's Enlightenment

Saturday May 19th 11am- 4.30pm Hidden Gardens, Tramway, Albert Drive, Glasgow. A gala day with dancers, meditations, talks – Bodhi will have a stall at this event

The Big Tent

Minding the Future 15 to 17 June 2007

The Big Tent, Scotland's Festival of Stewardship is returning to Falkland in the summer of 2007.

Stewardship is about taking care of the things that matter and leaving our world better than we find it. Good stewards draw from the past, mind the future and always look beyond themselves. Whether you're interested in preparing for climate change, good management of industry, looking after our heritage, the future of local food, growing a strong craft culture or the places people live in, you'll find people with a common passion at the Big Tent.

This year's festival theme is **Minding the Future** and we are looking at ways we can make a difference to the world around us. Bodhi will have a stall at this event, and we need volunteers to talk to the public and pass out leaflets. Contact Lusi I: info@bodhi-eco-project.org.uk

www.bigtentfestival.co.uk

The Work that Reconnects: Training for Facilitators

Hourne Farm, Crowborough, Sussex, 3 – 10 July 2007

Facilitated by Chris Johnstone, Akuppa and Maitrīsārā

Cost £395/275/£100 waged/low waged/unwaged

How do you introduce the Work that Reconnects in a few hours? in a day? in a weekend? What do you need to bear in mind when you facilitate the activities? How do you create ritual spaces? How do you adapt Work that Reconnect approach for different audiences? How do you combine it with your existing interests and skills? How do you handle the group dynamics that can arise when doing this challenging work?

This event will be an opportunity to develop confidence in leading Work that Reconnects workshops, to discuss issues and questions about facilitation skills, to practice leading and give each other feedback in a supportive environment and to plan opportunities where facilitators can work together at key events.

To attend this workshop, you need to have participated in at least a day workshop based on the Work that Reconnects.

Chris, Maitrīsārā and Akuppa have experience of facilitating residential events, leading ritual in public spaces and offering short workshops using the Work that Reconnects approach. We aim to set up a structure within which participants can learn from each other. We would like to encourage facilitators to make the approach their own bringing in their own particular strengths, talents and interests. We aim to develop the Work that Reconnects approach in new, creative directions.

For further details and to book, contact Maitrīsārā at maitrisara@tiscali.co.uk 01865 777297 by 1 April 2007

Maitrisara

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Oxford, OX4 3DT

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e: maitrisara@tiscali.co.uk

Global Eco Village Network-Europe Assembly

at Convento San Giorgio, Italy, July 2007

<http://www.gen-europe.org/> A wonderful opportunity to meet this year will be our General Assembly of members.

7 – 13 of July 07

Arrival day for workshop: Saturday 7th of July,

Workshop Sunday 8th, and Arrival for GA

Monday 9th – Thursday 12th core time for GA

Friday 13th departure

It is possible to stay longer at the convent, please confirm. Due to the lack of EU funding we will not organize an Italian ecovillage tour.

Please register directly at: Nanni Laurent: nanni AT conventosangiorgio.it

www.conventosangiorgio.it

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Bodhi Eco Village Project
(Registered Charity SC037550)

Please treat all donations including membership fees (less insurance if applicable), that I have made to the above charity, since 23rd October 2006 and all donations I make from the date of this declaration, until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.

Title:Forename(s).....

Surname:.....

Address:.....

.....

..... Post Code:

Signature: Date:.....

Notes to Donor:

1. You must pay income tax and/or capital gains tax.
2. You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying us.
3. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax please let us know.
4. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.
5. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify please contact us.
6. Please notify us if you change your name and address. (If you do not let us know of any change any claim will be invalid.)

Please return to:

**Bodhi Eco Project
14 Garrioch Drive
Glasgow G20 8RS**