



NOVEMBER 07 NEWSLETTER

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## FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the 14 new supporters (making a total so far of 181), and two new Bodhi directors: Hamid & Leilani (see personal statements below). Our Wiston residential included 22 adults and 8 children. We danced and we sang and we envisaged the future and we did yoga and meditation and we played chess and told stories and made a bonfire. . . . Slowly we are building a community. For 2008 our aim is to get ready for buying land.

## 2. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Bodhi Events	Date	Location
Non Violent Communication	21 <sup>st</sup> November	14 Garrioch Drive, Glasgow
Bodhi Learning Web	2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Monimail, Fife
Our Climate Our Future	8 <sup>th</sup> December	Phoenix Centre, Glasgow
Climate March	8 <sup>th</sup> December	West Street, Glasgow
Bodhi Members weekend	18 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan08	Wiston Lodge
Bodhi Community Building Weekend	25 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> April	Wiston Lodge near Biggar
Other Events	Date	Location
Permaculture Design Course	17&18 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Kilmartin House, Argyll & Bute
Spokes Public Meeting with Cllr Phil Wheeler 'Transport in a New Era'	21 November 2007	Augustine United Church, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh
Buy Nothing Day	Saturday 24/11 at 12pm.	Buy Nothing Day Escalate Your Behaviour Buchanan St Tube Exit, Glasgow
<b>Critical Mass Bike Ride</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>5.30pm George Sq, Glasgow</b>
Peak Oil and Transition Towns	10 December 2007	Elphinstone Hotel, Biggar.

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

### 3. RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT REPORT & REQUESTS FROM DAN

I hope you are well. I cannot explain how chuffed I am to start the role as the Research and Development Consultant with Bodhi Eco-Project. To be involved in a project combining sustainable living, positive attitudes and community self-determination is an opportunity to relish. The major plans for the next coming months will be to secure funding for the new post of 'eco-communities education development worker' and for the 'project manager' to oversee the implementation of Bodhi. I will also be working with councils so that by February we have a choice of good quality land options to choose from! Lastly, I am looking forward to proactively expand the volunteer network, increase membership and assist with community-building events. Whatever your interest, passion or ideas about Bodhi's direction, from the choice of land to projects involved in the village, I greatly look forward to hearing from you.

Over the past week we have been busy communicating with housing associations all over Scotland to hone down our options for good quality land with the objective that WE GET READY TO BUY LAND BY THE END OF 2008! As always it would be great to know your thoughts on the development of Bodhi-eco-village every step of the way. So, please do get in contact with your thoughts particularly on..

Your (urban and/or rural) site preference  
Further ideas for organisations and business' to be involved in Bodhi.  
What to include in the information pack for prospective new members  
Anything else!

I look forward to hearing your thoughts,

Please do not hesitate to get in contact anytime on  
Email: [info@bodhi-eco-project.org.uk](mailto:info@bodhi-eco-project.org.uk)  
Tel: 07717811747

Warm regards

Dan Glass  
Bodhi Research & Development worker

### 4. FUNDRAISING – EVERYCLICK.COM

*A very brief note to thank you for making Everyclick your search engine and helping raise money for Bodhi Eco-Project. Every time you search using Everyclick, money is raised - and these funds are so important for the charity's work. In total you have helped us raise over £315,000 for a wide range of charities. Find out how much your charity has received:*

*<http://www.everyclick.com/uk/myeveryclick/chadetail?charityid=837055>*

*Our aim is to give you the very best search service on the web, whilst giving you the simplest way to raise money for your charity each and every day - thank you for making this possible.  
[www.everyclick.com](http://www.everyclick.com)*

The above message came from **everyclick**. I have found this search engine equally good as google, and each time you use it, we get a little bit of money for Bodhi. When you first use it, you need to choose Bodhi as the charity you want to donate to. Our Charity number is at the end of this newsletter. Please give it try....Larry

## 5. ECOVILLAGE DEVELOPMENT NEWS

I have been visiting an ecovillage development in Cornwall ...

They are looking for new members with some capital to bring to the project...

Info at: [http://www.positivenews.org.uk/artman/publish/article\\_1364.shtml](http://www.positivenews.org.uk/artman/publish/article_1364.shtml)

The contact for the project is Jackie: [jackie@trelay.org](mailto:jackie@trelay.org)

Regards - Jennifer.

## 6. ANIMAL VEGETABLE MIRACLE: Book Review (by Ratnadevi)

Barbara Kingsolver (with Steven L. Hopp and Camille Kingsolver): *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* (our year of seasonal eating) faber and faber, 2007, hardback £16.99

These days one is inundated with good advice on how to help combat climate change: 'Change your light bulbs!' the message resounds not just from the obvious sources, such as Greenpeace or Save the Earth, but from every newspaper, radio and television station; next it might be Shell and certainly will be Tesco (who are phasing out conventional light bulbs by 2011). In many ways that's great: the more people are developing environmental awareness the better. Every ton of Carbon dioxide not going into the atmosphere counts. However, I am not convinced that exposure to practical solutions alone will quite do the trick of changing old habits of thinking and behaviour, let alone address the political and economical underpinning of the reckless exploitation of people and resources. Personally, I need something more to help stop my addiction to comforting 'goods' that really don't do me or anyone any good.

So what are Barbara Kingsolver's recommendations in her new 'Animal, Vegetable, Miracle': change the light-bulbs, yourself, society, or a combination of these? (She doesn't talk about light bulbs at all, of course, because the book is about food.) Having just done some research on Deep Ecology, particularly the place of ritual in re-establishing a felt sense of our reciprocal relationship with nature, I was naturally sensitised to any pointers towards a spiritual perspective of some kind. I found that she avoids any overt references in that area, yet she playfully and gracefully includes that part in us that longs for meaning. 'Something *like* religion', she writes, 'a vow or pledge' was needed for the success of the project the book describes: to eat only locally produced food for one year. Starting from March, when asparagus comes into season, her family of 4 ate largely their own produce, topped up with produce from farmer's markets, and some allowed luxuries such as spices and coffee. She is a well-known writer ('The Poisonwood Bible') which helps to give credence to her blatant criticism of American food culture (or lack of, as she argues). In fact, the book is firmly established on American bestseller lists; it seems that US citizens are loving to be told that the way they eat is pathological; that it is killing them and the environment.

To some extent the book is a family project: her husband provides some hard evidence-based facts on commercial food production, land-use, pollution, etc; whilst her teenage daughter contributes recipes for seasonal cooking. There are many, often funny stories that draw you into their brave undertaking. At harvest time, inundated with a surplus of squash, they take to locking their front and kitchen doors to avoid the unwanted gifts from equally desperate neighbours. Hard work and sacrifice are involved; no sunbathing on the beach for them in August, when mountains of tomatoes have to be canned. The main message that comes across however is one of unabashed enjoyment and appreciation of the many collective activities involved in learning about, growing, harvesting, storing, preparing and eating their own food. 'The process was becoming its own reward for us' she writes.

The success of the book may well have to do with its attention to detail; its juiciness; and its appeal to that part of our psyche that yearns for an embeddedness in customs of old. 'When I

am cooking' she tells us, 'I find myself inhabiting the emotional companionship of the person who taught me how to make that particular dish'. I am sure this book will unlock secretly treasured memory doors for many readers. Cutting green beans into diagonal strips of just that length, with my mum and auntie, whilst listening to their contented banter. Opening pods of broad beans with my little thumbs, ravished by the velvety softness of the lining. The sheer drama and alchemy of canning; steaming pots and rows of sterilised glasses, red rubber rings and lids. There must not be any way of air getting in, otherwise it will be spoiled; which means going hungry! My memory of shelves of preserved runner beans and apple stew in our basement are inextricably linked with my mother's wartime experience.

Maybe we know deep down that we will not be able to continue our convenient food habits and dread the change that will come in the post-oil wake: no more bananas for us in the West. ('Very nice, I am sure, just a little bit extravagant for our kind.') This story of one family of *locavores'* joys and tribulations is inspiring in several ways: it reassures us that it can be done. It shows a way of feeding ourselves in a truly nourishing way; without the guilt associated with the over-packaged, food-mile-rich, rain-forest-destroying, people-exploiting, nutrients- deprived, processed food we have come to rely upon. I found it to be a thrilling read; Kingsolver's description of how to go about turkey re-production for example had me hold my breath in suspense (even though I don't eat meat myself). She shares with us, in a relaxed, wry and unpretentious way, a plethora of other interesting facts particularly about species diversity and preservation. (Why they grow 8 different types of tomatoes for example.)

'Altered routines were at the heart of what we'd gained', Kingsolver summarises. 'I share with almost every adult I know this crazy quilt of optimism and worries, feeling locked into certain habits but keen to change them in the right direction. And the tendency to feel like a jerk for falling short of absolute conversion.....It's the worst of bad manners – and self-protection, I think, in a nervously cynical society – to ridicule the small gesture.....Small, stepwise changes in personal habits aren't trivial. Ultimately they will, or won't, add up to having been the thing that mattered.'

So change your light bulbs, by any means; also find a way to grow some of your own food and/or support organic farmers' markets. Lobby politicians to act in long-term planetary interest. And read this book! It will charm you into changing your habits. (I have some blackberry and crab-apple jam stewing in the kitchen as I am finishing this review.)

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## 8. EVENTS IN DETAIL

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### BODHI LEARNING WEB PRESENTATION SUMMARY

**Paula Cowie** spoke about her longing to be part of a community where people truly care for and support each other and how she sees children as the future of the world and we adults as the ones who can help them through into that future. **Eva Schonveld** spoke about her experiences of how education can be different. Education can happen in many different modes: our culture tends to value formal teaching above all others, but play, observation, research, 'absorbing', day dreaming, imagining... all have their strengths as ways of assimilating information and developing skills and experience. We hope our education system in Bodhi will value all of these forms equally. **Leilani van Koten** outlined what this learning web could look like in practice - a learning space at the centre of a web of connections throughout the community, with people sharing their skills.

**Let's start building the Learning Web!**

The Education Group are inviting Bodhi families and friends (including those who are just finding out about Bodhi) along to Monimail in Fife from 10 - 4 on Sunday the 2nd of December. We'll meet on the village green and go play in the woods and bring lunch to share. We have Leilani and Hamid's house (just 5minutes walk) as a wet weather option. At some point in the proceedings the Education Group will have a meeting - also an open invitation (though you're welcome not to be part of that bit too!). If enough people are there who want to see it, we'd be happy to go through our presentation on our current thoughts again.

Please let us know if you're planning to come along. Contact: [leilani@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:leilani@dsl.pipex.com) for further details and directions.

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**OUR CLIMATE OUR FUTURE** (in collaboration with the Centre for Human Ecology)  
People Centred Solution to Sustainable Living: 9am – 11pm on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> December  
At The Phoenix Centre, 201 St James' Road, Glasgow G4 0NT.

You are invited to come to this special event which is part of the International Day of Action on Climate Change. We will be exploring practical ways we can all work together to reduce our collective carbon footprint as communities, villages, cities, bioregions. In the morning we will blow up a storm of ideas and, in the afternoon, draw up an action plan to make Glasgow Scotland's first Transition City. We would be delighted if you could join us!

We are drawing together a panel of speakers from different areas of work:

- Ben Brangwyn** from the Transition Towns Network
- Edward Tyler** of the Permaculture Association
- Eva Schonveld** from Portobello Transition Town
- Nick Wilding** from the Centre for Human Ecology
- Rachel Nunn** from 'Going Carbon Neutral Stirling'
- Gehan Macleod** of the Galgael
- Claire Carpenter** from The Melting Pot

The speakers will begin at 9.30am, with short presentations on their work and experiences. Then from about 10.30 – 12.00am we'll have an 'Open Space' session, where we will form into small groups and can talk about projects we're involved with – or would like to happen - and explore the ideas we feel inspired about.

At 12.00 we will have our packed lunches, and we're sure conversations will continue over the meal. Those of us who want to join the Climate March will need to leave by 12:30 (directions below). If you can't tear yourself away, the rest of us will be joining the rally at the end of the March, leaving at 2pm (again, directions below). The marchers are demanding urgent and effective action from the world leaders at the UN Climate Change Talks in Bali, and there will be a wide range of inspiring speakers at the rally.

At 4pm we will gather again for Tea and Scones, and another Open Space session, facilitated by Ben Brangwyn, exploring "Glasgow – Scotland's first Transition City?". Overleaf, there's more about Transition Towns – an exciting grassroots movement which is gathering pace across the country.

Finally, from 6pm there'll be a supper, followed by a free dancing with a DJ, *The Clachies*, *Protest & Harmony*, open mic poetry/songs and many other offerings!

We hope we've whetted your appetite! Please do get in touch if you'd like to come – share your projects and ideas with others, or simply take part in the conversations.

#### IMPORTANT NOTES FOR THOSE WISHING TO ATTEND:

**BOOKING:** Places are limited to about 100 people. You can book for the morning, afternoon, or evening or all three. If you would like to attend Our Climate Our Future, please could you book a place by contacting: [info@bodhi-eco-project.org.uk](mailto:info@bodhi-eco-project.org.uk) or write to: Bodhi, 14 Garrioch Drive, Glasgow G20 8RS

**Playroom:** Can you also let us know if you'd like to take up one or more places in the playroom for younger people, and the age of your child(ren).

**FOOD:** Please bring a packed lunch, and something to add to a simple evening meal with salad (e.g. a tub of hummous, some cheese, olives, something nice to drink...)

**DONATIONS:** Although we want to make this event free, we are asking for donations to help cover our costs. If you are able to contribute in the region of £5.00 or more it would really help.

If sending a donation in advance please make cheques payable to "Bodhi" (please sign a gift aid form on our website: [www.bodhi-eco-project.org.uk](http://www.bodhi-eco-project.org.uk))

#### PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

**9.00** Arrival, Registration & hot drinks

**9.30** Speakers on "*People Centred Solutions to Living Sustainably*"

**10.30** Open Space event with discussion groups

**12.00** Sharing insights and directions over lunch

**1 – 3** March & Rally at Amphitheatre on Clyde Street with speeches from invited speakers.

(This is a separate but linked event – connected to actions around the world on 8<sup>th</sup> December to coincide with the UN Climate Change Talks in Bali, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> December.

See [www.globalclimatecampaign.org](http://www.globalclimatecampaign.org) )

**3** Options include a cycle tour, urban permaculture walk

**4** Tea & scones. Continued Open Space groups on theme of: '*Glasgow – Scotland's first Transition City?*'

Facilitated by Ben Brangwyn, co-founder of the Transition Town Network.

**6** Potluck supper (bring food to share)

**7 – 11** Ceilidh including dancing, singing, poetry, stories, open mic...

#### HELP!

Volunteers are needed to help on the day.

Volunteers are needed to distribute flyers to attract more people to both the march and the Open Space. Please let me know if you can help – Larry 0141 946 8096

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**BUY NOTHING DAY**

Friday 23/11 12pm - Saturday 24/11 12pm. **Escalate Your Behaviour**- Buy Nothing Day is an informal day of protest against consumerism observed by social activists.

Buchanan Galleries - St. Enoch Centre - The Really Posh Shopping Centre on Buchanan St - Anywhere Where There's Escalators...

Races. Prizes (liberated stuff). Going Up the Down Way + Down the Up Way  
G.U.D.W.+D.U.W (like the traveller at the end of "Gladiators")  
and general spontaneous creation of escalator blockages.

**Meet Buchanan St Tube Exit, Glasgow, Saturday 24/11 at 12pm.**

Wear? Blank t-shirt / with? "i am not shopping" written on.

(Marker pens will be available on the day).

<http://www.adbusters.org/home/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buy\\_Nothing\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buy_Nothing_Day)

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**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).

17&18<sup>th</sup> November – module 3 – Site Surveys; understanding forests.

26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> January – module 4 – Renewable Energy and Waste Treatment.

23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> February – module 5 – Community Development.

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

Please book with Sally Wilkin: [sally@kilmartin.org](mailto:sally@kilmartin.org) or 01546 510278

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**BODHI RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND FOR FULL MEMBERS**

18 to 20 January 2008 at Wiston Lodge.

This event will be a nut & bolts, down to earth, getting real about money and getting ready to buy land. Mainly for people who have been actively involved for a year or more. We will provide a crèche for younger children, and there will be time for playing as well as working. If you have been a supporter for sometime and now wish to dive in and get more actively involved, this would be the event to attend. The weekend will also include our first AGM as a registered charity. If you are interested in becoming a full member, have a look at our website which explains how to do it.

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**SPRING COMMUNITY BUILDING**

25<sup>th</sup> to 27 April 2008 (venue to be confirmed).

For all Bodhi Supporters, family & friends. This will be an Open Space Event where the agenda is created by the people who come. More details will be included in the February Newsletter.

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## **9. THE BODHI STEERING GROUP**

We are Ratnadevi (Chair), Larry Butler (Secretary), Andy Marnie (Treasurer), Diarmid Baillie (Events), Eva Schonfeld & Justin Kenrick (Edinburgh/Lothian), Kate Shaw & Jude Lally (Centre for Human Ecology), and a big welcome to two new members: Hamid & Leilani van Koten (Fife & Learning Web)

Leilani lives in Fife with her husband, Hamid, and two young children, Samadi and Aliyyah. She spends most of her time with the children, playing, home-educating, and being active within a network of Fife home-ed and nvc families, which she greatly values being a part of. She aspires to find a path of spiritual growth through her parenting, and her vision for herself and her family is to be living at the heart of spiritual community, where we actively care for ourselves, each other, and the world.

Hamid yearns to live a spiritual life in the material world and has spent a number of years working and studying at the Beshara School of Esoteric Education. He has made a living as a furniture maker, a public artist and as an architectural design consultant. After self building the family home in Lanarkshire he moved with the family to Fife and now teaches cultural studies at the Design School, University of Dundee. He is interested in Eco -design, Sufism, Shamanism and any other isms as long as they help to fulfil our true destiny.

Please send your contributions for next newsletter by the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2008 to:

info@bodhi-eco-project.org.uk  
Bodhi Eco Project  
14 Garrioch Drive  
Glasgow G20 8RS

**www.bodhi-eco-project.org.uk**

**Charity#: SCO96376**