



## SUMMER 2007 NEWSLETTER

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*WELCOME* to new Bodhi supporters. There are now 146 of us and growing. We are beginning to look at sites with strong possibilities in Lanarkshire & Clackmananshire. With a busy Summer ahead: stalls at the Big Tent & TreeFest, Bodhi building for families in Fife, more presentations to Local Authorities, fund-raising . . . . we need all the support you can provide both in kind and cash! I hope to see many of you at the Wiston Lodge Residential in October. Let's wake up together! Larry (Bodhi Secretary)

### Dates for your diary

<b>Bodhi Events</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
An Introduction to Bodhi	10 <sup>th</sup> June	Charlottetown Village Hall, Fife
Mindful Living (residential weekend)	12 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Wiston Lodge, near Biggar, Lanarkshire
<b>Other Events</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
TreeFest	9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Inverleith Park, Edinburgh
Timber-Frame Self-Build Course (residential)	11 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Falkland, Fife
The Big Tent	15 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Falkland, Fife
Brighton Earthship Working Parties	18 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Brighton
Global Eco-Village Network – Europe Assembly	7 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Convento San Giorgio, Italy
Alternatives to Violence Workshops	24 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Glasgow

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

## **REPORT FROM OUR RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT**

Lusi Alderslowe has now been working with us for a month, which has been a wonderful way of moving forward on various objectives. So far she has been focusing on funding which has included reporting on previous applications, meeting with a fundraising specialist, and establishing a spreadsheet of trusts to which we could apply for funding. This has been varyingly successful, watch this space!

Lusi has also been in touch with several local authorities. Starting with the places we have already been in touch with, the East Ayrshire submission is still awaiting consideration by their committee (in August), and Perth and Kinross are not currently planning to update any of their local plans (so there is no opportunity to make a submission there). An article was put in the Sustainable Scotland Newsletter, which goes to local authorities throughout Scotland, and she met with Clackmannanshire Council viewing a possible site (a report on this will be published on our website in June). Lusi also made a submission to East Dumbartonshire council, and will be approaching other local authorities in central and southern Scotland. All excitement on this front!

Networking days, workshops and interesting events have been attended and reports written. Help will be required for stalls at interesting events and festivals throughout Scotland over the summer months, so if you might have a few hours spare, please get in touch.

## **RECOMMENDED READING (VIEWING & SURFING)**

### **FILM REVIEW by Rachel Mica Mccann**

'Eco-Village Pioneers' by Helen Iles is available from [www.undercurrents.org.uk](http://www.undercurrents.org.uk). The film follows the exciting developments of mainly UK based eco-villages and communities. It is inspiring to hear about so many new projects and useful to learn of the challenges and changes which are part of the process. With ideas on relating to local communities, funding and building, the film captures the joys, aspirations and occasional frustrations of all those seeking to tread lightly on the earth and to realise their dream. The film will be released with July's copy of Permaculture Magazine.

### **Sitka Center for Art and Ecology**

email: [info@sitkacenter.org](mailto:info@sitkacenter.org)

phone: 541-994-5485

web: <http://www.sitkacenter.org>

Larry visited this centre in Oregon. It could be a model for a Bodhi right livelihood business. Larry

### **Permaculture Argyll: a message from Ed Tyler**

The flower Maggie picked is globeflower (*Troillius europaeus*). This is a beautiful many-petalled flower which grows only in upland areas of Britain and is locally common - which means it's only common in very select areas (first time I've seen it in Argyll). So its location beside the ditch below the blackthorn thicket needs recording in the site plan, plus a note to hunt around to see if it's growing anywhere else on the site. When it flowers it should be unmistakable though it might be confused with marsh marigold (the leaves and upright habit tell you it's not). Please post a copy of the plan if you wish and I can add stuff if you like...

More about Kilmory Home Farm (following on from conversation with Danny)- was this the site the Council showed Bodhi as a possible eco-village site? If so I've just got involved with it myself. I am one of 50 or so folk looking to develop various social enterprise/ sustainability type things there. I could see Bodhi fitting in with this. What is great about the site is that green community activists are already involved...  
Take care, Ed

### **Recycling Central**

This is a one-stop shop for all your recycling information needs, and for inspiration on setting up your own recycling/composting initiatives. The website is really easy to use with lots of good information. Although there is a geographical bias for Glasgow, it is still informative for people throughout Scotland, check it out:

<http://www.recyclingcentral.info/>

The information from this group is really clear, colourful, informative and easy to read. The handouts make composting and recycling look so easy – which it is (though not all handouts make it look so easy).

Recycling Central (part of the WISE group) also support community groups to set up their own initiatives, from collecting cans in your tenement to setting up a community composting scheme. Bodhi will be inviting them to come and speak to inspire people to set up what they can in their own back yard.

### **Eco-village is leaving a small footprint**

**By Tanya McLaren**

The eco-village at the Findhorn Foundation is celebrating after a study recorded it had the lowest ecological footprint ever recorded in the developed world at just half the UK national average.

The study was undertaken by the Global Eco-village Network (GEN) in collaboration with the Sustainable Development Research Centre, which is based at the Horizon Scotland building on the Forres Enterprise Park, with technical support from John Barrett from the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) based at the University of York.

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION networking day – 19<sup>th</sup> April**

An interesting day at which I met with friends and made new connections. It started with 'Speed Dating' which I was a little dubious about, but found it interesting to get an overview of some of the other participants. The last person I met was called Alex Warren from the WISE group in Glasgow where he is developing recycling initiatives, trying to get lots of community groups involved in recycling and especially composting. We have stayed in touch and hope that he will be able to enthuse some Bodhi folk, friends, neighbours, family and others to get involved through a presentation and ongoing support.

The plenary speaker was Alastair McIntosh who was inspiring, as always, and got a lot of folk interested in human ecology. I also attended a workshop with Alastair on Avoiding Burn Out, at which I was given questionnaires, tips, interesting stories, and (typically) plenty of further reading. I also attended a workshop on Sus it Out which is a tool for seeing where a group is in terms of sustainability, whether they are really doing all that they could in this aspect, and aimed mainly at organisations that may not be thinking about their role in sustainable development, yet.

I also joined a discussion about how we could get more bums on bikes, with a woman from Sustrans. We brainstormed lots of ideas of how to make cycling safer, more accessible and more fun for children and adults alike. She pointed out that in some of the councils (such as Glasgow) there is an appointed 'School Travel Coordinator' who supply bike racks to public places (e.g. state schools, street corners), can help with bike lanes, and should be a good contact for anyone wanting to get more kiddie bums on bikes.

It was a lovely location, in the Book Trust in the centre of Edinburgh, and they supplied delicious vegetarian (and vegan) food for all the breaks. In short a great day with lots of learning, lots of meeting, and lots of connections.

## EVENTS IN DETAIL

### **'An Introduction to Bodhi': a meeting in Fife 10<sup>th</sup> June 07**

Ratnadevi, with the help of Justin and Eva, will be giving an introductory presentation about Bodhi to anyone interested on Sunday 10th June; 1-30 to 4-30 pm at the Charlottetown Village Hall, which has a large grassy area at the back for the kids. As several of the families that are interested have young children the meeting will be structured to accommodate the needs of parents and children.

**Cost:** suggested donation £3 - £6 per adult (to cover hall rental & travel cost)

**Contact:** Leilani (by e-mail preferably [leilani@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:leilani@dsl.pipex.com) but can take phone calls if you don't have email access 01337 810346) if you are planning to come & would like directions.

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### **MINDFUL LIVING (Residential Weekend) Wiston Lodge, by Tinto Hill, near Biggar 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:info@bodhi-eco-projects.org.uk) (further details will be sent upon application)

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### **Timber-Frame Self-Build Course (in conjunction with The Big Tent at Falkland, Fife) Monday 11th - Thursday 14th June 2007**

A residential course giving an opportunity to learn the techniques of post & beam timber framing using locally-grown timber.

**Contact:** phone or email for details: Duncan Roberts, 01668 213146  
[djr@westback.demon.co.uk](mailto:djr@westback.demon.co.uk)

**The Big Tent: Minding the Future**  
**15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

The Big Tent is Scotland's Festival of Stewardship\* and the theme of this year's The Big Tent is Minding the Future and looks at ways each and every one of us 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 & hand out leaflets.**

**Contact: Hazel (0131 258 4081 / [hazel.Gibson@gmail.com](mailto:hazel.Gibson@gmail.com)) if you can help.**

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**AN APPEAL FOR HELP FROM THE BRIGHTON EARTHSHIP**  
**18<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> June**

We are having a volunteer fortnight at the end of June, of which you may be interested. We will be working from around 9am to 5pm each day.

The activities we will be undertaking are: Clearing the Earthship Brighton site in preparation for landscaping; Building a wooden post and rail fence & installing a 5-bar farmer's gate; Landscaping – grading, weeding and planting a grass & wildflower meadow; Building a blackwater reed treatment bed; Digging a phone trench & laying a telephone cable; Cleaning and oiling three stone floors in Earthship Brighton with natural oil; Oiling and polishing the woodwork in the earthship; Painting with natural paint ; Lots of organic gardening. After this and at long last the Earthship Brighton project will be completed and can set sail.

All help would be greatly appreciated. To participate in our landscaping fortnight you will need to bring: Sturdy boots; Old clothes, gardening gloves & sunhat; Packed lunch Contact: Please confirm your availability or intention to attend before turning up on the day to Mischa Hewitt, Project Manager, Low Carbon Trust (0) 7974 122

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**Global Eco Village Network: European Assembly**  
**7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> July 2007**  
**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.

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 there will be no Italian eco-village tour.

**Contact:** please register directly with Nanni Laurent:  
[nanni@conventosangiorgio.it](mailto:nanni@conventosangiorgio.it) (<http://www.conventosangiorgio.it>)

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## **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE - FIFE**

### **July 7th: Summer Earthship Fair.**

Fun family day out, featuring a whole range of fun activities with a waste and energy theme from building plastic bottle walls, storytelling and writing, a competition to illustrate an Earthship childrens book, puppet shows in yurt and

tips for making toys and jewellery from waste. Followed in the evening by a fantastic Ceilidh!

### **23rd June, 21st July and 11th August: Green Living Experience days:**

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>

### **30th June, 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](mailto:esmond@sci-scotland.org.uk) [www.sci-scotland.org.uk](http://www.sci-scotland.org.uk)

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## **ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE WORKSHOPS**

### **24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> August and 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:mamansell@hotmail.com)

## Letter from a supporter In the North - Suzie Tisch- Wester Alves

Travelling to Inverness from the south one passes through a region of barren hillscape. This apparent emptiness comes after the lush green tree-filled valley around Pitlochry and before the sea of the Moray Coast.

Here, on the coast we are surrounded by fields. Carrots, potatoes, barley, oats, wheat. The firth, home once upon a time to the great fisheries of *Silver Darlings'* fame offers a sense of wilderness against this backdrop of serious agriculture. The waves and wind, puddles and rivulets bring me relief from the tractors and traffic.

Our house sits amongst the fields, on the firth side of the A96, just far enough away for the noise of the traffic to be blurred. It's offering us the opportunity to explore communal life with children. Just two families: four adults and two children.

We're trying out one alternative to our previously separate existence, stuck-each with our young babies- in our separate flats. Neither of us pay more than we had previously paid in our separate flats and yet it feels like we have so much more; we've space in the house for a shrine room and TV room, a guest room and two living rooms, as well as a bedroom each and an office for me to work from. We have also a wonderfully cosy and bright kitchen which has already had many folk round the table, satisfying our dream of hosting bright gatherings of people. Some of the gatherings have been through *Trees For Life* and some through the *Friends of the Western Buddhist Order (FWBO)*.

We have all now seen "*An Inconvenient Truth*", Al Gore's film about Climate change and I would encourage anyone who hasn't yet seen it to get it & see it.

Since seeing it whilst on retreat back in February, my global and environmental awareness has definitely increased. I'm not sure now what the focus of my concern for the environment was in the first phase of my environmentalism, ten years ago. Probably, concern for the future of the planet; fear of our collective death. What struck me in this new wave- since seeing this film- is concern for the *millions* of people who will likely suffer due to their homelands being flooded, due to drought, thirst and starvation- as a result of climate change and I feel the fear of the unknown- what will happen to us? I am made painfully aware (again) of the impermanence of our current conditions. When will the next ice-age strike northern Europe?

Al Gore emphasised in the film the space of opportunity between *denial and despair*. And Parami, the wonderful woman who introduced the film to me on that weekend retreat, brought into our discussion forum the work of Joanna Macey, which aims to transform pain and fear and despair into creative, positive action.

Where do I find myself in this journey from pain, fear and despair to creative action?

Fearful? Yes. Anxious? Yes. But also, feeling hopeful that we are moving in the right direction.

I think sharing is a good start: we take it in turns to cook but don't always eat together. We take it in turns to wash up. We share care of the children as much as we can, though they are both still very young. Eva is six months old and Calum, 1. We share a car. We have kitty for food.

I think living closer to home and to the land is crucial for our psychological and physical well-being; not commuting I am more involved in the local community where I eat and sleep; I meet the neighbours and feel more rooted. The garden here supports eleven chickens and a substantial vegetable patch. We have plans for a great array of vegetables and fruit. I find it very exciting- the thought of producing a substantial amount of food! And on my days off from sitting here at the computer it's great to dig about in a wee patch of earth.

I think being conscious of how we can reduce the impact of our day to day lives is important. We use low energy light bulbs, have a pulley, a clothes horse and a drying green outside as well as a fabulous airing cupboard in the upstairs bathroom. We do also have a tumble dryer but try not to use it! We compost, recycle and engage in livelihoods which promote a better understanding of the environment and our relationship to it.

There is a little book "*Touching the Earth*" by Akkupa- a member of the Western Buddhist Order and he carefully and clearly points out all the things you can do to make a difference. It's been useful for me to look at this and see, oh yes, we are doing a lot already!

Over and above and through all of this concern, what makes the biggest difference to me is friendship- understanding and sharing- loving kindness- appreciation of each other- and hope: In the quiet spaces of meditation- reflection and worship I feel renewed. I feel the world alive, growing and full of potential!

May you all be well! May you all be happy!

Love from Suzie Tisch- Wester  
Alves Farmhouse, Alves, MORAY IV30 8XD  
[suzietisch@btinternet.com](mailto:suzietisch@btinternet.com)

## Heirloom

She gave me childhood's flowers,  
Heather and wild thyme,  
Eyebright and tormentil,  
Lichen's mealy cup  
Dry on wind-scored stone,  
The corbies on the rock,  
The rowan by the burn.

Sea-marvels a child beheld  
Out in the fisherman's boat,  
Fringed pulsing violet  
Medusa, sea-gooseberries,  
Starfish on the sea floor,  
Cowries and rainbow-shells  
From pools on a rocky shore,

Gave me her memories,  
But kept her last treasure:  
'When I was a lass', she said  
'Sitting among the heather,  
'Suddenly I saw  
'That all the moor was alive!  
'I have told no one before'.

That was my mother's tale  
Seventy years had gone  
Since she saw the living skein  
Of which the world is woven,  
And having seen, knew all;  
Through long indifferent years  
Treasuring the priceless pearl.

by Kathleen Raine

## **FUNDRAISING – an update from Mhairi**

Firstly, many thanks to those of you who have given up some of your time to speak with me on the telephone. Your comments have been really useful and will help as we build a programme of fund- and awareness- raising.

Over the next few months we will be doing a number of things to raise both the profile of and funds for Bodhi Eco Projects and we would very much like you to be a part of this. I believe that everyone has a valuable contribution to make to the future of Bodhi and would urge you to do what you can to help the organisation at this vital stage of development. This doesn't have to involve large sums of money - although we'd be happy to discuss options if you do have a significant amount of cash at your disposal! Below is something that everyone can do quite simply and every penny really does count. There will be more in the next newsletter – results from the survey & more on how you can help make a real difference. Till then, I invite you to put your coppers to good use!

### **Small Change, Big Change**

We would like to invite you to fill a container of your choice with your spare change and, once full, count the contents and send Bodhi a cheque for the amount raised. You can be as creative with your container as you want – perhaps you could decorate a plain cardboard box and label it your 'Bodhi Box', decorate an empty jam jar or just pick a favourite bowl to fill with coppers from your pocket or purse? Whatever you choose, we'd love to know what you are filling too so please send a digital photo of your container if you can for inclusion on our website and/or next newsletter.

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

[www.bodhi-eco-project.org.uk](http://www.bodhi-eco-project.org.uk)

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