

Edinburgh Theravada Buddhist Group

Mark Your Calendars!

12 Apr Monastic Visit

27-29 Apr Edinburgh Buddhist retreat, Wiston Lodge

7 May Monastic Visit

20 May Inter-sangha celebration, Salisbury Centre, Edinburgh

7 June Monastic Visit

5 July Monastic Visit

4-11 Aug Retreat at Ratanagiri



www.TheravadanBuddhists.org.uk

Wiston Lodge Retreat

The third annual all-Edinburgh Buddhist retreat will be held at Wiston Lodge, near Biggar, 27-29 April. The theme of this year's retreat is "Building Sangha."

The weekend is open to any and all Edinburgh-area Buddhists. The cost will be £75, inclusive of meals and lodging from Friday evening through mid-day on Sunday.

The official booking deadline is 31 March, though we have a bit of flexibility with that date. Bookings are being taken by individual sanghas, so if you're from the Forest Sangha and would like to attend, please contact Claralynn (0776 747 4650, info@heartwoodmusic.com).

For more general questions, please contact the retreat organizer, Gill Mathews, at angel14_75@hotmail.com.

[hotmail.com](mailto:angel14_75@hotmail.com).

Information and forms are also available and downloadable at www.MySangha.org.uk

Buddha Day Gathering

Please join us for the 23rd annual gathering of Edinburgh's Buddhist community in celebration of Buddha Day. As usual, this year's gathering will be held at the Salisbury Centre. Come visit with friends old and new.

Start: 6:15 pm from 6:15 pm
Salisbury Centre
By donation

For more information, please visit www.MySangha.org.uk.



*Are you quiet?
Quieten your body.
Quieten your mind.*

*You want nothing. Your words are still.
You are still.*

*By your own efforts
Waken yourself, watch yourself.
And live joyfully.*

*You are the master
You are the refuge.
As a merchant breaks in a fine horse
Master yourself...*

*Like the moon
Come out from behind the clouds.
Shine!*

The Dhammapada, 25, The Seeker, rendering by Thomas Byrom.

Photo by Claralynn

Dana Wish List

Monastics rely on *dana*, the generosity of the laymembers of the sangha, to meet their everyday needs. To donate items listed here, please contact Harnham.

Items that are currently of particular use to the Harnham monastery are now listed under the "Kitchen blog." Please note that the list changes weekly.

NON-FOOD ITEMS

Stamps (any value) — Firewood
Danish oil

Updated 15 March 2007 from the Ratanagiri website's "Kitchen blog." Visit Ratanagiri.org.uk for the most current list, where additional ways to donate money, time, expertise are discussed.

www.TheravadanBuddhists.org.uk

History of Buddhism in Edinburgh

This is the third of four installments of an article written by Randon Goodier.

5. The 1980s

In the 1980s, a significant expansion of Buddhist activity took place in Edinburgh. Local meditation groups affiliated to the main traditions began to be established. The founding of a branch monastery under the direction of Ajahn Sumedho of the Forest

Sangha tradition at Harnham in Northumberland in 1981 enabled the Edinburgh Theravada Buddhist Group to evolve a few years later. Others included the Samye Dzung Group (affiliated to Samye Ling), the Dharma Study group (following the teachings of Chogyam Trungpa), and the Soto Zen Group (affiliated to Throssel Hole Priory) in October 1984. 1984 was also marked by the occasion of the first visit of the Dalai Lama to Edinburgh. In April '89 Nan Shin, one of Taizen Deshimaru's disciples, led a short zen retreat at the Salisbury Centre but the meditation group affiliated with that tradition moved to Glasgow.

A University of Edinburgh Buddhist Society was formed in November 1983, and between then and May '88 promoted at least 34 lectures by distinguished Buddhist speakers including: Trevor Leggett, Anandamaitreya, Dhiravamsa, Tew Bunag, Khentin Tai Situpa, Ngakpa Jampa Thaya, Ajahn Sumedho (Abbot of the Amaravati Buddhist monastery.) Rev Master Daishin Morgan (the Abbot of Throssel Hole Priory), and Lama Yeshe, the Abbot of Samye Ling.

After 1988, the existence of the University Society became rather intermittent and I have no further record of talks held under its auspices. However, the healthy flow of communications between the various traditions represented in Edinburgh groups, previously encouraged through the University Society events, continued from 1984 to the present day by the establishment of an annual Buddha Day gathering. Normally held at the Salisbury Centre on a Sunday in May, this event includes a puja led by one of the Buddhist groups, and a sharing of news and food.

The Friends of the Western Buddhist Order did not become continuously active in Edinburgh until Order members Tejamitra and Agracitta moved across from Glasgow in 1986.

Randon Goodier is a retired biologist who has been practicing within the Zen Buddhist tradition since encountering Throssel Hole Priory in 1979. He is also a lay minister in the Order of Buddhist Contemplatives.

Our New Newsletter Feature

Starting with our next issue, our newsletter will include a reflection on one or more of the Dhamma talks given in recent months. This will give the many of us who, for one reason or another, miss a Dhamma talk, the opportunity to connect with the words and wisdom of our monastic friends and teachers.

Ray Harris has kindly offered to share with us his reflections in the next regular issue. Thank you, Ray, for the suggestion, and we look forward to reading your thoughts in the next issue.



2007 Visits from Harnham monastics

The following visits are scheduled for 2007. Please note that while we anticipate this schedule will be accurate, all things are impermanent, and changes can and do happen!

12 Apr Ajahn Munindo
10 May Ajahn Abinando
7 June Ajahn Abinando
5 July Ajahn Munindo
6 Sept Ajahn Abinando
4 Oct Ajahn Munindo
6 Dec Ajahn Abinando

Meeting Information & Contacts

We aim to encourage deeper investigation of the practice of meditation within an atmosphere of group support. We actively support and are supported by the monastic community at Harnham Buddhist Monastery (Ratanagiri), Newcastle.

About our meetings

7:30 pm, every Thursday evening

Chanting and meditation followed by discussion or a Dhamma talk

Christchurch Hall, Holy Corner, Bruntsfield Place in Edinburgh

No fees: by donation

Disabled access is available

Group contacts

General meeting info

Neil Howell 0131 226 5044

Jody Higgs 0131 332 7987

Newsletter

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