

## FWBO & TBMSG News

News and views from around the Friends of the Western Buddhist Order (FWBO) and Trailokya Bauddha Mahasangha Sahayaka Gana (TBMSG).

[News](#)[Jobs](#)[Features](#)[Reviews](#)[Resources](#)[FWBO](#)[Links](#)

# FWBO and TBMSG News:

## Collected stories

# July – September 2007

on the web at: [www.fwbo-news.org](http://www.fwbo-news.org) | [news@fwbo-news.org](mailto:news@fwbo-news.org)



### About us:

The Friends of the Western Buddhist Order (FWBO) [www.fwbo.org](http://www.fwbo.org) was founded in 1967 by Sangharakshita.

It is now an international movement with activities in more than 20 countries, including India, where it is known as the TBMSG, the 'Trailokya Bauddha Mahasangha Sahayaka Gana'.

At its heart is the Western Buddhist Order, a community of over 1,500 ordained men and women of all ages and from all walks of life, united by their common commitment to the Three Jewels of Buddhism.

The FWBO/TBMSG is a non-sectarian Buddhist movement which seeks to promote the practice of Buddhism in a form appropriate to the modern world.

### FWBO News

FWBO News aims to present a selection of stories illustrating some of what is going on across our network of centres, businesses, communities, arts events, and individual projects.

Many stories are linked to other websites, to access these please visit [www.fwbo-news.org](http://www.fwbo-news.org) and connect from there.

### Previous posts by topic:

Africa, Ambedkar, Arts, Aryaloka, Australia, BBC, Berlin, Birmingham, Bodh Gaya, Breathworks, Brighton, Bristol, Buddhafield, Cambridge, Canada, Cardiff, Carers retreats, Children, China, Clear Vision, Croydon, Death, Delhi, Dhammakranti, Dharmaduta, Dublin, Education, Engaged Buddhism, France, Fundraising, Germany, Health, Holland, Hungary, India, INEB, Interbuddhist, Interfaith, Ireland, Jobs, Johannesburg, Karuna, Kerala, LBC, Malaysia, Manchester, Meditation, Mumbai, Nagpur, Nepal, New Zealand, Newcastle, North London, Nottingham, NVC, Obituaries, Ordinations, Parents, Paris, Pilgrimage, Poland, Preceptors, Prisons, Radio, Right Livelihood, San Francisco, Sangharakshita, Schools, Scotland, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudarshanaloka, Sweden, Taraloka, TBMSG, Tiratanaloka, USA, Veganism, Vegetarianism, Video, Wildmind, Windhorse, Women, Yatras, Youth...

### Also including:

FWBO Jobs, Feature articles, FWBO Resources, email subscriptions, search facilities, and extensive links.

Friday, September 28, 2007

## The Heart Sutra - sung by... Karuna Carpenter

The Heart Sutra by Karuna Carpenter



On a lighter note to yesterday's post - FWBO News is proud to report that Kavyasiddhi's marvellous rendition of the Heart Sutra - sung to the tune of a golden oldie anyone over 40 will instantly recognise - has been posted to Videosangha. Listen to it [here](#) or download the file (for your further listening pleasure) direct from Google Video [here](#). It probably shouldn't be us who says it, but this deserves to become a cult classic - watch it, and pass it on!

[VideoSangha](#) has been set up to enable people within the FWBO mandala to share what they are doing, what they are inspired by, and just to show what they look like - through the medium of video. It currently hosts some 34 videos with more being added most days.

If the video is slow to load, our advice is, let it play through once, as slowly as it needs to, then begin again and it should play smoothly.

Thursday, September 27, 2007

## Burma...



Many around the FWBO have been following the unfolding events in Burma with great concern, and have wanted to demonstrate their concern by taking some sort of tangible action.

The Cambridge Buddhist Centre today organised a Yatra (meaning simply 'walk'), followed by meditation, from the Buddhist Centre through the centre of town to the Guildhall. Some 70-100 people joined and the organisers expressed themselves as "delighted". See a video clip on our [Videosangha website](#).

Yatras have been used by Buddhists to help bring peace to several of the world's most tense places, including [Cambodia](#) and [Palestine](#).

Another Yatra is planned in Brighton for Sunday, and others are being organised in Birmingham and possibly London. Contact [FWBO News](#) for more information.

On Radio 4 Vishvapani presented today's 'Thought for the Day' on the Today programme, he spoke of how he'd returned from a retreat studying loving-kindness only to see words from the same ancient text emblazoned on the monks' banners - and realised how loving-kindness leads naturally to action, even as a mother protects with her life her child, her only child... You can listen to his broadcast [here](#).

Meanwhile a number of petitions have been circulating around the FWBO Sangha, one addressed to [Burmese embassies](#) around the world and one to the [UK prime minister](#)

In the words of the Buddha, please "do what you think it is the time for".

*Whatever living beings there may be;  
whether they are weak or strong, omitting none,  
the great or the mighty, medium, short or small,  
the seen and the unseen,  
those living near and far away,  
those born and to-be-born,  
may all beings be at ease.*

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

## Karuna women's appeal in local paper



A women's Karuna appeal is in full swing in Bristol, UK - and was recently interviewed for a local Bristol paper. Under the heading 'DEVOTING ALL THEIR TIME TO FIGHTING PREJUDICE', the paper recounted how the women "spend their days praying, meditating and fund-raising" and quoted Amatasuri as saying "If my heart is open, we can meet with one another. Last night I was very moved by people's kindness, with people's honesty with me". It's a little unusual for Karuna's appeals to 'go public' in this way, but the reporter was clearly moved by what she saw.

Karuna's door-knocking appeals raise just over UK 1 million pounds/year for Dhamma and social work in India, and are a unique way to combine spiritual practice with effective and meaningful work for the benefit of others - Buddhist Right Livelihood in the very best sense.

Karuna's appeal [dates](#) for 2008 have been released and are on the [Karuna Appeals](#) website.

Meanwhile the [Karuna Trust](#) itself has a brand-new website, and very handsome it is too!

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

## Mitraloka School of Languages launched in Nagpur



The Dhammakranti team have recently started the 'Mitraloka School of Languages' in the heart of the Nagpur City. They are teaching English and Japanese, and will soon be adding Chinese, German and Spanish classes.

In four different classes they have seventy students learning English and Japanese with many more on the waiting list. They told FWBO News they got a huge response to these classes because their School is the only Institute of its kind in central India - training people from very poor economical backgrounds in international languages. They are confident that having had the training, people will be much better placed to get jobs - Nagpur is rapidly becoming an international city with many multinational companies offering jobs for people trained in foreign languages. In some ways they are paralleling the development of the Aryaloka Computer Education, also in Nagpur, which has for some years been offering low-cost computer education to students in need.

Although the School is only three months old, due to the huge response and great need in Nagpur and in central India they are already thinking about expanding this project very soon.

Finally they have an appeal to make. Nagaketu, the Centre Director, says "We are looking for more teachers, especially in German, French, Spanish and Chinese. If anyone reading this is interested then please [contact us!](#)"

Monday, September 24, 2007

## Sangharakshita's poetry inspires tapestry



Betsy Sterling Benjamin, associated with [Aryaloka Buddhist Center](#) in Newmarket NH, is showing her silk wax-resist hanging titled: "Blue Lotus of Lumbini", a piece inspired by Bhante Sangharakshita's "Lumbini" poem. The exhibit is at the Main Gallery of the Paul Creative Arts Center, University of New Hampshire from September 8 to October 17, 2007. For more information call the Gallery (603) 862-3712.

Blue Lotus was last shown in the "Song of the Buddha Heart" exhibition at the [Manchester Buddhist Centre](#), England during February of this year. It was also featured on the cover of [Fiberarts Magazine](#) in April-May 2007. and was selected with 90 other objects to be included in the 25 Biennial League of New Hampshire Craftsmen's Juried Members Exhibition.

More of Betsy's work can be viewed [here](#) or on the FWBO Flickr site [here](#).

### Lumbini

*I remember a pool of blue lotuses  
Blooming at Lumbini near the dusty highroad,  
And the miracle of those blue flowers rising  
So purely from the black waters, told me  
Far more of the birth of the Enlightened One  
Than the broken Ashoka column, or ruined shrine.*  
. Urygen Sangharakshita, 1949

Sunday, September 23, 2007

## An account of the recent Public Preceptors' College meeting



The Western Buddhist Order's College of Public Preceptors met for 10 days at the end of August, this time at Padmaloka. They are the group of senior Order Members, men and women, with collective responsibility for ordinations into the Order. 22 of the 31 Public Preceptors who make up the College were present for some or all of the meeting. A full account of the meeting can be found on their [blog](#). This hosts accounts of their meetings and a selection of articles, essays, and reflections by members of the College.

The latest meeting was particularly fruitful in terms of clarifying the College's immediate priorities, with three areas in particular identified where they want to move things forward. These were:

1. Ordination training
2. Training private preceptors
3. The relationship between the College and the Order and Movement.

The meeting also saw a number of discussions around training people for ordination and the role of private and public preceptors. They began by looking at some basic assumptions in these areas - our order is built upon Bhante's understanding of the Dharma and so they especially looked at the importance of private and public preceptors having confidence in Bhante's understanding and in his teaching. This is, of course, an important area for all order members, but because of their responsibility for ordinations it is particularly so for those who act as preceptors.

They also gave some time to exploring gender issues, with people sharing their individual experience of them in the order and movement. Strong

appreciation of the practice of single-sex activities was expressed. At the same time it seemed clear that, particularly in the early days of single-sex activities, some people had found them at times painful and confusing, as well as supportive. They particularly wanted to talk about gender so as to clarify to what extent issues of gender influenced the dynamic in our mixed college meetings.

More details of all the above can be found on the College's blog – plus Dhammarati's reflections on the recent 4-month Guhyaloka ordination course, Moksananda on [activities in Mexico](#), ['Revolution and Authority'](#), being Buddhadasa's recollections of Bhante's 'style' of leadership in the early days of the Order, the College's ['Constitution' and working arrangements](#), and more.

Thanks to Moksananda for sending us the material for this article.

**Saturday, September 22, 2007**

## **An ever-widening circle, the Order grows...**



Today five years ago, in India, the ordination took place of the 1,000th member of the Western Buddhist Order. On that day Shilasiddhi, from Aurangabad, became the one thousandth member of the Order and was presented with a huge flower garland and special Buddha rupa. As a result of the most recent ordinations this summer, the Order now stands at 1,465 - a rise of almost exactly 50% in 5 years.

An ever-widening circle, the Order grows... SADHU!

## **Right Livelihood - Dharma practice in the world of work**

A weekend exploring team-based right livelihood (TBRL) took place in early September. It was organised under the auspices of the European Chairs Assembly (ECA) – the collective body of all chairmen and women of FWBO projects across Europe. The ECA has particularly wanted to support TBRL and look at how to make it more attractive and possible for people to participate, particularly given the thirty or more years that have passed since the FWBO launched its first TBRL projects back in the more cooperatively-minded 1970s.

About 45 people (Order members and mitras) met at Bilberry Hill on the outskirts of Birmingham. There was a wide range of centres and TBRL projects represented, as well as quite a few people who had not previously worked in TBRL, but were interested to find out more. It was a busy, full weekend - not much time to go gathering bilberries on the nearby Lickey Hills!

After arriving, those present went swiftly into the four-stage process of 'appreciative enquiry' that was to take up most of the weekend. Dhammaloka ably facilitated this, with Vajramudita from Manchester and Vajragupta from the FWBO Development Team providing support and back up from the wings. People's best experiences of work in the past were shared as a way of 'discovering' the underlying ideals and inspiration, so creating a positive basis from which to explore TBRL. Vajragupta, who organised the weekend commented: "I was struck by everyone's full engagement with the 'appreciative enquiry' process, and impressed by the ideas people came up with."

By the end of the weekend there were a number of people going away to work on business plans for potential new businesses, a group planning to stay in touch and explore developing a 'right livelihood network' for those not in TBRL, plus many other ideas for people's own individual or team-based practice of right livelihood, as well as suggestions for the Chairs Meeting and Development Team.

In the midst of all this, there was an inspiring presentation from Ratnaguna about the work and development of [Breathworks](#) plus an excellent,

comprehensive overview of traditional and FWBO teachings on right livelihood, given in a talk by Ratnaprabha entitled 'Working Together'.

The consensus seemed to be that it had been a worthwhile event. People enjoyed the appreciative enquiry process and the 'content' it had generated. There was less confidence enough definite 'outcomes' had been produced, perhaps unsurprisingly considering we'd only met for one weekend. There was general enthusiasm for future weekends exploring TBRL, with more inspirational talks and the opportunity to explore issues in more detail.

Thursday, September 20, 2007

## Free Buddhist Audio News - Mindfulness of Reality and Padmasambhava



Welcome to the news update from [Free Buddhist Audio](#), the free download and streaming service from the Dharmachakra sound and text archives. To receive more regular update information on the site, you can always [subscribe](#) to our own blog.

A prosaic enough subtitle for this week's update - but one that belies the rather marvellous diversity of the new material we're featuring today. The Western Buddhist Order is nothing if not diverse, and here we have two talks that, taken together, probably encapsulate that better than any plain old discourse ever could...

Kulananda (Michael Chaskalson) is first up with his beautifully elegant take on the last of the traditional four levels of mindfulness - [Mindfulness of Reality](#) itself. This is potentially confusing territory, but Kulananda proves an excellent and calm pilot around the main streams and backwaters of Buddhist thought regarding the nature of life, the universe and everything. A good reference if you've ever lost your way a bit and needed to steady the boat.

Then contrast this approach to what really matters, with the almost rambunctious - [Padmasambhava](#) - by Danavira. To call this a 'talk' doesn't really cut it - more like a controlled explosion of sound, a 'performance piece' in the best sense of that phrase. And the Great Guru is, indeed, called forth onto the stage of things with much laughing and singing. "Uncle Padma" is doubtless smiling at this young "nephew" who is so clearly moved in praising him - listen and find out why.

So, there you have it: two of the fairest talks, most alike in dignity, and certainly worth an hour of your time...

.

Wednesday, September 05, 2007

## Dates for Karuna Appeals 2008



The dates for the Karuna Appeals in 2008 have just been released on [www.appeals.karuna.org](http://www.appeals.karuna.org)

Peter Hunt from the Karuna office says "If you have always thought 'I would really love to do one of those Appeals', then maybe 2008 is the year for you to do it. It is an opportunity to raise money for some of the most marginalized people on Earth while experiencing community living and taking your Dharma practice onto the streets. This is a breadth of practice that is hard to find in many other contexts; so why not take the plunge? Visit our [website](#) for more info about Appeals."

The dates are:

Spring Appeals

Men's Appeal: 6th April – 17th May Brighton

Women's Appeal: 6th April - 17th May Newcastle

Summer Appeals

Men's Appeal: 8th June – 19th July London  
Women's Appeal: 8th June 19th July London

Autumn Appeal  
Mixed Appeal: 7th September – 19th October Oxford

The [Karuna Trust](#) team send a total of over £1,000,000/year to social and Dharma projects in India; they are one of the great success stories of the FWBO. Much of their money is raised in these door-knocking appeals, which have pioneered a unique and effective approach to fundraising as a spiritual practice. The appeals website contains several 'blogs' from former fundraisers where you can read how they got on and the many challenges they faced.

Tuesday, September 04, 2007

## Free Buddhist Audio News - New Sangharakshita & Lessons from the Mafia



Welcome to the news update from [Free Buddhist Audio](#), the free download and streaming service from the Dharmachakra sound and text archives. To receive more regular update information on the site, you can always [subscribe](#) to our own blog.

This week we have news of two recent talks by Urygen Sangharakshita, which we've now posted to the site for your listening and downloading pleasure. The first is from the Buddhafeld Festival 2007 - [Entering the Sangha](#) - and finds the man in splendid form in a summer field amongst the hot tubs and revellers.

The second - [Recollections and Reflections on My Going Forth](#) - is fresh from the Men's Order Convention, and has many a tale to tell from Sangharakshita's days as a wandering 'Dharma Farer' in India. It's also kind of challenging!

We also want to tell you about our brand new [podcast](#) for September - the splendidly titled [Building an Ethical Underworld - Lessons from the Mafia](#) - from **Khemasuri**.

To tell the truth, we would have picked this anyway because the title was just so good. And because we could put up a picture of Tony Soprano. Underneath Bhante. But it also just happens to be another thought-provoking and insightful talk from the Buddhafeld 'Dharma Parlour' series. Listen and be inspired - and, well, not very afraid.

Monday, September 03, 2007

## Manchester Cathedral Poet of the Year 2007



Maitreyabandhu, Director of 'Breathing Space' at the London Buddhist Centre, has won first prize in the Manchester Cathedral Poetry Competition, making him Manchester's Poet of the Year 2007. He is the first Buddhist to win and came first in a field of over 300 entrants and over 700 poems.

The poem is called 'Visitation' and part of the judges' comments read as follows –

“'Visitation' engages with that sense of the sacramental from its title through to its very last line. The 'you' the poem addresses is addressed with a contemporary negativity: it is 'without any form' and 'carrying no symbolic implement'. But for all that indeterminacy, it fills this poem with deft and concrete imagery, not only in the actualities of the scene - 'The ocean-wedge/with its new, precise horizon' - but also with an adroit use of



simile, 'as if you had been there all the time,/like a pair of gloves left in a pocket'. In the second half of the poem, the writer manages with piercing imagination to use the idea of grey to suggest so very much, and yet leave the reader open to fill that grey - neither a bonding of all colours, nor an absence of any - with a profound sense of the infinite. This was a wonderful poem by any measure and I have given it the first prize."

## VISITATION

*Strange that you should come  
like that, without any form at all,  
carrying no symbolic implements,  
without smile or frown  
or any commotion,  
as if you had been there all the  
time,  
like a pair of gloves left in a  
pocket.*

*As if I had been looking that way,  
into the wide blue yonder, and  
you were  
beside me, enduring my hard luck  
stories  
with infinite patience. Not even  
waiting –  
the tree outside my window  
doesn't wait, nor the ocean-  
wedge  
with its new, precise horizon –  
just there  
like the shadow of a church*

*or a quiet brother.  
And how I saw you, in the mess of  
things,  
was as a slant of grey,  
the perfect grey of house dust,  
an absolute neutral, with no  
weaving,  
no shimmer of cobalt  
and light-years away from  
Byzantium.*

*Grey. And I want to add, like  
light,  
as if a skylight opened in my  
skull,  
and into the darkness fall  
a diagonal of pure Bodmin Moor.  
But even that's too bright,  
too world-we're-busy-in.  
Call it 'dust' then, or the bloom  
of leaf-smoke from an autumn  
fire.*

Sadhu, Maitreyabandhu.

Saturday, September 01, 2007

## Change and opportunity at Windhorse Publications



[Windhorse Publications](#), the FWBO's successful publishing company, is going in new directions. Jnanasiddhi, the present Director, says "As well as maintaining our current publishing of the FWBO tradition and bringing our movement's evolving ideas into the world, we now have a new focus on flexibility and new sales."

This has led to TWO JOB OPPORTUNITIES - a Director/Commissioning Editor and a Sales and Marketing Manager. The salaries are negotiable and the jobs will be based in Cambridge.

Jnanasiddhi says "If you have an interest in books and publishing, good communications skills, ideas and commitment, IT and organisational skills and experience of business please contact, for further information, [Sagaraghosa](#). The closing date is 30th September."

**Help Spread the Precious Dharma through books!**

Saturday, August 25, 2007

## Free Buddhist Audio News - Launch of Audios Budistas Gratuitos



Welcome to the news update from [Free Buddhist Audio](#), the free download and streaming service from the Dharmachakra sound and text archives. To receive more regular update information on the site, you

can always [subscribe](#) to our own blog.

¡Hola! Chicas and Chicos. Now that we have the site up and running in German - [Audio Buddhismus Kostenlos](#), French - [Audio Bouddhiste Gratuit](#) - and also in Chinese - [免费佛教录音](#) - isn't it about time we launched in **Spanish?** Of course it is! Bueno, presentamos... [Audios Budistas Gratuitos](#).

As ever, this has been a labour of love by several people connected with the site. So let's pay tribute here to our main translator, **Samudra**, and also to **Abhayaka** who helped check stuff. Both men have generously and patiently dedicated themselves to bringing the wonders of Free Buddhist Audio to the Spanish-speaking world. ¡Magnifico!

Watch this space for news of yet more languages to come.

Monday, August 20, 2007

## Mindfulness for everything?



Click [here](#) to read Vishvapani's survey of the growing field of mindfulness-based therapies and the place of the FWBO therein.

He sets the scene by saying "The faculty of mindfulness—broadly defined as non-judgmental present-moment awareness—has always been a key element of the Buddhist path; and in recent years psychologists and healthcare professionals have been recognizing its value for people experiencing conditions ranging from stress and depression to addiction, chronic pain and ill health. A natural crossover exists between this growing medical interest in mindfulness and the skills that FWBO meditators and teachers have developed in their years of practice."

And he asks – "So how are people from the FWBO engaging with MBTs, and what issues are emerging as they do so?"

A fascinating and inspiring read – one of the many facets of the great adventure that is the Dharma coming to the West.

Thursday, August 09, 2007

## Swedish FWBO Retreat Centre is inaugurated



The Swedish Retreat Centre has been inaugurated and given a name by Sangharakshita. Here is a report from Viryabodhi, chairman of the [FWBO's centre in Stockholm](#).

"n Saturday the 12th of May we took farewell of Bhante Sangharakshita, who had been visiting Stockholm and our Retreat Centre for a week. It was a very successful visit, the second that our teacher Sangharakshita has made in recent years. The other visit was in June 1999 and much has happened in the sangha since then.

"First Bhante took part in the second half of our Wesak celebrations, held at the Ethnographic Museum in a beautiful setting in Stockholm, and Bhante delivered a thoughtful and long talk on the significance of Wesak and the Buddha's Enlightenment. We had an audience of almost 100 people. In the first half I gave a presentation of the FWBO, with some photos (mainly of the Refuge Tree and Bhante at different times). We also had a short meditation. Taraka introduced Bhante and also concluded by leading a the puja, flanked by two massive Tara rupas from the museum's collections. It was such a privilege to have Bhante here in real life - a big event for us.

"Bhante saw people for personal interviews with Order members and some mitras who have requested ordination, as well as having dinner and informal talks afterwards on three consecutive nights with the women and men who have requested ordination, as well as the members of the local Order. All these meetings were successful and joyful. Everyone seemed pleased to have met Sangharakshita, many for the first time.

"After 5 days in the men's community in Stockholm we set off to the Retreat Centre (2 hours drive northwest of Stockholm), for the 'inauguration' and the giving of a name that Bhante so kindly had agreed to do. This was the culmination of the visit and a delight and blessing. In a simple and profound ceremony Bhante imparted the name: Dharmagiri Retreatcenter (Swedish spelling). Which means: 'The hill where the Dharma is practiced'. 'Giri' (which is pronounced with short "i's") means 'hill' or 'mountain', in this case 'hill'. The place lies on a little hill overlooking fields and a river in the distance, so it feels most appropriate. We could also say 'Dharma Hill' or in Swedish 'Dharmakullen', we'll see. When I got back to Stockholm I looked up 'Dharmagiri' on google and found out that there are several others, a hermitage in South Africa, and also Dhammagiri in India (Goenka's main centre). But I'm sure we can co-exist.

"Before the ceremony we walked around the garden in silence, taking in the surroundings and houses. We concluded with the Dedication ceremony (often used in the FWBO) and a meditation with Bhante, which at least for me was profound.

"There were about 40 people attending the event, some who came up for the day, plus about 25 who stayed overnight. We had a festive meal in the evening and I had a chance to express my appreciation and gratitude to Bhante in public. It seems that he made a strong impression on many people here. Now it is up to us to live up to the vision of the Dharma and the FWBO. I believe we now have a good place and conditions - especially at Dharmagiri - to do that more fully and satisfactorily.

You'll find photos of Dharmagiri [here](#) or at my [photo site](#).

**Monday, August 06, 2007**

## **24-hour fundraising drawing at the LBC**



Aaron Matheson, an artist from the London Buddhist Centre mandala, has recently completed a 24-hour-long fundraising marathon - drawing the view from the balcony of the centre looking out onto the road. He says -

"We raised over £700, which is incredible. Thanks to those who sponsored me. The drawing itself was a lot more fun than I expected it to be! It felt all absorbing, a huge task. And I loved the sense of completing one cycle of the earth- (that natural rhythm which defines our lives), which I didn't think about before. It felt exhilarating much of the time. Who says you've got to suffer to raise money?

Lots of people came to see me, and some posed. Drawing them under pressure of time lent an urgency to it. I got interested in the perceptual space - shown by the way the railings seem to bend away from you in peripheral vision. Our vision as a whole isn't a flat screen but more like a sphere. Also, the way that things that are distant seem compressed when you draw them.

I also like the way everybody is looking out of the Buddhist Centre towards the rest of the world. Seems to echo the other-regarding nature of the LBC and our 'Breathing Space' project. I admire the altruism of the people here, so it came into the drawing naturally. The Dharmachakra, central in the first page of the drawing, is also in their gaze - the turning wheel of the path of wisdom and compassion. Contemplating all life through this vision, the people on the balcony are trying to find kinder and more positive ways of living. That's how I see it, I think.

Click [here](#) for a glimpse of the completed drawing on the LBC's weblog.



## Ordinations at Tiratanaloka

On Wednesday 1 August, in the context of a Going for Refuge retreat, the following ordinations took place at Tiratanaloka (all names Sanskrit except where indicated):

Public Preceptor Parami:

Fiona Doolan becomes  
ACHALAMAYI (Pali, long 'I').  
'She whose nature is steadfast,  
reliant, resolute, unswaying';  
(private preceptor  
Kulaprabha).

Caroline Glanville becomes  
SAMADEVI (long 'i'). 'She who  
is a Goddess of Equanimity';  
(private preceptor  
Ratnavandana).

Su Angel becomes  
AKASHACHITTA. 'She whose  
heart is luminous like space';  
(private preceptor  
Ratnavandana).

Margit Vidakovic-Whitton  
becomes DHARMAJIVANA  
(long 'i' and final 'a'). 'She whose  
vitality, or life-breath, is the  
Dharma'; (private preceptor  
Maitreyi).

Maria Jose Mics becomes  
DHARMANISHTA (long final

'a'). 'She who is grounded on, and  
devoted to, Dharma'; (private  
preceptor Paramachitta).

Public Preceptor Ratnadharini:  
Susanne Traud-Dubois becomes  
AMOGHAMATI. 'She whose  
mind is intent on unerring  
success'; (private preceptor  
Kulanandi).

Christina Ganslev becomes  
ADVAYASIDDHI. 'She who has  
the accomplishment, fulfilment,  
satisfaction, complete happiness  
of seeing that, in essence, things  
are not different or separate from  
each other'; (private preceptor  
Vajrapushpa).

Public Preceptor Maitreyi:  
Karin Bluemke becomes  
DRIDHADEVI (long final 'i').  
'Steady, resolute, persevering  
goddess'; (private preceptor  
Kulanandi).

Sadhu!

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

## FWBO retreat centre in Sri Lanka



Saddhavira, an Order Member with roots in both Sri Lanka and New Zealand, has an ambitious vision for his retreat centre on Unawatuna Beach in Sri Lanka. Named Sagaraloka, 'Realm of the Ocean', he sees it as combining the best of the East and the West - the East's warmth and openness, the West's tolerance of difference and rationality.

As well as the visitors' retreat centre, Saddhavira conducts local activities. He says "We have about 12 Mitras and 8 of them have asked for ordination. There is a regular class in Colombo and also at the new retreat Centre".

The Centre has been in operation for a number of years now and is very much open to visitors. Saddhavira asks anyone visiting the area to contact him on [globalbuddhist \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:globalbuddhist[at]gmail.com).

Saturday, July 28, 2007

## Possible new retreat centre in the Low Countries



Since 2004 METTA VIHARA, a Dutch FWBO charity started by Akasasuri and others in 2001, has been actively seeking a retreat centre for the FWBO (known locally as the VWBO) in Holland and Belgium. In 2005 the trustees decided to create 'a virtual' retreat centre as a way of demonstrating the projects' viability to the bank and potential donors, and this has been an extraordinary success.

Akasasuri says "last year and again this year we coordinated, planned and organised all the retreats in Holland and Belgium, running 20-22 retreats a year at 3 different locations spread over both countries. We (she and her friend the newly-ordained Manigarbha) are on all the retreats - we do the shopping, the bookings, the finances, the mail-out's, the PR, the setting-up of the retreats, the cooking, plus co-leading and leading some of the retreats etc. Everything is stored in our living room (mats, cushions, blankets, food, shrine material, etc); we bought a large van to transport everything from our house to the various retreats and back".

And nearly all retreats (but 3) in 2006 were fully booked with a waiting list – a remarkable and heroic achievement. There are 5 order members committed to living at the future retreat centre: Sarojini, Sobhanandi, Khemasiri, Akasasuri and Manigarbha; with nearly all the other Order Members in the Lowlands are involved in some way in attending, leading and co-leading the retreats.

And now they are on the verge of realising their dream – purchasing a property owned by a nature reserve organisation. It's an old farmhouse, built in 1880, about 100 meters from a large estuary, with 5 acres of land, located halfway between the Amsterdam Buddhist Centre and the Ghent Buddhist Centre and easily accessible for the Buddhist Centres from

Arnhem, The Hague and Antwerp. See photos of the building [here](#).

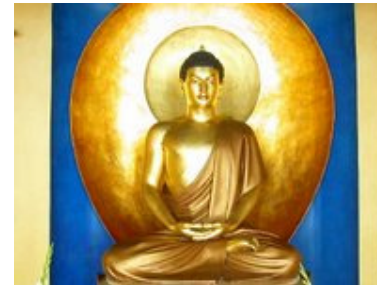
Akasasuri says "Voices in our local sangha say 'this is THE place' and all are very keen for this to come off. WE ARE READY TO GO - JUST SOME MORE MONEY REQUIRED!

For their appeal they have created a website [www.mettavihara.nl](http://www.mettavihara.nl), have a proper brochure, became a member of the Buddhist Union and advertise in national papers, buddhist magazines and some new-age magazines.

Click [here](#) for a fuller introduction to the property and the appeal.

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

## FWBO Discussion website launched



A new website, '[FWBO Discussion](http://www.discussion.fwbo.org)' (www.discussion.fwbo.org), has recently been launched. Building on work done by Vishvapani, it's a collection of articles by members of the Order, with the aim of presenting some of its more internal reflections and discussions, plus various accounts of the main changes in the FWBO and Order over the past decade or so. Vishvapani introduces the site by saying "The Friends of the Western Buddhist Order is a diverse and thoughtful community, whose members frequently debate matters of teaching and issues affecting the FWBO, its history and its future. This debate has often been invisible to non-members, and this site aims to open that debate and reflection to a wider audience."

The site is divided into various sections – '[The Order](#)', '[Changes](#)', '[Controversy](#)', '[Sangharakshita](#)', '[Gender](#)', and '[Academic](#)' (a bibliography of academic articles on us).

Lokabandhu, the current editor of the site, says "I'm very pleased with it, I think it'd be impossible to read it and not conclude that we (the FWBO) is a serious, open-minded, self-aware buddhist community with genuine independence of mind and interest in the truth. Comments welcome of course! I'd like to add to it, so if you have any suggestions please let me know."

## 'Excerpt from a dog's ear' on Radio 4



A play, 'Excerpt from a dog's ear', by Kavyasiddhi from Manchester was on BBC Radio Four last Thursday. Its available for the next two days only via their 'Listen Again' service for the next two days [here](#) - click Thursday.

Saturday, July 21, 2007

## Dhammacharini Ordinations in India



FWBO News is happy to announce the latest in a long series of ordinations this year - of men and women in the UK, America, Spain, New Zealand, and India. We believe this brings the total size of the Order to just over 1,500, with approximately 340 living in India. We also believe this marks the first time in our Order - and perhaps the first time ever in India - that Indian women have acted as Preceptors, witnessing the Going for Refuge of other women.

On 16th July 2007 the following women were ordained at the Hsuan-Tsang

retreat centre, Bor Dharan, India.

Karunamaya was the public preceptor.

>From Nagpur

1 Kamalasar

Ex Pratibha Moon . She who has the beauty, grace, splendour and radiance of a lotus. Private Preceptor Srimala.

2 Jayaloka

Ex Sitabai Dhavle. She whose light is victory. Private Preceptor Karunamaya

3 Saddhaja

Ex Jangade Bai. She who is born of faith. Private Preceptor Karunamaya.

4 Sumegha.

Ex Usha Kamble. She who has a good cloud of qualities. Private Preceptor Jnanasuri.

5 Suprabha

Ex Kamal Nagrale. She who is very bright/splendid/glorious. Private Preceptor Jnanasuri

With metta Karunamaya

21 July 2007

SADHU!

>From Wardha

6 Gunachandra

Ex Chitra Javale. She who is a moon of virtue. Private Preceptor Karunamaya.

>From Amaravati

7 Sujaya

Ex Maya Sukhdeve. She who has a good victory. Private Preceptor Jnanasuri.

8 Suruci (pronounced Suruchi)

Ex Karuna Sonule. She who has great delight (in the Dhamma). Private Preceptor Jnanasuri.

>From Goa

9 Yasomati (pronounced Yashomati)

Ex Archana Sherlekar she who has a beautiful, glorious, renowned mind. Private Preceptor Jnanasuri.

Friday, July 20, 2007

## Lotus Realm Traders joins the 'Vans'



Akasadaka, from Lotus Realm, sends FWBO News this report –

“After a lot of hard work, Lotus Realm Traders, the Sudarshanaloka Mandala’s largest Right Livelihood venture in New Zealand, has given birth to... a van!”

They thereby join the proud lineage of Windhorse van drivers, who over the years have between them raised many many thousands of pounds in the UK for Dharma work. He says “Well it’s a bus actually. Her name is Rosa and she’s a Mitsubishi. She’s a good 6.0m long and weighs in at 3.2 tonne fully loaded with product. Her previous life was a Tokyo Library Bus and she still has a rather snazzy Seiko Wall clock above the dash.

We have just completed our first trip (van run) around the Coromandel Peninsula and the Bay of Plenty, surviving cyclonic weather which caused havoc across the top half of the North Island. To her crew’s delight Rosa received plenty of compliments along the way and sales were way beyond expectations. It is hoped that this will continue as Sudarshanaloka requires a lot more funds to complete its Retreat Centre project.

Lotus Realm Traders currently consists of six people, and we’re attempting to become a Team Based Right Livelihood, in the process of making squillions of moolah (lots of cash). How exactly this will be manifested seems to be an ongoing process, but we do have as our core principles ethical trading, building spiritual community, generating dana and having some insane fun.



“How can you help? If you have any expertise or skills to offer for free, we would happily accept. The Sudarshanaloka Mandala needs more people in all ways, from helping to run classes and looking after the Retreat Centre to packing orders from our warehouse and keeping shop. Please feel free to contact me (akasadaka [at] lrt.co.nz) if you have some interest in getting involved in what we are doing.

Thursday, July 19, 2007

## Buddhist parenting - interview on the BBC



The BBC's flagship program 'Woman's Hour' has recorded and aired a program featuring an interview with Karunagita, author of 'A Path for Parents'. Click [here](#) to listen to the program, you will need Realplayer which can be downloaded for free [here](#).

The BBC's blurb asks "How difficult is it to bring up children in a religious tradition, in an age where we increasingly talk about the importance of giving them the opportunity to make their own decisions? Sara Burns, author of 'A Path for Parents' and Carol Clewlow, author of 'Keeping the Faith', join Miriam to discuss the pleasures and pitfalls of handing down your spiritual beliefs. Sara is known in the Order as Karunagita, while Carol was raised in the 'Plymouth Bretheren'.

'A Path for Parents' by Sarah Burns is published by Windhorse Publications £11.99 ISBN 9781899579709

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

## Ordination at Aryaloka



On June 24 at Aryaloka, in front of a large crowd of friends, family, and Order members, Marilyn Dyer was ordained into the Western Buddhist Order as Viriyagita, "Song of energy in pursuit of the good." Her private preceptor was Sanghadevi and the ceremony was conducted by her public preceptor Parami.

Viriyagita currently lives with her husband Kevin in Cape Neddick, Maine and works as a nurse with intellectually and developmentally disabled individuals. She has a son, Sean, from a previous marriage, who lives in Seattle with his wife and three children. In 1985 Viriyagita started practicing Buddhism with a Tibetan sangha in Vermont. In 1986 she encountered the FWBO and was particularly drawn to Sangharakshita's clear exposition of the Dharma, the emphasis on the primacy of Going for Refuge, and the practice of spiritual friendship.

Viriyagita started out by attending several retreats as well as the regulars' class, which was very small at the time. Very early on in her involvement she made a trip to the UK to have a broader experience of the FWBO. She eventually became a mitra, started the first women's community at Aryaloka, and requested ordination into the WBO. She attended several more retreats in the UK and Scotland, one of which was a month-long Going for Refuge retreat.

In 1995 she was ordained along with Varasuri of Montana and Dayalocana of Aryaloka. A little over one year later she left the Order to pursue another spiritual path (Sufi). Within a short period of time she realized that no matter how much spiritual beauty and similarity of practice existed in this other tradition, she was at heart a Buddhist. She returned to Aryaloka, never really having lost contact with her spiritual friends and her private preceptor, Sanghadevi.

After many years of living with the aspiration to rejoin the Order, she made that request in June of 2005 and on June 24, 2007 she was given back her original Order name of Viriyagita.

The photo shows Viriyagita (right) with Dayalocana, current Chair of Aryaloka, with whom she was originally ordained in 1995.

Sadhu!

Sunday, July 15, 2007

## Sangharakshita in Paris



Sangharakshita recently spent three days in Paris, on the occasion of a visit to the [Paris FWBO Buddhist Centre](#) (locally known as the "[Centre Bouddhiste de l'Île-de-France - AOBO](#)"). It wasn't his first visit to Paris, but it was his first visit to the Centre, which was founded nearly 10 years ago by Varadakini.

During his visit he met several groups of people: mitras, mitras who have asked for ordination, the council of the Centre, and Vassika and Suvannavira, the local Order Members. The highlight of his visit, however, was a well attended two-hour question & answer session on Saturday afternoon, with questions on subjects as diverse as emptiness, the sevenfold puja, Sangharashita's own Going for Refuge, the teaching of



conditioned co-production (pratitya-samutpada), or the language spoken by the Buddha, to mention just a few. Two mitras, Barbara and Christian interpreted for the session which was appreciated by all participants.

Some of the people who met Bhante Sangharakshita commented afterwards:

*I had the privilege of meeting Bhante twice, in a sangha-wide Q&A session and then as a small group of mitras having asked for ordination. Bhante was very sharp, he truly shone with his clarity and pointedness. We are fortunate to have met a man of his stature in our lifetime.*

. PIERRICK

*I was struck by the youthfulness of his words, his clarity, his liveliness, his humour... I was also moved by this different, foreign voice chanting the refuges and precepts; it was no meaningless litany but something already recited... elsewhere, and repeated many times, since long ago. I was very interested by the way he described the development of Buddhism in the West and its re-appearance in India as part of its evolution.*

. PASCAL

*Meeting Sangharakshita in Paris was for us a deep and unique experience: a warm and unique encounter with the Buddha, the Dharma and the Sangha as well as a personal encounter. There are three things we remember specially about Sangharakshita's visit to Paris:*

- *The depth in his chanting of the salutation, refuges and precepts; there was no difference between the words and their meaning, and no difference between the message and the one who was chanting.*
- *The clarity and precision of his answers and teachings; the simplicity of the language and of his choice of examples from daily life; and the self-evidence of the Dharma – Sangharakshita makes no distinction between the Dharma and common sense, friendship, calm; humour, determination...*
- *The real interest that Sangharakshita takes in each person and what preoccupies them, and his encouragement to us to continue along the path with calm, joy and determination.*

. BEGGA, IOANA & JAN, who came from Ghent for the occasion

Thursday, July 12, 2007

## A day in the life of... Lalitavajra



Lalitavajra, an Order Member for over 25 years, recently moved to Carlisle in the north-west of England. He was recently interviewed by the BBC there, in a feature they called 'John the Buddhist' - John being Lalitavajra's non-Buddhist name. Click [here](#) to read their report and for their [photo-report](#) of his daily routine - and a glimpse of his very lovely Shakyamuni painting by Aloka...

He hopes to be starting meditation and Dharma classes in Carlisle by the end of August.

## Jambudvipa team visits America



[Jambudvipa](#) is an FWBO/TBMSG project based in Pune, India, which - among other things - aims to internationalise the plight of India's vast ex-untouchable 'Dalit' community, from which come most of India's new Buddhists. Besides this they play a crucial role in disaster relief work with this community (see for example the report on their work after the [Tsunami](#)) - at such times India's age-old caste system rears its head with full force.

Mangesh Dahiwale, Jambudvipa's publicity officer, recently sent us this report on their recent - and ground-breaking - trip to the USA:

"As a part of Jambudvipa's vision to reach out to the world community and transcend barriers, and to generate international support for peaceful social revolution that Dr. Ambedkar launched, a visit to US was planned.

"Maitreyanath and Mangesh Dahiwale visited US during April 19-May 28, 2007. In the span of over 35 days, they moved from one city to another to give talks on evils of caste system in India, Dr. Ambedkar, revival of Buddhism in India and work of TBMSG. This visit was aimed at dissemination of information, raise support for the revival of Buddhism in India and develop alliances.

"During this visit, people from all different background co-operated, which included followers of Dr. Ambedkar living in US, social activists, academicians, black activists and Order Members of FWBO/TBMSG."

In the short time they were there they managed to meet a remarkable range of individuals and groups - from Tricycle Buddhist magazine and the Buddhist Peace Fellowship to the US State Department and five different universities and colleges, plus of course several FWBO centres, criss-crossing the country between San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, Cincinnati, San Diego, Washington, Indianapolis and elsewhere.

There are encouraging signs that caste prejudice and discrimination is increasingly being seen internationally not simply as an Indian social issue but a gross violation of human rights - see, for instance, recent references to this both in the UK's [House of Commons](#) and [House of Lords](#) where the UK Government minister is quoted as saying "My Lords, I agree with the noble Lord and with the Prime Minister of India —[Untouchability] is indeed a blot on humanity. Discrimination on the basis of caste identity constrains the human rights, livelihoods and life chances of millions of men, women and children. It is a systematic injustice and a routine violation of the most basic human rights..."

We are proud that the FWBO and TBMSG is able to play a part in making this more widely known and indeed in eradicating it.

**Wednesday, July 11, 2007**

## **12th Buddhafield Festival gets underway**



Today sees the start of the 12th Buddhafield Festival – the FWBO's largest event outside India, and a much-loved part of many people's lives. It was sold out over a month ago, with the 500 places for helpers (stewards, site crew, café, healers, and many more) full well before that.

The theme this year is "A LIVING MANDALA - the magic of community", reflecting Buddhafield's growing interests in both creating a large rural practice community and Deep Ecology.

Over the past years the Festival has become more and more of a meeting-place for Buddhists of many traditions, and this year it is hoped there will be people (and in many cases teachers) from the [Amida Trust](#), the [Network of Engaged Buddhists](#), the [Network of Buddhist Organisations](#), [Sokkai Gakkai](#), [Gaia House](#), the [Tigers Nest Dzogchen community](#), Vipassana, and others such as the '[Meditation at Work](#)' project. This is in addition to many meditation and Dharma teachers from the Western Buddhist Order. In particular the FWBO's founder [Sangharakshita](#) is expected to attend for the first time and to give a talk, despite his advanced years.

Too much happens over the five days it's on to ever list here, see some past Festival Eye [reviews](#) and check out the pictures from [last year](#) here or the [dharma teaching](#) to get some idea.

And book early for next year!

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

## Launch of Audio Bouddhiste Gratuit



Welcome to the news update from [Free Buddhist Audio](#), the free download and streaming service from the Dharmachakra sound and text archives. To receive more regular update information on the site, you can always [subscribe](#) to our own blog.

Some happy news this week, filles et garçons! Now that we have the site up and running in German - [Audio Buddhismus Kostenlos](#) - and also in Chinese - [免费佛教录音](#) - we are delighted today to announce that we're able to extend our service further still with the launch of our new **French** language site - [Audio Bouddhiste Gratuit](#).

As usual, this is the fruit of many hours of toil by various folk connected with Free Buddhist Audio, and this time the main shout goes out to **Jayamuni**, who has generously and patiently dedicated himself to the task at hand over the course of many months. May the merit be his!

Watch this space for a forthcoming announcement regarding the site in Spanish, and news of yet more languages to come!

Monday, July 09, 2007

## FWBO News readership survey report



At the beginning of June we conducted our first ever survey of FWBO News' readership. We invited readers to complete a short on-line questionnaire telling us a little about how often they visited the site, what they liked about it, and so on - and of course inviting any comments. We linked this up with the basic internet statistics we get and are pleased to present our first readership report. Click [here](#) for the full report, or [here](#) if you'd like to add yourself to the Survey.

Saturday, July 07, 2007

## Ordination in Berlin - an ever-widening circle, the Sangha grows



Joerg-Detlef Nerhorn was ordained in Berlin (at the FWBO Centre) on 30 June 2007. He was given the name ARYAMAITRI - 'He whose friendship is noble'. His private preceptor was Arthapriya and his public preceptor Sona.

FWBO News estimates that this brings the Western Buddhist Order to a total number of 1447 - just below the 1,500 mark. In fact, had we not experienced three recent and tragic deaths, the total would now be exactly that.

Those interested in some simple statistics about the Order are invited to click [here](#), this will take you to a short presentation on our sister site [FWBO Discussion](#).

Friday, July 06, 2007

## Shambolic Warriors return to Faslane



Sophia Young has sent us this report on Glasgow Buddhist Centre's network of engaged buddhists - the Shambolic Warriors.

We celebrated the summer solstice in fine style by taking a six mile hike to the North gate of Faslane naval base and peacefully meditating, dancing and singing outside. On Sunday 24th June - the 20 warriors, two children and a dog gathered on Helensburgh pier and, fortified by homemade scones and flapjacks, began the long trek to the base in heavy rain.

A detour for a cup of tea at the peace camp was made. Under a parachute canopy the shambolics shouted three saddhu's saluting the work of the peace campers who have been maintaining a presence at the base now for twenty-five years. Faslane naval Base situated on the River Clyde is the base for UK's Trident Nuclear weapons System.

The Campaign "Faslane 365" is drawing attention to the opposition that exists in the UK to Trident and any plans to update it. Diverse groups from around the country, including the Shambolic Warriors and the Network of Engaged Buddhists have been taking responsibility for organising individual days of the year long protest.

While there have been complaints about the heavy policing of such events- there are often as many officers as there are protesters, the day passed peacefully and happily, with much banter on both sides. Indeed, our lone protestor on the second day, Shantiketu, was offered lunch and given a lift back into Helensburgh by the duty cops.

The Shambolic Warrior Network was formed two years ago after Parami's Healing Self, Healing World retreat in Dhanakosa and members of the network lead actions in areas of concern to us. We are inspired and sustained by the ideas of Joanna Macy and the Work that Reconnects. Other strands of activity in the network currently include a housing project, environmental events in the centre, personal development workshops and womens group in the centre, outreach teaching of the dharma, cooking for large numbers ( we have the best catered events!).

Thursday, July 05, 2007

## Vimalasara and her forthcoming book *Broken Voices*



Vimalasara has sent us this report and request for help. We're pleased to pass it on in case there's anyone out there...

She says "Earlier this year I was in India for four months, writing a book on the situation of Dalit women for the FWBO/TBMSG's 'Arya Tara Mahila Trust' - a Buddhist organization working for the empowerment of Dalit women. Initially we'd thought ATMT would try to raise the money to publish it, but after doing the research and writing it up, I felt strongly the book was so important it deserved to be published by an established publisher. Hence my hunt began for the publication of *'Broken Voices - Ex-Untouchable Women Speak Out'*."

"Of course I went to Windhorse first as everyone in the Sangha seemed to think they were the appropriate publisher, but alas they are focusing on purely Buddhist books, and felt unable to market the book. I then tried some mainstream publishers, and the following is typical of the letters I got back,

`Dear Valerie,

We discussed your proposal at our editorial meeting on Wednesday and my colleagues were very impressed both by the depth of your research into the normally overlooked lives of ex-Untouchable women in India and by the strength of these stories. This is a really important topic and it's wonderful that people outside the immediate community are beginning to examine these women's lives. But although it's interesting and worthwhile I'm concerned about how we could publish it effectively here. I agree that there is a growing awareness of the Dalit experience and very much admire your attempt to let the women whom you have interviewed speak in their

own voice as far as possible but I am concerned that the audience for a general book of this kind would be very limited and with regret we have decided to pass. I'm sorry and wish you every success on publication elsewhere.'

"Four publishers said almost the same thing, so what to do? We tried the FWBO Growth Fund who felt that Windhorse were the people we should be approaching, and some even felt a charity like Karuna should be the ones to publish. But they too were unable to help us. So we are back to square one. The book is with a couple of publishers in India- but if they go ahead this will only be for India, and so we still need to raise the money to publish in the UK.

"This is where self-publishing is a brilliant resource but of course we still need the funds to do this. Everyone who has worked on the manuscript has done it for nothing – which has been an inspiration – and Bhante Sangharakshita has also read it, and agreed to give his endorsement.

"So I'm trying to find away to finance the actual printing of the book, then ways of distributing it. I have some big news which I'm unable to announce till December and therefore in terms of a media campaign that would be a great time to bring the book out."

Please contact her if you think you can help at vimalasara [at] gmail.com

### **The FWBO/TBMSG**

The Friends of the Western Buddhist Order (FWBO) was founded in 1967 by Sangharakshita. It is now an international movement with activities in more than 20 countries, including India, where it is known as the TBMSG, the 'Trailokya Bauddha Mahasangha Sahayaka Gana'. The FWBO/TBMSG is a non-sectarian Buddhist movement which seeks promote the practice of Buddhism in a form appropriate to the modern world.

moved on to an FWBO position in Ireland. Maybe one day in the future...

“In the meantime, if you'd like to log on to <http://www.oxfam.ie/> you'll be able to make a real difference in halting the global arms trade, ensuring primary education for all, and helping sustainable long-term development for some of the most marginalised of our global citizens: just click to donate to the campaign of your choice.....! Go an ya good thing! ;-)”

## ABOUT US

**The Friends of the Western Buddhist Order (FWBO) was founded in 1967 by Sangharakshita.**

**It is now an international movement with activities in more than 20 countries, including India, where it is known as the TBMSG, the 'Trailokya Bauddha Mahasangha Sahayaka Gana'.**

**The FWBO/TBMSG is a non-sectarian Buddhist movement which seeks promote the practice of Buddhism in a form appropriate to the modern world.**

Contact FWBO and TBMSG News

- [email: news@fwbo-news.org](mailto:news@fwbo-news.org)

## Previous posts by topic

[Africa](#), [Ambedkar](#), [Arts](#), [Aryaloka](#), [Australia](#), [BBC](#), [Berlin](#), [Birmingham](#), [Bodh Gaya](#), [Breathworks](#), [Brighton](#), [Bristol](#), [Buddhafield](#), [Cambridge](#), [Canada](#), [Cardiff](#), [Carers retreats](#), [Children](#), [China](#), [Clear Vision](#), [Croydon](#), [Death](#), [Delhi](#), [Dhammakranti](#), [Dharmaduta](#), [Dublin](#), [Education](#), [Engaged Buddhism](#), [France](#), [Fundraising](#), [Germany](#), [Health](#), [Holland](#), [Hungary](#), [India](#), [INEB](#), [Interbuddhist](#), [Interfaith](#), [Ireland](#), [Jobs](#), [Johannesburg](#), [Karuna](#), [Kerala](#), [LBC](#), [Malaysia](#), [Manchester](#), [Meditation](#), [Mumbai](#), [Nagpur](#), [Nepal](#), [New Zealand](#), [Newcastle](#), [North London](#), [Nottingham](#), [NVC](#), [Obituaries](#), [Ordinations](#), [Parents](#), [Paris](#), [Pilgrimage](#), [Poland](#), [Preceptors](#), [Prisons](#), [Radio](#), [Right Livelihood](#), [San Francisco](#), [Sangharakshita](#), [Schools](#), [Scotland](#), [Spain](#), [Sri Lanka](#), [Sudarshanaloka](#), [Sweden](#), [Taraloka](#), [TBMSG](#), [Tiratanaloka](#), [USA](#), [Veganism](#), [Vegetarianism](#), [Video](#), [Wildmind](#), [Windhorse](#), [Women](#), [Yatras](#), [Youth](#)

## Links

[FWBO home page](#)  
[TBMSG home page](#)  
[FWBO People](#)  
[FWBO International Retreat 2008](#)  
[The Western Buddhist Review](#)  
[FWBO Yahoo discussion group](#)

## FWBO Bloggers - individuals

|                               |                             |                               |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <a href="#">David Beard</a>   | <a href="#">Jayarava</a>    | <a href="#">Parami</a>        |
| <a href="#">Stephen Parks</a> | <a href="#">Jayasiddhi</a>  | <a href="#">Ratnaketu</a>     |
| <a href="#">Bell</a>          | <a href="#">Kulaprabha</a>  | <a href="#">Sadara</a>        |
| <a href="#">Bodhipaksa</a>    | <a href="#">Manidhamma</a>  | <a href="#">Suryaprabha</a>   |
| <a href="#">Candradasa</a>    | <a href="#">Marc</a>        | <a href="#">Vajradarshini</a> |
| <a href="#">Candraprabha</a>  | <a href="#">Moksananda</a>  | <a href="#">Vidyalila</a>     |
| <a href="#">Dhammarati</a>    | <a href="#">Padmayogini</a> | <a href="#">Yashobodhi</a>    |

## FWBO Bloggers - Groups

- [College of Public Preceptors](#) - Ordination training across the F/WBO
  - [Karuna Appeal volunteers](#) - Fundraisers raising money for social and dhamma work in India
  - [Free Buddhist Audio](#) - FWBO audio/text archive
  - [Mitras from the Manchester Buddhist Centre](#)
  - [Dharmadhuta course students blog](#)
  - [The Dharma Bums](#)
  - [FWBO Letchworth, UK](#)
  - [FWBO Oxford, UK](#)
-