

**Master Sheng-yen's visit to Britain.** In July Master Sheng-yen made his fourth visit to Britain. He spent his first day visiting Sharpham College, staying overnight then going the following day to Gaia House where he led a seven day Ch'an retreat for 60 people. After the retreat we drove him to Throssel Hole Buddhist Abbey where he spent two nights, meeting with Abbott Rev Master Daishin Morgan and the monks for a mutually beneficial dialogue, before leaving for Taiwan from Manchester airport.

**Website Developments.** The WCF website has been redesigned, hopefully making the material there more accessible, and it has also moved to a new address. Take a look! <http://www.w-c-f.org.uk>

**WCF Mailing list.** If you wish to join the Western Ch'an Fellowship email mailing list then email [secretary@w-c-f.org.uk](mailto:secretary@w-c-f.org.uk) to say so and you will be added to the list.

**Hughie Carroll and Sarah Tucker are married!** On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August Hughie and Sarah were married. Many readers will know them having met them both on retreats at Maenllwyd and in Bristol. We wish them the best of luck.



If you wish make any **announcements in this newsletter** then send your information to the secretary Simon Child. We intend to send it out with each issue of New Ch'an Forum, both to NCF subscribers and also to all others on our mailing list.

**Monitors and guestmasters.** Originally John ran all retreats single-handed, but at most retreats for the last few years there have been more experienced practitioners taking roles of monitors and guestmaster. This is both an assistance for the retreat leader and also a training for the assistant. The monitor role is the first step, and s/he particularly assists with timekeeping and the monitoring of the communication exercises. The guestmaster role extends beyond this and includes more involvement with the general running of the retreat schedule and process. When a person is experienced in these roles they may be invited to train in further aspects of retreat leadership such as giving instruction and taking interviews. We wish to continue and develop this training programme so as to build up a pool of people who can assist in leading retreats, and later on may lead retreats themselves, and anyone who wishes to be considered for these roles should contact John or Simon.

#### BRISTOL EVENTS

**"Creative Awareness"** led by **Martine Batchelor**. Sat November 4<sup>th</sup> 10am - 6pm and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November 10am - 4pm.

**Soto Zen In Bristol.** The **Reverend Master Daishin Morgan** has agreed to lead a two day retreat for the Bristol Chan Group during the weekend of March 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> 2001. Details will be confirmed and available from the Bristol Ch'an Group shortly.

**Dr Susan Blackmore** has also agreed to teach a weekend retreat on **"Memes and Meditation"** for the Bristol Ch'an Group during 2001 which will include ample time for sitting. Watch this space.

For details on any of the above contact Caroline Paine on 0117 924 5332.

The next day retreats in Bury are on Sundays 29<sup>th</sup> October and 17<sup>th</sup> December. Contact Simon Child.

## Forthcoming retreats - Updated

For full details on these retreats and how to book please consult the programme distributed previously, or consult the website, or send a SAE to Simon Child or Tim Blanc for a printed programme.

**Retreat bookings: Note Tim Blanc's new address: 29 Gwilliam Street, Windmill Hill, Bristol, BS3 4LT.**

*Scheduled events at the Maenllwyd are as follows:*

<b>October 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> 2000</b>	<b>A Shorter Ch'an Retreat</b>	£120
<b>November 9<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> 2000</b>	<b>Mahamudra Retreat</b>	£150
<b>December 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 2000</b>	<b>Western Zen Retreat</b>	£150
<b>January 11<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 2001</b>	<b>Seven Day Ch'an Retreat</b>	£210
<b>March 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Western Zen Retreat</b>	£150
<b>March 7<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> 2001</b>	<b>Leaders Retreat</b>	
<b>March 10<sup>th</sup> 2001</b>	<b>WCF AGM</b>	
<b>May 17<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> 2001</b>	<b>Seven Day Ch'an Retreat</b>	£210

### ADVERTISEMENT

## ***BHUTAN: A fantastic tour of this amazing Himalayan land***

With **John Crook**

BHUTAN is an independent Buddhist country in the Eastern Himalayas full of temples, monasteries, medieval towns, great fortresses, wonderful mountains and forests and above all a people predominantly of Tibetan Buddhist culture.

This tour, already long in the planning, will cross the entire country from West to East in our own vehicles visiting all the main cities and many important temples and fortresses of unique architecture. A three day trek, sleeping under canvas in the forests, to a high pass to view the high Himalayan range and village culture is included together with local visits to personalities, festivals, meetings with lamas and meditation in monasteries whenever possible.

The tour will be organised by our old Ladakhi friends from Highland Adventures, Delhi, and we will probably have Tanu Rigdzin once more as our trusty caravan leader. Those who have travelled with John and Tanu before know the sort of time they are likely to have: amazing locations, wonderful people and perhaps a safely scary adventure or two.

Unfortunately, in order to control tourism and ensure its quality, the government of Bhutan imposes high costs and taxes on tourism. This means the price of this adventure is higher than most we have sponsored before.

Probable cost £3400 for approx 16 days London-Delhi-Bhutan-Delhi-London. Projected dates: April 2001

If seriously interested please write for our detailed Brochure. Please notify John Crook immediately of your interests: Winterhead Hill Farm, Shipham, BS25 1RS. Fax 01934 842231. E mail - [johcro@compuserve.com](mailto:johcro@compuserve.com)

## Local Groups Contacts

### **Affiliated Groups**

**Bristol** Caroline Paine 0117 9245332  
**Bury N Manchester** Simon Child 0161 7611945  
**Cheadle S Manchester** Ron Henshall 0161 491 0612  
**E Midlands** Hilary Richards 0115 9242075  
**Edinburgh** Frank Tait 01721 721146  
**Gillingham** Stuart McLeod 01634 571659  
**Glastonbury** Ned Reiter 01458 833663  
**London** Bruce Stevenson 020 8961 7802  
**York** James McCarthy 01904 330977

### **Associated Groups**

**Aberystwyth** Ken Jones 01970 880603  
**Brighton** John Mitchell 01273 846261  
**Cardiff** Eddy Street 029 2069 1146  
**Guildford** Roger Taylor 01483 202422  
**Mid-Wales** John Senior 01885 488323  
**Swindon** Hughie Carroll 01793 343447



### **Local Meditation Groups - a new classification.**

For some time we have been listing a dozen or more local groups as being WCF local groups. But we have been reviewing the requirements to be listed as a WCF local group and have decided to categorise these into two distinct sections. Some groups are direct offshoots from the WCF activities at Maenllwyd, and these we shall refer to as **Affiliated groups**. Some groups are more general Buddhist groups which include WCF Fellows or other WCF supporters and participants, and mostly include a meditation instructor certified by John Crook to teach Ch'an meditation, and these we are referring to as **Associated groups**.

Why the need for the distinction? As the WCF is listed nationally as a Ch'an organisation we receive enquiries as to the availability of local Ch'an groups and contacts. We felt it could be misleading and confusing to direct someone to a group which in fact only has Ch'an practice as one of its subsidiary activities when the enquirer may be asking us because they specifically want to make contact with Ch'an practice. On the other hand many people simply want to contact other practitioners and sit together, and for these people to be informed of a general Buddhist group which includes Ch'an practitioners is valuable.

So we shall list as **Affiliated Groups** those whose activities closely follow the Objects of the WCF constitution, and as **Associated Groups** those groups which are more eclectic but include WCF friends. We value both types of group and welcome new additions to either list.

**Data Protection Act** The Western Ch'an Fellowship has taken over responsibility for John Crook's Maenllwyd Retreat and the New Ch'an Forum (previously held by the Bristol Ch'an Group) mailing lists. Your details are kept on a computer database, which will be used for keeping you informed of Western Ch'an Fellowship activities. Please notify me if you do not wish your details to be kept on a computer database or if you do not want to receive any further mailings. Thank You.

Tim Blanc (Membership Secretary).

### **Western Ch'an Fellowship Contacts**

**Teacher** Dr John Crook, Winterhead Hill Farm, Winscombe, N. Somerset, BS25 1RS  
Tel/Fax 01934 842231 [teacher@w-c-f.org.uk](mailto:teacher@w-c-f.org.uk)

**Chair** Hilary Richards, 8 Park Terrace The Park Nottingham, NG1 5DN, Tel 0115 924 2075  
[chair@w-c-f.org.uk](mailto:chair@w-c-f.org.uk)

**Secretary** Simon Child, 24 Woodgate Ave, Bury, Lancs, BL9 7RU, Tel 0161 761 1945 Fax 0161 763 3221  
[secretary@w-c-f.org.uk](mailto:secretary@w-c-f.org.uk)

**Treasurer and Membership Secretary** *NOTE NEW ADDRESS* Tim Blanc, 29 Gwilliam Street, Windmill Hill, Bristol, BS3 4LT [treasurer@w-c-f.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@w-c-f.org.uk)

**New Ch'an Forum Editor** Pamela Hopkinson, 2 The Hall, Middleton, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 4LX, Tel 01629 822170 Fax 01629 825435 [pamela@phopkins.demon.co.uk](mailto:pamela@phopkins.demon.co.uk)

**Western Ch'an Fellowship Webpages** <http://www.w-c-f.org.uk>  
(includes past issues of New Ch'an Forum, retreat programme updates, etc)

**WCF-L Ch'an Email List** Email [secretary@w-c-f.org.uk](mailto:secretary@w-c-f.org.uk) and ask to be added to the list

For information about **retreats in New York with Master Sheng-yen** contact: **Ch'an Meditation Center**, Institute of Chung Hwa Buddhist Culture, 90-56 Corona Ave., Elmhurst, New York 11373, USA, Tel: 00 1 718 592 6593, Fax: 00 1 718 592 0717 [ddmbany@aol.com](mailto:ddmbany@aol.com) <http://www.chan1.org>

### **New Ch'an Forum**

Formerly published by the Bristol Ch'an Group, and now published by the WCF, the New Ch'an Forum includes retreat reports written by participants of retreats at Maenllwyd, Dharma talks by John Crook and Master Sheng-yen, social commentary, articles on lay practice, poetry photos and artwork, etc. Submissions welcome.

**Subscriptions to New Ch'an Forum:** WCF Fellows receive NCF as a benefit of Fellowship. Others may subscribe at a price of £7.50 per three issues (we aim for three issues per year) by writing with payment enclosed (cheques payable to Western Ch'an Fellowship) to Tim Blanc as below.

✂-----

**New Ch'an Forum subscription:** please send a cheque for £7.50, payable to: **Western Ch'an Fellowship**, to: Tim Blanc, 26 Hinton Road, Greenbank, Bristol, BS5 6HB

This will pay for three issues, which are published approximately three times per year (variable). Back issues can be obtained for £4 per issue.

Details may be kept on a computer database, which will be used for subscription administration and for keeping you informed of Western Ch'an Fellowship activities. Please indicate if you do not wish your details to be kept on a computer database.

Name

Tel

Address

Fax

e-mail