

Master Sheng Yen names a further Dharma Heir. We are pleased to be able to tell you that recently Shifu gave transmission to Zarko Andricevic, the leader of the Croatian Sangha.

Membership Secretary When the WCF was founded Tim Blanc took on the role of both Treasurer and Membership Secretary. At the time this was the most practical solution as he was involved in both the finances and in setting up the membership database.

The database has now been developed and automated and can be managed by others and indeed probably taken as a shared task between a couple of people. Meantime Tim has become much busier with a young baby, so it is time to separate the roles of Treasurer and Membership secretary, and we are looking for someone, or perhaps a couple of people, to take on the role of Membership Secretary.

This is vital role in the WCF, handling subscriptions to NCF, Fellowship applications and renewals, and retreat bookings. Remember that the database has been professionally developed to automate the work involved, and consider whether you can put yourself forward for this role. Contact Tim Blanc for an informal discussion of what is involved. This does not have to be someone from the Bristol area, though Tim suggests that for practicalities of training ideally it may be best undertaken by a person within an hour or so of Bristol.

Foot and Mouth disease 1 As you will all know, unfortunately we had to cancel some retreats because of Foot and Mouth disease. We still hold deposits for some people because we don't have a current address for them. If you are one of those people who were unable to attend a retreat as a result of foot and mouth disease then get in touch with Tim Blanc so that he can refund you.

Foot and Mouth disease 2 At the time of writing, footpaths in Powys have been reopened and we are optimistic that the retreat programme will be able to restart in the Autumn as scheduled.

A booklet is to be published, provisionally entitled "Ch'an Comes West", and it will contain an article on transmission by Shifu, and an article by each of those Westerners authorised by him as Teachers (John Crook, Simon Child, Max Kalin, Zarko Andricevic, and Gilbert Gutierrez) on the story of their practice.

Copies will be made available free of charge, and you are invited to send donations to help with the costs of printing and distribution. Send to Tim Blanc making it clear that your donation is for this purpose, and we shall send the money collected to New York (where it is being edited and printed) in one transaction to lessen currency conversion costs.

Dharma Names The more eagle-eyed readers of New Ch'an Forum and our other literature may have noticed a recent change in John Crook's Dharma Name. Previously written as *Ch'uang-teng Chien-ti* (Transmitting the Lamp, Seeing the Truth), henceforth it will be *Chuan-deng Jing-di* (Transmitting lamp, pure truth).

The changes in the first second and fourth characters are simply a change from Wade-Giles style of transliteration to Pinyin. The third character for the name of each of Master Sheng Yen's Dharma Heirs has been changed to Jing (meaning 'Pure'). This is as a result of using the naming conventions by which the names are derived from verses, with the verse of Dharma Drum Mountain system which combines the Caodong (Tsao Tung) and Linji (Lin Chi) lineages that Shifu has received. Further details will be included in the booklet "Ch'an Comes West".

Simon Child's Dharma name is now
Chuan-fa Jing-hong
(Transmitting Dharma, pure greatness).

Max Kalin's new Dharma name is
Chuan-zong Jing-chan
(Transmitting principle, pure Chan).

Zarko Andricevic's Dharma name is
Chuan-xin Jing-hui
(Transmitting mind, pure wisdom).

WCF Funds

Thank you to those of you have donated recently to the publications fund, and thanks also to those who have contributed to the bursary fund which is currently well resourced. When making your donations you may make them specifically for a particular fund, or make donations to the general reserves which the committee can allocate to specific funds as required, but for now there is no particular need to make donations specifically for the bursary fund.

From the General Reserves for the year to December 2000 we have established a property fund, which joins our other funds - publishing, equipment, and bursary.

The property fund is established with a view to the future when we may have need of property developments.

New Arrival We are pleased to announce that Sophie Muir and Michael Briar have had a baby boy, Yeshe, born 8th July. He was 8lb 3oz at birth and is thriving.

Notes from the Network of Buddhist Organisations

The NBO has been undergoing a difficult phase which arises because there are different perceptions within the membership as to what it should be doing and how it should be doing it.

The basic problem is that the role of the NBO has grown a great deal in response to demands from 'outside' for the views of Buddhists to be heard. These demands have come from the InterFaith Network, governmental and non-governmental bodies, and the community as a whole.

Unfortunately, the organisation, although growing, remains small.

By definition, many of the members live far from London where much of the action takes place, and there are too few people willing and able to shoulder much of this workload. We therefore need to take time to consider our internal structure, to share out the work that can be done and maybe to set other work aside, at least for the time being. I regret the necessity to contract in this way and I hope that it will be a temporary phase.

The good news is that, if we get the structures right this time, a stronger and more vibrant NBO could come into being.

Buddhist Statues in Afghanistan

Letters have been sent to leading members of the Islamic community in the UK expressing dismay at the destruction of the statues by the Taliban. The Islamic leaders have all replied, expressing their regret for these actions and offering sympathy to the Buddhist community.

Changes to Marriage Laws

Through the InterFaith Network, opinions are being canvassed concerning possible changes to the marriage laws, changes which, broadly speaking, represent a liberalization of the stipulations as to who can celebrate and where. Anyone who has views on the matter can ring Susan Henstock, Marriages Branch Head of the General Register Office, on 0151 471 4749, or fax 0151 471 4523, or email susan.henstock@ons.gov.uk.

The Triumph of Life

The FWBO are planning to put on an opera celebrating the paranirvana of the Buddha in February 2002, entitled 'The Triumph of Life'. It will tour six cities. Anyone with skills to offer is welcome to contact Vishvapani, Tel/Fax 0121 449 8272, or email vishvapani@fwbo.org.

The FWBO are hoping that Buddhists from all schools will be represented among those taking part.

Sally Mashedor

Footnote (editor) When renewing it's subscription to the NBO this year, the WCF has made an additional donation of £75 to support the work of the NBO.

LOCAL GROUP EVENTS

BRISTOL Check for updates at: www.bristol-chan.co.uk

Forthcoming Short Retreat In Bristol

Sue Blackmore, 'Memes and Meditation', 29th - 30th September.

BURY Check www.w-c-f.org.uk/bury.html for dates of day retreats.

LOCAL GROUPS CONTACTS

Affiliated groups are groups which principally practice Ch'an and are closely associated with the WCF.

Associated groups are groups which include friends and practitioners of the WCF, but may follow other traditions in addition to Ch'an.

Affiliated Groups

Bristol Tim Paine 0117 9245332

Bury N Manchester Simon Child 0161 7611945

Cheadle S Manchester Ron Henshall 0161 491 0612

Gillingham Stuart McLeod 01634 571659

Glastonbury Ned Reiter 01458 833663

Hampstead Will Turner 020 8340 7278

London Bruce Stevenson 020 8961 7802

York James McCarthy 01904 330977

Associated Groups

Aberystwyth Ken Jones 01970 880603

Cardiff Eddy Street 029 2069 1146

Guildford Roger Taylor 01483 202422

Mid-Wales John Senior 01885 488323

Swindon Hughie Carroll 01793 343447

BOUND VOLUMES OF THE FIRST TEN YEARS OF NEW CH'AN FORUM

containing issues 1 - 21, are now available. These are fine volumes, with probably better quality printing than the original issues, and with some of the pictures in colour. These are made to order and so must be paid for in advance, £65 per copy including p&p, payable to WCF and sent to Tim Blanc. You can see an example of these bound editions in the Maenllwyd library.

MASTER SHENG-YEN'S BOOKS Some, including the most recent, are available at discounted prices at :

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/exec/obidos/Author=Sheng-Yen>

Pilgrim Foxes The Pilgrim Foxes are Ken Jones together with two Irish friends, both Zen practitioners. All are concerned to develop haiku and haiku prose (haibun) as an element in their practice. Pilgrim Foxes is an attractively bound, tawny-coloured book of 82 pages, illustrated with the three foxes live and in myth. They tell their stories in some two hundred haiku and fourteen haibun. This is a down-to-earth kind of writing which at the same time gives off an elusive whiff of mystery, especially if taken slowly and contemplatively. There is an introduction by George Marsh, another long-term practitioner who recently joined WCF.

£6.00 post free from Pilgrim Press, Troedrhisebon, Cwmrheidol, Aberystwyth, Wales SY23 3NB (Cheques to "K. Jones" please).

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).

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Send material for consideration for publication preferably by email to editor@w-c-f.org.uk.
Send illustrations to Simon Child.

Western Ch'an Fellowship Webpages 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 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 www.chancenter.org

NEW CH'AN FORUM

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 by writing with payment enclosed as below.

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New Ch'an Forum subscription: Send a £7.50 cheque, payable to: **Western Ch'an Fellowship**, to: Tim Blanc, 29 Gwilliam Street, Windmill Hill, Bristol, BS3 4LT

This will pay for three issues, which are published approximately three times per year (variable). Back issues **if available** can be obtained for £4 per issue (otherwise please download from the website).

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.

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