

BDF BULLETIN

May 2552/2009

NEWS FROM THE
BUDDHA-DHAMMA
FELLOWSHIP

Registered Charity
No. 289913



About The Buddha-Dhamma Fellowship

The Buddha-Dhamma Fellowship is the organisation of lay people that looks after the material needs of the Sangha, the monks and nuns, at the Forest Hermitage. The Fellowship has responsibility for the provision of food and transport for the Sangha, as well as the finances, maintenance and general upkeep of the Forest Hermitage buildings and gardens. The partnership between the Sangha and the lay community is an important aspect of Buddhist life. The Sangha offers teaching and advice, while laywomen and laymen provide the Sangha with material support. It has been this way since the time of the Buddha, more than 2,500 years ago.

Membership of the Buddha-Dhamma Fellowship is open to all

lay followers of the Forest Hermitage. To join as an Associate Member all we ask is for you to complete a simple form to tell us your name, how to contact you, and what help you are able to offer, including making a regular donation. The cultivation of generosity, or *dāna*, is an important part of Buddhist practice. Donations of money are always welcome because running the Forest Hermitage is an expensive business. You can also help by donating some of your time, perhaps to help in the garden, or with general repairs.

For those prepared to take the three refuges and five precepts then full membership of the Fellowship gives you the additional privilege of being able to vote at the annual

general meetings. A committee is elected to represent all members of the Fellowship. Any full member is eligible to serve on the committee.

Any help you can offer is always welcome. If you would like to join the Buddha-Dhamma Fellowship then you can download a membership form from our web site (address overleaf), or pick up a form the next time you visit the Forest Hermitage. If you have Internet access then you can also request a form by emailing us at: bdf@foresthermitage.org.uk

As from a collection of flowers many a garland can be made by an expert florist, so also, much good can be done (with wealth, out of faith and generosity) by one subject to birth and death. Dh.p. 53.

Sponsored Snowdon walk & meditation

Part of the work of the Buddha-Dhamma Fellowship is to raise funds for the Forest Hermitage. This can be through encouraging lay people to join the Fellowship and make a regular monthly donation, or through special fund raising events. We are very pleased to announce that our first major fund raising event of the year will be a sponsored walk and meditation event on Snowdon. Located in the beautiful and inspiring Snowdonia National Park in Wales, Snowdon is the highest peak in Wales, and the perfect spot for some outdoor meditation. This event builds upon the very successful event we ran in 2007 where more than £3,000 was raised. Once again the purpose of this latest sponsored walk is to raise money to further reduce the Bhavana Dhamma (Wood Cottage) debt, which currently stands at £39,000.

We would like to arrange this year's sponsored walk & meditation for July 4th 2009. We are very excited about this event and hope that all those who take part enjoy the peace and tranquility of meditating in such a dramatic location. Even if you cannot make the walk and meditation in person, you can still



Some of the intrepid meditators during the sponsored Snowdon meditation in July 2007.

contribute by sponsoring someone who can.

It is important for us to know how many people are able to join us on the day so that we can arrange transport. Please complete a registration form as soon as possible either by picking up a copy from the Forest Hermitage or online at the following link:

<http://www.foresthermitage.org.uk/bdf/events/snowdon09info.pdf>

Improving privacy & security

Sadly we have been experiencing more harassment from youths in the evenings and late at night at our gate. The police have taken this very seriously and put cars on to patrol

our lane. Of course we have to do our part to help ourselves and so we have gone to considerable expense - that we can't really afford - to increase the size of the gate and improve our perimeter security with a new fence and CCTV camera. This is expensive work but it is our duty to maintain the safe environment for the monks and visitors.

Asalha Puja (Dhamma Day) & entering the Vassa

Our celebration at The Forest Hermitage of the Buddha's First Sermon and the beginning of the annual Vassa Retreat for Bhikkhus will be on July 12th from 10.30 a.m.

THE BUDDHA-DHAMMA FELLOWSHIP
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 289913

The Forest Hermitage
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<http://www.foresthermitage.org.uk/bdf>

Email: bdf@foresthermitage.org.uk

Financial contributions are always gratefully received and can be made to the Buddha-Dhamma Fellowship, Account No. 45325845, Sort-code 05-05-58, at Yorkshire Bank, 47 - 49 Warwick Street, Leamington Spa, CV32 5JR or by sending cash or cheques to the Forest Hermitage. Cheques should be made out to the Buddha-Dhamma Fellowship. If you are a UK tax payer please tell us if we may treat your donation as Gift Aid and claim back the tax that you have already paid on it.