



THE FOREST HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 1 of 2002 / 2545

FROM VENERABLE AJAHN KHEMADHAMMO
OF SANTIDHAMMA FOREST HERMITAGE &
ANGULIMALA, THE BUDDHIST PRISON CHAPLAINCY ORGANISATION

NAMO TASSA BHAGAVATO ARAHATO SAMMASAMBUDDHISSA
Honour to the Blessed One, the Exalted One, the Fully-Enlightened One

I hope that when you turn the page and realise that this is but a one sided newsletter you won't be thinking that these newsletters are not only becoming more sporadic but now smaller as well and form the impression that I'm either fading or becoming a bit of a slacker. It's just that there is more to do and time just seems to whizz by. And especially at the minute with such a narrow interval between coming back from Thailand and going off to India. In these few weeks, I've tried to cram as much in as possible but inevitably, I can't be everywhere and a few things have had to go by the board. One thing I've just

realised I'd nearly forgotten was a reminder to everyone that we're off to India on our long awaited pilgrimage to the principal Buddhist Holy Sites in just a few days.

We fly out to Delhi on the evening of Friday, February 22nd and we're due back on March 9th. In that time although it will be looked after, the Forest Hermitage will be virtually closed. Normal service resumes as soon as we get back.

As usual I went out to Thailand in January for Ajahn Chah's remembrance day on January 16th, the anniversary of his death. As I said, time whizzes by and this was the tenth anniversary. The crowds attending certainly don't diminish and the circumambulation this year of the Luangpor Chah Chedi by hundreds of monks and nuns and laity seemed the biggest and longest that I can remember. I did think about covering the back page with some of the many photos I came back with but in the end I decided that in black and white they hardly do the occasion justice. If you have Internet access point your browser to www.foresthermitage.org.uk/tpil02.pdf and there you will find them. It's a big file and a longish download but worth it I think.

I was only in Thailand for nine days and although I covered a lot of ground, it was very refreshing. James and Nui looked after me wonderfully. Phra Maha Sompoch managed to spend time with me on the first and last days and Matthew who used so ably to assist me here was with me for

much of the time and very helpful. I also met up with Ven. Cittagutto who some of you may remember was the first bhikkhu to be ordained at The Forest Hermitage ten years ago. It was a very happy reunion and all being well, when he visits his parents in Germany in June he will pop across to spend a few days with us and observe the uposatha here.

Peter and Tipawan who used to visit us from Leicester and who have now moved into a lovely new home in Ampur Det Udom which is where Tipawan comes from came to see me and then we all went over to see them. They seem really happy and Peter repeatedly told me that he was on 'cloud nineteen'!

On my way down from Ubon, I spent a night at a branch of Wat Pah Pong at Chonburi which is where I saw the beautifully carved images of the Buddha and standing on either side Sariputta and Moggallana with Ajahn Chah seated in front which are pictured above.

Then before Bangkok and a round of visiting, I had a wonderful evening wandering on a deserted beach at Cha-am.

Since I've been back the one outstanding thing I've done has been to deliver a Buddha Rupa to its new home on an impressively granite built site in Dartmoor Prison. But more of that later.

I'll try and make the next issue a bumper one with tales and images of our travels and the Holy Places. Take care.

DIARY:

THE LOTUS PATH

A Pilgrimage to the principal
Buddhist Holy Places of India.
February 22nd - March 9th.



ANGULIMALA WORKSHOPS

(mainly for Buddhist Prison Chaplains)

March 16th & June 15th, 10 am



SONGKRAN WATER FESTIVAL

April 14th from 10 a.m.



If you are on our mailing list and/or a member of BDF or ANGULIMALA, your name, address, phone number & membership details are on our computer files. If you object and let us know we'll willingly remove you.

The Forest Hermitage Lower Fulbrook nr Sherbourne Warwicks CV35 8AS United Kingdom

For Ven. Ajahn Khemadhammo & ANGULIMALA, direct telephone & fax - 01926 624385 & mobile - 07941 013319

Another phone - 01926 624564

Email - prakhem@foresthermitage.org.uk

Website - www.foresthermitage.org.uk

THE BUDDHA-DHAMMA FELLOWSHIP, Registered Charity No 289913

ANGULIMALA, Registered Charity No 294939