**50 year celebration April 2017**

50th anniversary of the founding of the Triratna Buddhist Community over the weekend of

8/9 April 2017

Here are the current plans for the celebration of 50 years of the Triratna Buddhist Community /FWBO in April 2017: the FWBO was founded on 6 April 1967.

**Below are the suggestions for marking this significant anniversary in UK & mainland Europe; you may like to adapt them for your situation:**

**Date:** main events over the weekend of **8&9th April** 2017

For the UK/Eire and Mainland Europe: the ECA exec has invited Centres, where possible, to arrange to **meet regionally** for the celebrations, so that local sanghas meet with other sanghas and not just with their own group; so that members of their sanghas have an experience of the wider movement.

This suggestion could be followed in other regions, in so far as distances between Centres allow.

**Overall theme: “50 years of Triratna”**

And below are suggestions for possible sub-themes**-**what you do is up to individual centres to choose. These themes listed below all arose in the main in a conversation Saddhaloka had with Bhante on the topic of the 50 years of Triratna.

  **What have we got to offer to the world at the moment, in the 21st century?**

*When Saddhaloka asked Bhante about the 50 year anniversary, his first thought was the reason for him founding the FWBO in the first place. He saw something lacking in Buddhism in the UK at that time, and sought to respond to a clear need. The FWBO was a middle way between a narrow monasticism on the one hand, and a rather lukewarm approach to Dharma practice on the other, typified for Bhante by what he found at the Buddhist Society. Obviously the world and Buddhism in the UK have changes a lot since then, so there is the question of what we have to offer now.*

  **The six emphases**

*In recent time Bhante has been encouraging us to make much more of the Six Distinctive Emphases of Triratna;*

·       *that we are ecumenical;*

·       *the centrality of Going for Refuge;*

·       *that we are a unified Order (ie one ordination for both men and women);*

·       *right livelihood;*

·       *the spiritual value of the arts;*

·       *spiritual friendship.*

  **A Retrospective**

*Invite people who were around in the early days to share their memories and hear their stories; rejoice in the pioneers;*

  **A Survey of Buddhism:**one choice of focus could be on the key message of the Dharma, as epitomized by Sangharakshita in this key work of his: *Bhante has pointed out that 2017 is also the****60th****anniversary of the publication of the Survey of Buddhism.*

Let’s also have world-wide **common elements** as part of our celebration of the day:

* The main suggestion is that we all include, as a shared ritual of the day, **the dedication ceremony:** it was written especially for the founding of the FWBO i.e. for the very event we are celebrating; the suggestion is that we all do it, in our respective situations world-wide, and **re-dedicate ourselves** for the next 50 years of Triratna.

* In addition, can this be preceded or followed of preceded by a Triratna metta bhavana – not exactly a metta wave as we won’t all be celebrating at the same time across the globe: but still a space where we send metta to all of Triratna across the globe and where **we mention all the many places in the world where there is a Triratna presence**.
* Further, the **sevenfold puja** is our uniting ritual and one we could consider including;
* Also, the **reading on how the FWBO was founded** from Sangharakshita’s memoirs ([Moving Against the Stream](http://www.sangharakshita.org/bookshelf/against-stream.pdf), p378-379) or from the Triratna Story;
* Have an international flavor to the puja perhaps by having the **precepts in different languages**;
* Ask for **dana**for the day and give it to some Triratna charity: a suggestion is the [futuredharma fund](http://futuredharma.org/) - let’s help build Triratna for the next 50 years!  Alternatively, choose another Triratna charity of your own choice.

**Triratna/FWBO exhibition**to cover 50 years: there is a plan to create an exhibition in conjunction with Adhisthana, Clearvision and the buddhistcentre online. This will be located in the Adhisthana Library but the resources used will also be available online on a dedicated space on the tbco (similar to the Ambedkar exhibition October 2016)