



Triratna Buddhist Community Resource Pack for group leaders and teachers

Introduction

This pack aims to offer anyone in the Triratna Buddhist Community who's leading a outlying group, or teaching outlying classes, a selection of useful resources to support them in their work.

It includes practical advice, Dharma and meditation resources (both off-the-shelf teaching resources and reference material); also some material that may be helpful in times of difficulty, either personal (eg, just keeping going!) or objective (eg answering questions about the FWBO Files etc)

This pack complements the two Newcomers' Resource packs, whose contents lists are given as part of this. Suggestions are welcome, please contact Lokabandhu at lokabandhu@triratnadevelopment.org .

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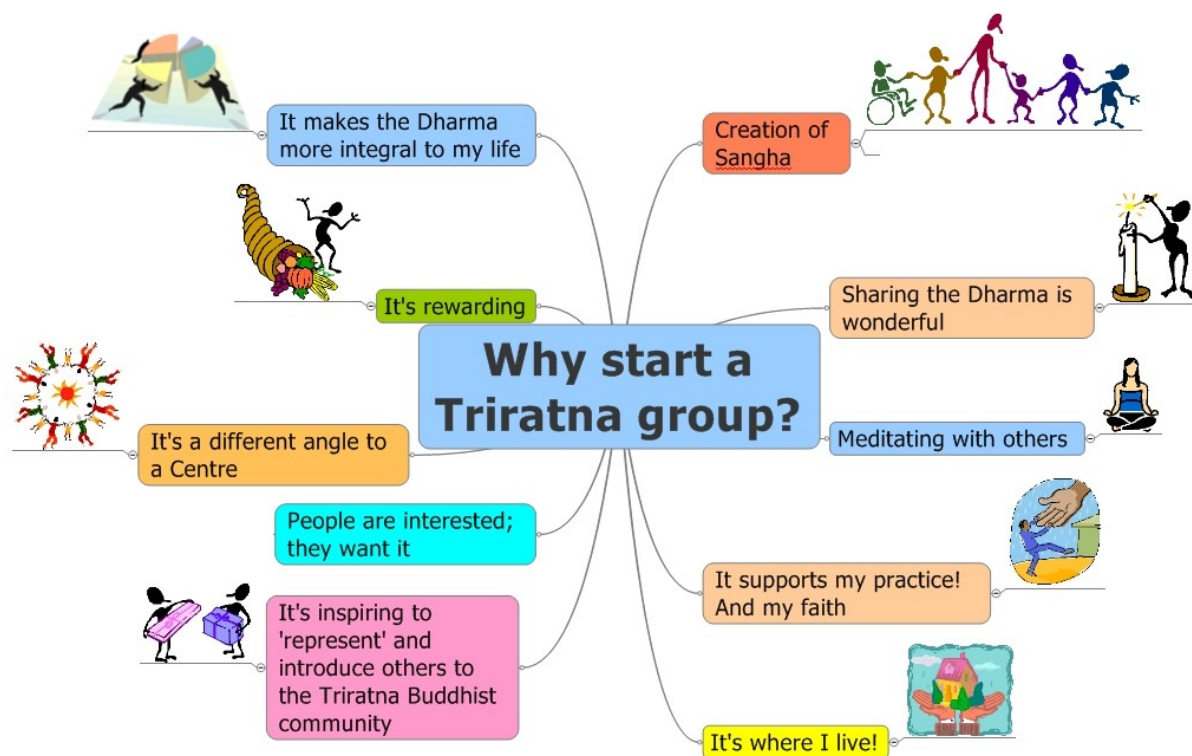
- Contents of the Newcomers' Resource packs
- Background material on the FWBO Files etc
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personal considerations

Why start a group?

Here's a mind-map of some reasons people have given for starting (or wanting to start) a Triratna Group - others could no doubt be added. One reply would simply be "because some beings have but little dust in their eyes..."



Keeping going...

Starting a group is likely to be exciting and inspiring - but keeping it going week after week a year or so later may be harder! Look out for what 'works' for you and make sure that's built-in to how the group works. Things that nourish you could include -

- Taking a break from time to time
- Actively 'bringing people on' in the group
- Inviting guest speakers
- Letting the wider Movement know what you're up to
- ... your answer here!



Leadership issues

If you're leading an outlying group you may well be the only Order Member people meet for months at a time. Inevitably your personal 'flavour' and style will affect the group, and therefore colour people's perceptions of the Dharma itself. Inevitably also people will project onto you for better or worse.

Take some time before doing anything to clarify your intentions - they may come back and bite you later! Of course you'll want to attract people - but if you're too 'open' and 'inclusive' people may be shocked later to discover you want it to be unambiguously Buddhist. For instance... Better to be a bit challenging at the start than have to try and introduce it later.

Look and feel of the group

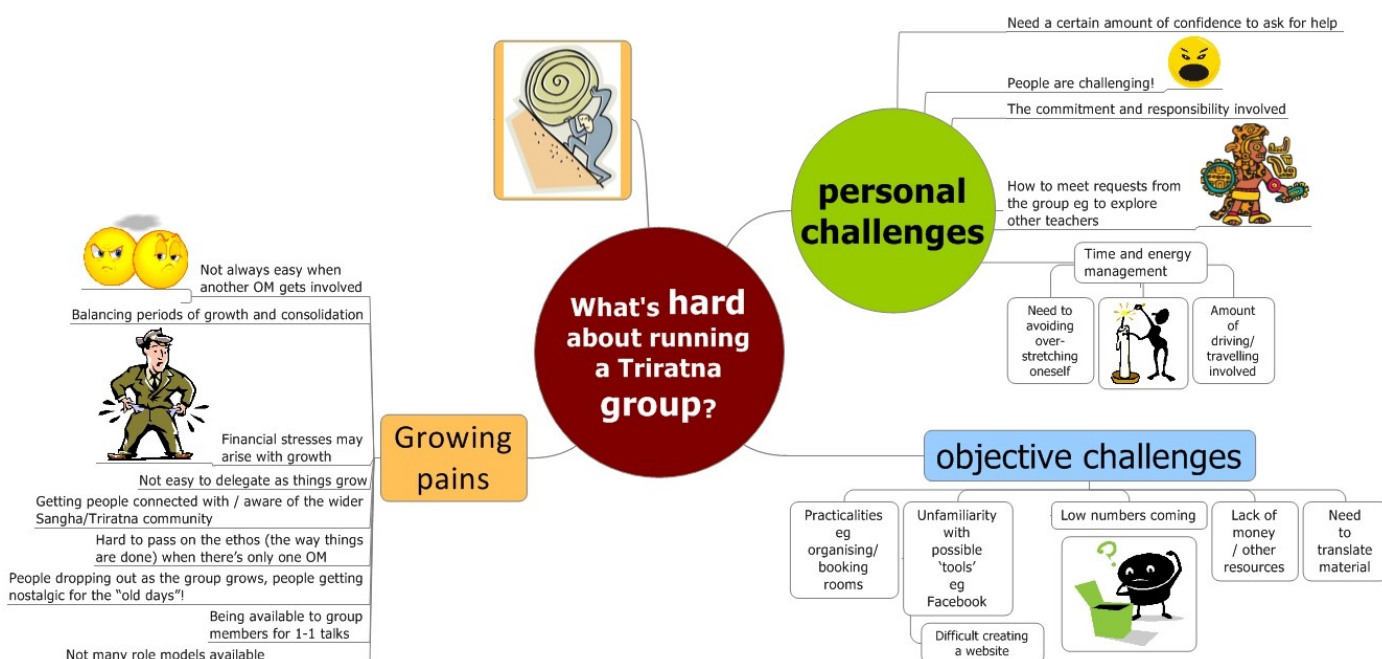
A new group will quite quickly acquire a definite 'look and feel' of its own, it's identity if you like. It's important to put some thought into just how that's likely to come across to new people - it'll be the first thing they perceive and will likely make all the difference to whether they stick or go. Every little detail will play its part - things like:

- The quality of the lights in the room (soft and warm, hard and bright)
- How warm the room is
- Whether they can just walk in or have to ring the bell
- Whether someone meets them at the door
- Whether there's chairs to sit in when they arrive, or people have to stand up
- Whether you're busy or free to greet them
- Whether they are introduced to others
- Whether there's something to look at/read while they're waiting
- What sort of shrine if any is there, and/or Buddha image, candles, incense etc,

The more warm and welcoming all this can be, the better - and natural, at the same time!

What's hard about running a group?

And here's one with summarising some of the issues that tend come up as the group goes along...



practical considerations

Suggestions for an evening program

There's no one 'right' program for an evening. Here's a couple of possibilities though:

7pm - doors open
7.15 - class begins, welcome, introductions
7.20 - refuges and precepts and meditate (led through if new people present)
8.10 - tea
8.30 - short Dharma talk/presentation followed by discussion
9.15 - transference of merits and end
9.30 - after-class chats with people as needed

7pm - doors open
7.15 - welcome, introductions
7.20 - Dharma talk/presentation, followed by discussion
8.30 - tea
9 - short meditation
9.30 - end
9.45 - after-class chats with people as needed

Suggestions for weekly schedule/Dharma syllabus

There's no one 'right' way to structure the content of each week's classes. One decision will be whether or not the group is open to new people coming every week - or only on specific weeks. Here's a couple of ways:

A. Short 4-week courses

Week 1 - public talk introducing theme (newcomers welcome)

Week 2 - first week of new course (newcomers welcome)

Weeks 3-5 - remainder of course (group is closed)

This gives a group that is open for 2 weeks in every 5 (a good balance); and which explores a new topic starting every 5 weeks.

B. Open every week

New people can come every week and are introduced as needed to meditation and the course material so far.

Choosing a venue

Some very successful groups meet in people's houses, eg Danapriya's small flat in Deal, Kent. Others rent a room eg in a local church hall or Friends Meeting House. Up to you really.

If you meet at someone's home there may come a time when planning permission may be an issue. When and if that's becomes the case will most likely depend on the neighbours and the type of street you are meeting in. It is unlikely to be a problem in the first couple of years of a group's existence. In the meantime meeting at home certainly reduces the cost!



Publicity - poster templates

We're not all great graphic designers. However there might be someone in your Sangha who is - asking them to do posters might be a good way to get them more involved. There's some useful blank poster templates available at -

<http://triratna-centre-support.org/publicity-and-networking/publicity-library>;

and some images suitable for posters on the Triratna Photos Flickr site at

www.flickr.com/photos/fwbo/sets/72157622705386701.

A Three Jewels logo commonly used across Triratna is available at <http://triratna-centre-support.org/publicity-and-networking>.

Building your contacts list

Gather people's emails and mobile numbers and work out a way to stay in contact - one that works for you. Here's some ideas with comments from me:

- * a text message list or several lists stored on your mobile phone: fiddly to set up, easy to use, a pain when you switch phones. Good for short snappy bits of news, reminders, etc.
- * an email list on your email program- ditto. A more sophisticated version of this is to use MailMerge eg in Microsoft Office, allowing personalised emails. Good for longer updates, programs, study material, etc.
- * A blog which your sangha subscribes to; they will then get emails every time you update it. This can be linked to -
- * A facebook page which your sangha then 'likes' and which you post updates to (or which is fed automatically from your blog). Both good for general news and updates. Facebook is a bit tricky to set up - lots of options with no obvious way to reach them Lokabandhu is happy to advise - or try asking any teenager! It's not everyone's cup of tea, but LOTS of people use it and it can offer a nice balance between keeping up with your own friends and promoting your activities - it's a social network, after all! You can also integrate with wider Triratna activities - eg there's an Triratna Page there with 1,000+ 'fans' at www.facebook.com/triratnabuddhistcommunity . Most Triratna retreat centres have Facebook pages, and many Centres.
- * COMING SOON is our new website, www.thebuddhistcentre.com; this will also have a private social network as part of it and we hope it will be the ideal place for most people in Triratna to gather - your sangha included, of course! Check it from time to time to see what's available, or ask Lokabandhu.

Then, make use of it! Little but often is best - but making sure you have something significant to say each time, and not so much you annoy people.

Website

It's easy to create a webpage for your group. At a bare minimum you'll need three things -

1. a host (three excellent free options are Google, Wordpress and Blogger);
2. an address (known as a URL in the jargon) and
3. your content - your actual text, images, timetable, etc.

Check www.google.com/sites ; <http://wordpress.com>; or www.blogger.com to get going.



If you want to take your website further, some useful articles by Satyadarshin are on the Centre Support website at <http://triratna-centre-support.org/internet>: writing 'web-friendly text, designing a website, search engine optimisation, linking to other websites, and more.

Triratna Webmasters are generally very helpful and can be contacted via their on-line forum at FWBOWebmasterSupport@yahoogroups.com (you might need to go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FWBOWebmasterSupport> and request membership first)

Sangha-building

Running a group *means* building up a Sangha, at least to some extent. These includes -

- encouraging people to 'get involved'
- building up friendships
- keeping in touch with people who don't come regularly
- Introducing people to the wider Triratna Buddhist Community

Encouraging people to 'get involved' includes things as simple (and important) as making the tea, clearing up afterwards, bringing things for the shrine; contributing dana; putting up posters; and helping lead the class when you are away.

Building up friendships

What happens in the class has to 'spill out' into friendships between you and people in the group, and among them. It's important to build in time for this to the evening's meeting schedule, and look for other opportunities, eg -

- Invite people over for supper before the class
- Social events eg walks, concerts...

Special occasions

The weekly class is likely to be the backbone of your program, but there's a lot to be said for organising occasional special events - social and spiritual. Festivals, Film nights, day/weekend retreats, expeditions - whatever you like. They give people opportunities to come together and get to know one another in a different way, to take responsibility, to suggest ideas and make them happen...

Stickability

In general you're looking for ways to help people 'stick' to you and what you're doing. That leads into the whole territory of marketing tactics and strategy, not all of which we'd consider ethical! However there's no doubt there's a lot of valuable experience out there which we can judiciously draw on - Sue from the Development Team suggests [this article](#) from the 'Psychotactics' website; it's about the importance of group identity for stickability. She comments "This is something that the New Frontiers church do very well with their Alpha courses that then lead directly into housegroups which meet weekly in addition to the Sunday service. Perhaps something to inform small groups aiming to go from weekly activities to committed Buddhists practising?"

Keeping in touch with people who don't come regularly

Once you've been going for a while, most likely at best only half your 'regulars' will come each week. You'll want some way to keep in touch with everyone, reminding them what's on and making it clear they are welcome to come back any time. See above ("Building your contacts list") for some ideas on the technical side of keeping in touch.

4. Last but not least you could create your own 'group network' using another free platform such as NING, this similar to Facebook but groups are more self-contained so you're less exposed to lots



of chit-chat. Breathworks and Exeter Triratna use it - see <http://breathworks.ning.com/> or <http://exeterfwbo.ning.com> (this is a private group)

Introducing people to the wider Triratna Buddhist Community

It's hard for people in a small local group to realise they are part of an international Buddhist movement. But if they *do* get it, it's very inspiring. Some ideas are -

- Tell stories of people, places, Bhante, our history...
- Seduce people into visiting you. Visiting Order Members can be invaluable - they are such tangible proof that the Sangha is bigger and richer than little old you...
- Show the FWBO History videos - these were really popular in Glastonbury!
- Encourage people to visit the nearest big Triratna Centre. Make it a day's 'outing' for your group.
- Encourage people to Go On Retreat. Apart from anything else this will really deepen their practice... www.GoingonRetreat.com is a great resource...
- Participate in collective events like the Urban Retreat - www.theurbanretreat.org
- Let people know of the many Triratna Dharma resources that exist - FreeBuddhistAudio; VideoSangha; Triratna News; Triratna Photos; Windhorse Publications; Bhante's on-line books... There's a one-page summary of these you can print and give away at <http://triratna-centre-support.org/wp-content/uploads/triratna-resources-sheet-apr09.pdf>
- The more you can do to reveal something of the breadth and depth of the Order the better - for instance inviting guest speakers, showing videos or playing talks - or inviting people on retreat. That will also help defuse projections.

Retreats

Day or weekend retreats are a great way to take the group - and their practice - deeper. A retreat takes energy to organise, attract bookings, and lead - but it'll pay off.

An easy option might be to book one of our Retreat centres for one of their spare weekends. Failing that you'll have to find your own place - and have the added jobs of shopping, creating a shrine, etc.

There's some general tips on how to organise a weekend retreat on the Triratna Centre Support website at <http://triratna-centre-support.org/sangha/retreats> - including such gems as "don't forget the WD40 to take care of squeaky doors"! This page includes some great websites to help you find a venue.

Integrating with the wider Triratna Buddhist Community

When you're reasonably sure the group is going to keep going, please do let their rest of the Triratna know about it!. Specifically you can -

- Add yourself to the Triratna Address List and www.thebuddhistcentre.com (contact Lokabandhu to arrange these)
- Celebrate your achievements in Shabda!

You might also want to consider participating in one or another Triratna-wide forums, eg the Triratna Chairs Assembly meetings. This may or may not be possible, depending on the overall numbers at the meeting.



At the time of writing we are exploring creating new forums to support Triratna Group Leaders - it's not yet clear what people would really find useful and affordable and doable - ask Lokabandhu what the latest thinking is.

A very practical way to feel part of things is to make a contribution to the Triratna Chairs Assembly Fund (previously known as the Central Dana System); this is the source of support for the Development Team and many other Triratna-wide projects. All contributions gratefully received!

Money and fund-raising

The Triratna Chairs Assembly have a facility with JustGiving which you can use to make an on-line internet fundraising page; the money will go to the Chairs bank account from which we can pay it to you.

More details are at http://triratna-centre-support.org/fundraising/internet_fundraising.

where to find

Triratna Centre Support website - getting help

The Triratna Centre Support website is maintained by the Development Team; it aims to be a one-stop-shop for almost all aspects of running an Triratna Centre - and group. If there's things missing please contact Lokabandhu who will be happy to try and help. It's grown into a substantial resource, arranged as follows -

[About this site](#)

[Bright Ideas](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Dharma Teaching](#)

[European Chairs Assembly](#)

[Fundraising](#)

[Growth and Development](#)

[Health and Welfare](#)

[Internet Strategy](#)

[Legal and Administrative \(UK\)](#)

[Mitra community and study](#)

[Publicity and Networking](#)

[Right Livelihood](#)

[Ritual and Festivals](#)

[Sangha Building](#)

[Schools + Children's Dharma](#)

[Site map](#)

Plus there's a search facility

Each section contains up to 8 sub-pages, eg the Fundraising section is arranged thus -

1. [What is fundraising?](#)
- 1a. [Fundraising in a Recession](#)
2. [An Introductory Guide to Fundraising](#)
- 2a. [The Case for Support - what it is and how to do one](#)
4. [The Triratna Fundraisers Kula](#) - including downloads of the presentations made, eg Planning; Capital Appeals; and Regular Giving
5. [General Fundraising Resources](#)
6. [Internet fundraising techniques](#) - introducing JustGiving, and more
7. [Gift Aid & Payroll Giving](#) (UK)
8. [Dana Economies in Triratna](#)
9. [The Triratna Growth Fund](#) and the [Sangharakshita Legacy Fund](#)
10. [The \(UK Government's\) Community Development Fund](#)
11. Karuna Appeals

Details about Mitra System, ceremony, etc

The Mitra System has changed enormously in the past few years; and is still slowly evolving. You'll find an introduction to the 'new' system, including some suggestions for how to do a Mitra Ceremony, on the Centre Support site at <http://triratna-centre-support.org/mitras>.

The Mitra Convenors have recently requested some dialogue around how Triratna groups (who are likely to be without Mitra Convenors, etc) might relate to the Mitra System. Please contact Lokabandhu or Vajragupta if you are interested in this as they may have an update.



The latest communication from them (November 2009) says - “we had a bit of a discussion about how outlying groups can plug into the mitra system and have the following points to make:

- We’d like to encourage groups to contact the mitra convenors at their nearest centre. maybe the MCs could visit and talk about becoming a mitra.
- Once MCs have this connection they could invite people in the group to events at their Centre. This would enable people in the group to connect up with a wider sangha, including other order members.
- We would prefer it if groups didn’t make people mitras without involving a MC in some way; the MCs are spending time at the moment making adjustments to the system by which people become mitras, ensuring a similar approach is taken by different centres (with room for flexibility depending on conditions) and we’d like to invite groups to share in this common approach. It will mean that mitras in groups are more closely part of the wider mitra sangha. There will be a booklet and, I imagine, online info that communicate this approach.
- If there are not enough people in the group for following the Dharma Training Programme to be possible, or if people’s circumstances are possible, Suvarnagarbha offers distance study on a dana basis.

We are happy for our names and Centres to be given to anyone, so we are:

Centre (UK)	Women's MC	Men's MC
Birmingham	Asokasuri	Saraha
Brighton	Padmavajri	Jnanottara
Bristol	Satyalila	Janaka
Cambridge	Tejasvini	Vajrapriya
Cardiff	Varasahaya	Pramudita
Croydon	Khemasiddhi	Dhammavijaya
East London	Subhadramati	
Glasgow	Jyotipakshini	Suriyavamsa
Leeds	Uddyotani	Khemasara
Manchester	Padmadarshini	Arthaketu
North London	Santva	
Norwich	Sarala	
Nottingham	Karunavaca and Ksantika	Jinaraja
Sheffield	Moksalila and Vajratara	Vadanya

What to do if someone requests ordination

If someone wants to ask for ordination they can make this request or any Order Member, however it is only formally logged and responded to once the requestee has written to Padmaloka or Tirananaloka. You should therefore ask them to do this as soon as possible. The new requestee will then receive Padmaloka or Tiratanaloka’s Ordination Handbook (online at www.tiratanaloka.org/docs/handbook10.pdf).

The next step is to encourage them to visit Padmaloka or Tirananaloka as appropriate, also perhaps to write to Bhante and register with Jalaka (inspe@hotmail.com) or Hridayavani (hridayavani@hotmail.co.uk), UK-based journals for men and women respectively who have



requested ordination into the WBO. There may be other journals elsewhere in the Triratna worldwide.

Triratna Address lists (and contact details for other group leaders)

There's three different Triratna Address lists which you might find useful:

1. a public one on the main triratna website (<http://thebuddhistcentre.com/text/triratna-projects>)
2. a more 'in-house' one which includes Triratna communities, TBRL businesses, etc. Available on request from Lokabandhu.
3. a 'who's-who' of all Centre Chairs, Managers, Treasurers, Mitra Convenors, Presidents, etc; this is primarily used by the Development Team for emailing different collections of people within the movement. It's not normally circulated but please contact us if you think it'd be useful to you.

dharma

The Triratna has an embarrassment of riches when it comes to Dharma material, both for teacher and student. However it is rather scattered across many websites; this aims to show you where to look for the main collections.

For people in outlying regions keen to do Dharma study (including mitra study) Suvarnagarbha in Cambridge offers mentoring assistance and friendly support online and by phone on a dana basis - tel. 01223 473 444, email suvarnagarbha@hotmail.co.uk

Basic texts: puja, dedication ceremony, etc

A pretty good place to look on-line for our basic texts and ceremonies is www.fwbo-news.org/resources.html. They are also copied in the second Resource Pack for newcomers.

Meditation and Dharma course material

There's a rich collection of Dharma and Meditation teaching material available in the 'Lighting the Flame' collection on the Triratna Centre Support website - see <http://triratna-centre-support.org/lightingtheflame>. It is arranged in easy-to-navigate sections:

- [Beginners – Buddhism](#)
- [Beginners – intro](#)
- [Beginners – Meditation](#)
- [Beginners – Triratna](#)
- [Friends – intro](#)
- [Friends – Meditation](#)
- [Friends Buddhism courses](#)
- [Friends Buddhism other](#)
- [Friends Puja and Devotion](#)
- [Mitrans](#)
- [Order Members](#)
- [Right Livelihood](#)
- [Summer 2011 newsletter](#)
- [Teachers](#)

Many thanks are due to all those teachers who've made their material available, plus Dhammaloka who collated most of it.



Meditation resources

The Triratna meditation practices are outlined at <http://www.fwbo.org/meditation.html>.

A similar and more comprehensive introduction is on Wildmind www.wildmind.org.

Several meditation courses are included in 'Lighting the Flame' - see above.

Kamalashila's classic book is fully available on-line at <http://kamalashila.co.uk/page7/page7.html>

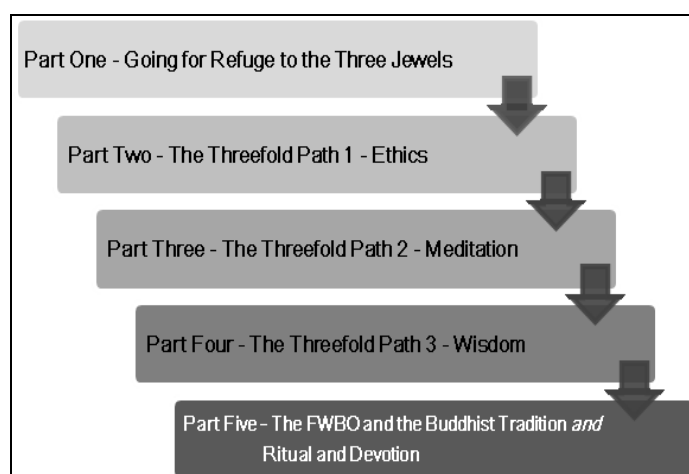
Mitra Study (incl teachers' notes)

The new 'Dharma Training Course for Mitras', created by Saccanama and many others, is hosted on FreeBuddhistAudio at www.freebuddhistaudio.com/study. It's a major accomplishment and should serve as a comprehensive guide to our approach to the Dharma for years to come. There's also a new booklet, currently at the printers, introducing people to what it means to be a Mitra.

The course runs over four years with the first year being a five-part Foundation Year suitable for newcomers; years 2-4 are the Mitra course proper with 21 modules.

A booklet introducing the whole course is on-line at www.freebuddhistaudio.com/study/guide.zip.

More modules may be added later; the present ones are -



Foundation Year

Year 2

1. Vision and Transformation – The Buddha's Noble Eightfold Path (compiled by Saccanāma). 8 weeks.
2. The Nature of Existence One – The Middle Way and Conditioned Co-production (written by Dhivan and Sagaraghosa). 5 weeks.
3. Turning the Mind to the Dharma (compiled by Saccanāma). 6 weeks.
4. Transcending Views (compiled by Jnanaketu). 8 weeks.
5. What is the Sangha? – A Vision of Spiritual Community (compiled by Saccanāma). 8 weeks.
6. The Bodhisattva Ideal (compiled by Saccanāma). 8 weeks.
7. The Way of Mindfulness – A Practical Exploration of the *Satipaṭṭhāna Sutta* (compiled by Kamalashila). 6 weeks.

Year Three



1. 'Letters of Gold, Letters of Fire' – Living with The Dhammapada (compiled by Saccaṇāma). 8 weeks.
2. The Nature of Existence Two – Buddhist Visions of Reality (compiled by Vadanya). 6 weeks.
3. Sangharakshita and the History of the Triratna (compiled by Lokabandhu). 6 weeks.
4. The Drama of Cosmic Enlightenment – Parables, Myths and Symbols of the White Lotus Sūtra (compiled by Cittapala). 10 weeks.
5. Freedom of Heart – Practising the Four Brahmavihāras (compiled by Kulaprabha). 6 weeks.
6. An Interconnected World – Buddhist Ethics and Contemporary Issues (compiled by Akuppa, Maitrisara, Parami, Guhyapati and Khemasuri). 8 weeks.
7. Faith, Symbols and the Imagination (compiled by Vadanya). 8 weeks.

Year Four

1. Towards Insight – Reflection and Meditation (compiled by Ratnaguna). 6 weeks.
2. Evolutionary Buddhism (compiled by Ratnaprabha). 6 weeks.
3. Two Great Mahāyāna Sūtras – The Vimalakīrti Nirdeśa and The Sutra of Golden Light (compiled by Saccaṇāma). 8 weeks.
4. Know Your Mind – The Ethical Psychology of the Abhidharma (compiled by Sudarshini). 8 weeks.
5. Creative Symbols of Tantric Buddhism (compiled by Saccaṇāma). 8 weeks.
6. The Bodhicaryāvatāra of Śāntideva (compiled by Vadanya). 8 weeks.
7. Great Buddhists from the WBO Refuge Tree (compiled by Saccaṇāma). 6 weeks.

Bhante's lectures and seminars

These are all available on-line courtesy of FreeBuddhistAudio, at www.freebuddhistaudio.com/texts/talks and www.freebuddhistaudio.com/texts/seminars respectively. Both are fully searchable, and a wonderful resource. Don't forget to encourage anyone using the site to make a donation!

Bhante's books

Bhante's books should be available via your Centre bookshop (actually, any bookshop); or the Windhorse Publications website www.windhorsepublications.com, or on-line via Bhante's website at www.sangharakshita.org/online_books.html



other

Contents of the Triratna Resource Packs for newcomers

This has been split into two, the first containing basic 'follow-up' information and the second brief introductions to our main meditations and ceremonies. You'll find them both at <http://triratna-centre-support.org/growth>

Newcomer's Resource Pack 1

where to find

- Recommended reading lists
- Sangharakshita's books
- On-line Dharma talks
- Study material (including the Triratna Dharma Training Course)
- Contact details for Triratna Centres
- Details about retreats
- Dharma material and events for young people
- Children and schools' Dharma material
- Ask a Buddhist: on-line answers

what we look like

- Photos of Triratna Centres
- Profiles of people/Order Members
- Video clips of Bhante/ Order Members / other people in the Triratna

more about the Triratna

- Triratna News
- Social Engagement
- Fundraising
- Triratna History and archives

beyond English

going deeper

- What is a Mitra?
- Asking for Ordination

Newcomer's Resource Pack 2

introductions

- a short introduction to meditation
- a short introduction to Buddhism
- a short introduction to the Triratna Buddhist Community

basic Triratna texts

- The Threefold Puja
- The Dedication Ceremony
- The Sevenfold Puja
- the Refuges and Precepts
- The Heart Sutra

Background material on the FWBO Files etc

There's four documents on-line that still regularly upset people new to the FWBO/Triratna - especially if they stumble across them unexpectedly. This will often be after they have visited us, had a positive experience, and decided to find out more about us via the internet - and they discover the FWBO Files! For this reason, it's best if at all possible to take the initiative and forewarn people.

The four are -

1. The Guardian Article, published in - guess what? - the UK's Guardian newspaper, in October 1997. This basically drew attention to the troubles in Croydon in the 1980s, plus Sangharakshita's relationship with Mark Dunlop. Although its over 12 years old it's easily the most-quoted "evidence" used against us.
2. The FWBO Files, published anonymously on the internet in May 1998. This was a comprehensive attack on Sangharakshita and his 'lineage', plus pretty much everything else



- about the FWBO! The author's identity has become known to us but we have chosen not to publish it - he does however have a record of attacking various Buddhist groups eg the NBO.
3. A recent (2007-8) flare-up when the same author wrote anonymously to various MPs, Govt ministries, and newspapers making various allegations against the FWBO. As a consequence the MPs tabled a number of questions in Parliament about the FWBO, all of which were answered quite satisfactorily - but the fact of their being asked was (predictably) used by our critic to prop up his case against us.
 4. Wikipedia on the FWBO or Sangharakshita. In some ways this is the hardest to counter as one or two of our critics have become expert on Wikipedia and entries there can simply be amended almost at will - so as soon as we correct it, it can be changed again. Also, even if an article is 'locked for editing' (which is possible on request) there is no guarantee it will be locked in a satisfactory state.

The FWBO's 'Response' is available on-line at <http://response.fwbo.org/fwbo-files/response.html> This is a well-argued and comprehensive refutation of the many allegations in the 'Files', it is a very good read although quite long. There has been talk of preparing a shorter 'response' - however the best 'response' is likely to be personal communication and talking things through.

Two other documents that may crop up are (1) Bhante's 'Last Will and Testament' and (2) his more recent 'Conversations'. Both are in the public domain (on his website www.sangharakshita.org) and it'd be wise to be familiar with them.

FWBO Discussion

FWBO Discussion (<http://discussion.fwbo.org>) is an on-line resource containing a selection of articles by Order Members reflecting on the FWBO and WBO. It arose out of Vishvapani's work for the FWBO Communications Office. In his preface to the site he wrote:

"The Friends of the Western Buddhist Order is a diverse and thoughtful community, whose members frequently debate matters of teaching and issues affecting the FWBO, its history and its future. This debate has often been invisible to non-members, and this site aims to open that debate and reflection to a wider audience. The site links to articles already online, written by members of the Western Buddhist Order and others. Initially at least, the focus is - perhaps inevitably - on topics that have caused controversy..."

This document is on-line at

http://triratna-centre-support.org/wp-content/uploads/Triratna_Resource_Pack_for_group_leaders_and_teachers.pdf

