



Dor Kemmyn Newsletter

An Interfaith Centre for Cornwall



No. 6

www.dorkemmyn.org.uk

Autumn 2013

Welcome to the Autumn Edition of the Dor Kemmyn newsletter. We've had a busy few months and in Dor Kemmyn's tradition in October we went on a walk this time to the west of the County around Sancreed.

Eve Salthouse, a representative of the Pagan Faith Community writes ...

After a week of rain, the Saturday of our walk dawned warm and sunny. Andy and Rita had already braved the rain earlier in the week to reconnoitre the route, so we were well prepared for mud. We met at the heart of West Penwith, at Sancreed, to walk together through the land reflecting on a theme of harvest and abundance. We were particularly happy to welcome our newest member, baby Sara, youngest daughter of Mubeen and Nour. We set off first to Sancreed Holy Well, lost for many years until re-discovered by a vicar of Sancreed Parish Church in the late nineteenth century. It is difficult to believe that somewhere so beautiful should be lost. The wealth of clouties in the branches of the hazel tree overhanging the well shows how much it is loved and honoured as a special place by locals today. The Well itself is reached by granite steps down into a small chamber. We gathered beside the Well, in the ruins of the tiny chapel, to hear the first of the day's readings on our theme of harvest and abundance. Then, tackling the first of many stiles, we headed off across the fields, stopping off to say hello to two lovely donkeys, and enjoying the beautiful view of Mounts Bay spreading out below us.



Fatima at Sancreed Well



Nour with baby Sara

The main challenge of the day soon made itself felt underfoot, with some truly spectacular mud in the green lanes and footpaths. We squelched steadily uphill to Carn Brea, where we stopped to catch our breath and to hear the next reading and a short explanation by Andy of the site's history. From Carn Brea we started to descend slowly, with only a brief squelch to the twin wells of Carn Euny. Again the hazel tree at the well was covered in clouties, (and briefly, children!) and gave evidence of how these places are held dear in the hearts of many. Rita had brought cotton strips for all those who wished to hang clouties of their own.

Reassured that the worst of the mud had been waded through, we stopped for lunch at Carn Euny Courtyard House village. This peaceful place was home to an ancient farming community for many centuries and today still radiates a timeless peace.

After a leisurely lunch in the warm sun, we went down to the fogou and in the underground chamber Sophie led us in a Buddhist chant honouring the four Sublime States, loving kindness, compassion, sympathetic joy and equanimity.

Then more stiles, more mud and it was back to the donkeys and Sancreed, to explore the churchyard of this ancient parish church and to hear the final readings of the day.

Although the land we walked was not planted with the arable crops we often think of as "harvest", this walk served to help us reflect on the many kinds of abundance and harvest we enjoy in our own lives, an abundance of peace, harmony and fellowship.



Group photo at Carn Euny

Being Peace *Sophie Muir from the Buddhist Faith Community writes*

On September 9th, Diocesan House hosted a wonderful talk, 'Being Peace' given by Zohar Lavie to the Dor Kemmyn community including many newcomers. Zohar is an Israeli Dharma Teacher who leads retreats in Israel, India and Europe. She is also the founder of Sangha Seva ('community in service') which explores engaged spirituality in many forms, including work retreats, for example at Anandwan - 'Forest of Bliss' a village for people suffering from leprosy and in Israel & Palestine, working with Palestinian olive farmers. Zohar joked about considering 'bullet points' for her talk, saying "it would be nice if there was another word, but what we're really aiming for is peace." She spoke about an emphasis on compassion and kindness "as something which is really meaningful and worthwhile exploring, cultivating and putting at the centre of our lives. We can say that in this circle, we're putting it in the centre." About community and responsibility - "not as a heavy weight but as the ability to respond". About being nourished by something very deep, "so we actually have a resource that is really meaningful ... available to us whatever our tradition, through texts, teachings, meeting inspirational people and through our communities ... people that we practice with ... very special in a

society which is so often goal-oriented, with a lot of loneliness in it, a lot of isolation." About about faith and trust, knowing the very opposite, a sense of helplessness and despair.

Building on her experience bringing groups to Anandwan, where Baba Amte, the founder used to say that " the joy in Anandwan is much more infectious than the disease! " the ' Being Peace ' retreats linked with Rabbis for Human Rights, taking groups of Israelis and internationals to work helping with the olive harvest. The name ' Being Peace ' comes from Thich Nhat Hanh, the Vietnamese Zen Master nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by Martin Luther King in '68 and is also founded on the idea of Mahatma Gandhi: ' Be the change you want to see. ' Zohar spoke about ' embodying that which we value ' in all sorts of ways and circumstances. For example, wanting to help bring a young child suffering from Leukemia to hospital she shared about obstruction at a checkpoint, yet choosing to contemplate within, " I will not be your enemy; I will not build more walls. I am here to dissolve walls, not build more. " She explained, " I could feel as I was standing there that my natural reaction was to have walls built up within me, separating me ... ' I'm good, you're bad, ' in a very, very simple way. ' I care, you don't. ' The walls that are built up inside me are the same walls that are built around me. It's the same movement. I had a choice at that moment of just standing on the earth, grounding myself and being steady. "



This idea of dissolving inner walls resonated with many people present - " something for me to take away and think about. How do I demolish the walls within me? " as one person said. And another appreciated the value of small steps, building bridges: " What we're talking about is just trying to unite the world one heart at a time. We're talking about hearts, because that's where everyone in this room is coming from. " Lastly, valuing ripples from small acts and compassionate intention ... " it's highly practical and very wonderful how a little seed - you say something very small - is what makes a tree grow - just planting these seeds for peace ... " We are very grateful to Zohar for accepting our invitation to Cornwall to speak about her work & hope this really remarkable woman and may visit again: May her tireless service and planting of peace and happiness continue without obstacle, benefitting all beings!

Our Education Work 2014

Thanks to recent funding we have been able set in place our education timetable for 2014. Firstly in the new year we shall be visiting the Little Harbour Hospice to deliver some faith workshops. This will be aimed for carers who support the whole family needs. During March Cornwall College asked us to deliver more workshops for the Health and Social Care Students at their colleges in St Austell and Camborne. Finally Richard Lander School invited us spend a day with them in the Summer and hold a workshop day on social cohesion for 220 students. We are pleased how this 'strand' of our work is going, but we are looking for volunteers from the faiths who would like to join the volunteer team - see role specification opposite. Contact Rita Stephen for more information—contact details below.

Cornwall Faith Forum and United Nations Association Interfaith Devotional *Philomena Clifford from the Baha'i Faith Community writes ...*



Maryam's footprints

Cornwall Faith Forum, in association with the Cornwall United Nations Association held the bi-annual Inter Faith Devotional at The Chapter House, Truro Cathedral on Sunday 27th October.

It was truly heartening and heart warming to once more see various Faith Representatives within Cornwall coming together to share a Devotional. This year the theme was Pilgrimage which is a subject close to the hearts of all participants and perhaps heralded the Inter Faith Pilgrimage to be held in the Holy Land in February 2014.

Each Faith group present including Buddhists, Hindus, Baha'is, Christians and Muslims recited a prayer and provided some background information on their Pilgrimages. A Centre Piece was set up and the children and young people joined in by lighting a candle for each Faith. Everyone enjoyed making a and placing a paper footprint to represent the journey involved in a Pilgrimage and the spiritual part concluded by reciting the Peace Prayer in unison. The inspiring afternoon ended with a large helping of Barbara's, by now famous, Punch !

Dor Kemmyn Education Project, led by Cornwall Faith Forum Become part of our Volunteer Team!

The aim of Dor Kemmyn (Common Ground in Cornish) is to bring people together from different faiths and cultures for the benefit of everyone. The education project creates workshops for primary and secondary schools, colleges and adults. Workshops are jointly developed by the following faith groups: the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Pagan communities.

Cornwall Faith Forum is looking for people with an interest in the following roles:

Volunteer Faith Speakers; Press and Publicity; Social Media; support during Educational events.

Benefits for volunteers are: Free training; being part of an inter-faith network; help with child care.

For further information on any of the items in this newsletter please contact:

Rita Stephen, Interfaith Development Worker R.H.Stephen@exeter.ac.uk or
Rosey Sanders, Dor Kemmyn Admin. Assistant info@dorkemmyn.org.uk Tel. 01872 274351 Ext 238