



# Dor Kemmyn Newsletter

An Interfaith Centre for Cornwall



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[www.dorkemmyn.org.uk](http://www.dorkemmyn.org.uk)

Summer 2013

**Welcome to the Summer Edition of the Dor Kemmyn newsletter. Dor Kemmyn has been busy over the last six months. Most recently the Buddhist Community of Cornwall held the Wesak Ceremony on the Dor Kemmyn site. Sophie Temple Muir, a representative of the Buddhist Community writes ...**

On Sunday 19th May Cornwall Buddhists gathered at Penmount with members of Dor Kemmyn to celebrate Wesak: Buddha's Birth, Awakening (or Enlightenment) and Parinirvana (Passing). Practitioners in the Zen, Chan and Tibetan lineages joined friends from the Baha'i, Christian, Jewish and Pagan communities to participate in a ceremony led by Rev. Master Myfanwy of Dragon Bell Temple, Exeter.

Wesak is the principal festival in the Buddhist calendar, falling at full moon in May. The Pali (vesakha) or Sanskrit (vaisakha) refers to Taurus, the month of the Bull, during which the Buddha was born, became enlightened and died. Buddha - ' the Awakened One ' - is the historical Buddha, Sakyamuni and at the same time, reflects to us our own awakened nature, our potential for living a life of wisdom and compassion.

The festival is one of rejoicing and renewal, and this first event at the Dor Kemmyn site was no exception: the sky was bright, the sun warm, the land at Penmount resplendent with May green, with buttercups encircling like stars all around the woodhenge, marking out the foundation of the building-to-be. Participating as a wider community in this ceremony was a tremendous privilege, filled with openness and an atmosphere of soft gentleness and respect.



A statue of Buddha as a baby stood on the altar at the centre, sheltered beneath a willow pavilion, woven through with wild flowers. Once gathered we processed in turn to make an offering of water to the Buddha, ladling water from a great bowl and pouring over the Buddha's form, signifying the cleansing of our own karma - the intention which informs our actions of body, speech and mind; a purification of the three poisons of greed, hatred and delusion, understood to be the roots of all suffering.



As we processed, we began a circumambulation of the site, three times, twice within and the last moving outside the circle of the woodhenge until everyone had made their offering. And while we circumambulated, we spoke the words of the Heart Sutra, repeating the text until the last person had completed the circle, allowing the recitation to take us beyond words, beyond concepts - as the text itself points to - to the heart.

Following the ceremony, local children helped to plant a flowering cherry, a gift from Cornwall Buddhists, near to an apple planted at Tu B'shevat in February by the Jewish Community. Rita Stephen, our development



worker, spoke about supportive, fertile pollination between the two trees. Then began a sharing of food, an idyllic picnic in the great green bowl of the land, under a blue sky.

And indeed what a heart-warming experience was the day as whole: Our wonderful Dor Kemmyn community combining with Buddhists from as far as Bristol, Swindon, Glastonbury and Devon - here for a weekend of retreat and celebration - and culminating in this peaceful, beautiful ceremony. Blessed by luminous weather, the day felt to be auspicious for all, for interfaith in Cornwall, for the awakening heart in all beings.

We are immeasurably grateful to all who were present and especially to Rev. Master Myfanwy, to the Groundsmen at Penmount, to Rita and Rosey and to Dor Kemmyn, for this most precious opportunity. May all beings benefit.

## New Dor Kemmyn Leaflets

Dor Kemmyn is proud to announce that it has commissioned two new leaflets promoting the project. The first leaflet, for which Dor Kemmyn is very grateful to Cornwall Council, features the benefits of the Inter Faith Centre to the people of Cornwall and its main purposes. It also has details of the architecture of the building, together with what is happening next in the project and how to become involved in the project. Please contact us if you would like to have copies of this leaflet to hand around your contacts and friends. The second leaflet, for which Dor Kemmyn is grateful to the Police Diversity Fund and our architect Matt Robinson, has more detailed graphics and images of the building and will be a useful tool in attracting private donations and for public funding applications.



## Visit to Pagan Federation South-West Conference: Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> of March

Rita Stephen writes ....Dor Kemmyn was invited by the Pagan community in Cornwall to attend the Pagan Federation Conference on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> of March in Kilkhampton, just over the border in Devon. It was a cold but beautifully sunny morning as Manijeh, Teresa and myself drove through some lovely countryside. We were made very welcome and the conference was busy, bustling and exiting. We started the morning with a guided meditation, followed by some very good and thought provoking lectures. The highlights for me were the lecture by Professor Marion Gibson from Exeter University on "Re-opening Minds to British Paganism in Mediaeval and Renaissance Literature" and Professor Ronald Hutton's lecture on Greek and Roman Mysteries. Professor Hutton is from Bristol University. It was great to learn about the very long and ancient history of Paganism in Britain and Europe. In the afternoon, there was a Morris dancing group (Wolf's Head van Vixen) who gave a very energetic workshop which was like nothing else I have seen before, exhausting and lots of fun. The day ended with a wonderful dance all through the conference centre and outside, led by Cornish Piper Merv Davey.



The organisers of the conference had kindly chosen Dor Kemmyn as the charity to support during the conference and they donated £351 to Dor Kemmyn which was amazing. Very many thanks to the Pagan Federation for the donation and for inviting us to a great conference.

## Visit of Archbishop Justin Welby to Cornwall

During March the Archbishop of Canterbury visited Truro for a day of prayer. Along with hundreds of people from across Cornwall, Dor Kemmyn, had an opportunity to meet with him and be part of the 'journey of prayer' taking place in the Cathedral. The Archbishop was introduced to the representatives from Dor Kemmyn and was interested to learn about the project. Afterwards the group spoke to the Rt Revd Bishop Tim who has been present at some of the 'milestone' events held at the Dor Kemmyn site.

## Diary Date - Sunday 6th October - Dor Kemmyn Walk

A repeat of our very first walk when we visited different faith sites in West Cornwall. Places and sites included in the walk will be Carbis Bay, the Penzance Jewish Crematory, Mousehole to Lamorna, Boscanowen and San Creed Holy Well. We are hoping to have transport between places via minibus. More details to follow.



## Regional Faith to Engage Launch

Dor Kemmyn travelled to Plymouth on 16th May for the launch of a research report from the Faith to Engage Project entitled 'Faithfully meeting local need': Lessons from faith Based Community Projects in England. The report highlights good practice and had advice for faith groups on developing projects. One of the projects studied was Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity and Jonathon Marshall, Director, gave an inspirational presentation about faith and projects working in the community. Rita is featured here in this photo with Anthea Rose, author of the report. If you wish to have an electronic copy of the report please contact Rosey Sanders (email below).



## Multifaith Chaplaincy at Falmouth University & The University of Exeter



Becky Barber, Multifaith Chaplain writes .. The Multifaith Chaplaincy is available for students and staff at Falmouth University and the University of Exeter, Cornwall Campus. We have 3 campuses, Tremough (Penryn), Woodlane (Falmouth) and a smaller presence at Treliske (Truro). We have one full-time multifaith chaplain (me!) and a team of friendly volunteers who are ambassadors for various churches and faith communities. We enjoy our close connection with Dor Kemmyn, which helps us link students and staff with smaller faith communities that have a less visible

presence on campus. We wanted however to ensure all faith communities were aware that our chaplaincy team is always open to new members with a passion for working in the context of higher education here in Cornwall.

Our chaplaincy team provides pastoral and spiritual care for people of all faiths and none - we always enjoy a good chat over a cup of tea and a piece of cake! We have responsibility for the provision of people's religious needs and we are keen to engage in interfaith dialogue and conversation about faith in general. We like to get involved in debate about values and the place of faith in higher education and we have a passion for anything relating to social justice. We are fortunate that the 'institutional attitude' to faith on campus and therefore to chaplaincy in general is very supportive and new doors are opening all the time. The work is challenging, but very rewarding. Volunteers can give as much or as little time as they are able and we do our best to make the most of the gifts and talents they bring rather than just ascribing a "faith label"! If you know of somebody in your community who might be interested in exploring this opportunity, I will always be happy to meet with them. In addition, we are hosting a 'workplace chaplaincy' day on 25<sup>th</sup> June. During the morning there will be a (Tremough) campus tour and a presentation of what we do and the organisers have generously said that interested friends of Dor Kemmyn would be welcome to join us. It would be a great way to dip a toe in without committing to anything! If you know somebody who would like to come or somebody who is interested, please let me know. . **Tel: 01326 370744 Mob: 07770803550**

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

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