

Buddhists and Schools: a day conference

for Buddhists who work with schools or wish to

Saturday, 26th March 2011, Birmingham Buddhist Centre

	Tea area	Main shrine hall	Blue room	Library
10:00	Registration Tea/coffee			N/A
10:30		Welcome and introduction		N/A
10:45		Three 10-minute talks: What I want to communicate as a Buddhist 1 Munisha, Triratna Buddhist Order 2 Yann Lovelock, Birmingham Mahavihara 3 Phillida Cormack, SGI UK		N/A
11:30	Lunch Please bring sandwiches	<i>(Lunch will be offered for Theravadin monastics who have booked.)</i>		N/A
12:30		Option 1 Padmakumara Meditating/“stilling” with children and young people	Option 5 Amaranatho Engaging with teenagers	Option 3 Ramona Kauth Buddhism and the Ladywood Interfaith Education Project
13:15		Keynote talk: Dr Joyce Miller “What RE asks of us”		
13:45	Tea			
14:30		Small group 1	Small group 2	Small group 3
15:00		Option 4 Munisha The Clear Vision Trust: 18 years of Buddhist video for schools		Option 2 Cynthia Bonell The Six Perfections: a prayer flag workshop (NB: 12 places; there is a charge of £5 for blank prayer flags.)
15:30		Plenary and conclusions		
16:00		Ends		

Suggested donation £5-£15

Part of **Celebrating RE** month, this event is organised by the Clear Vision Trust and hosted by Birmingham Buddhist Centre, in association with the Network of Buddhist Organisations UK.

www.clear-vision.org
www.birminghambuddhistcentre.org.uk
www.nbo.org.uk
www.celebratingre.org

The speakers and workshop leaders

Ven. Amaranatho

Amaranatho leads residential family and young people's retreats, and creative retreats for adults, at the retreat centre at Amaravati and in Ireland and Malaysia. These events are based on co-exploration, creativity, fun and a willingness to look at oneself honestly. He is involved with AFAN - All Faiths and None - a project to bring the big question to young people in further education colleges.

www.family.amaravati.org

<http://www.afan.uk.net/user/5>

Cynthia Bonell

Cynthia practices with the Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition. She works with primary-aged children visiting Jamyang Buddhist Centre, London. She also visits schools.

www.jamyang.co.uk

Phillida Cormack

Phillida has been a member of Soka Gakkai International and practising Nichiren Buddhism for 23 years. She and her husband James live in Cornwall and, for about eight years, have enjoyed talking about their faith and practice to Year 8 RE classes in Wadebridge School, Penrice College in St Austell and elsewhere.

Ramona Kauth

Ramona practices within the Karma Kagyu tradition. As part of the Ladywood Interfaith Education Project she teaches school groups at the Dhammatalaka Peace Pagoda with the Burmese monk, Ven. Nagasena. Thus this interfaith project is also an unusual example of a Buddhist *intra*faith project.

<http://www.stjohnpeter.org.uk/LIEP/LIEP.htm>

Yann Lovelock

Birmingham Mahavihara (details tbc)

Dr Joyce Miller

Joyce is Associate Fellow at the Warwick Religions and Education Research Unit at the University of Warwick. Until 2007, she was Head of Diversity and Cohesion at Education Bradford with responsibility for Religious Education, community cohesion and race equality. In her "retirement" she is Deputy Chair of the RE Council of England and Wales, Chair of Bradford's Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) and much else! She has practised Buddhism within the Thai Forest tradition since the late 1980s: Aruna Ratanagiri, the monastery at Harnham in Northumberland, is her spiritual home.

Dharmacharini Munisha

Munisha is director and education officer of the Clear Vision Trust, a Buddhist audio-visual media project specialising in DVD and online interactive Buddhist materials for schools and young people at home. She runs the Manchester Buddhist Centre's education service, welcoming nearly 2500 pupils and students per year. A Buddhist since 1993, she was ordained a member of the Triratna Buddhist Order (formerly the Western Buddhist Order) in 2003.

www.clear-vision.org

Dharmachari Padmakumara

Originally from Wigan in England's northwest, Padmakumara has been based at the Birmingham Buddhist Centre for eight years, and leading school visits in the area for seven years. He was ordained a member of the Triratna Buddhist Order (formerly the Western Buddhist Order) in 2004.

www.birminghambuddhistcentre.org.uk