



INTERNATIONAL THOD PHA PA AND 40 YEAR CELEBRATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CITTAVIVEKA MONASTERY

CITTAVIVEKA JUNE 23rd 2019

Invitation from the Cittaviveka lay supporters – Come and join us!

You are warmly invited to take part in what this year will be a very special day at Cittaviveka, combining our annual Thod Pha Pa with a celebration to mark 40 years since the founding of this monastery in Chithurst.

This wonderful and unique occasion will take place at Cittaviveka Buddhist Monastery on Sunday 23rd June 2019.

‘Thod Pha Pa’ in Thai means ‘to offer forest cloth’, and is an occasion which brings to mind the mutual support of the lay and monastic communities. The monks and nuns aim to live simply, and offer teachings and examples to people who kindly offer the material support essential to the existence of the monastery as a spiritual centre for the welfare of all. It is also a warm and inclusive occasion in which any act of giving, or offer of service, contributes to the sense of cooperation and spiritual friendship.

The Tradition Continues

Cittaviveka Buddhist Monastery belongs to the Thai Forest Tradition, and was the first of its kind in the West. It was founded in June 1979 by Ajahn Sumedho with the strong support of his teacher, Ajahn Chah, a revered Thai Forest Master. Like all traditions that are truly alive, the Thai Forest Tradition has grown and adapted to its new setting, gathering lay supporters from almost every imaginable culture. Our series of International Thod Pha Pa events aim to bring all these different cultural groups together to contribute to the life of the monastery, both financially and socially.

Our Aim

Our aim this year is to continue to raise funds for

the construction of a ‘utility building’ for the monks. This building, to be known as ‘*The Vihara*’, will be an enlarged replacement of the old outdoor scullery situated near the rear of the Dhamma Hall. The new building is intended to provide more facilities for monks to gather both formally and informally, clean and care for their alms-bowls, and launder and sew their robes. It will also include bathing facilities and a dayroom for those staying in the forest.

A considerable amount of capital is still needed for this project, but it is worth noting that through your efforts and generosity over the years, the covered walkway, the nuns’ shrine room, and the monks’ nursing kuti, have all been completed. We have already started work on the first phase of the project, the bowl washing area, and are confident that we will soon be able to commence the main building phase.

Previous Thod Pha Pa Events

Last year was a wonderful and happy occasion. A large number of people came to enjoy a warm and harmonious day, with contributions from around the world.

This Year

As well as the Thod Pha Pa ceremonies, we will be celebrating the 40 year anniversary of the founding of Cittaviveka Monastery.

To mark this very special occasion there will be a photographic exhibition displaying pictures that chart the history of Cittaviveka Monastery, from a rundown, derelict house with neglected grounds, to the wonderful and charming monastery that benefits and serves the sangha and lay supporters so well today. George Sharp, who was instrumental in acquiring the property, will be giving out copies of his book, ‘The Story of

Chithurst'. We will also be showing the fascinating 1980 BBC documentary, 'The Buddha Comes To Sussex'.

Apart from our financial aim, we also wish to use this occasion for generating a sense of community amongst the lay people who come from all over the UK, as well as from overseas. We hope to provide a day when supporters can come together and enjoy the presence of the human goodness and generosity that transcends national and cultural differences and keeps us in touch with what is universally important.

Program of Events

We are very pleased to announce that founding members of the monastery, including Luang Por Viradhammo, Luang Por Sucitto, Sister Ajahn Sundara, along with other Elders from our communities, will be attending the festivities. As with previous years, we hope to offer several kinds of activities to show some of the aspects of the monastery that visitors may not be familiar with, including the site of the proposed Vihara. There will also be an opportunity for many of you to meet and talk with the monks and nuns, as well as stroll through the large and beautiful forest and monastery grounds.

The day's events will run like this:

10:30 Start – gather in the Dhamma Hall
10:45 Refuges and Precepts
11:00 Offering of Dana (Sanghathan)
11.15 Rice Pindapata and meal offering
01:15 Tidying up after the meal
01:45 Procession around the Stupa
02:30 Offering of Pha Pa Robes & donations
03:15 Announcements
03:30 Afternoon Activities
05:00 Tea
07:30 Evening Puja

How you can help

The first way you can help is simply to come along with your family and friends and have a good

time! In order to lessen the burden on the resident community, if you would like to help with any of the organising there are plenty of opportunities for both preparing for the day or clearing up afterwards. On the day before, Saturday the 22nd, there will be things to do like setting out rubbish bins, getting tables ready, and tidying the garden. On the actual day, we shall need help with car parking, preparing the rice for offering at the pindapata, running a tea stall and numerous other tasks. We will also need people to help clear up in the late afternoon, and put away things like tables and other equipment.

We will be holding a meeting at Cittaviveka on Sunday 26th May, so if you would like to offer your help, please do come along. The meeting will start at around 1:30pm in the main house.

Who to Contact

If you would like to help, or need further information, please contact any of the following:

Pichit Rhatdanaglang 01273 473906
Phongsak Kaewsakun 01273 733246 or 07760 942581
Prasith Phouang 01903 263273 or 07733 35 8225
Nick and Mary Stacey 07970 244197
Ong Casey 02392 480313 or 07510 648577
Mookda Bell 07789 402348
Dr Thisara Niyadurupola 01903 231828
Sobopha Owen 01428 717637 or 07887 506867

Note: Please remember the unique quality of the monastery and its grounds. The principle of generosity on which the Sangha relies is not the same as 'fundraising'; as the starting-point of Dhamma practice, it is a chance for the heart to open as a gesture of appreciation. We do not allow any commercial activities on site, such as selling food or attempting to raise funds by exchanging anything for money. As well as diluting the spirit of freewill generosity, these activities can cause legal problems for the monastery.

Please also note that the narrow laneway leading to the monastery is not suitable for large coaches.

English Sangha Trust Ltd. Registered Charity number 231310