



INTERNATIONAL THOD PHA PA – CITTAVIVEKA JUNE 11th 2017

Invitation – Come and join us!

You are warmly invited to take part in a Thod Pha Pa, a gathering to offer support to Cittaviveka, Chithurst Buddhist Monastery, on Sunday June 11th 2017.

'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.

This year, we are particularly fortunate that a number of senior monks will be with us from Thailand for the occasion. Amongst them, we will be welcoming Luang Por Liam, Abbot of Wat Nong Pah Pong Monastery and Luang Por Jundee, Abbot of Wat Pah Ampawan Monastery.

The Tradition Continues

Wat Pah Cittaviveka 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 Aims

Our aim this year is to continue to raise funds for the construction of a 'utility building' for the monks. This building will be a somewhat enlarged replacement of the old outdoor scullery situated near the rear of the Dhamma Hall. The new building is intended to offer more space for monks, a place to clean their alms bowls, dry and sew their robes, as well as providing washing and showering facilities and a day room for those staying in the forest.

We don't expect that all the funds will be raised this year, but noting that through your efforts and generosity, the covered walkway, the nuns' shrine room and the monks' nursing kuti, have all been completed in the last few years, we are confident that we can move the project forward.

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. Hopefully, as in previous years, we will be blessed with fine weather!

This Year

Apart from our financial aim, we also like 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.

How you can help

The first way you can help is just to come along and have a good time!

If you would like to help with any of the organising as well, then we would really like to make sure that the resident community doesn't have extra work to do preparing for the day or clearing up afterwards. So, we shall need help with getting the monastery ready for the 11th, which is a Sunday. On Saturday 10th, 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 28th May, and if you would like to help, or even find out whether you would like to help, please do come along. The meeting will start at around 1:30pm in the main house.

Program of Events

As with previous years, we hope to offer several kinds of activity, as well as the usual ones, to show people some of the aspects of the monastery they might not be familiar with, including the outdoor scullery area, the site of the proposed Monk's utility building. There will also be an opportunity for many of you to meet with the visiting elder monks and nuns on the day, as well as join guided walks through the large and beautiful forest and tours of the monastery grounds. Do bring some strong footwear if you want to take part in any of the outdoor walking activities!

The day will probably run like this:

10:30 Start

10:45 Refuges and Precepts

11:00 Offering of Dana (Sanghathan)

11:15 Rice Pindapata & Meal Offering, followed by Lay People's Meal

01:15 Tidying up after the meal

01:45 Procession round the Stupa

02:15 Offering of Pha Pa Robes, funds and blessings

03:15 Announcements

03:30 Afternoon Activities

05:00 Tea

07:30 Evening Puja

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

Dr Thisara Niyadurupola 01903 231828

Sobopa Owen 01428 717637 or 07887 506867

***Please 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 let the organisers know if you see any such activities taking place.*

English Sangha Trust Ltd. Registered Charity number 231310

Cittaviveka, Chithurst Buddhist Monastery,
Chithurst, Near Petersfield,
Hampshire, GU31 EU

Website: www.cittaviveka.org