



Newsletter

FOREST SANGHA NEWSLETTER CHANGES

As announced in the last issue, it looks as though the *Forest Sangha Newsletter* will be published only once or twice a year from now on. Therefore, the next edition may well be coming to you towards the end of 2010. This being a Buddhist publication (made in full awareness of the universal truth of Uncertainty) we are still unsure of how our plans will develop. Nevertheless, one thing we have needed to do for some time is to refresh the newsletter mailing list. It is advisable to do this every few years, and this change presents a good opportunity for doing so now.

Therefore, with a few exceptions*, we will be starting a new mailing list for the FSN. **We ask that all of you who wish to continue receiving the newsletter through the post please confirm this by re-sending us your name and address.** You can do this by following the suggestions on page 3.

The FSN itself is likely to become a slightly larger, annual publication. It will continue to be simultaneously published in digital format, as well as be available in its printed form for downloading, on its own website: www.fsnewsletter.org.

* Exceptions:

- **North America** – Since we have recently gone through this process for those of you on our mailing list for North America, there is no need for you to confirm your wish to remain on the list. We will keep the current mailing list for North America.
- **Recent additions** – Also, we will make an effort to carry your address over to the new mailing list if it has been added within this past year. Unfortunately, however, we do not have a clear record of this, and it may not be possible for us to identify the recent additions and changes of address. So please do reconfirm, if you wish to be sure.

HERE WE ARE AT THE BEGINNING OF A NEW YEAR, and a different one from the point of view of the *Forest Sangha Newsletter*. It appears to be the end of an era, as the quarterly editions produced for so long will make way for a less predictably-timed publication. At the moment we expect that the next issue will be published as an annual towards the end of 2010.

This means that news about Sangha events such as Wesak and Kathinas will be made available by other means. At Amaravati, which is the only monastery still relying entirely upon the FSN to serve this function, we will be publishing our own news-sheet or small newsletter at yet-to-be-determined intervals throughout the year. I expect once the Winter Retreat has finished we will look more at this and see what we can do – so probably nothing from Amaravati will be published before April or May. If you wish to receive Amaravati's local news and announcements, please see page 18 for more details.

Besides the individual monastery newsletters and websites, the best way to find out about what's happening in the greater community of monasteries is through the website www.forestsangha.org. In particular, the

'current news' page is a good place to find various announcements made by the monasteries and by the Sangha as a whole.

As the year comes to a close and many of our monastic communities ready themselves to enter the three-month Winter Retreat, we reflect on a year which has included some difficult challenges for our Sanghas at the monasteries in Britain and abroad. Some of you will have heard of the unfortunate events involving the removal of Bodhinyana Monastery in Perth, Australia from the list of official Wat Pah Pong branch monasteries. This has saddened us all, and we can only wish the best for everyone involved.

The challenges inherent in bringing an ancient yet living Buddhist tradition to the West are significant, and from time to time the tensions resulting from this are more acutely manifest. This has been one of those years, and our communities, especially at Amaravati and Cittaviveka, have needed to look more closely at the tradition and particularly at the way we are asked to hold it in relation to the monks' and the nuns' training. There has been not a little pain and misunderstanding stemming

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Glossary – See page 17