

Newsletter

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- To confirm by post, please send your name and address, with a message indicating you would like to remain on the *Forest Sangha Newsletter* mailing list, to:

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Also, please see page 18 for more on how to keep up with monastery news.

from this, within the community and without. Again, if you wish to keep up with news and developments on these (as well as other more ordinary) Sangha affairs, the best way is to check the 'current news' webpage at www.forestsangha.org.

With all this, as we move on next year I expect that, as always, we will need to see where things are; and whatever is needed, to respond with as much wisdom, sensitivity and loving-kindness as we can. For however varied our views and perceptions might be about how to approach a particular dilemma, whenever we can act from a heart rooted purely in Dhamma the results will be beneficial in the way that counts most.

As to the content of this newsletter, we begin with an account written by Ajahn Sucitto describing and reflecting upon a walk he took earlier this year to mark his 60th year. Journeying through the English countryside for two months, much of it on his own, he often relied upon spontaneous offerings from people he didn't know, standing (as we do in Britain) on *pindapat*, the traditional almsround of the Buddhist *samana*. 'Bringing the Dhamma across in this day and age', Ajahn Sucitto

observes, is well served by 'being less monastic and doing more wandering ... walking the Dhamma gently into society.'

The rest of this issue is mostly dedicated to the Sangha gathering held at Wat Pah Pong monastery each year in the week leading up to 16 January, the anniversary of Luang Por Chah's death. Actually, this material was prepared for the FSN by Ajahn Siripanyo back in March as an offering in response to a long-standing request of mine to be able to share a taste of this annual Sangha 'family gathering'. It involves a week of Dhamma practice and teaching in memory of Luang Por Chah for all his disciples, monastic and lay – and anyone else from the surrounding area and beyond. This feature was meant to be published in July last year, but that edition ended up being cancelled. So it was then planned, appropriately, for inclusion this January – the time of year of the gathering. And it thus becomes part of the what may be the last of the quarterly *Forest Sangha Newsletters*.

With best wishes and metta,
Jayanto Bhikkhu

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