

# International Thod Pha Pa

## June 20th - Invitation



### **Come and join us again!**

You are warmly invited to take part in a Thod Pha Pa at Chithurst Buddhist Monastery, Near Midhurst, Petersfield, HANTS GU31 5EU, on Sunday June 20th 2010. A Thod Pha Pa is an occasion when lay people can come together to give alms to the monastery, sometimes for a special purpose.

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 aims to bring all these different cultural groups together to contribute to the life of the monastery, both financially and socially.

### **Our Aims**

The first financial aim of these occasions is to complete the Covered Walkway that will connect the new Dhamma Hall to the Main House. 60% of all funds raised by each Pha Pa are dedicated to this purpose, until enough has been raised to undertake the work.

It is hoped that construction will have begun on the new entrance section (see artist's impression above) by the time this year's Pha Pa happens. About half of the cost of this will have been met by donations from the previous two years' Thod Pha Pas, and half by a donation from another source.

Last year we gave just under £3,700 towards the building of the new Nuns' Shrine Room.

During the last three years, people have given almost £35,500 in all.

### **Previous Thod Pha Pas**

Last year was HUGE - members of the monastic Sangha said they had never seen so many people at Cittaviveka. We estimated that more than 1,300 people came.

Once again, the weather was kind, although it was perhaps a bit too hot during the afternoon. So far we have been very lucky!

### **This Year**

We hope to continue raising money for the next section of the walkway, and to contribute to the Nuns' Shrine Room as before.

But most of all, we hope to provide a day when supporters can come together and enjoy the presence of simple human goodness and generosity.

## How you can help

The first way you can help is just to come 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 don'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 20th, which is a Sunday. On Saturday 19th, there will be things to do like setting out rubbish bins, getting tables ready, and tidying the garden.

On the day, we shall need help with car parking, running a tea stall, and especially running the kitchen before and after the meal offering.

We will also need people to help clear up in the late afternoon, and put away things like tables and any other equipment.

We will be holding a meeting at Cittaviveka on **Wesak Day Sunday May 30th**, and if you would like to help, or to find out whether you would like to help, why not come along?

The meeting will start at around 4:00pm in the main house.

Like last year, we plan to bring out a DVD of the day, so we would be glad of any photos you would like to offer.

## Program of Events

Like last year, we hope to offer several kinds of activity as well as the usual ones, to show people aspects of the monastery they might not be familiar with.

Guided walks through the large and beautiful forest, tours of the monastery grounds, and perhaps a chance to contribute in other ways to the life of the monastery. There may also be the opportunity to be shown around the Rocana Vihara. Bring some strong shoes if you want to take part in the outdoor 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 Pindabat & Meal Offering  
Lay People's Meal
- 01:15 Tidying up after the meal
- 01:45 Procession round the Stupa
- 02:15 Introductory Speeches &  
Fundraising Aims
- 02:30 Offering of Pha Pa Robes, funds  
and Blessing
- 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 information, you can contact any of the following people:

<b>Pichit Rhatdanaglang</b>	<b>01273 473906</b>
<b>Phongsak Kaewsakun</b>	<b>01273 733246</b>
	<b>or 07760 942581</b>
<b>Phouang Prasith</b>	<b>01903 263273</b>
	<b>or 0773 335 8225</b>
<b>David Glendining</b>	<b>01273 723378</b>
	<b>or 07545 816367</b>
<b>Kampi Phomla</b>	<b>07783 040518</b>
<b>Dr Thisara Niyadurupola</b>	<b>01903 238343</b>
<b>Sobopha Owen</b>	<b>01428 717637</b>
	<b>or 0788 750 6867</b>

## Kathina

The International Thod Pha Pa organisers will have the privilege of offering the Chithurst Kathina on November 7th this year. We shall send out details nearer the time, but come if you can!

## Buddha Rupa

We feel it would be nice for Chithurst to have its own small medallion-sized Buddha Rupa to give away on special occasions. We have now seen samples of a lovely design from the manufacturers, and will start to raise funds to cover the first batch of several thousand this year. A separate leaflet will contain pictures & sponsorship details.