On Sunday, 28th September 2008, the World Buddhist Foundation organised a celebration of 100 years of Buddhism in the UK (1908-2008) at the Brent Town Hall with keynote addresses by Prof. Richard F. Gombrich and Prof. Ananda W.P. Guruge.

The following article, by Dr Ottaranyana, was included in the commemorative magazine published by the World Buddhist Foundation to mark the event.

It is a great pleasure and privilege for me, as a Myanmar Buddhist monk, to send this message of good wishes on the occasion of the Centenary of the First Buddhist Mission to the United Kingdom. It is now 100 years since the establishment of Buddhism in this country in 1908. In April 1908 a small Buddhist mission arrived in London from Myanmar, headed by a tall, lean, ascetic looking monk named Ānanda Metteyya. Unlike his companions, he was not Myanmar but British.

This English man, Charles Henry Allan Bennett, who trained as an analytical chemist and was a self taught Buddhist went to study in Sri Lanka in 1901. From there he moved to Myanmar to be ordained a novice in December 1901 at Akyab (Sittwe) in Arakan (Rakhine). Six months later in 1902 he received upasampadā (higher ordination) having finally taken the name Ānanda Metteyya.

In 1903, in Yangon, he started his pioneering work to bring Buddhism to the West with the founding of the International Buddhist Society known as Buddhāsāsana Samāgama. Later in the year the first review of the society was published, Buddhism-An Illustrated Quarterly Review, which was followed by a further 5 issues up to 1908. In 1907 the Buddhist Society of Great Britain and Ireland was formed in London prior to his visit in April 1908. Prof. Rhys Davids of the Pali Text Society, established in 1881, became its president. After this mission the Pali Text Society gained in importance as those interested in Buddhism turned to study Pali and translated texts. After giving a series of talks and interviews he returned to Myanmar in October 1908.

Ānanda Metteyya continued to work in Myanmar with such notable successes as the adoption of Buddhist studies in Myanmar schools. He did continue to write various articles which were warmly received in England. In 1914 he returned to England at the recommendation of his doctors in Myanmar and died in London on the 9th March 1923.

Although the mission did not fulfil its intended purposes, Ānanda Metteyya’s eloquent writing and selfless efforts sowed the seeds that would gradually bear fruit in the growth of Buddhism in the West and on into the 21st century. From his 20 year involvement in Buddhism he should always be remembered as a pioneer and catalyst for the establishment and growth of Buddhism in the West and particularly in the UK.

I wish the commemoration of the great life of Ānanda Metteyya, and his achievements, every success in the forthcoming Centenary Celebrations and look forward to the advancement of Buddhism in the U.K. from his efforts.

Dr Ottaranyana
A brief overview of “Buddhism in the West” by the World Buddhist Foundation.

1817 Mr. Jean Francis Osprey (French) wrote "Resherches Sur Buddhou"
1819 Mr. Arthur Schopenhauer (German philosopher) wrote "Die Welt als Wille und Vorstellung" ("The World as Will and Ideas" was the translation in 1883) This book as well as others written by him directed readers towards a new direction, specially of Eastern religious thoughts.
1821 Mr. R. K. Rask (Denmark) studied Pali and Sinhalese, staying in Sri Lanka. He started the ‘Rask Foundation’ in Copenhagen. A large number of palm leaf books were collected by him, from Sri Lanka. At present they are being displayed in the ‘Royal Danish Academy’. He has translated the Pali grammar book 'Balavatara' for the first time.
1828 Mr. J. J. Schmidt of St. Petersburg, published papers and articles revealing the relation between Buddhism and Gnostic-Theosophy.
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1834 Mr. Robert Childers resigned from the Civil Service in Sri Lanka and returned to England.
1835 Mr. C. P. Copan wrote "Religion of the Buddha"
1838 Mr. Robert Childers resigned from the Civil Service in Sri Lanka and returned to England.
1839 The Theosophical Society in New York was started by Colonel H. S. Olcott.
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1913 Ven. Ananda Metteyya was operated on due to gall stone problem.
1914 Ven. Ananda Metteyya disrobed due to illness.
1914 09.12 - He planned to leave for California, to see his only sister. The trip was cancelled due to his physical weakness. Instead he lived temporarily in Liverpool.
1914 -1916 - World War.
1917 04.29 - Mrs. Florence Farr died in Sri Lanka of breast cancer.
1917 01 - Mr. Allan Bennett edited the journal 'The Buddhist review' again. H.P. Fernando Publishers in Colombo helped him to print his booklets and the journal.
1921 John E. Ellam helped Mr Allan Bennett to edit the journal.
1921 04.16 - Inaugurated the society called "The Servants of the Buddha" in the Maitriya Hall, Bambalapitiya, Sri Lanka. The Society still owns the Hall.
1922 The last journal issued with Mr Allan Bennett its editor.
1923 03.09 - Mr Allan Bennett died at 5.00 p.m.
1926 Anagarika Dharmapala purchased a property, at 86, Medley Road, Ealing, and Middlesex, to establish a Buddhist temple.
1928 Anagarika Dharmapala sold the property in Ealing and purchased another at No 41, Gloucester Road, Regent's Park, with the intention of establishing a Buddhist temple.
1933 04.29 - Anagarika Dharmapala died.
1938 A monk from Myanmar, Ven U Thithila tried to establish the Sasanakari Vihara at 29, Belgrave Road, London, which was also short lived.
1940 The Vihara at Regent's Park closed and property was sold
1952 05 - Mr Purfurst was ordained as Bhikkhu Dhammananda (Kapilavaddo) in Thailand
1954 A property at Ovington Gardens, SW3, was leased by the newly formed 'Buddhist Vihara Society' headed by Sir Cyril de Zoysa to re-establish a Buddhist temple.
1955 07 - Ven Kapilavaddo worked on setting up the English Sangha Trust.
1957 05.28 - Ven Nyanathiloke passed away.

The Ladywood Interfaith Education Project

The Ladywood Interfaith Education Project was borne out of existing interfaith work by Rev. Richard Tettlow of St. John's and St. Peter's, Ladywood. Both with the Jewish community of the Progressive Synagogue and with the Buddhist community headed by Dr. Rewata Dhamma, Richard was engaged in active dialogue for several years. As Dr. Rewata Dhamma said on more than one occasion, “The children come to the Vihara (at that time in Carlyle Road) to learn about Buddhism but they don’t know about Christianity. They live in a Christian country but know more about other religions than about Christianity. Why don’t they go to the Church to learn about Christianity?"

In answer to this question and to a local need for provision of good quality Religious Education for Primary Schools, Rev. Jo Mason developed the structure for the project. On her visits to local Primary Schools she saw that the children were learning about religion in a very positive way. To add to that good work she proposed to bring them to the Church, the Synagogue and the Buddhist Temple.

The Ladywood Interfaith Education Project tries to meet the needs of the local community not only for good religious education but also for greater social awareness and cohesion. At the same time we spend time together as an interfaith team sharing our different faith perspectives with each other, creating an ongoing dialogue of shared concern.

In 1998 the work of discussing with head teachers and RE co-ordinators of the local schools began. Out of this exploration the principles of the Ladywood Interfaith Education Project were laid down. We asked the teachers what we could do for them and their answer was that they could only teach about religion but we could provide the experience of faith in practice. We have developed our teaching programme in this spirit. The programme is part of the children’s religious education, not just a “visit to a place of worship”. This means that, for example, anger and fear is looked at from different faith perspectives. We are all working on the same themes and the children can see the differences and similarities in their own experience. The children work on these same themes in other classes at school, for example through literacy.

After the children have had their RE lesson in the place of worship they engage in art, drama, dance, pottery or music workshops at St. John’s to give them the opportunity to express what they have learned in a creative way. This is holistic education in a religious setting. Since RE is not determined by the national curriculum there is some degree of freedom in the way it is taught.
As far as I am aware this is the only project of its kind in the UK. There are other RE programmes that involve using art and other creative activities to enable the children to explore (Christian) religious understanding. There are other cities in the UK that include knowledge of religions other than Christianity in secondary education and include visits to places of worship but by no means all regions do this. There are many interfaith projects of various kinds for adults all over the country. But there are no interfaith projects engaged in the planning and delivery of RE lessons for primary schools according to the local agreed syllabus for RE. Previously Buddhism was not taught at Primary level as it was thought to be too difficult. However, the new RE Syllabus for Birmingham does include it.

The new Agreed Syllabus for RE has brought many of the LIEP principles into practice. Instead of teaching about faith in order for children to learn from faith as before, the new syllabus has reversed this so that children are learning from faith and afterward about faiths.

This project also addresses the rather difficult issue of “faith schools”. Faith based schools tend to become exclusive and isolate pupils from the rest of the community unless they work hard to ensure this doesn’t happen. Yet in secular schools teachers sometimes have very little experience of religion. Though teachers are professional and teach to the curriculum, they know there is another aspect they cannot convey. Another alternative is that children may not be taught very much about faith at all, or it’s all left to one teacher - the RE co-ordinator for that school. The LIEP offers a third way to meet the need: religion can be taught in the place of worship by people that know and practice the faith. The children experience the religion in the place of worship where it is meant to be experienced. It is a holistic experience incorporating all the senses: smell, hearing, touch.

There is a further dimension to the project which enables the children to express their understanding of faith through the arts. They are encouraged to reflect on their own experiences and talk about them and ask questions. This ensures that the teaching is relevant to them, draws out their own understanding of themselves and makes the subject relevant to them personally. This is a subject that involves them and they are being taught how to cultivate this skill of reflection in their own lives.

When the children see our different faiths working in harmony this gives an important message: that we can be different but work together. In addition to the faiths of Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Buddhism being engaged in the development and delivery of the project, the Buddhist team is made up of Theravada, Tibetan and Western Buddhist Order (FWBO) practitioners of Buddhism: a truly intra-faith team working to create a programme that will convey the essentials of Buddhism to children in a non-sectarian way.

The project is in its tenth year and with the new syllabus will be expanding and developing its scope. The philosophy of the new syllabus matches that of the project already and we have the opportunity to offer teachers support in their delivery of the syllabus in their schools. Further, there is interest in extending the structure and principles of the interfaith aspect of the project to other neighbourhoods in Birmingham. We have a role to play in promoting this very practical and meaningful interfaith activity in other places of worship in relation to their local schools and communities.

The Ladywood Interfaith Education Project is one of the many fruits of the late Ven Dr. Rewata Dhamma. The LIEP teaching team: Bhikkhu Nagasena, Ramona Kauth and Padmakumara.

by Ramona Kauth

Vihara News

General Vihara News

On the 13th July the Pagoda’s 10th Anniversary celebration took place. After lunch the opening ceremony was conducted by Dr Kyaw Myint Oo, which was followed by a warm welcome from Mr John Beard (Trustee Chairman). The opening speech, “Peace Pagoda and Dr Rewata Dhamma”, was given by Ms Claire Short (MP) who recalled the early days of the pagoda before finally wishing us all the best for its future. This was first followed by chanting from the Soto Zen group and then Buddha gitika by the Wolverhampton Dhamma Group.

The taking of the 5 Precepts was led by Maha Sambom Thera followed by chanting by the sangha. The afternoon continued with Dhamma talks from Ven Dr Gandhamala Lankara (Tipitaka dhara Sayadaw), Ven Dr Kassapa and Dr Ottaranyana. Before the offering of Waso Robe Dr Ottaranyana gave honorary certificates to Dr Aung Thein, Dr Kyaw M Oo and Mrs Linda Tomlinson; bestowing on them the title of Patron in recognition of their contribution to the pagoda over many years. The event was concluded with the Transfer of Merit led by Dr Ottaranyana.

Abhidhamma classes (Abhidhammattha Sangaha, A Comprehensive Manual of Abhidhamma) in Burmese were run at the pagoda from 21st to 27th July. Classes were from 8:00am to 9:30am and 4:00pm to 5:30pm with periods of self study in between and considered a great success by all involved. For further details about future courses please contact Dr Ottaranyana.
During August a 10 day retreat was run in the Dhamma Hall for several yogis. As always the running of the course was only made possible by the generosity of those people who provided meals for everyone taking part in the event. Dana meal providers throughout the event were: Dr Kyaw Myint Oo & Than Than Ywe, Dr M M Lwin, Samrin & family, Dr & Mrs Kottagoda, Dr & Mrs Chakma, Moira & Robert Black, Ellen Parker and Dr Tint Zin Oo & family.

Once again the Pagoda took part in the Heritage Open Days event for 4 days starting on 11th September. Open all day we were able to offer guided talks throughout the event not only explaining the various aspects of the building but also providing an insight into what brought this unique building to Birmingham. Unfortunately the first 3 days were a little quite but Sunday more than made up for the previous low numbers and by the end of the event we had over 300 adults (plus some children) pass through the doors with many glowing comments on how interesting and welcoming they had found their visit.

Ordinations

Several ordinations occurred during the summer with the first taking place on 20th July when Drs Ye Line Hope and Shwe Phyu Thaw’s son, Heim Line Tin Hope, was ordained as a novice taking the name Shin Sīha Nyāna.

The next event saw a total of five temporary monks/novices take the robes at the pagoda on 10th August, those ordained were:

- Mr T.H. Tun Oo (U. Pandita)
- Mr A.K. Khaing Phaing (U. Indaka)
- Naung Naung (Shin Janaka)
- Aung Aung (Shin Ottama)
- Soe Moe Aung (Shin Javana)

Finally, Dr Tint Zin Oo (U. Kheminda) and son, Ye Kyaw Oo, were ordained on 23rd August.

Myanmar: Cyclone Nargis Affected Communities

Following the terrible disaster in Myanmar, as a result of Cyclone Nargis, the pagoda launched an appeal, on 8th May, to raise much needed funds to help in the recovery of the affected regions. Between the appeal’s launch and 2nd September we have managed to raise £6557 which is completely as a result of the generosity of ordinary people and therefore we would like to thank all those who have made donations since our last newsletter:

- Oaklands Primary School
- Dr Shepherd
- Ms Lynne Richardson
- Mrs Molly Soe & family
- Mrs Gladys Khim Mg Latt & sons
- Mr Wayne A Jenkins
- Dr D. L. Arnold
- Mrs Davis
- Mr Nick Blinco
- Ms H.L. Eno
- Ms C. Needham
- Mr S.M. Lerwill
- Ms M. Cass
- Sister Sher
- Mr M.G. New
- Haematology Department
- Dr Kim Beostead
- Prof C.D. & H. Ward
- Dr D. Farrugia

On the 20th July the pagoda was proud to host an event organised and co-ordinated by Dr. Nwe Winn Thein which involved various individuals and groups along with volunteers from MBEAN (Myanmar/ Burma Emergency Aid Network). The following article on the event best describes the effort and enthusiasm which culminated in a most successful day.

It was a dry and lovely Sunday as people had wished for. The pagoda gates were opened and all the volunteers started to arrive from 11 am. Many of them came from different parts of the country: Bristol, Cambridge, Liverpool, London and Sheffield. Some got stuck in the traffic, some faced diversions on the way and some took very early trains and coaches.

With great help and assistance from trustees of the Birmingham Buddhist Vihara Trust, the venue and layout were ready as planned. All the tables, chairs and electric cables were set for action. Thanks to the email circulation prior to the event, volunteers had a good idea of who would be doing what although many of them met each other in person only on the day.
Everybody was excited as well as nervous. The main anxiety was over whether or not enough guests would turn up to make the effort worthwhile. There was not much time to worry. Before we knew it, it was nearly 11:45 am.

Just as we started to lay the tables and displays, guests started to pour in. Almost every guest was attracted by the stunning huge framed tapestry showing off, at the entry ticket selling point, as the first prize for raffles. Volunteers from the MBEAN (Myanmar/ Burma Emergency Aid Network) who actually went to the delta got very busy at their display desk accepting donations, taking questions, explaining their reports/ current activities and selling postcards.

Yes, it was lunch time and guests came ready to enjoy Myanmar/ Burmese food that had been advertised by email and by word of mouth. Dan Bauk (Chicken Biryani) got the best spot opposite to the MBEAN display desk at the entrance. Then, stalls for Sa-nwin Ma-kin (Myanmar semolina cake), hot and cold beverages, Shwe Taung Kaut Swe (Chicken noodles from Myanmar Midlands) and Shwe Yin Aye (Coconut Sherbet) followed on a row of tables on the right hand side. There was another small table at the corner giving away hot drinks: tea, coffee and different kinds of herbal tea, in exchange for donation of any amount. A small queue began to grow into a long one in no time for Dan Bauk and Shwe Taung Kaut Swe.

Some were very determined to wait for the award-winning chef’s Mont-hin-gar (Rice vermicelli with fish soup) and fritters. Soon afterwards, more volunteers with new items of food joined others in the hall. Montlone-yay-paw (Sticky rice balls embedded with palm sugar), Tse-Htamin with Pei Pyote (Oily rice with boiled yellow beans), Chin-baung-gyaw (Fried Chin-baung leaves) and Kaut Hnyin Paun (Steamed sticky rice) with Thai fish cakes satisfied the guests’ expectation.

Not everybody rushed for food right away. Many others got distracted by beautifully laid out Myanmar/Burmese artefacts and other sale items on the other sides of the hall. More items were brought in by some guests who wanted to support our good cause. The atmosphere in the hall was so great. It was like a reunion meeting glorified with a noble cause. Children were playing around happily; not a single noise of crying was noticed.

The Venerable Sayadaw, resident monks from the monastery and BBVT trustees came and looked around as well as helped out where necessary. They were so pleased to see the event going well. Nobody apart from guests had a chance to sit down and eat until the main influx of guests settled down after 3 pm.

Prizes for raffles were announced towards the end of the event and all three lucky winners were informed by phone.

According to the amount of funds counted from entry tickets sold (£119.42) was donated to the BBVT for their generous support, as per prior agreement by all volunteers. The funds for the MBEAN reached a grand total of £2,232 and it was an impressive amount for a small-scale event attended mainly by the Myanmar/ Burmese community.

May I express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all the guests who came to and supported our event from near and far, also those who sent us cheques as well as donations in cash and in kind. It is not practicable to mention each and every name of all of you who were there in person and in mind but I would like to attempt mentioning some names here, as acknowledgement. There is no doubt that their enthusiasm and commitment made this event such a success. Well done, everyone!

For the venue and assistance on site:
Venerable Sayadaw Dr. Ottara Nyana
All the resident monks of the Birmingham
Myanmar/ Burmese Buddhist Monastery

Mr. John Beard (Chairman of BBVT Trustees Committee)
Mr. Robert Black (BBVT Trustee)
Dr. Mar Mar Lwin (BBVT Trustee)

For running of food and other stalls (in the alphabetical order of last names):
Dr. Thida Aung (Chin-baunggyaw) Ko Aung Aung Htun Dr. Win Nilar
Dr. Angela Khin Mar Aye Mrs. Julie Kyi Dr. Nwe Nwe Oo (Mont-loneyay-paw)
Dr. Cho Cho Aye Ma Kyi Marlar (Dan Bauk) Ma Yin Min Phyu (MBEAN & Sa-nwin Ma-kin)
Miss Lisa Bradley Ma Hla Hla May (Dan Bauk) Ma Ei Mon Su (Shwe Yin Aye)
Dr. Chris Sin Chan Miss Anna Michael (Tea and hot beverages) Miss Marie Tan
Mr. David Chin Mr. John Michael Ma Tharaphi Than (MBEAN)
Miss Nicola Han (Raffles) Dr. Kyaw Hiwan Moe Dr. Nilar Thwin (Steamed sticky rice and fish cakes)
Dr. Nyunt Han Dr. Wint Yu Mon by Dr. Nwe Winn Thein
Dr. Thinn Thinn Hlaing (Fritters) Ko Bobby Zwe Nanda
Dr. Win Htike (Monthin-gar)
Finally, on the 27th September approximately 150 people came to the pagoda to listen to a talk by Ven. Dr. Nyanissara on the work so far carried out in the cyclone effected areas and plans for the region’s future.

Ven. Dr. Nyanissara represents a new breed of monk who has shunned traditional asceticism in favour of a more hands-on approach to the suffering he finds around him. He travels widely in Asia, the U.S. and Europe to lecture and raise funds and is currently building a multimillion-dollar convention centre by the Irrawaddy (Ayeyarwaddy) River.

So, when Cyclone Nargis struck in early May, leaving at least 138,000 dead or missing, he was an obvious and willing choice for foreign donors looking for a way to help those affected by the event. As his own monks spread out to help victims, he agreed to distribute what he says is almost $1 million in foreign donations. His donors come from a wide background and include British doctors, the King of Thailand and the Catholic Church. In an interview at his Sitagu International Buddhist Academy he said, "For me, Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, it's all the same." The money went towards fixing up seven hospitals badly damaged by the cyclone, at a cost of $50,000 each, and repairing schools, among other projects. To-date, Sayadaw Ven. Dr. Nyanissara has personally chosen the location to re-build 45 schools, destroyed in the Ayeyarwady delta by Cyclone Nargis, at a cost of $22,000-50,000 each. The schools are in the townships of Bogalay, Laputta, and Pyapon. However, due to the rainy season, the earliest construction can begin is October 1, 2008. In the township of Gedongenie in South Bogeley 3,600 homes were destroyed and water supplies became salty due to the tidal surge. Therefore, water purifiers were brought into the townships to remove the salt whilst in other areas people were given tablets to purify disease laden water before drinking.

Dr. Nyanissara was born in 1937 in a small town in central Myanmar, previously known as Burma. At the age seven, he entered the local monastery to study, and by 20 years old became a Buddhist monk, taking the formal name Ashin Nyanissara. He later studied Pali scripture, in which he is considered an expert, at Mandalay University. At first, in the 1970’s, he followed the usual path for Burmese monks spending three years in a forest meditation centre. In 1979 he set-up his own monastery in Sagaing after which he started to get involved in social projects starting with the building of a water-supply system for the town and by 1987 started the construction of a 100-bed hospital offering low-cost medicine to the poor.

In 1988 he moved to Nashville, Tenn., where he studied world religions, returning to Myanmar in the mid-1990s. On his return to Myanmar he set up his Buddhist Academy in Sagaing, a Buddhist town and home to about 10,000 monks, and also opened a monastery in Austin, Texas. At the same time his popularity began to grow, helped by his social work. When the cyclone swept through Myanmar in May 2008 Dr. Nyanissara, and some of his students, travelled by car or boat to the worst-hit areas to deliver rice and zinc roofing sheets. As the outside world learnt of the devastation many donors saw him as a way of directing their funds to the areas in most need.

By the end of the day donations made by those present amounted to £5400 to which Dr K.M.Oo and his wife Than Than Ywe added a donation of medical supplies to the value of £10,000.

Dhamma Hall donations
Since our last newsletter we have received further donations towards the establishment of a Buddhist University at the vihara and would like to thank everyone who has made a donation to this project, up to 13th September.

Daw Than Than
Mr Y.K. Thu Myint & Miss M.K.
Fong, Michael William Myint
Dr Htaik Tin Hla
Aung Kyaw Zan in memory of Daw Khin Mary
Mg Myint Win Aye Aye Mon, Steven, Michael
Mr R L Sampia
Daw Thaung Tin/ U Rathapala
Mr & Mrs Moret
Drs K Z Than+S S Win
Miss R. Oo
Mrs T.Y. Thein
Mrs T.T.T.A. Swa
Dr Angela Thein
Mrs Kaythi Kyawt Swe
Dr Htay Haing, Saw Thiri Thant & sons
Drs W. M. Aung, K.T. Han

As always, our deepest thanks also go to all our regular donors and those individuals who volunteer their time and energy without which none of this would be possible.

If anyone is aware of any omissions or mistakes in the above lists please let us know and accept our apologies.
Birthday Celebrations
In the last two months several families have combined birthday celebrations and the giving of dana meals and so making good use of the newly erected dining area, even though some work on the building is still to be completed. Those who have celebrated their birthday at the pagoda are:

31st August
Daw Than Than
Dr Angela Aung Thein
Mrs T. Toe Toe
Mrs K.T. Kyaw Soe
Dr San Hlaing Min

14th September
Rahul
28th September
Ko Chit Nyo

7th September
Ko Saw Lin & Ma Yamin Khaing, daughter Arkar

Z.Z. Aung & Nilar, son Royal Aung (1yr)

Wedding Blessings
Finally, wedding blessings were given by the resident monks to Robert & Tracy on 27th September and Mr Rambir & Dr Renar on 5th October.

Dr Ottaranyana’s Activities
In addition to his 10-day retreat in the UK (see above) Dr Ottaranyana ran a 12 day retreat between 31 May and 15 June for 25 yogis in Karakaw, Poland. During the retreat he also gave teachings on Vipassanā meditation and the Abhidhamma. Later in the year he visited the Czech Republic to run a 6 day retreat in Bodhi Olomouc for 30 yogis. During his visit he gave a Dhamma talk on “Buddha and practical life”, which he also presented at the Scientific Library, Brno.

On the 16th August Dr Ottaranyana and Bhikkhu Nagasena were invited to take part in the pagoda celebrations at the Nipponzan Myohoji peace Pagoda, Milton Keynes.

Dr Ottaranyana was pleased to accept an invitation from the organisers of the International Day of Non-Violence to deliver a message of peace on behalf of all Buddhist groups. The event was held in Victoria Square, Birmingham, on 2nd October attended by representatives from all the faiths. The theme of the day was best summed up by their message of “An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind.”

Dr Ottaranyana turned to Verse 5 of the Dhammapada for his inspiration:

Na hi verena verānī
sammātiṇṭha kuddācanam
averena ca sammanti
esa dhammo sanantano

Hatred is, indeed, never appeased by hatred in this world. It is appeased only by loving kindness.
This is an Ancient law.

Future Events
In December Dr Ottaranyana will be visiting Myanmar in connection with a number of projects. During February/March 2009 he has once again been invited to run a retreat in Brazil.

Please e-mail your stories or articles to our new address: paduma8-lotus@yahoo.co.uk

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