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ANNUAL GENERAL MASSAGE

1. NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the 10 new supporters (making a total so far of 191), and two new babies: Sam (congratulations Karen, Andy & Hannah), Luis (congratulations Lusi, Danny & Robin). At our January working weekend for full members, we sang our way through our first Annual General Meeting as a charity in less than 30 minutes; and we had an Annual General Massage to keep us all relaxed and in tune with each other. We danced to envisage the future.

2. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| Bodhi Events | Date: 2008 | Location |
|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Non Violent Communication | 29/30 th March | Phoenix Centre |
| Getting Real about Community | 30/31 May 1 st Jun | Stroove House, near Largs |
| | | |
| Other Events | Date | Location |
| Biofuel Protest | 29 th Jan | Edinburgh |
| Permaculture Design Course | 23/24 th Feb | Kilmartin House, Argyll & Bute |
| Hakomi Workshop | 17/18 th May | Glasgow |
| Critical Mass Bike Ride | 26th Jan 29 Feb 28 March | 5.30pm George Sq, Glasgow |

3. REFLECTIONS ON THE LAST YEAR - *Ratnadevi*

Whenever we give ourselves wholeheartedly to any wholesome action, the 'I' shrinks. Ayya Khema

We just had our AGM and in preparing the chair's report I scanned through the quarterly newsletters. I was struck by how rich and varied they were; I found this gem from Tim Pomeroy: 'my poem denuded no place or people' and he 'refuses to admit to a half life'. I imagine you all out there, reading this, and hopefully finding in your involvement with the bodhi eco-project as much encouragement to lead a 'full life' as I do. By facing the current climate and other threats courageously, with an open heart and mind, and doing what we can in the company of like-spirited people, we have access to the emergence of as yet unknowable resources. The 'I', as Ayya Khema says, may shrink, and with that many fears and insecurities, whilst a sense of interconnectedness, confidence and inner richness grows. Bodhi has developed during this year in ways I could not have foreseen and has built up a rolling momentum, which hopefully will see us ready to buy land by the end of this year.

This was our first year as a registered charity and trying to get everything together for the accounts and annual report was a good lesson in future efficiency! We have now Bodhiccha (Pam Hill) working for us 2 hours a week as a volunteer – she has impressive office skills and doesn't seem to be daunted by the fact that the bodhi office is still Larry's bedroom (now equipped with a dedicated bodhi laptop). She deals with accounts and membership: there are 190 of us to date, and a steady stream of new supporter-forms arriving every week. The number of directors has also gone up, from 5 to 9: Justin, Eva, Hamid and Leilani, and their kids. They bring a fantastic array of skills and energy to the project and I feel their commitment has given the project a big boost.

More about people (the most tangible realisation of bodhi at present): we have greatly benefitted from Lusi's work for us for 6 months (up to the birth of Luis), doing more research for us in preparation for buying land. Dan then took the baton and is currently focusing on fundraising, in particular for fulltime stuff. Many more people have contributed to the development of bodhi, and I would like to thank in particular the board of directors who are giving so much of their time in monthly and residential weekend meetings and much work in-between.

On our website you will find our full Annual Report, listing everything we have done last year and including the accounts. We organised and run many events and regular meetings: NVC,

Permaculture, Deep Ecology and Climate Change education. Some of our members have been sponsored to do training in some of these fields and are bringing their experience back to the group. I think for many of us one of the highlights was the conference 'our climate our future', together with the climate change march on December 8. Organising and facilitating the conference made us a lot more visible on the Scottish Green scene and has led to the forming of a 'transition town' initiative. We also had a presence on several large festivals; thanks to all who contributed.

Looking ahead, we are continuing to develop our resources and knowledge in all of the areas that constitute our aims. We will be offering more opportunities to all of us to enhance our skills and to build community, leading to the establishment of an eco-village that in itself is a place for learning in countless ways. The board of directors is currently on a steep learning curve regarding financial and legal matters. Alex Walker and Jonathan Findhorn are helping us with their experience from the Findhorn foundation. Thank You for all the support you have given us during the last year and we greatly value your contributions of any kind. Wishing you all the best, and hope to see you during this year.

4. BODHI WORKING WEEKEND AT WISTON - *Leilani Van Koten*

Full members of Bodhi gathered at Wiston in Lanarkshire from 18th to 20th January, expecting lashing rain all weekend but, in fact, enjoying mostly dry and pleasant weather. Those who made it out for a walk up Tinto Hill were accompanied by a black cat, all the way to the top! We had other animal visitors over the weekend, with a dream-lion licking Larry's feet and a live crow descending the chimney with a cloud of soot, much to the consternation of Diarmid, who then surprised himself by managing to catch and free it. We all pondered the significance of 'catching the crow' and decided that it may refer to grasping the opportunity offered by the potential partnership between Bodhi and the Fife-based earth-ship village proposal called ZWAZE (Zero Waste And Zero Energy). We had discussions with Paula Cowie, from the Sustainable Communities Initiative in Craigencault, Fife, who heads up the ZWAZE project (zero waste zero energy housing) and I think we all came away feeling inspired by the possibilities that this partnership may offer. There are plans to visit Craigencault to discuss this further in February.

We were also joined by Alex Walker who came to share his significant knowledge and experience of the workings of community from 25 years of living at Findhorn. He took us through a range of options relating to finance and legal structures and we are currently digesting this detailed information and working out what structures are most appropriate to Bodhi.

We have decided to establish a Community Land Trust for the purchase and ownership of the land modelled on how the residents are managing the land on the Island of Eigg. We also explored options for the building and ownership of houses. Alex explained the relative benefits of forming a co-operative limited by shares or a company limited by shares and we are looking into which would suit us best, depending on who would be interested in making ethical investments in our project.

Following this focused and productive weekend, we have formed a Finance & Legal Working Group to help with moving forward with these issues.

5. BODHI RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT *_Letter from_Dan Glass,*

The last few months have been extremely busy for the Bodhi community. To begin with, attracting hundreds of people across Scotland was 'Our Climate Our Future.' In conjunction with the international day of action against climate change, Bodhi co-organised a jam-packed day of events at the Phoenix Centre on December 8th. Bodhi joined with communities all around the world to demand that world leaders take the urgent action we need to prevent the catastrophic destabilisation of our global climate. All, with growing interest, gratitude and support for Bodhi, had a very wonderful (and very wet!) day. The follow up plan is building the Transition Town Movement in Scotland, which is involving more people by the day.

Further, Bodhi have been investigating hundreds, if not thousands, of potential funding avenues for a 'project manager', a 'publicity and research consultant' and an 'eco-communities education worker' with the intention to be able to 'be ready to buy land by the end of 2008'. The last few weeks have been spent writing individual applications for each of the funders. Due to motivations to complete funding applications, over the last month all correspondence regarding land acquisition has not been prioritised. It was thought best for me to focus on determining funding for continuation of project management so that we are sure that we can continue liaising with the housing authorities in the first place! We have been sent various packs regarding potential land options in various authorities, to be investigated soon.

Whilst Bodhi are securing their future financially to ensure that land options can be investigated, general coordination has been continuing smoothly. The website has been regularly updated with current events and plans are being made to hold frequent Bodhi workshops in and around Glasgow.

I look forward to continuous progress and action with Bodhi Eco Project and meeting many of you at forthcoming events.

6. THE BODHI STEERING GROUP

We are Ratnadevi (chair), Larry Butler (vice chair), Andy Marnie (Treasurer), Diarmid Baillie (Events), Eva Schonfeld & Justin Kenrick (Edinburgh/Lothian), Kate Shaw & Jude Lally (Centre for Human Ecology), Hamid & Leilani van Koten (Fife & Learning Web), Karen Wood (company Secretary)

7. BODHI YAHOO GROUP

Just to let folk know, we have a yahoo e-mail group to allow networking among Bodhi supporters. It is described as follows: 'Keeping Bodhi members in touch. Can be used as a forum for discussion, exchange of information and arranging meetings and events.'
Go to: groups.yahoo.com/group/bodhi-eco-project/ to join up, or e-mail me and I'll send out a yahoo invitation: leilani@dsl.pipex.com. I hope to be networking with you soon!

8. ACTION RESEARCH WITH BODHI

"Never forget that the alternatives of the present are the mainstream of the future- because they have to be" (Vandana Shiva, European Social Forum, Florence, 2003)

Natalie McCall is doing research on community engagement and sustainability in Scotland. She is interested in 'seed' projects that are (creating) living examples of what a sustainable community actually means; projects that might be classed as 'alternative' in the current climate, but that are generating practical models for the mainstream to take on board, and so tackle social and environmental injustice. Natalie's approach is to work with a number of 'seed' projects as a volunteer researcher, to help the projects with whatever they have identified as a 'sticky' area. She is interested in exploring the diversity of views around sustainability in order to highlight what she feels is the inappropriateness of the government/corporate spin on sustainability . At the Bodhi recent weekend in Wiston Lodge, the Bodhi directors identified a useful area for Natalie to contribute to as: outlining and exploring the institutional frameworks and governance structures, particularly around planning for affordable, sustainable housing in order to identify the blockages between policy documents and actual sustainability on the ground.

Natalie is keen to set up a research group of interested members to explore this area with the view of action research (research that leads to action!) , if you are interested to get involved in this, or are interested in finding out more about Natalie's research you can contact her by e-mail: Natalie.McCall@gcal.ac.uk or by phone: (work) 0141 273 1438, (mob) 07963 630088.



OUR CLIMATE OUR FUTURE CEILIDH 8TH DECEMBER 2008

9. EVENTS IN DETAIL

COMPASSIONATE COMMUNICATION

Sat 29th and Sun 30th March 08 @ the Phoenix Centre,
201 St. James Road, Glasgow. **9:30am for a 10am start.**

A foundation training in the skills of Non-Violent Communication.
Co-facilitated by Claralynn Nunamaker, trainer candidate in NVC, and Chris Blain.
NVC was developed by [Marshall Rosenberg](http://www.cnvc.org/), more info at: <http://www.cnvc.org/>

Non-Violent Communication helps connect us with what is alive in ourselves and in others moment-to-moment, cutting to the heart of what we presently feel and need, and helping us articulate that skillfully. The focus is on enriching life and our sense of connection with each other as we are now. Bodhi Eco-Project strongly values deep, effective and heartfelt communication and holds the development of such skills as a central criteria for full membership of the project and residency in our village.

Bodhi supporters will be given priority booking up to Friday 15th Feb after which booking will be open to everybody. Numbers will be limited to a maximum of 16. There will be a waiting list (giving supporters priority). To become a Bodhi supporter visit: <http://www.bodhi-eco-project.org.uk/> These workshops can be challenging, fun and can create a deep sense of connection.

To get the most out of the workshop attendees are strongly recommended to read Marshall Rosenberg's very accessible book: '**Nonviolent Communication: a Language of Life.**' It may be possible to borrow a copy upon request, [or try Amazon](#). [His CDs](#) are also a brilliant learning tool. For **instant inspiration** there are three lovely short films of Marshall [HERE](#). Please bring food to share for lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Cost: For people new to NVC, £45 for whole weekend.
If you've done previous trainings there's an option to just attend the sunday at £20, or £30 for whole weekend. More experienced folks are strongly encouraged to come along, support the novices and brush up their skills.

To book: send a deposit of £20, or the full amount (**cheques payable to 'Bodhi'**) to:
Bodhi Eco-Project, 14 Garrioch Drive, Glasgow, G20 8RS.
Please print or copy the form below, fill it with your details and enclose it in the envelope. We will email or write to confirm receipt of your deposit.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

EMAIL:

PHONE NUMBER:

BODHI SPRING RESIDENTIAL – GETTING REAL ABOUT COMMUNITY

30th31st May, 1st June 2008 (Please note change of date).

For all Bodhi Supporters, family & friends. This will be an Open Space Event where the agenda is created by the people who come. This weekend will be co-facilitated by Leilani Van Kote and Justin Kenrick. Children are very welcome and creche facilities will be provided. Places are limited to 30 people so early booking is recommended. Please send a deposit of £20 and fill in the form below. As a non-profit charity we invite donations based on generosity – we estimate that the average cost of the weekend will be about £60 to £70. Please make cheques payable to **“Bodhi”** and send to: **Larry Butler, 14 Garrioch Drive, Glasgow G20 8RS,**

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I would like to attend the Bodhi Spring Residential 30May to 1st June 2008

Name _____

Address _____

_____ PostCode _____

Email _____

Tel _____

Special needs such as diet or access: _____

Do you need a lift? Yes / No Can you offer a lift? Yes / No
If yes, how many seats? _____

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Polar Bear on the March 8th December



Biofuel Protest

Thursday 31st January 1-3pm

Outside Edinburgh Greenergy Office, 18b Liberton Brae. The 37 and 47 buses go there. A group will meet beforehand in central Edinburgh - please contact me if you are interested. Come and protest against Greenergy in Edinburgh! This is part of a UK wide week of action against biofuels, helping to highlight that far from being the green solution, large-scale biofuel production actually makes climate change worse.

Greenergy claim to be the UK's largest biofuel company. Two of their main shareholders are Tesco and Cargill. They import sugar cane, soya, rapeseed oil etc for biofuels from large-scale plantations causing widespread deforestation etc. Please see below the email for more info on issues surrounding biofuels and check www.biofuelwatch.org.uk.

PERMACULTURE DESIGN COURSE

Several Bodhi members have completed various amounts of this course which is run by the renowned Ed Tyler. Ed's enthusiasm is infectious and the importance of permaculture to saving the planet cannot be emphasised enough. Although some people think it is just about gardening, from this course you will learn that there is a lot more to 'Permanent Culture' than growing organic food. You can attend one, two or all of the modules listed below. We hope it will be running again next year too (so you can do any modules you have missed).

23rd & 24th February – module 5 – Community Development.

Venue: Kilmartin House, Argyll (except mod3). More info from www.kilmartin.org. Please book with Sally Wilkin: sally@kilmartin.org or 01546 510278

Hakomi Workshop 17th and 18th May '08.

Workshop being organised in Glasgow with **T. Flint Sparks Ph.D, Zen Buddhist priest, psychologist and Hakomi teacher** from Texas, who serves at the Austin Zen Centre. <http://www.flintsparks.com/fs/welcome.htm>

Details and venue to be confirmed, but we will be weaving together meditation practise and the Hakomi Method. This looks like a rare opportunity to work with a very accomplished teacher. Possible themes are 'Reweaving the Fabric of Community' and 'Loving Presence and Mindfulness in Community'. Hakomi is an experiential bodymind therapy based on using mindfulness for assisted self-study. <http://www.hakomi.ca/>

Diarmid says this of his training experience with Flint: 'Flint is one of those precious human beings who embody what they teach, one of those beaming Zen guys who light up the room when they enter and calm you down with a simple smile. Through his work Flint gracefully unites spiritual depth and psychological understanding.'

For more info contact Diarmid: diarmidbaillie@gmail.com

ADVERT FOR NEW MEMBERS OF MONIMAIL TOWER PROJECT

Monimail Tower Project, an environmental charity in Fife has an opening for new residential members. The project offers environmental education opportunities and maintains and manages its grounds which consist of a restored medieval tower, a 12 acre woodland and 4 acres of walled garden and orchard. The residents live a communal, low-impact lifestyle living on produce from the land and using sustainable forms of energy. Residents and non-residents work together to run the charity. At present the residential community is two couples each with a young child. We have flexible space for new members that could suit either two individuals, a couple or a small family. Please contact us for more details on how to apply and for details of the joining procedure. Monimail@phonecoop.coop or 01337 810420

Please send your contributions for next Bodhi newsletter by the 4th April 2008 to:

info@bodhi-eco-project.org.uk
Bodhi Eco Project
14 Garrioch Drive
Glasgow G20 8RS

www.bodhi-eco-project.org.uk

Charity#: SCO37550