



Resource Pack I for those new to the Triratna Buddhist Community

This pack aims to give you a selection of background information to the Triratna Buddhist Community and our approach to Buddhism. Its companion, Resource Pack II, covers the main meditation practices and ceremonies that we practice.

Both are intended for people who've fairly recently contacted us and want to know more: there's lots of leads to further material on who we are and what we do - even what we look like! Most of it is available for free on the internet.

Suggestions for inclusion in future editions are welcome, please contact the Triratna Development team via support@triratnadevelopment.org.

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Where to find stuff...

The Triratna Buddhist Community has a rich collection of Dharma and meditation resources, much of it available for free on the internet. At the same time, it is a very decentralised movement, which results in a plethora of websites. This section aims to give you a one-stop guide for at least some of what is available.

NOTE: in May 2010 we changed our name from the Friends of the Western Buddhist Order (FWBO) to the Triratna Buddhist Community. This necessitated changes to all our websites and URLs, some of which are still in process - some of the links given here will therefore be changing during 2011. Hopefully redirects will be in place and you won't meet a dead end!

Recommended reading

Four Reading Lists have been compiled for those wanting to explore Triratna 's Dharma teaching in more depth. They are printed following this section, and cover -

- Meditation
- Introductory
- Going deeper
- Mitra Study

Sangharakshita's books and other Triratna publications

may be obtained from Centre bookshops, or the Triratna Buddhist Community's publishing house Windhorse Publications - see their website www.windhorsepublications.com.

Many of Sangharakshita's books, including his memoirs, poetry, and many Dharma books, are available free on-line from his website at www.sangharakshita.org/online_books.html.

On-line Dharma talks

Free Buddhist Audio offers over 1,000 online talks for free download by Sangharakshita and other senior Order Members. Find them at www.freebuddhistaudio.com. Their 'community pages' host talks from many local Triratna centres, including non-UK centres and in various languages.

Study material (including the Triratna Dharma Training Course)

The Triratna Buddhist Community has an excellent Foundation Course for anyone wanting to learn the basics of Buddhism. Most Triratna Centres offer study groups exploring the Course - group study is the recommended way to engage with it. It's also available on-line at www.freebuddhistaudio.com/study.

Following on from the Foundation Course is a new three-year Dharma Training Course for Mitras, also offered at most Triratna Centres and available as downloadable PDFs from the same website.

Two other sections of the FreeBuddhistAudio site contain the full text of most of Sangharakshita's lectures (at www.freebuddhistaudio.com/texts/talks) and the unedited text of most of his seminars (over 12,000,000 words!), available at www.freebuddhistaudio.com/texts/seminars Happy reading!

Contact details for Triratna Buddhist Community Centres

Almost every Triratna centre has its own website, and details of these can be found at <http://thebuddhistcentre.com/contact>



Details about retreats

may be obtained from Triratna Centres. Details of most UK Triratna retreats and some international ones can be seen on Triratna dedicated GoingOnRetreat website at www.goingonretreat.com

The Triratna Buddhist Community has nearly 20 retreat centres around the world, including 8 or more in UK. Each has its own unique flavour: the only way to find what they are is of course to try them out! The names of the main ones are -

UK

Buddhafield
Buddhafield North and East
Dhanakosa
Dharmapala College
Padmaloka
Rivendell
Taraloka
Tiratnaloka
Vajraloka
Vajrasana

EUROPE

Abhayaloka (Finland)
Akasavana (Spain)
Dharmagiri (Sweden)
EcoDharma (Spain)
Guhyaloka (Spain)

REST of WORLD

Aryaloka (USA)
Sudarshanaloka (New Zealand)
Vijayaloka (Australia)
Sagaraloka (Sri Lanka)

INDIA

Bhaja
Bor Dharan
Dhammakranti

Young people's Dharma

The best way to hook up with other young Buddhists in the Triratna Buddhist Community is to search Facebook for "young FWBO" or "young Triratna"; there's a young people's group there with 200+ members and details of special events.

We're looking to find individuals at all Triratna Centres who are able and willing to act as contact points for new young people coming along; details of how to contact existing ones will be on the Facebook group.

Children and schools' Dharma material

The **Clear Vision Trust**, at www.clear-vision.org, offers a wide range of teaching materials for schools, tailored to the UK curriculum.

It includes their very popular **Ask a Buddhist** service - a series of short video clips with some answers to some of the commonest questions Buddhists tend to get asked - especially by children! Recently expanded with many answers from younger Buddhists and Buddhist s from other traditions. It's at www.clear-vision.org/Students/AskaBud.aspx

What we look like

Photos of Triratna Centres are at **Triratna Photos** www.flickr.com/photos/fwbo/sets where you'll find a library of over 3,000 photos of Triratna Centres, shrines, and more.

Profiles of people/Order Members can be found on Triratna People at www.people.fwbo.org. Alternatively, the **Order Mosaic**, at www.fwbo-news.org/resources/mosaic/thumbnail, captures almost the whole of the Triratna Buddhist Order in a single clickable image of the thousand-armed Avalokitesvara.



Video clips of Bhante/ Order Members / other people in the Triratna Buddhist Community are on **Videosangha**, which contains over 100 short videos on everything from the history of the FWBO/ Triratna to Buddhist Arts. Especially interesting are the accounts of people's first meetings with Sangharakshita, founder of the Triratna Buddhist Community and the Triratna Buddhist Order. It's at www.videosangha.net.

More about the Triratna Buddhist Community

Triratna News is the main channel for keeping up to date with what's happening around the world-wide Triratna Buddhist Community. It's at <http://thebuddhistcentre.com/news>.

Our main website is at www.thebuddhistcentre.com - it's great! Although it's still a work in process, and likely to remain so for many years... There's a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/triratnabuddhistcommunity, plus pages for many local Triratna groups.

Social Engagement

The Triratna Buddhist Community has always combined dharma practice with social engagement. Triratna Bauddha Mahasangha, the Indian wing of the Movement, runs a very wide range of social projects, mostly funded by the Karuna Trust: there's details at www.tbmsg.org or www.karuna.org.

In the West, recent years have seen a rapid rise in Triratna projects directed towards people suffering from pain, stress, addiction, and depression; mostly using mindfulness-based material such as MBCT. Breathworks and Breathing Space are the two largest, at www.breathworks-mindfulness.org.uk and www.breathingspacelondon.org.uk. Bodywise is another Triratna 'brand' offering a wide range of exercise and treatments.

And in the Spanish mountains, EcoDharma (www.ecodharma.com) is a Triratna retreat centre dedicated to exploring how the Dharma and Triratna can participate the development of an ecological consciousness.

Fundraising

The Karuna Trust has for 30 years been Triratna's main fundraising project, raising well over £1 million/year for a wide range of social and Dhamma work in India. Find them at www.karuna.org - and get involved at www.appeals.karuna.org.

There will be a number of Triratna fundraising appeals in the air at any one time. Many Indian ones use internet fundraising pages hosted by Dhammaloka, a Triratna charity dedicated to raising funds for Indian Dhamma work: you'll find this at www.justgiving.com/Dhammaloka; there's also the India Dhamma Trust at www.indiadharmatrust.com raising money for the men's and women's Ordination Teams in India.

FWBO/ Triratna History and archives

The Clear Vision photo archive at www.clear-vision.org/Home-Use/triratna-Photos.aspx contains many historic images of Sangharakshita, the early days of the FWBO and TBMSG in India. The whole collection has been recently much expanded and rearranged.

Also, check the archive sets on Triratna Photos, www.flickr.com/photos/fwbo/sets, where you'll find collections covering Communities, People, Retreats, Right Livelihood, and India.



Beyond English

[Triratna Translations](http://thebuddhistcentre.com/translations), available at <http://thebuddhistcentre.com/translations>, lists most existing translations (as of 2007) of Triratna Buddhist Community literature into the major world languages, including texts published on the web. There's a lot available in Spanish, French, German, and Dutch - and Hindi and Marathi in India.

Going deeper

If you're looking to get deeper involved in the Triratna Buddhist Community, we'd recommend the booklet 'Becoming a Mitra?', prepared by the Bristol Buddhist centre and currently available on-line at www.fwbo-news.org/features/bristol-mitra-booklet-jan07.pdf.

If you want to deepen further your practice of the Dharma and your involvement with our Sangha, you will probably be considering asking for Ordination into the Triratna Buddhist Order. There are around 1,000 men and women in the West preparing for ordination with us, and up to 1,500 in India.

In the UK, Padmaloka and Tiratanaloka retreat centres specialise in helping men and women respectively prepare to enter the Order. Both produce Handbooks outlining what they offer and what is expected; Tiratanaloka's is on-line at tiratanaloka.org/docs/handbook11.pdf. Padmaloka's can be obtained by contacting them directly (tel 01508 538112).

For people keen to do Dharma study, but not living close to any of our existing Centres, Suvarnagarbha in Cambridge offers mentoring assistance and friendly support online and by phone, both on a dana basis. You can contact him by phone at 01223 473 444, or email suvarnagarbha@hotmail.co.uk.

Contents of Resource Pack II

This Pack complements this Resource Pack and includes short introductions to meditation and Buddhism as practiced in the Triratna Buddhist Community, plus the text of the main ceremonies used.

introductions

- a short introduction to meditation
- a short introduction to Buddhism
- a short introduction to the Triratna Buddhist Community

basic Triratna texts

- The Threefold Puja
- The Dedication Ceremony
- The Sevenfold Puja
- the Refuges and Precepts
- The Heart Sutra

