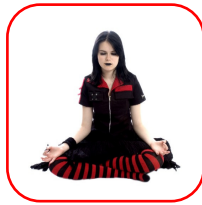




**INSPIRING**



**YOUNG PEOPLE**



**WITH DHARMA**

**August 2008**

Dear,

Hello, I'm writing to invite you to a weekend we are holding in November – Nov. 7-9th to be precise. Our plan is to bring together a large number of younger people who are involved (to some degree or another) in the FWBO and the Dharma. By "young" we're thinking of people aged up to 30-ish, but the weekend is also open to anyone who wants to get involved with inspiring more young people to get involved with us and the Dharma.

Once we've gathered and introduced ourselves to one another, quite a bit of the weekend will be collectively participating in an 'Open Space' style process, aimed at helping us connect with what brought us to the Dharma and how we'd like to share that with others. If you've not heard of Open Space Technology, have a look on Wikipedia or similar - basically it's a way of very easily getting lots of ideas 'on the table' and then forming smaller groups to look at them in some depth, so that we come out of the weekend with some definite plans! Which would very much be 'co-created' by everyone present.

There should be plenty of time for other stuff as well – introductions to find out who we all are and what's brought us together, time for walks and outdoor stuff generally – if at all possible we want a bonfire! Maybe games, in the evening a celebratory Padmasambhava puja, maybe videos...

As well as us coming together to find what inspires us and where we might want to take it, there's some pretty interesting projects already going on – for instance in India, where they've just set up the 'National Network of Buddhist Youth' (see [www.nnby.org](http://www.nnby.org) - I'd personally love us to be thinking of twinning with them!) Also I'm aware of the potential of things like Buddhafield which DO attract young people but which don't offer much specifically for them once they (you?) get there. I imagine there'll be many other ideas coming up, eg staying in touch with one another using online social networks or whatever.

So – you're warmly invited, and in the meantime (it's quite a while till November!) your comments/ suggestions/ ideas on this are very welcome! Also (very important) – even if you can't come you might be able to help us spread the word to others around the Buddhistisches Tor Berlin. Do pass this message on to others know, I'm very happy to answer questions if anyone wants more info.

The weekend will be at a place we've used many times, a youth-hostel-style place called Bilberry Hill, in the countryside just outside Birmingham. It's basic but OK. It'll cost us £30/person to hire it and provide food for the weekend; we're asking for a standard rate of £50/person, not to make a profit but so that we can let folk with little or no money come for free. So don't let money put you off; please contact me if you're at all interested in coming and we'll talk. Students and teens especially are welcome to pay less or come for free! Please book as soon as you can (either by e-mail or phone— details below) so we can get planning. We'll probably ask for a deposit nearer the time.

With all good wishes, and hoping to see you there.

Lokabandhu

NOVEMBER 7-9 2008 – BILBERRY HILL, BIRMINGHAM – ALL WELCOME  
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