January 2021 European Chairs Assembly Online Gathering

A summary of the meeting



Instead of our week long meeting at Adhisthana we had 3 days by zoom. The various parts of the meeting were held by our wonderful **Exec members**: Silabodhi, Prasadacarin, Kuladharini, Bodhivamsa, Bodhilila and Suryagupta. A morning meditation was led by Silabodhi every morning and throughout the meeting we **welcomed** new Chairs and representatives: Maitrisara (Birmingham), Sridakini (Highlands/Inverness), Jayaraja (Isipathana/Alfoxton), Jayamuni (Clermont-Ferrand), Vajrasiddhi (Guhyaloka), Sudaka (Suryavana), Amoghamati (Karuna Deutschland) and we said **goodbye** to Singhamati, Uddyotani, and Padmolka.



On the first morning **Kuladharini**, **Parina** and **Candraprabha** each gave a short talk on **practice as Chair during Covid**. We then split up into breakout homegroups for personal interaction and discussion. In the afternoon there was input from the **College**: **Paramachitta** gave us a short College update, **Ratnadharini** talked about what's been on her mind and asked us to explore in groups what we can learn from other organisations.



In a tea-break **Jnanadhara** played his guitar while muted and **Aparajita** asked him to put his sound on. A spontaneous little concert! This little interlude was much appreciated and repeated the next day.

On this second day we revisited the **5 strategic priorities** that had been identified at the meeting in January 2020: **Young Buddhists**, **Diversity**, **Review of ECA**, **Dharmic engagement with social/ecological issues** and **Growth and contexts for intensity**. These topics were briefly introduced respectively by Kshantikara, Suryagupta, Kuladharini, Maitridevi and Bodhivamsa and discussed in small groups. In a plenary we heard back from each strategic priority group about key aspects and next steps. **Kuladharini** gave us an update on the International Council's communication strategy working group and media liaison potentially being part of that. This was followed by some questions and discussion. In the afternoon **Candradasa** and **Viryanaga** talked about challenges and opportunities of online Dharma/Sangha.



On the third day **Munisha** gave us an update on **Safeguarding**, **Jnanadhara** updated us on the **International Council**, **Subhadassi** introduced his **new Order Convenor role** and **Lokeshvara** introduced the idea of **Dharma Mentoring**. We met up in small groups again and in the afternoon there were **updates** on: **Gender Diversity**, **Translations**, the **New Vision for Adhisthana**, **International Online Festivals** (with a poll to gauge the level of interest), **Vajrasana retreat centre**, **Presidents Guidelines** and **Future Dharma**, respectively by Prasadacarin, Gunabhadri, Saddhanandi, Akasajoti, Suryagupta, Gunabhadri again, Nandavajra and Satyajyoti. **Bodhilila** ended our 3-day meeting with a lovely session of **mantra chanting**, **meditation** and a **short puja**.