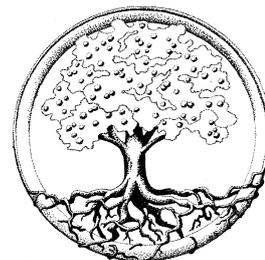


# COLE STREET FARM COHOUSING COMMUNITY

***THE THRESHOLD CENTRE***  
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## NEWSLETTER – Spring 2006

**As our snail mail list has grown very long, and the administration time and cost is escalating, we now feel we must ask for a financial contribution. If you would like to continue receiving the newsletter by post, please send us £5 to cover 2006. We made this request in the last newsletter, so if you are a mail recipient this will be the last edition you will receive before you let us have your contribution. Thanks.**

### **Planning**

Our planning application has been submitted! In a final community push, the office buzzed as we photocopied and collated the documents together, then delivered them for spiral binding. (Thank you The Copy Shop.) Alan then delivered them to the Council Offices in Blandford himself. If you'd like to write a letter of support for the application, they should be received by the Council by February 24. Please address them to Mr. Andrew Williams, Planning Development Control, North Dorset District Council, Nordon, Salisbury Road, Blandford Forum, DT11 7LL, quoting the Application Reference 2/2006/105. You can see more details of the proposals under Development Plans on the website, [www.thresholdcentre.org.uk](http://www.thresholdcentre.org.uk). We have received much help and support in the locality, and are hoping that the huge amount of preparatory work carried out to further our case will now bear fruit.

### **Fiona**

In January, we were joined by Fiona Ferguson who will be staying for a few months as part of the 'getting to know you' plan for potential Phase 2 people. Fiona comes to us from the world of Adult Learning in Oxford, where she managed the Healthy Living curriculum for the County Council. She has spent most of her life working in the voluntary sector but has travelled widely – including a spell setting up and running a retreat and course centre in Tuscany. Like Michael she has strong links with India, and we are grateful for her input at the moment as Michael is away leading a group in India.

### **Publicity**

Caroline was featured in the Guardian colour supplement of 28<sup>th</sup> January in the Space section with a half page picture of her outside the big old oak entrance to the meditation room. Despite comments like 'was that your hut you were in front of', and the unfortunate inclusion of Gillingham, Kent instead of Gillingham, Dorset, (that's sub-editors for you) there was a gratifying number of uses of the word 'cohousing' within the text itself, which accurately portrayed life at Cole Street Farm. Even though our contact details were excluded, a number of people have managed to track us down via the paper, albeit under the impression we are in Kent!

### **Spring at the farm**

Now the days are lengthening, it really seems that spring is on the way. The birds have begun shouting in the morning, and we enjoyed a group outing last weekend when four of us piled into the hybrid electric/petrol car and headed off to Stourhead gardens to look at the snowdrops. We are so lucky to have this astounding National Trust property on our doorstep, and have enjoyed visits now in all seasons. (One day, I'm certain, Mr. Darcy is going to gallop over the hill, then emerge dripping from the lake. I wish!). We have a wonderful show of snowdrops here at Cole Street, and the roadside banks particularly out past Childe Okeford, are covered with them. Our white doves seem to have been busy, as where there were four there now seem to be up to 10 some mornings. Either a population explosion or the relatives coming to stay.

## **Phase 2 – Potential Residents**

*Creating Cohousing* workshops are preceded by an afternoon for those who have expressed a keen interest in exploring becoming resident here, once planning permission has been received and the building work completed.

We start with bring and share lunch, then tour the site and discuss what accommodation may be available, costs and legal framework, and finish late afternoon. Next steps include a series of residential getting-to-know you visits. Potential Phase 2 joiners will be in agreement with the vision and values set out in our Outline document and will have completed and returned our Questionnaire in advance.

**There is no charge for the afternoon. It is essential to book a place in advance.**

**Dates: Fri. 24<sup>th</sup> Feb. and Fri 5<sup>th</sup> May.**

## **PROGRAMME OF EVENTS**

**Unless otherwise stated, the cost of weekend courses (from 7pm Friday to 5pm latest on Sunday) is £90 including lunch, tea/coffee & snacks. Accommodation, breakfast and evening meal at the Threshold Centre is £35 per night. A non-returnable deposit of £20 is requested to book a place on a course and £20 deposit for B&B. Concessions may be available, please apply in writing.**

### *February*

**FULLY BOOKED *Creating Cohousing*** - what cohousing is and how to get started. Whether you are just starting your exploration, or in the perplexing thick of it, and whether you're an interested individual or already part of a group, we aim to help with your questions. Led by Threshold Centre residents. (See also May 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>).

**Date: 7pm Fri. Feb 24<sup>th</sup> – 4pm Sun Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>**

### *April*

**Ongoing** - Taize singing. Restarts Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup> 8pm – 9pm at Cole Street Farmhouse. Then first Thursday each month.

**Bolder & Older** with Persephone Arbour and Richard Whitfield – could ageing possibly be the grand adventure? Prepared to break through conventional expectations of growing older? Have you the courage and boldness to explore aspects of conscious ageing? Persephone has more than 30 years' international involvement with personal development using meditation, structured conversation and experiential group facilitation. She has very rich life experience and is known for her creativity and insight. Richard is an author, poet, teacher, parent and grandparent, and has extensive experience at home and overseas in both personal and social policy issues involving human development over the life cycle.

**Date: Sat. April 8<sup>th</sup>- Sun. April 9<sup>th</sup> Cost: £90**

### *Spring Retreat*

Take advantage of the Easter holiday to have a break in a restful, peaceful setting. The programme will be designed with the group, and will include time for reflection and discussion, as well as country walks and relaxation. Michael and Jane, both experienced group leaders, will be hosting. (Note: the event will have a spiritual element, but not a religious one.)

**Date: 7pm Fri. April 14<sup>th</sup> – after lunch Mon. 17<sup>th</sup> Cost: £150 incl. full board.**

### *May*

***Creating Cohousing*** - Led by Threshold Centre residents. (See February.)

**Date: 7pm Fri May 5<sup>th</sup> – 4pm Sun May 7<sup>th</sup> Cost: £90**

**Sound Workshop with Shirlie Roden: 'Finding your Power'**. She writes, “the most powerful place we can be in is the Present Moment. It is only your mind that is holding you back from realising your greatest dreams.” Following her hugely successful one-day workshop in 2005, Shirley is returning for a weekend which will use sound and chanting, meditations and group empowerment to explore the theme. Having graduated from Warwick University with a BA in English and European Literature, Shirley became an international stage performer, singer/songwriter, workshop leader and sound healer. She has worked with rock musicians (like Ray Davis /Kinks, Suzi Quatro), written and acted in stage musicals and plays (Roy Orbison story, Prisoner Cell Block H) and released five albums of her own

material. She has led workshops in Australia, Malta, Croatia, Hungary, Poland and for the past ten years in Slovenia, where she has received wide acclaim for her innovative sound work and the healing power of her singing voice.

**Date: Sat. May 13<sup>th</sup> – Sun. May 14<sup>th</sup> Cost: £90**

### ***June***

***‘Your Place in the Country’*** hosted by Threshold residents Jane and Fiona.

On your own? Come and join us and share meditation, country walks, conversation, good food, and visits to local pubs and/or teashops.

**Date: Fri. June 9<sup>th</sup> – Sun. June 11<sup>th</sup> Cost: £100 (includes all meals except one evening meal in a restaurant).**

### ***Nurturing Break weekend***

Come and relax in the peaceful setting of Cole Street Farm and enjoy one or more of the treatments on offer from qualified resident therapists.

**Date: Fri. June 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sun. June 25<sup>th</sup>. Cost: £125 full board (including 1 treatment).**

### ***July***

***Creating Cohousing*** – Residents of the Threshold Centre. (See February.)

**Date: Fri. July 7<sup>th</sup> – Sun. July 9<sup>th</sup> Cost: £90**

***The Way of Council*** with Pippa Bondy. Learning from other cultures and other times, this gives an opportunity to experience a variety of forms and uses of the ancient way of council, bringing attention to consensus building, shared visioning and deepening communication in everyday life. After seventeen years as a physical therapist, Pippa founded Ancient Healing Ways – an organisation bringing together ancient and modern healing methods. She has introduced ‘The Way of Council’ extensively across the UK and Europe, working in educational and business establishments, in hospices and pain clinics, with community and spiritual groups.

**Date: Sat. July 22<sup>nd</sup> – Sun. 23<sup>rd</sup> Cost: £90**

**Ongoing** – Taize singing – First Thursday of each month. Starts again Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup>, 8pm – 9pm.

***For further details of any of our activities, please contact Caroline/ Gay/ Michael at 01747 821929 or e-mail [info@thresholdcentre.org.uk](mailto:info@thresholdcentre.org.uk) If you would like details about hiring our group space, please phone 01747 821929 and leave a message for Jane.***

### ***Report on New Year Retreat***

The New Year retreat was enjoyed by all after a few domestic problems had been resolved. A mixture of looking back over the past year and looking forward to the new was interspersed with walks across the fields, a wander around historic Shaftesbury and visit to a tea shop for hot drinks and cake. Good food, wine, conversation and time out made a relaxed yet full programme. On New Year’s Eve we welcomed other Cole Street Farm members with their guests to join the celebratory meal and countdown to the midnight hour, with circle dancing and singing. It was a great way to see in the new year for us all with music, laughter and the warmth of good companionship. Thanks to all our guests for making it so.