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26<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Dear Friends,

### *Visit of Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche*

Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche, our teacher and spiritual director, visited Gomde, Lindholme Hall for 4 days from 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> January. Rinpoche's stay here was relaxed and very magical; as we are *currently* a small Sangha with limited funds, all who stayed at the house worked very hard to make Rinpoche's visit a success. There were no complaints about the amount of work, only great happiness at being able to share this very special occasion with Rinpoche; exploring the house and land, hearing Rinpoche teach and sharing meals and practice together. The atmosphere was that of close a family rejoicing at their great good fortune and, of course, the wonderful promise of things to come at Gomde, Lindholme Hall. We thank everyone who came from near and far for all the help and generous attitude.

At every turn Rinpoche was delighted by the elegance of the house, the potential of the out buildings and the vastness and beauty of the land. Rinpoche told us that the purchase of Lindholme Hall was extremely precious because it had the potential to benefit countless beings, not only in our lifetimes but for many, many future generations and in this way it was a profound and special offering.

The consecration ceremony went extremely well, despite the difficult weather; about 100 people came to Gomde to share our celebrations and welcome Rinpoche. At the end of the short puja, Rinpoche spontaneously jumped from his chair to personally greet many of the crowd who were standing in the snow- it was very touching moment.

Rinpoche circumambulated the land and explored its interior mostly in a 4x4, ending the exploration with short walk through some of the ancient woodland. Rinpoche said that he was amazed by the size and beauty of the land; he commented that it was very good place for all Dharma activity and that many aspects of Dharma could be fulfilled here. Everyone felt very privileged to share this special time with Rinpoche.

Later during his stay Rinpoche met with Natural England, members of The Thorne and Hatfield Moors Conservation Forum and a representative from the Town Council.

It was agreed that we wanted to work in a harmonious way together, listening to advice and views, to enable us to fulfill the spiritual potential of the Lindholme Hall estate. As Rinpoche said: "*Bottom line is we all have the same goal, so we need to work together to protect and preserve this very special place.*" To this end it was arranged that the Trustees have further meetings with the interested groups, so that all views could be understood and future plans built upon a sound knowledge base. Rinpoche was completely delighted that well informed, committed people and important groups wanted to help us take real care of the Lindholme estate.

Since Rinpoche's departure much has been happening at Gomde - we have been asked to contribute to two programmes on BBC Radio Sheffield and two local newspapers have carried stories about Rinpoche's visit and the consecration of the estate.

We had a visit from two Thai Buddhist monks who are based in Manchester area but have a small congregation local to Gomde, Lindholme Hall. They offered special prayers that Gomde, Lindholme Hall would benefit countless beings and we meditated together.



Local people continue to be very supportive we have had several visitors, a donation of gardening equipment along with the offer of one days voluntary gardening per fortnight and a donation of furniture. Our neighbour at the cottages today left a large box of freshly picked carrots from his vegetable garden.

In the coming weeks we will meet with the planning department at Doncaster MBC, Hatfield Town Council, Natural England and members of Thorne and Hatfield Moors Conservation Forum - so all busy.

We are overjoyed to announce that Rinpoche has agreed to come and teach here in September; dates to be announced. During his stay Rinpoche will lead a one day Drubchen - great gathering puja. To enable these activities to take place Rinpoche has asked us to improve the buildings to create a meditation hall and also, very importantly, create a seminar kitchen.

## ***Support***

As you can see there is now much to do to nurture our new Gomde here in England.

Of course all Rinpoche's activities can only be achieved through our shared aspirations and activities.

We are aware that many people, near and far, would like to help and assist in different ways so we have written a "*WISH LIST*" to give ideas how you could help.

It is clear that we are going to need to raise funds in the coming months for the projects Rinpoche has requested.

**BUT,**

in the meantime we would ask you all seriously to consider becoming a "***Keeper of the Estate***". This can be done by committing to ***regular*** financial or practical help.

We currently have a number of people who give financial assistance on a monthly basis. At the moment we have an income of £550 but our outgoings (rounded up over the year) are approximately £1,000. We think it would be extremely beneficial to the running of Gomde if we could balance our books- this can only be achieved by the generous actions of those committed to see our Gomde flourish. Rinpoche has said that many drops fill even a big bucket, so we would invite you all to become Keepers by making a regular financial donation. It does not have to be much, simply what you can afford- just a few drops every month will make a big difference!! Our bank details are on the web site.

PLEASE help if you can.

There are many tasks to do here - an 8 bedroom house and 120 acres of garden and land does not look after itself! So, we invite any of you to become keepers by offering regular assistance - from house cleaning to gardening to DIY.

## ***LOSAR Celebration***

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February is Tibetan New Year - Losar.

We will celebrate Losar at Gomde with a traditional House Cleaning Day on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> and Tsok feast and Sangcho on Sunday. All are welcome so please join us. Call Gomde for further details 01302 842503

## ***New Meditation Group at Gomde Lindholme Hall***

We will begin a weekly meditation group at Gomde, Lindholme Hall on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010, 7-9pm. Tea and biscuits as well as guided meditation and discussion.

Call Gomde for more details. Everyone is welcome: beginners and existing practitioners; no previous experience required!



## *WISH LIST*

### *Tasks*

- Cleaning
- Ironing
- Cooking
- Gardening. E.g. creating a vegetable garden, developing the formal gardens, rescuing/ replanting the orchard and then of course maintaining it all.....
- Land maintenance. E.g. bracken bashing (so good for stress reduction!!), mowing (if we get the tractor.....)
- Building work
- Electrical work
- Plumbing Work
- Joinery
- Brick laying
- Plastering
- Demolition
- Fence and gate erection

### *Helpful Items to donate or for sale*

- Tractor (anyone got a spare one they forgot about?)
- Tractor attachment – mower
- Trailer
- Wheel barrows
- Spades
- Forks
- Power tools
- Construction materials
- Hard landscaping materials- pavers, posts, edging stones etc
- Coffee maker
- Tea Urn
- Commercial kitchen fixtures and fittings
- Commercial kitchen equipment Dishwasher, potato peeler, freezer, fridge, oven, hob
- Knives
- Cutlery
- Tea towels
- Peelers
- Scrubbers
- General kitchen equipment

Any offers considered..... To be continued .....