



The Contemplative Consciousness Network  
16 Servite House  
27 Bramley Road  
London  
N14 4HQ  
[Email us here](#)  
Phone+44(0)20 8440 4454

Visit Website of CCN [here](#).  
EMC website click [here](#)



**All at CCN  
Wish all our Friends a  
Peaceful, Blessed and Happy  
Holiday Season  
and  
Many Blessings for 2014**

Dear Friends,

As this year draws to a close and we move into the festive holiday season, I want to take this moment to thank all of you who have given us so much support during the year and especially in our project to obtain a European Mind Centre at Altachorvie House on Arran.

As you know we lost our donors, and since then we have moved on and are working to recover lost ground. One of the problems was that the time line for purchasing the property had simply become too pressured and we could not get everything together in time. In fact the property is still for sale and we have every hope it will not sell before the spring of 2014 at the earliest.

If we get the Centre [Alan Wallace](#) will be the overall Spiritual Director of the Centre, but we also hope to have resident teachers, there are several possibilities for this, even if not full time, we hope to have Ani Zamba and Andrea Capalleri for spells, and then other teachers for various courses, including people of different traditions, especially Christian and Vedanta, and various Buddhist Traditions. Contemplative Dialogue will be one of the aims of the Centre as well as dialogue and study with the cooperation of Scientists.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce to you the **Trustees of CCN** as the people who are responsible for this project and its financial feasibility.

[Katie Morrow](#), is the Chairperson of CCN. She has a life time of experience in Dharma, and has worked in and helped run several Dharma Centre in the Shambhala tradition and has been the operations manager of the Awakened Heart Sangha in Wales, she has also worked for Oxfam in UK and a Literacy Council in US. She is heading up the development of the Business plan.

[Mark Fahey](#), is a scientist and is particularly interested in the interface with science that Alan has developed. He also has knowledge of computers, and technical skills in recording and editing materials. He produces the wonderful CD's many of you have bought.

[Joanne Feld](#), is a councillor and teaches psychology, she is also involved in Mindfulness and has worked as a PA in the past.

[Julie Smith](#), has worked in the corporate world for a number of years and is now running her own business teaching secular meditation to people mostly in the corporate world. So she has a considerable amount of business and marketing experience.

[Elizabeth West](#), I serve as the Company Secretary to the trust, and am co-ordinating this project, and keeping everyone informed and connected.

In addition to this we have set up a **Steering Group** to work on fundraising, advertising, management and all aspects of this big undertaking. Within that Group we have sub groups: [Jim Parsley](#), [Quinn Comendant](#) and [Pangiota Panagiotaki](#) working on Web development, advertising, and marketing. We have been awarded a Google Grant for Charities, which gives us around the equivalent of \$10,000 worth of free web advertising monthly. This group will administer this. They also plan to set up a crowd funding site in the near future. [Katie Morrow](#), [Anika Ian Mothersdale](#), [Mikk Tamme](#), [Corinne Dobinson](#) and [Edward Eisler](#) on the business plan, budget and finance. [Jochen and Monika Beck](#), [Alma Ayon](#) and [Elizabeth with David Simpkin](#) are looking at management issues and good practice in running a centre. Also into ways of using recommended donations rather than fees.

The one thing we still badly need is someone with experience in **Fundraising** to come on board and help us organise our campaign. I have one or two leads, but if there is anyone out there who knows about CCN and would like to offer help in this regard please let me know. Marketing skills is another area where more expertise would be useful.

If you wish to make any suggestions or comments please write to me and I will pass them on to the appropriate person, or the group.

I am leaving for Holy Isle on Thursday morning to lead the Christmas retreat so will be thinking of everyone from there. The weather is a bit uncertain, so how much time we get may vary. I will be looking over the water at Altachorvie and praying that 2014 will be the year in which this vision becomes a reality.

There are still a few places left on the Retreat with Alan Wallace in London 11-16 April 2014, to see details and book [click here](#)

Sr Ishpriya, who was my first teacher, and who teaches, in an open and universal way, the essence of the contemplative path, will be here on 22nd March leading a day at the Study Society in London, I will be sending details of this out after the New Year.

Meanwhile I wish everyone a most blessed time over the holiday, and a wonderful rich year for 2014.

Elizabeth

## Reminder about Altachorvie Campaign

Here is Altachorvie House. It is still on the market and we urgently need your help to go forward with the purchase.

We need £375,000 to buy the property and then at least £120,000, of which we have pledges for about £80,000, for start up and running costs. Please support this campaign in any way you can small or large. Monthly donations for on-going funding for the project would also be very welcome. Bank details and ways to pay or set up a standing order can be found [here](#).

If you are a UK tax payer please add gift aid to your donation by using [this form](#). *(All donations to this account will be used only for the project.)*

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