

# The Gandhi Way



Statue of Gandhi in Parliament Square  
(Photo: Amit Roy, The Telegraph Calcutta)

Newsletter of The Gandhi Foundation

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## **GF Summer Gathering 2015**

### ***Gandhian Values in the Digital Age***

Saturday 25 July - Saturday 1 August

at The Abbey, Sutton Courtenay, Nr Abingdon, Oxfordshire

In the morning sessions we shall be looking at the dangers and opportunities of our increasing access to information technology.

There will be a variety of practical activities as well as walks, discussions etc.

Prices for the week range from £150 to £260 depending on the accommodation – children and full-time students come at half price.

Booking form: The Organisers, Summer Gathering, 2 Vale Court, Weybridge KT13 9NN  
or [gandhisummertgathering@gmail.com](mailto:gandhisummertgathering@gmail.com); Tel: 01932 841135

The film *Cotton for my Shroud* about farmer suicides in India will be shown at Kingsley Hall, Powis Road, Bromley-by-Bow, London E3 3HJ at 2.30pm following The GF's AGM at 2pm on Saturday 16 May 2015

### **Some Non-GF Events in London**

Saturday 13 June 30th Annual Celebration of the London Peace Pagoda 2pm

Saturday 6 August Hiroshima Day at Gandhi statue Tavistock Square 12 - 1pm

6 August Multifaith Service at Friends' House, Euston Road 2.30pm

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*Why Civil Resistance Works* (Chenoweth & Stephan)

G Paxton

## THE URGENT NEED FOR UNITY TO SURVIVE THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

*"The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong."*

Oh we'll be all right, providing we keep the economy growing, don't forget our defense budget, international aid or regular environmental summits. Now I assume, the majority reading this know better; that the situation is rapidly becoming desperate.

We know our economy and its model is bankrupt, our environment arguably beyond salvation and much of the world in turmoil. But how many appreciate the biggest 'carnage' is actually within our own heads?

The industrial and digital revolutions have rendered us binary automatons, unable to judge situations with the nuance of wisdom, perceiving everything as right or wrong, good or evil. We see a modern metaphor in the dramas of vampires & zombies, in our religious intolerance and most devastatingly, in our media and its contaminated politics.

The instruments of corporate greed blind us to the needs of our environment and our health, to what is most precious and even to the obvious distinction between pleasure and happiness.

Is the situation hopeless? Well actually no, not if we can recognise our responsibility and unite. We can cooperate without the need for conflict through what Jonathan Sacks calls the 'Dual Covenant' of both local and broader allegiance.

It is no longer an option to believe nothing when we know we should renounce judging others and respect the rights of all. Just watch the biting comedy 'Carnage' to see how judging leads to condemnation and the violence of war; the cancer that destroys everything we value.

Our only hope is in the total surrender of our ego that was Gandhi's ultimate strength. But to combat the industrial, military and social complex requires Polish-strength Solidarity. From where will this come in our fractured world?

There is a movement with increasing advocates that could provide the necessarily anonymous platform required. CIVIL-ISATION shows why 'preaching to the converted' is essential in creating a united front of individuals and organisations.

Unless we stand together, admitting our responsibility to act now, better-organised negative forces will bring annihilation sooner than we dare imagine.

Anthony Russell is founder of the Chandos Foundation  
and author of *'Evolving the Spirit - From Democracy to Peace'*