



I would just like to start by thanking everyone who has felt able to support Dhanaksoa financially over the last period, either as a regular donor or for your additional donations. We are very aware of many people in situations of financial hardship and appreciate your support as we work to manage our own change of economic circumstances. I would also like to thank people who have engaged with our online content. Although we are not in a position to share this place and our values with you in person, it has been a pleasure to share something of that with you online.

As we enter May, and a number of European governments are starting to ease their lockdown restrictions, there is a lot of speculation about what will happen next in Scotland and in the UK. Following the lead from the Scottish government we are anticipating that restrictions will only be eased gently, and that social distancing measures will remain in place for some time. Potentially for many months. We will be making a careful and practical assessment of what sort of social distancing and infection control measures are possible in a retreat setting and will not resume retreats until we are satisfied that what we can reasonably achieve is inline with the expectations of government advice as it develops. It is important that we are realistic about what can be achieved in this setting, and responsible in how and when we move forward. At this stage however, it is still premature for us to have a definite plan or timeline.

We will continue to review the situation ongoingly. And we will continue to cancel retreats two at a time, two weeks in advance. So, whilst planning for the possibility of not being able to resume retreats for many months, we are also ready to respond to changing circumstances should they permit resuming retreat activities earlier than expected. We will continue to use the e-news, Facebook and active retreat e-mail lists to update people as the situation progresses.

Twenty-four years ago, I sat in the meadow behind Dhanakosa watching the unfolding spring with a sense of awe and excitement. With retreat eyes, seeing as if for the first time. This was a time when the Dhanakosa project was only a few years old and was struggling. Many people were starting to think it would fail. And the thought occurred to me, that we should not let this opportunity go so easily. The opportunity for this to be a place and a context for the many, not for the few. Essentially, that it was worth the risk of commitment. And it still is. Many people have taken up that commitment over the years working for something beyond themselves. And many people have touched something here that has changed their lives. We are sorry that this spring we cannot share it with you in person. But the time will come again when we can.



Nayaka
Centre Director