



Hilltop Cloud

Time Travellers Club

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March-16

Dear Club Member,

www.hilltopcloud.co.uk

September 2007, I was just starting out on my career as a teacher, and one of the things the school I was working in encouraged, was the discussion of current affairs with the pupils during morning registration. As a result the Saffron Revolution in Burma is an event that sticks rather strongly in my mind.

During the autumn of 2007 the people of Myanmar (Burma) took to the streets protesting about the removal of government subsidies on all fuel. As the government is the only supplier of fuel in the country they have complete control over the price. Fuel doubled in price, and cooking gas went up by 500%. Burma is ranked as being amongst the 20 poorest countries in the world, where the gap between rich and poor is astronomically large.

The country was run as a military dictatorship, where free elections hadn't been held since 1990. The fuel price rises were the straw that broke the camels back. and thousands of people took part in protests.

Amongst the leaders of the protests were the Buddhist monks. The images that appeared on our TV screens showed streets filled with people wearing the traditional Buddhist orange robes. However, the protests were brutally put down by the military junta. Monasteries were raided and thousands of monks were arrested. Protests were broken up using extreme violence, in the end hundreds died.

Sanctions were placed on the country by the rest of the world, and eventually free elections happened. A new constitution was voted in to place, and in 2015 the National League for Democracy took over running the country.

This months colourway honours those monks, the colour of their robes gave name to a revolution. In Burma the traditional saffron yellow colour isn't used, instead the robes are a deeper more rusty colour.

Happy Spinning,

Katie