

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
(Registered charity, number 1044031)
Financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

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Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 December 2023

Full name Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

Other names by which the charity is known Nottingham Buddhist Centre

Registered charity number 1044031

Principal address 9 St Mary's Place, Lace Market, Nottingham, NG1 1PH

Trustees

Lucy Jane Spence (Kusaladevi), Chair, Dorry Lake (Karunavaca), until 22.5.23
Rachel Woodburn, Treasurer Jyotida Melbourne, until 28.7.23
Gareth Austin (Dayajava), Secretary
Joanne Coates (Kshantika)
Cornelia Anna Maria Remijn (Khemasiri)
Paul Johnson
Upekshanandi Monika Podgorska, from 27.3.23
Peter Robert Cox (Jnanaruchi), from 27.3.23
Jesus Marquez Briceno (Aryavacin) until 20.2.23

Independent examiner

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2 North West, 41 Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

Governance and management

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 23 October 1994 and most recently amended 27 March 2011.

All new trustees are invited through discussion between existing trustees (the Council), to ensure that they are in harmony with the aims of the charity. In practice this means that trustees are selected from the pool of ordained Buddhists and those who have requested Ordination in Triratna in Nottingham. Trustees are nominated by the charity's members and appointed at the AGM as per the constitution. The constitution allows a minimum of 4 and maximum of 10 trustees. Fifteen regular trustee (Council) meetings were held in 2023.

Objectives and activities

The object of the Triratna Buddhist Community is the advancement of the Buddhist religion, in particular:

- To encourage the members and others to live in accordance with the teachings of the Buddha;
- To support ordained members of the Triratna Buddhist Order and other duly ordained Buddhists, at the discretion of the council of the Nottingham Buddhist Centre;
- To maintain close communication with, and work under the guidance of the Triratna Buddhist Order and in co-operation with other groups with the same objects.

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

We are an international Buddhist movement bringing the Buddha's teaching to the general public.

In 2021 The Council/Trustees revisited the centre's vision and agreed key themes:

1. Facing outward/responding to the world with the Buddha's teaching;
2. Deepening practice of the Buddha's teaching within our community;
3. Making the Buddha's teachings accessible (by encouraging a diverse and inclusive sangha/community).

We have sustained a diverse range of events and activities that make available the teachings and practices of the Buddha to the local community. We run events for the general public and when possible, to educational establishments across the region. We run activities at the centre and in various locations outside. This year most of our activities have moved back to in-person events, although we have maintained both online and hybrid events (both online and in person) to make our activities more accessible for those who find it difficult to attend in person.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

Meditation classes and Buddhist teachings can provide valuable support to people and assist them to deal with the uncertainties of their lives and meditation can improve mental health and decrease stress. This can enable people to more fully participate in all areas of their lives.

Summary of the main achievements during the period

In 2023, our activities were back in person at the Buddhist Centre. We maintained a hybrid (in person and online) element for our sangha (community) nights, to ensure that as many people as possible can attend and to ensure we are more accessible to those who find it difficult to attend physically.

There continued to be a high demand for Introductory courses in 2023, which seemed to be due to people coming out of the Covid 19 lockdowns and searching for community and Buddhist teaching to support their lives and the suffering they had encountered. This meant that we could fulfil one of our main charitable objectives, reaching and introducing people to the Buddha's teachings, whilst also helping reduce the isolation present in society due to the pandemic.

EVENTS

The Buddhist Centre runs regular classes and events for sangha members and also introductory classes for newcomers. We have now increased to 3 weekly drop in

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meditation classes, open to anyone who wishes to learn meditation. These have been popular and full throughout the year.

Our main regular events this year were sangha night for the whole community (weekly), Drop in meditation classes (3x weekly), study sessions for Mitras and those doing the foundation course, puja nights (monthly), meditation mornings (occasional), Introduction to Buddhism and Meditation courses, follow on courses, men's and women's gatherings, sub 35 activities and the monthly People of Colour (EMPoC) group. We also had a residential retreat for the sangha, some guest run weekends at the Buddhist Centre and some Order Member and Mitra gatherings.

We also celebrated the main Buddhist festivals this year.

Yoga - Bodhiyoga is a regular part of the Buddhist centre offerings, on a donation basis. These classes are a wonderful way for new people to meet the Buddhist centre, as well as supporting those who are regular in the sangha. This year there were a number of successful Yoga day retreats, which had benefits to our regular sangha, as well as introducing new people to the centre.

We held special events during Buddhist Action Month in June, including a working day in partnership with Stonebridge City Farm, a local farm charity and a street meditation to raise awareness of the benefits of stillness and meditation in the midst of busy lives.

DONATIONS

Regular monthly donations were as expected throughout the year. Our total donations for the year were around £2700 higher than budgeted. We are very grateful for these generous donations.

MAINTENANCE

We were approached to take part in a Nottingham Trent University Sustainability in Enterprise project back in 2022. As part of this project, students came to assess the sustainability of our building and make suggestions as to how we might become more environmentally sustainable and use less carbon. Of the suggestions made, the work we chose to carry out in 2022 was to double glaze the windows at the back of the building and to install new insulation in the loft space. We received a grant in January 2023 towards 40% of the work carried out thanks to the project. We successfully fundraised for the remaining amount in February 2023. Other Regular maintenance occurred in the building this year as required.

CIO

Work continues to help us transition to being a CIO.

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OTHER ACTIVITIES

We had a Presidential visit from Ratnaghosha, who met with the Buddhist Centre council, Mitras and Order members, as well as other sangha members. He also led a morning for volunteers.

Jnanaruchi became the new Men's Mitra Convenor in October 2023.

We continued with Interfaith work this year. One of our Trustees, Rachel Woodburn, is now a chaplain at the University of Nottingham.

There have been some changes in the men's residential community above the centre. A new community member moved in during January 2023. A second moved in during June 2023. Another moved out in June 2023.

We adopted new Safeguarding policies for 2023 - these can be found on our website: <https://nottinghambuddhistcentre.org/our-policies>

Our safeguarding officer has co-ordinated the work to address any safeguarding issues throughout the year. The details of what has been done by whom and why, have been securely logged by her. We appointed a new Safeguarding officer, Upekshanandi Monika Podgorska, on 27th March 2023 and a new Safeguarding Trustee, Gareth Austin (Dayajava) on 24th July 2023.

Many volunteers joined or continued with us in 2023, for which we are so grateful. As well as supporting the Centre's activities, volunteering is an opportunity for members of our sangha to creatively engage together on projects, as part of their Dharma practice.

This year, two people joined the Order, which was very joyful. Also, twelve people made the commitment of becoming Mitras and 5 people asked for ordination. There are currently 13 active Order members. There are currently 54 Mitras and 27 of them have requested Ordination.

The Buddhist Centre and sangha are thriving, with many people making commitments in their Buddhist practice and supporting each other, as well as newcomers, in their Buddhist practice.

EMPLOYEE CHANGES

The Men's Mitra Convenor, Aryavacin, left at the end of Jan 2023. The Buddhist Centre Council extended thanks for all his work over his time working at the centre. He has given much love and energy to support the centre.

Our Centre Manager, Dayajava, left at the beginning of October 2023. The Buddhist Centre Council extended thanks for all his work over his time working at the centre. He has been very generous in the time and energy he has given to support the centre.

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A new Men's Mitra Convenor, Jnanaruchi and a new Centre Administrator, Eve, started in October 2023 - we are very glad to have them as part of the team.

At the point of writing, there are 3 supported Order Members (Chair, Women's Mitra Convenor and Men's Mitra Convenor), a PT salaried Centre Administrator and a PT salaried bookkeeper.

Financial review

We've ended 2023 with just under £12,000 surplus. Even once we allocate £10,000 of that to cover the shortfall we had last year (due to our 2022 building work for which grant money and fundraising came in 2023), we still brought in £2000 more than we spent in 2023. This is good news as it allows us to plan for further growth in our Centre.

Our recurring donations continue their steady rise year on year, another encouraging sign of our financial health as well as the number and commitment of our members.

We were also very pleased with the success of a new fundraising campaign we ran in 2023, "February is Giving Month." Through two large events and a well-designed regular giving campaign, all run by a team of dedicated members of our community with the help of many other community members, we were able to raise around £6000 in one-off donations and £400 per month in increased regular giving. We plan to make Giving Month an annual event.

Financial risks

As stated above, we face financial risks from any decreases in regular donations, in event-specific donations, or in rent. Of these three, the biggest risk is probably in regular donations, which is likely to be sensitive to the economic environment. As living costs and inflation increase, donors may have less income available to give us. We mitigate this risk by keeping a close eye on regular giving each month, so we will be able to respond quickly to changes. We also plan to do a regular giving appeal each year.

On the cost side, we also face risks associated with our building, particularly as the climate crisis leads to more frequent and more severe storms which may cause damage which we'll need to repair. We have replaced windows on the north side of the building as well as improving our loft insulation in 2022, so we can feel confident that we shouldn't need to do more in that area in the near future.

The charity's policy on reserves

We rely on income from regular donations, from event-specific donations and from rent of our building to cover our operational costs. If any of those three were to decrease substantially, we would need to rely on our reserves to cover those costs until we were able to increase income again or cut costs in some way. It's also possible that we will face an unexpected one-off cost, most likely if we needed an emergency repair or upgrade to our building. We consider it prudent to maintain reserves representing 3-6 months of operating costs in order to protect against these risks.

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At the end of 2023, our reserves stood at £28,241 representing 3.1 months of projected costs. This is in line with our policy, but on the low end. This is due to our increased plans for spending in 2024 in order to provide more services to our community and to the wider Nottingham public. For example, we are offering an extra six-week Introduction to Buddhism & Meditation course this year. It's important to us to make good use of the funds generously donated to us, and while remaining financially prudent, not tying up too much of them in reserves.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed  Date 9th April 2024
Lucy Jane Spence (Kusaladevi), Trustee

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham) (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

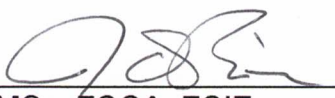
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed  Date 12/4/24
John O'Brien MSc, FCCA, FCIE
Employee of Community Accounting Plus


Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
Receipts & payments account
for the year ended 31 December 2023

2022			2023
£		Note	£
	Receipts		
3012	Activities contributions		3824
53	Bank interest		315
7524	Gift Aid reclaim		10512
51363	Grants & donations	2	64262
15920	Rent		19225
2655	Sales		3526
-	Sundry income		877
<u>80527</u>	Total receipts		<u>102541</u>
	Payments		
972	Activities & events		132
974	Bank and transaction charges		1117
1033	Consumable items		1748
2145	Donations paid		2501
879	Equipment, repairs & renewals		803
420	Fundraising & publicity		1204
612	Independent examination fee		630
1983	Insurance		2261
851	Payroll & professional services		1273
18482	Premises	3	11244
108	Printing & stationery		243
1325	Shop purchases		2222
52739	Support costs		58542
884	Telephone & postage		901
7479	Training, accommodation & retreat expenses		5734
-	Sundry payments		8
<u>90886</u>	Total payments		<u>90563</u>
(10359)	Net receipts/(payments)		11978
<u>31040</u>	Cash funds at start of this period		<u>20681</u>
<u>20681</u>	Cash funds at end of this period		<u>32659</u>

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
Statement of assets and liabilities
at 31 December 2023

2022			2023
£		Note	£
	Cash assets		
20673	Bank accounts		32659
8	Cash in hand		-
<u>20681</u>			<u>32659</u>
	Other monetary assets		
4129	Debtors - Bank interest		142
826	Prepayments - Insurance		942
6402	Stock		6424
<u>11357</u>			<u>7508</u>
	Assets retained for the charity's own use		
	Land & building purchased in 1995, cost £135,000		
	General equipment retained for use by the charity		
	Liabilities		
<u>(1145)</u>	Creditors	4	<u>(1213)</u>
<u>(1145)</u>			<u>(1213)</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed 
Rachel Woodburn, Trustee

Dated 29/3/24

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2023

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

2. Grants & donations

	£
Nottingham Trent	4077
Building maintenance donations	5625
Sundry donations	54560
	<u>64262</u>

3. Premises

	£
Council tax	2400
Utilities & servicing	7939
Maintenance & repairs	905
	<u>11244</u>

4. Creditors

	£
Support costs	481
Independent examination fee	732
	<u>1213</u>

5. Premises

The premises are owned by the Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham). The cost of the property in 1995 was £135,000; the property was last valued in 2019 at approximately £350,000.

6. Trustees' remuneration

6 Trustees are ordained Buddhists and they received financial support in the form of a salary totalling £46,635. Trustees are also allowed £1,800 each a year towards retreats. Another trustee received £1,115 which was 50% of donation takings for the yoga class she delivered.

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Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 December 2023

7. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the period.

8. Glossary of terms

Creditors: These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

Debtors: These are amounts owed to the charity, but not received in the accounting period.

Prepayments: These are services that the charity has paid for in advance, but not used during the accounting period.