

**AGON SHU UK**

**REPORT AND ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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## AGON SHU UK

### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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<b>Registered Charity Name</b>	Agon Shu UK
<b>Registered Charity Number</b>	Charity number 1050059
<b>Executive Committee of Trustees</b>	N Wada Y Fujii Y Mitchell
<b>Registered Office</b>	45 Woodberry Way London E4 7DY
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.agon.org">www.agon.org</a>
<b>Independent Examiner</b>	P W Hill FCA Hillyates, Chartered Accountants Hill House, 27 Meadowford Newport, Saffron Walden Essex CB11 3QL
<b>Bankers</b>	National Westminster Bank Plc 46 High Street Brentwood Essex CM14 4AL
<b>Solicitors</b>	Bates Wells Braithwaite 10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1BE

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

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The Executive Committee of Trustees presents its report and accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 7 of the attached accounts and comply with the Trust's governing document and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective from accounting periods commencing 1 January 2015 or later.

**Objective of the charity**

The Trust adopted its constitution on 7 October 1995 and is governed by a definitive Constitution and Rules dated 7 October 1995, amended 23 July 2001. The Trust is a registered charity, under number 1050059. The Trust's principal address is now at 45 Woodberry Way, London and is the UK branch of a wider charity with its head office in Japan.

The objective of the charity is to advance religion in accordance with the original Buddhist doctrines and methods of Agon Buddhism. All decisions are made by the Trustees. In planning the activities for the year and for the future, Executive Committee Members confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

**Review of activities, achievements and performance**

The UK lockdown began on March 23, 2020, and was lifted on July 19, 2021, but restrictions continued and were completely lifted in February 2023. On May 5, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared that Covid-19 no longer a "global health emergency" but warned that the spread of new variants is still a concern.

In addition, the Ukraine war, which began in February 2022, continues to have a significant economic and social impact. Under such circumstances, since January 2021, we temporary moved the office to 45 Woodberry Way. The service to members and administer works is mostly operated at home. We communicated with members to offer counselling on telephone and online services.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 escalated into war and continues to have a significant impact on the global economy. Despite this unstable situation, we have continued to communicate with members through email, phone, online tools, and other means, distributing information and offering consultations using astrology. We have also been providing regular updates on the situation in European to the headquarters.

Since the live streaming of the "Prayer for Early Termination of Coronavirus Infections" on March 8, 2020, the headquarters has been live streaming all events, which we have also benefited from as a central service to our members. Live streaming includes regular monthly services, annual events such as the "Sacred Fire Festival" and special goma rituals. This year, in addition to the regular events, the following events were live streamed from Japan and members participated by receiving them at home:

- May 22: Agon Shu funeral service for the chief priest.
- June 19: Goma prayer ceremony for the completion of the Mitamaya at Kashiwara Seichi, Osaka.
- July 13: Lantern memorial service at the Kanto branch.
- July 15: Lantern memorial service at Chidorigafuchi, Tokyo.
- August 15: Lantern memorial service at the Kyoto Main temple.
- October 9: The 6th anniversary memorial service for the founder was held at the main temple.
- November 21: Goma prayer ceremony for Ancestor goma ceremony of the Kami-Buddha world was held at Kashiwara Seichi for the first time. Cemetery, focusing on "world peace".
- New Year's Day: Goma ceremony was held.
- January 8: A simultaneous prayer ceremony for "earthquake safety," "early termination of the new coronavirus infection," and "world peace" was held at all dojos across the country, coinciding with the Araebisu goma prayer ceremony conducted by the headquarters.
- January 9: The Founder's birthday festival was held.
- February 12: The largest event of the Agon Shu, the "Sacred fire festival" celebrated its 50th anniversary at main temple, Kyoto.

For the first time in two years, our trustees attended the SAOS President's Reception on July 26 as a representative of the international department, we held the annual general meeting via Skype.

Throughout the year, the charity collected subscriptions from its members and received generous donations.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

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**Executive Committee of Trustees**

Members of the Executive Committee are the Trustees and those members who served during the year were N Wada, Y Fujii and Y Mitchell.

Mr Paul Mitchell sadly passed away on 17 January 2023 after a long and dedicated role as Trustee and Secretary of Agon Shu UK until December 2021. The Board and all members of Agon Shu UK are deeply grateful for his enduring commitment to Agon Shu UK and sincerely pray for his soul.

The Executive Committee is elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting. Nominations for election to the Executive Committee may be made by members of Agon Shu UK in writing to the secretary at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting. If nominations exceed the number of vacancies, then election is by ballot. The Executive Committee may appoint, at a special meeting, not more than two co-opted members so long as the number of co-opted members does not make up more than one third of the members of the committee.

**Review of financial position**

After the end of the Bondway contract in January 2021, we had planned to relocate to a lower rental property, but due to the uncertainty of the future, we have suspended those plans. We are currently renting a storage to keep expenses down and operating from rent free premises and maintain a balanced budget. Until the situation becomes clearer, we plan to strengthen our finances and focus on spreading our teachings through online tools and live streaming.

The trustees continue to minimize expenses and increase assets in line with our operational policy. While we do not have any active investment plans at present, we are monitoring financial information closely and will consider investments that the board deems appropriate for increasing our assets.

**Plans for the future**

Although the UK government has lifted COVID-19 restrictions, the threat of infection remains. We will continue to monitor global coronavirus trends and economic impacts caused by wars and other events to determine the best time to find suitable properties within our budget. We will continue to provide up-to-date information about our activities through online channels and carry out evangelistic activities using tools such as ZOOM and Skype. Additionally, we plan to continue promoting purification of personal and regional areas with the "house purification" ritual upon request.

**Reserves Policy**

Our charity's reserve fund is balanced, but we continue to rent a storage to reduce expenses through remote work to strengthen our reserve fund for the time being. The reserve fund is calculated based on one year's operating expenses and is currently fully deposited in a regular savings account.

**Risk factors**

Due to the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war and rapid inflation, costs such as storage rental fees, postage, office supplies, transportation expenses, and public utilities have increased. This has had a significant impact on members' household budgets, resulting in a decrease in annual donation income. Currently, our charity operates in a location provided free of charge and uses a rented storage to reduce expenses. We believe that this is a good way to secure funds for suitable properties in the future, considering economic downturns, wars, and epidemics.

Approved by the Executive Committee on 19 October 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

N Wada  
Trustee

**AGON SHU UK**  
**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**  
**TO THE TRUSTEES OF AGON SHU UK**

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Agon Shu UK ('the trust') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes on pages 5 to 9.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 43 of the Charities Act 1993. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As 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 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.

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the accounts. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently, I express no opinion as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ICAEW which is one of the listed bodies.

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

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I confirm that I 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.

Hillyates, Chartered Accountants  
Hill House, 27 Meadowford  
Newport, Saffron Waldon  
Essex, CB11 3QL  
31 October 2023

Peter William Hill, FCA  
Independent Examiner

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>			
Donations and legacies	1	6,492	7,741
Income from charitable activities	2	40,050	33,899
Other income		135	291
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<b>46,677</b>	<b>41,931</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Expenditure on charitable activities			
Storage costs relating to relocation		7,181	6,227
Postage, stationery and computer expenses		1,213	1,147
Depreciation	5	84	56
Independent examiners fees		1,320	1,080
Offerings		142	55
Miscellaneous expenses		464	397
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>10,404</b>	<b>8,962</b>
<b>Net income and net movement in funds</b>		<b>36,273</b>	<b>32,969</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>			
Total unrestricted funds brought forward		113,983	81,014
<b>Total unrestricted funds carried forward</b>		<b>150,256</b>	<b>113,983</b>

All of the Trust's activities were derived from continuing operations during the above two financial years.

All recognised gains are included in the above statement of financial activities.

**AGON SHU UK**

**BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2023**

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	5		280		364
<b>Current assets</b>					
Cash at bank and in hand		152,404		116,239	
<b>Creditors:</b> amounts falling due within one year	6	<u>(2,428)</u>		<u>(2,620)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>149,976</u>		<u>113,619</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>150,256</u>		<u>113,983</u>
<b>Total funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds			<u>150,256</u>		<u>113,983</u>

The accounts were approved by the Executive Committee on 19 October 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

N Wada  
Trustee



The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are laid out below.

**Basis of preparation**

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction values unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the notes to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities; Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102), issued on 16 July 2014, Update Bulletin 1 issued on 2 February 2016, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Agon Shu UK constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound.

**Assessment of going concern**

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these accounts and have made this assessment in respect to a period of one year from the date of approval of these accounts. The Centre is now operating in a limited capacity from rent free premises pending finding more suitable premises from which to rebuild its activities and its reserves. The Trustees have therefore concluded that for the next twelve months the charity will be able to meet its liabilities as they fall due and that the going concern basis of accounting remains appropriate.

**Income recognition**

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the trust is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. No value is included in income or expenditure for the time donated by volunteer help provided.

**Expenditure recognition**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the trust to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Charitable expenditure, which includes irrecoverable VAT, comprises those costs incurred by the trust in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. Due the activities undertaken by the trust and the costs it actually incurs, it is considered impracticable to differentiate between direct and any support costs.

**Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

All tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or estimated market value at the date of receipt where the asset has been donated to the charity less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings & equipment - 20% straight line basis

Sundry equipment purchases – items costing less than £250 written off in the year of purchase

**Accumulated funds**

The funds held by the trust are unrestricted general funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

**Leasing commitments**

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

**Cash flow**

The accounts do not include a cash flow statement because the trust is exempt from the requirement to prepare such a statement under the Charities SORP (FRS 102) Update Bulletin 1.

**Taxation**

The trust is a registered charity and therefore is not liable for income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

**1. Donations and legacies**

	2023 £	2022 £
Donations and gifts	2,336	2,811
Enrolment fees	72	182
Dues	4,084	4,748
	<u>6,492</u>	<u>7,741</u>

**2. Income from charitable activities**

	2023 £	2022 £
Memorial services	22,028	15,201
Prayer sticks and tools	8,871	10,968
Prayer services	1,148	432
Talismans and charms	8,003	7,298
	<u>40,050</u>	<u>33,899</u>

**3. Executive committee of trustees**

No remuneration was paid, nor any expenses reimbursed to Trustees during the year (2022 - £nil).

**4. Employees**

There were no employees during the year. Agon Shu UK is administered by volunteers.

**5. Tangible fixed assets**

	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>	
At 1 April 2022 and at 31 March 2023	<u>2,413</u>
<b>Depreciation and amortisation</b>	
At 1 April 2022	2,049
Charge for the year	84
At 31 March 2023	<u>2,133</u>
<b>Net book value</b>	
At 31 March 2023	<u>280</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>384</u>

**6. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	2023 £	2022 £
Income in advance	1,108	1,540
Other creditors and accruals	1,320	1,080
	<u>2,428</u>	<u>2,620</u>

**7. Commitments under operating leases**

With the expiry of the lease at Bondway in January 2021, the Trust no longer has any material commitments under operating leases. The commitment to the current storage facilities is limited to one month's rentals of £619.

**8. Related party transactions**

Agon Shu UK is the UK branch of a wider charity with its head office in Japan. Agon Shu UK enjoys the general support of its head office and expenditure has been incurred from time to time for festivals, trips to other centres and to meet the cost of visiting Agon Shu priests from Kyoto. During the period June 2019 until January 2021, Agon Shu Japan made monthly contributions to ensure that the Trust was able to remain operational.

The aggregate value of donations and other monies received from Trustees where no conditions have been placed on these receipts amounted to £12,003.

**9. Post balance sheet events and the future of Agon Shu UK**

The Centre continues to operate from the rent free premises of one of the Trustees and much of its resources have been transferred to a storage facility pending a suitable time to recommence full operations.