

## **Triratna Southampton AGM Chair's Report 2025**

### **Principal Charity Aims**

Triratna Southampton's charitable aims concern the furthering of the Buddhist religion in the form of the Triratna tradition and using applications of the Buddha's teaching to promote the health and well-being of all. We do this whilst maintaining a strong connection with the various structures and ethos of the broader Triratna movement.

We make teaching and meditation freely available to anyone in the local area who wishes to visit our centre and supporting those who wish to take their initial interest further with a deeper understanding and practice of Buddhism.

Fellowship and community (Sangha) is an essential supporting element to Buddhist practice and cultivating a welcoming centre culture is an important part of our work. This year has seen a continued increase in newcomers attending our centre as well as the continuing strengthening of the bonds of community and deepening in the practice of Sangha members of longer standing.

Open Saturday morning classes and courses have attracted new people to the centre some of whom have now joined new Dharma training groups for regulars. During the year three Sangha members have requested to train for ordination in the Triratna Buddhist Order.

### **Activities**

Our regular weekly events this year comprised:

Wednesday, Thursday and more recently Monday evening Dharma Training for five separate groups of people, some long established and some who have come to the centre within the last year.

Saturday morning teaching of meditation and Dharma in the form of 'Learn to Meditate' and 'Going Deeper' sessions. We continue to welcome many new visitors who benefit from meditation teaching some of whom have progressed to our Going Deeper sessions and to the regular evenings mentioned above.

Meditation Mondays ran for three months from July to October. This was an open class with varying drop-in attendance that was ended to allow resources to be redirected to newcomers' courses in the autumn and spring.

Less frequent events have been...

On a monthly basis we have held full moon meditation and puja evenings excepting those months where the puja is held on a festival day.

Six festival days (days for Padmasambhava and Tara were added to our more usual offerings).

Two six week newcomers courses in the autumn and spring.

Online monthly mornings for women

Three day retreats, two led by Jinapalita and one by Dhammavijaya

The monthly Parents' Sangha led by Dan. Families with young children can come along, for crafts, meditation, chanting and other activities. These have continued to flourish over the course of the year. Connections have been made with other Triratna family activities nationwide.

Two weekend retreats, one at Rivendell retreat centre in Sussex and one on the Isle of Wight courtesy of Linda Lees and her family. Such retreats perform an important role in strengthening community and deepening experience and understanding of the Buddha's teaching. They also are important in raising funds to support the running and development of our centre. Sangha members also participated in the week long autumn Sanghas Retreat at Adhithana.

The centre also hosted a very successful fundraising quiz night in December organised by Dylan, Emily and Dhammavijaya.

### **Centre Team and Trustees**

At the core of our centre activities is an Order team of six people, Amalasraddha, Dhammavijaya, Kalyanatara, Saddhabhaya, Sudarshini and Utpaladhi.

In June 2025 Saddhabhaya became chair following one year of a co chairing arrangement with Amalasraddha and Sudarshini. Dhammavijaya and Kalyanatara are our men's and women's Mitra Convenors respectively. Saddhabhaya and Amalasraddha lead on Safeguarding and Sudarshini is secretary to the trustees.

Essential to the centre's functioning is financial monitoring and reporting and this role has once again been carried out expertly by Emily Smith.

Since the spring of 2024 Andy Whitehouse has been our centre manager looking after our building, utilities and bookings. He has organised volunteers in redecorating and general care for the centre.

In the autumn 2024, Jinapalita, who has been a great friend to the centre in recent years, became our centre president, providing support and guidance to the centre team and beyond. Jinapalita has continued to stay at the centre regularly offering mediation day retreats and will be taking a leading role in our 2025 August Sangha retreat at Rivendell.

### **Community**

In addition to the team members mentioned above, our Sangha comprises around twenty five active Mitras of whom sixteen are training for Ordination.

Around this established core Sangha there is a wider circle of similar size made up of people who attend the centre regularly, semi-regularly or as newcomers.

Approximately fifteen people have deepened their involvement by joining regular

Dharma Training evenings on Mondays and Thursdays. This has almost doubled the number of people involved in such sessions.

## **Volunteer Contributions**

Our centre benefits enormously from the efforts of a large number of volunteers. Sangha members are enthusiastic to support the centre and its activities, contributing both energy and creativity and developing fellowship in the process.

Contributions at various times during the year include:

- treasurer - Emily
- centre care team - Jan, Isabel and Katherine
- communications team - Merl, Dan and Andy
- Saturday morning team - Dan, Dylan, Jan, Wendy and Isabel
- shrine care and flowers - Rick and Paramajyoti
- festival day shrines - Merl and Linda Lees
- courtyard garden - Linda Marais
- maintenance - Dylan
- Parents' Sangha - Dan
- home and business as a retreat centre - Linda, Stuart and Hugo

## **Outreach Activities**

We have supported some school visits although limited resources have restricted our ability to respond to all requests. We hope to be able to do more going forward and make further connections in the local area.

In the autumn the centre hosted a large gathering of people from different faiths in the interests of inter faith dialogue.

## **Residential Community Above**

During the year only one person has lived at the centre but the accommodation has also been used for guests and for visits by our centre president Jinapalita. The goal of a Buddhist community has yet to be realised and as such income from rental has been limited. Our centre manager Andy has led efforts with volunteers to redecorate and refurbish the accommodation.

## **Financial Report and Reserves Policy**

Total income was almost £4,000 lower in 2024 when compared with 2023, £33,824 down from £37,695.

The reduction is due to reduced rental income for the accommodation above the centre, this fell by £7,155. Rental income is an important income stream for the centre but is dependent on people wishing live in a Buddhist community. Letting the accommodation more generally has not proved beneficial nor is it in line with our charitable aims.

Reduced rental income was offset by a very positive increase in income from centre activities and donations of £3,284 meaning that the surplus for the year was actually

very slightly higher than in 2023 at £2,606.

Total expenditure for 2024 was £4,100 lower than in 2023 at £31,218 down from £35,318.

Approximately half of this is due to reduced staff and support costs, down from £9,840 to £7,940

Reduced expenditure on gas and electricity account for most of the rest of the reduction, down by £1,793 in 2024, this is in part due to having less tenants above the centre.

Triratna Southampton operates a policy in accord with our constitution whereby the equivalent of three months average expenditure, including our loan repayments and insurance, is held in reserve. Based upon our 2024 expenditure this amount is in the region of £8,000. However, aware of the age of our building and the cost of potential repairs to the fabric of the building and appliances we intend to retain a higher figure than this.

We are also very aware that our current Windhorse Trust loan requires full repayment in December 2026 and wish to minimise any refinancing necessary. Some of this can come from reserves above our the amount set out in our constitution, some from fundraising and hopefully some from grant applications.

Saddhabhaya

Triratna Southampton Buddhist Centre  
2024 Annual Accounts

Receipts & Payments Accounts

2024

2023

Receipts

Dharma Activities

Retreats	3,579	4,284
Courses	622	883
Meditation Monday	163	0
Women's Study Group	203	123
Men's Study Group	444	84
Saturday Class	0	1,635
Learn to Meditate	591	0
Going Deeper	2,163	0
Study Groups	416	208
Puja Evening	248	178
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	8,429	7,395

Donations

Standing Orders	12,845	11,672
Fundraising	164	0
Other Donations	1,227	652
Gift Aid Tax	3,886	3,865
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	18,122	16,189

Other Income

Book sales & Library	693	405
Rental Income	6,545	13,700
Yoga	34	7
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	7,273	14,111

Total Income	33,824	37,695
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Payments

Administration

Broadband/Internet/Phone	418	378
Insurance	1,152	1,179
Loan Interest (Windhorse)	4,343	4,473
Professional Fees	576	735
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	6,489	6,764

Building Costs

Repairs & Maintenance	880	1,221
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	880	1,221

Donations

Central Dana	452	120
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	452	120

Dharma Activity Costs

Advertising	100	397
Teaching materials	381	776
Retreat Costs	2,792	2,305
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	3,273	3,479
<u>Other Expenditure</u>		
Shop Costs	286	304
Staff Costs	5,040	9,840
Support Costs	2,900	0
Travel	226	157
	<hr/> 8,452	<hr/> 10,301

Rates & Utilities

Council Tax	1,431	1,365
Electricity	841	1,577
Gas	3,138	4,195
Water	709	745
	<hr/> 6,119	<hr/> 7,882

Assets & Investment Purchases

Loan Repayment (Windhorse)	5,553	5,553
	<hr/> 5,553	<hr/> 5,553

Total Expenditure	31,218	35,318
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Net Income	2,606	2,377
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Triratna Southampton Buddhist Centre  
2024 Annual Accounts

Statement of Assets & Liabilities

2024

2023

Fixed Assets

Building & Land	257,150	257,150
FFE (Mats)	550	550
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	257,700	257,700

Current Assets

Co-op Bank Account	16,158	13,552
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	16,158	13,552

Total Assets	273,858	271,252
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Liabilities

Windhorse Loan Capital	64,689	70,242
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Net Assets	209,168	201,010
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Represented By

Funds brought forward	201,010	193,081
Surplus for year	2,606	2,377
Capital payments made in year to reduce loan liability	5,553	5,553
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	209,168	201,010

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

I report to the trustees of Triratna Southampton (charity no: 1059688) on my examination of the accounts year ending 31/12/2024.

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

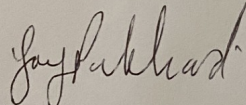
I report in respect of the examination of the accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

- Accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- The accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:



Date: 03/10/2025

Name: Fay Pritchard

Relevant professional qualification: AAT

Address: 8 Darwin Street, Shrewsbury, SY3 8QE