



EAST LONDON BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE

33, Maybury Road, London, E13 8RZ

Tel/Fax No: 0207 476 0681

E-mail: info@elbcc.org.uk Web site: www.elbcc.org.uk

Annual Report 2023-2024

East London Buddhist cultural centre (ELBCC) also known as Lumbini Vihara is a UK registered charity (Registered number 1083830) under Charities act since November 2000.

This report reviews the activities of ELBCC from 4th November 2023 – 8th November 2024.

Administrative Information

The Chief resident monk Ven. Makure Mangala Thero will remain as the president of the charity as stated in the constitution amended in 2011.

The following office bearers were elected during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 4th November 2023.

Vice President :

- Mr Upul ekanayake
- Mrs Suneetha Siriwardana

Secretary : Mr Supun Nuranga

Assistant Secretary : Mr Suba Fernando

Treasurer : Mr Senerath Boralugoda

Public relations officer : Mr Shamila De Silva

Independent auditor : Mr Sarath Jayarathne

Legal advisor : Mrs Ramani Gunasekara

Financial advisor : Mrs Chandrika Rajakulathunga

Committee members :

- Mr Chinthaka Karunathilakalage
- Mrs Kusum Pathirana
- Mr Sujith Rasnayake
- Mr Saman Jayarathne
- Mr Udayasiri Weragama
- Mrs Dinali Ambewatte
- Mr Ranjeewa Alahakone
- Mrs Nanda Karunanayake

Objectives of the charity include advancement of Buddhism per the philosophy and the teaching of Buddha, organising cultural and religious events. To achieve these objectives ELBCC organised various religious and cultural activities throughout the year.



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Religious Activities

- Daily buddha puja and pirith chanting is held at 7.00PM throughout the year. Depending on their availability devotees of ELBCC attend this daily puja. And monthly poya programmes were organised throughout the year where devotees observe sil, practice meditation and dharma discussion.
- ELBCC celebrated this year's Vesak Poya on 26th May 2024, commemorating the birth, enlightenment, and passing of Gautama Buddha. Devotees marked the occasion by participating in a day filled with meditation, Dharma discussions, and other religious activities. The Vesak programme concluded with a Bhakthi Gee session, a Vesak lantern showcase, and a Vesak Dansala
- To commemorate the introduction of Buddhism to Sri Lanka, a special Sil programme was held on Poson Poya day, 22nd June 2024, at the temple premises. Devotees marked the occasion by participating in a day filled with meditation, Dharma discussions, and other religious activities.
- A special seth pirith chanting and atavisi buddha puja was held at the temple premises on 20th October 2024.
- The Annual Katina Ceremony of ELBCC, held on 27th October 2024, celebrated the end of the Vassa season (the rains retreat). Both guest and resident monks conducted various meritorious rituals throughout the day. The ceremony was well-attended by many Sri Lankan and Bangladeshi Buddhist devotees.

Cultural Activities

- Annual Sinhala and Tamil new year festival organised by East London Buddhist Cultural centre was successfully held on 14th April 2024 at the Tollgate Primary School. The event featured traditional new year games and an evening of vibrant cultural performances. The festival was well-attended by local council representative and drew participation from many Sri Lankans across London.
- To celebrate the 76th anniversary of the Independence Day of Sri Lanka, ELBCC held a special Independence Day celebration on 4th February 2024. Children from the Sunday School, along with other visitors, attended the event. The programme was highly educational, offering children the opportunity to learn about Sri Lanka's history before and after independence, as well as about the nation's national heroes.

Other Activities

- **Standing Advisory council on Religious Education (SACRE)**

Ven. Mangala Thero is a member of the SACRE for the London borough of Newham, where the local authority is advised on matters connected with religious education and collective worship.

- **Ranaviru seva Authority scholarship fund**

With the help of members, ELBCC sponsor 50 students in Sri Lanka whose parents have passed away or disabled who were once military and police personnel.

- **Religious Advisor for the local schools.**



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Ven. Mangala Thero attended various virtual and in person meetings throughout the year as a religious advisor to assist, as directed, special support for school causing concern or in particular need.

- **Sunday School:**

The Sunday School at ELBCC is held on Sundays at the temple premises, catering to children. Recognized by the Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) of Sri Lanka, the Sunday School is run by volunteer teaching staff and monks. It provides children with the opportunity to study and encourages the practice of Buddhism.

- **Regular visits to public institutions:**

Resident monks regularly visit local schools, hospitals, care homes, prisons to deliver sermons and guidance who seek counsel.

- **Local student visits to the temple:**

Both local school students and teachers regularly visit the temple, where they are given valuable insights into Buddhism. This provides an exceptional opportunity for them to learn about the religion and its practices. Teachers also receive guidance on effective methods for teaching Buddhism.

Supun Enderage
Secretary, ELBCC



Minutes from the ELBCC Annual General Meeting on 4th November 2023	
1.	<p><u>Observe five precepts and welcome speech</u></p> <p>Ven. Mangala Thero Observed Pansil with the members who attended the meeting via live webcast. Then he welcomed all the members to the annual general meeting and expressed his gratitude to everyone for working together for the benefit of the community and the organisation. He also acknowledged all the fellow monks, individuals and the members of the temple who continue to help to successfully organise cultural and religious programmes throughout the year.</p>
2.	<p><u>Reading and adaptation of the minutes from the AGM 2022</u></p> <p>Secretary Supun Nuranga circulated the minutes from the previous AGM which was held on 26th November 2022.</p> <p>Ven. Mangala Thero noted that the year recorded in the meeting minutes was incorrect. This error has been corrected.</p> <p>My Jayampathi proposed the meeting minutes be accepted as accurate, and Mr Chinthaka seconded the motion.</p>
3.	<p><u>Tabling Annual Report</u></p> <p>Secretary, Mr Supun Enderage, circulated the annual report which covered the period from 26th November 2022 – 4th December 2023.</p> <p>Mr Samarasinghe noted that the event organised for the Poson Poya had not been included in the annual report. This omission has been rectified and the event has been added to the report.</p> <p>Mr Samarasinghe proposed that the annual report be accepted as correct and the motion of seconded by Mr Weerasinghe.</p>
4.	<p><u>Treasurer's Report and Annual accounts</u></p> <p>Treasurer, Mr Senarath Boralugoda, circulated the copies of annual financial report which has been examined by the independent Auditor Mr Sarath Jayarathne.</p> <p>The Treasurer explained that the lower tax relief amount this year, compared to the previous year, was due to the fact that this year's claim covered only one year, whereas last year's claim included two previous years.</p> <p>In response to an inquiry about the festival income, the Treasurer clarified that it comprised revenue from the Katina Ceremony, Ayubowan Event, New Year Festival, and Special Award Ceremony.</p> <p>Mr Samarasinghe suggested that the festival income and expenses be itemized and presented as a separate note to provide a clearer representation of each item.</p> <p>A query was raised regarding the increase in mortgage interest. It was agreed that this would be examined further and if required inquiries would be made with the bank</p> <p>Mr Sujith proposed that the annual accounts be accepted as correct and the motion of seconded by Mr Weragama.</p>



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5.	<p><u>Election of office bearers</u></p> <p>Two proposals have been received proposing to retain the executive committee for the 2023-2024.</p> <p>Another nomination was received; however, as per the constitution, only a member of the organization can be elected as an office bearer. Since the individual nominated was not a member at the time of the nomination, it was decided to omit this nomination.</p> <p>Following discussions and mutual agreement among the members, it was decided to adopt the received proposals and retain the executive committee from the previous year for the upcoming 2023-2024 period</p> <p>Therefore, the office bearers for 2023-2024 are as follows:</p> <p>Two Vice presidents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Upul Ekanayake• Mrs Suneetha Siriwardhana <p>Secretary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Supun Nuranga <p>Assistant Secretary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Subha Fernando <p>Treasurer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Senerath Boralugoda <p>Public Relations Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Shamila De silva <p>Committee members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Chinthaka Karunathilakalage• Mrs Kusum Pathirana• Mr Saman Jayarathne• Mr Udayasri Weragama• Mrs Nanda Karunanayake• Mr Sujith Rasnayake• Mrs Dinali Ambewatte• Mr Ranjeewa Alahakone <p>Independent Auditor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Sarath Jayarathne <p>Legal Adviser:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs Ramani Gunasekara <p>The proposal to retain the same office bearers received by Mr Samarasinghe and Mr Weerasinghe was seconded by Mr Jayampathi.</p>
6.	<p><u>Resolutions</u></p>



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	Ven. Mangala Thero informed the members that no notice has been received for resolution and the members did not have any new proposals.
7.	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>Mr Samarasinghe enquired about the topic discussed during the last AGM in regard to setting up another account for the welfare of the resident monks. It was suggested that 25% of the annual surplus be allocated to a dedicated account for the monks' welfare. Additionally, it was proposed that any one-off donations from members be credited using a specific reference to ensure these contributions are distinctly separated from the regular operating budget, thereby maintaining transparency between welfare funds and day-to-day expenses.</p> <p>Mr. Shamila suggested creating an additional category to include individuals who contribute to the temple in various ways, beyond what is outlined in the constitution, as members of the temple. It was noted that the lack of awareness regarding membership was the primary reason for this proposal. To address this while adhering to the constitution, it was suggested that the available dates for dana offerings be displayed on the notice board. Additionally, Ven. Mangala Thero proposed informing the parents attending the Dhamma School about the temple membership.</p> <p>Ven. Mangala Thero proposed covering the visa fee and insurance costs for the visiting monks from Sri Lanka. It was suggested that these expenses be funded from the fund allocated for the welfare of the monks. Members agreed to this proposal.</p> <p>The potential date for the raffle draw was discussed with the members, and it was agreed that the raffle would be drawn on 1st January 2024. The date was subsequently publicised.</p> <p>Mr Samarasinghe proposed distributing the dates for the monthly committee meetings (which will be held on 1st Friday of each month) for the upcoming year in advance. The Secretary was tasked with distributing the list.</p> <p>Mr. Alahakone recommended that the online platforms be updated more regularly to ensure members are kept informed about the temple's events</p> <p>Meeting Concluded at 7.00 PM</p>

Supun Enderage
Secretary
ELBCC

EAST LONDON BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE

Annual Financial Report

31 July 2024

EAST LONDON BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE
Committee Information

President : Ven Makure Mangala

Secretary: Mr Supun Nuranga Loku Enderage

Treasure: Mr Senarath Boralugoda

Trustees:

Ven.Makure Mangala

Ven. Eetalawetunawewa Gnanathilaka

Mr Methsiri Wijerathne

Mr Palinda Samarasinghe

Auditor

Sarath Jayaratne BA(Hon) FCCA

Excel Accounting Solutions

119 Belgrave Avenue

Gidea Park

Romford

Essex

RM2 6PS

Bankers

Lloyds TSB Bank

Barclays Bank

Bank Of Ceylon

Charity no: 1083830

Address

33 Maybury Road

Plaistow

London

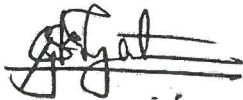
E13 8RZ

EAST LONDON BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE

Independent examiners report to the Trustees of EAST LONDON BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 July 2024 which are set out on the page 3-6. My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanation from you as Trustees concerning and such matters. In my examination, no such matters of concern has come to my attention.

In my opinion of the financial statements give true and fair view of the Charity's income and expenditure for the year ended 31 July 2024



Sarath Jayaratne BA(Hon) FCCA

Excel Accounting Solutions
Accountants

119 Belgrave Avenue
Gidea Park
Romford
Essex
RM2 6PS

9 November 2024

EAST LONDON BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE
Income and Expenses Account
for the year ended 31 July 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income	33,154	41,355
Other income	28	5
Total Income	33,182	41,360
Expenses		
Travel expenses	200	-
Rent, rates, power and insurance costs	8,455	15,469
Repairs and renewals of property and equipment	2,243	15,714
Telephone, fax, stationery and other office costs	2,575	1,128
Interest on bank and other loans	3,608	2,646
Bank, credit card and other finance charges	183	199
Other expenses	1,878	1,619
Total Expenditure	19,142	36,775
Income Over Expenses	14,040	4,585

EAST LONDON BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE
Balance Sheet
as at 31 July 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Other fixed assets	2	318,756	318,756
Current assets			
Bank/building society balances		<u>26,938</u>	<u>17,814</u>
Current liabilities			
Other liabilities and accruals		<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Net current assets		21,938	12,814
Loans due after more than one year		(37,687)	(42,603)
Net assets		<u>303,007</u>	<u>288,967</u>
Capital account			
Balance at start of period		288,967	284,382
Net profit		14,040	4,585
		<u>303,007</u>	<u>288,967</u>

EAST LONDON BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 July 2024

1

	2024 £	2023 £
Income		
Donation -Standing Orders	14,780	15,071
Donation-Other	7,625	10,855
Donation Box	1,090	1,704
Festival Income	3,060	9,240
Gift Aid Tax Refund	6,408	4,484
Building fund Raffle tickets	190	-
Other	1	1
	<u>33,154</u>	<u>41,355</u>
Other income		
Interest receivable	<u>28</u>	<u>5</u>
Car, van and travel expenses		
Travel expenses	<u>200</u>	<u>-</u>
Rent, rates, power and insurance costs		
Water and Council Tax	2,057	1,451
Light & Heat	2,800	4,028
Festival expenses	1,685	6,605
Property insurance	1,413	943
Hall& Stall hire	500	2,442
	<u>8,455</u>	<u>15,469</u>
Repairs and renewals of property and equipment		
Repairs and maintenance	<u>2,243</u>	<u>15,714</u>
Telephone, fax, stationery and other office costs		
Telephone and fax	1,108	1,128
Postage ,Stationery and printing	420	-
Other insurance costs	1,047	-
	<u>2,575</u>	<u>1,128</u>
Interest on bank and other loans		
Mortgage Interest	<u>3,608</u>	<u>2,646</u>
Bank, credit card and other finance charges		
Bank charges	<u>183</u>	<u>199</u>
Other expenses		
Subscriptions	159	159
BOC Scholarships	1,534	1,460
Other expenses	185	-
	<u>1,878</u>	<u>1,619</u>

EAST LONDON BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 July 2024

2 Other fixed assets	2024	2023
	£	£
 Premises - Freehold Building	 318,756	 <u>318,756</u>

