TRIRATNA BUDDHIST COMMUNITY (BRIXTON)

England & Wales · Charity number 1084889

Details

Other names	FRIENDS OF THE WESTERN BUDDHIST ORDER (BRIXTON), FWBO (BRIXTON)
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2001-02-05
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	2 Ostade Road London SW2 2BA
Phone	07709110681
Email	info@brixtonbuddhistmeditation.org
Website	http://www.brixtonbuddhistmeditation.org

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECT OF THE ASSOCIATION IS THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE BUDDHIST RELIGION, IN PARTICULAR BY: 1.1 ENCOURAGING MEMBERS AND OTHERS TO LIVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TEACHINGS OF THE BUDDHA; 1.2 SUPPORTING ORDAINED MEMBERS OF THE TRIRATNA BUDDHIST COMMUNITY AND OTHER DULY ORDAINED BUDDHISTS, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE ASSOCIATION;1.3 MAINTAINING CLOSE COMMUNICATION WITH AND WORKING UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE TRIRATNA BUDDHIST ORDER AND IN CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER GROUPS WITH THE SAME OBJECTS; AND 1.4 USING APPLICATIONS OF THE BUDDHA'S TEACHING TO PROMOTE THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF ALL.

Activities: Provide classes, courses and study in meditation and Buddhism for people in Brixton and the surrounding areas.

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NOT DEFINED (IN PRACTICE BRIXTON AND THE SURROUNDING AREA)
- Throughout London

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£113,210	£101,720	-	-
2023-12-31	£89,742	£98,072	-	-
2022-12-31	£72,867	£73,631	-	-
2021-12-31	£58,592	£60,097	-	-
2020-12-31	£55,557	£46,906	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Guilhem Monin	Chair	2022-11-13
Alan Worrell		
Esther McKinney		2025-10-17
Jacqueline Clarke		2023-01-14
Richard Bolley		2023-12-17
Sam Farquharson		2018-05-25

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TRIRATNA BUDDHIST COMMUNITY (BRIXTON)

England & Wales - Charity number 1084889

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report

Trustees' Annual Report for the Period

From	01/01/2024	Period Start Date
To	31/12/2024	Period End Date

Charity name	TRIRATNA BUDDHIST COMMUNITY (BRIXTON)
Charity registration number	1084889

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About us

Objectives and Activities

The object of the Association is the advancement of the Buddhist religion, in particular by:

- Encouraging members and others to live in accordance with the teachings of the Buddha
- Supporting ordained members of the Triratna Buddhist Community and other duly ordained Buddhists at the discretion of the Council of the Association
- Maintaining close communication with and working under the guidance of the Triratna Buddhist Order, and cooperating with other groups that have the same objectives
- Using applications of the Buddha's teachings to promote the health and well-being of all

Our Community

The Brixton Buddhist Community is a network of individuals united by the shared aim of developing spiritually and living in accordance with Buddhist principles of friendship, generosity, honest and kindly communication, and care for each other's spiritual welfare. A key part of this vision is to help others benefit from the teachings of the Buddha, such as meditation, mindfulness, ethics, and social engagement. The community is made up of practitioners at different levels of commitment to the Buddhist path: Order Members, Mitras, people who attend regularly, and people who drop in to our classes.

What is an Order Member?

An Order Member is someone who has been ordained into the Triratna Buddhist Order.

Ordination is a significant and powerful ceremony in which an individual makes a lifelong commitment to following the Buddhist path, placing it at the centre of their life. Training for ordination is a process that takes many years of personal practice, Dharma study, and periods spent on retreat. During ordination, a practitioner commits to practising for the benefit of all beings, acting in accordance with the ten Buddhist ethical precepts, and living in harmony with others. At ordination, they are given a special meditation practice and a new Buddhist name to signify their commitment to the spiritual life. You can usually recognise an Order Member by the symbolic white scarf (kesa) they wear, embroidered with the Three Jewels.

What is a Mitra?

Everyone who has contact with the Brixton Buddhist Community (such as attending a class) is considered a 'friend'. However, someone who feels a particular connection with our community and has decided to follow the Buddhist path can ask to become a 'Mitra' (which simply means 'friend' in Sanskrit). Becoming a Mitra marks a deepening of commitment for the practitioner, and there are special activities, including retreats and study groups, open to Mitras to support them in this. People ask to become a Mitra when they:

- Consider themselves Buddhists
- Are trying to live in accordance with the first five ethical precepts of Buddhism
- Feel that the Triratna Buddhist Community is the appropriate spiritual context for them

Once a person's request to become a Mitra has been accepted, they take part in a simple public ceremony on a festival day. This ceremony is recognised at all Triratna centres worldwide, and they will be regarded as a Mitra wherever they go. Later, some Mitras may also decide to request ordination and begin the process of training for ordination. However, this is not expected, and many people happily practise as Mitras within our community for the rest of their lives.

What is a Study Group?

All Triratna Buddhist Centres offer a four-year programme of study covering the key aspects of the Buddha's teachings and Sangharakshita's approach to them. These study groups are mainly for Mitras, to help them deepen their commitment to the Buddhist path. However, at Brixton, we offer the first year of this programme to anyone who would like to deepen their understanding of Buddhism and Buddhist practice. Those interested in joining a study group, can speak to an Order Member at one of our classes.

The main activities undertaken by the Brixton Buddhist Community are as follows:

- Weekly meditation classes for both beginners and experienced meditators
- Weekly Buddhist courses
- Several week, weekend and day retreats
- Men's and women's Mitra study groups (weekly meetings to study a four-year Buddhism course)
- Occasional study mornings led by visiting Order Members
- Buddhist Festival Day celebrations, held four times per year
- A programme of People of Colour events throughout the year

- ‘Through Buddhist Eyes’ – four morning activities per year where regular visitors to our activities, the Sangha members, can share how their lives are influenced by their Buddhist practice
- A small team of part-time employees, offering an opportunity for people to share skills needed to run the charity in a Buddhist environment
- A small men’s community where up to six men can live and practise together
- A men’s order chapter, where male Order Members regularly meet to discuss their practice. A women's chapter is planned.

The Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set, and ensure they are consistent with the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management

Triratna Buddhist Community (Brixton) is a registered UK charity. We are constituted as an unincorporated association and voluntarily linked to the network of Triratna Buddhist Community (formerly Friends of the Western Buddhist Order) charities. We are governed by a standard Triratna Buddhist Community constitution. Decisions about the community's vision, activities, finances, and public communications are made by a Board of Trustees who meet bi-monthly. They are all volunteers, with the exception of Prajñaghosa, in the role of Chair. Because we are a spiritual community, the Trustees are all Order Members able to guide the spiritual direction of the community.

Trustees during 2024 are as follows:

Name	**Legal Name**	**Other role**
Prajñaghosa	Guilhem Monin	Chair
Maitrinita	Jacqueline Clarke	N/A
Maitrinara	Sam Farquharson	Men's Mitra Convenor
Amaladana	Alan Worrell	Finance Officer
Dharmasvara	Richard Bolley	N/A

Voting members

Voting members are committed members of the Sangha who are invited to take part in voting on key decisions in the running of Brixton Buddhist Community such as the election of new Trustees. All decisions must be passed by majority vote and voting members are welcomed to give their opinions to any motion suggested. All voting members are either Order Members or people training for ordination and are selected based on the length of time they have been involved with the community and their level of commitment.

Elena Blanco, Pam Walton, Ian Jacobs-Dean (who became Shraddhin in 2024), Lizzie Lawrence (who became Tejasvati in 2024), Emma Thoroughgood, Alex Bermingham and Daisy-May James were our voting members in 2024.

Leadership roles

Chair – Prajñaghosa. The role of the Chair is to oversee the direction of the community, support the team and all the volunteers, and make the many small day-to-day decisions involved with running a thriving Buddhist organisation.

President – Paramabandhu. Paramabandhu is the President of Brixton Buddhist Community. A president offers spiritual counsel and friendship to a community, and can be a source of help when issues arise. Paramabandhu is a senior Order Member, who along with others holds responsibility for ordinations within the Triratna Buddhist Community. He is also

an ex-Chair of the London Buddhist Centre in East London, where he lives and is a highly valued teacher. He visits us at least twice a year.

Mitra Convenors – Maitrinara (Men's Mitra Convenor) and in lieu of a Women's Mitra Convenor up until November 2023, Tejasvati. A Mitra Convenor takes special responsibility for supporting Mitras within our community, both through running events and meeting with people individually. They also meet with men and women who are becoming more involved with our community, to help them find appropriate study groups or events to support their practice. They help to guide people in the process of becoming Mitras and are also often a point of contact for Mitras who want to ask for ordination. They are always happy to hear from people interested in becoming more involved in our community.

The Centre Team

The centre team is the organisational hub of Brixton Buddhist Community. Together they are responsible for coordinating all the events, as well as managing our online content. Tejasvati and Steph work two days a week, Alex and Elena work one day a week each.

Prajñaghosa	– Chair
Steph	– Events Coordinator
Elena	– Online Media Coordinator
Tejasvati	– Team Champion and Programmes Coordinator
Alex	– Graphic Design

Reference and Administrative details

Registered Charity Name: TRIRATNA BUDDHIST COMMUNITY (BRIXTON)
Registered Charity Number: 1084889
Address: Brixton Buddhist Community, 45 Abbotswood Road, London, SW16 1AJ

Financial Review

Charity Name			No (if any)	CC16a
TRIRATNA BUDDHIST COMMUNITY (BRIXTON)				
Receipts and payments accounts				
For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2024	To	Period end date 31/12/2024	

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Fundraising	40,131	-	-	40,131	32,650
Retreat	25,099	-	-	25,099	20,716
Class	18,782	-	-	18,782	10,708
Course	15,385	-	-	15,385	9,407
Gift aid	6,320	-	-	6,320	14,925
Weekend events	5,953	-	-	5,953	-
Interest	1,240	-	-	1,240	976
Restricted funds		300	-	300	360
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	112,910	300	-	113,210	89,742
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	112,910	300	-	113,210	89,742
A3 Payments					
Payroll	46,811	-	-	46,811	43,710
Rent	23,460	-	-	23,460	26,800
Retreat	20,135	-	-	20,135	14,981
Donation	2,480	-	-	2,480	2,037
Administration & expenses	7,071	-	-	7,071	6,830
Course	1,463	-	-	1,463	960
Restricted funds	-	300	-	300	2,754
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	101,420	300	-	101,720	98,072
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	101,420	300	-	101,720	98,072
Net of receipts/(payments)	11,490	-	-	11,490	- 8,330
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	47,796	156	-	47,952	56,282
Cash funds this year end	59,286	156	-	59,442	47,952

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current account	3,166	-	-
	Deposit account	56,119	156	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	59,286	156	-

Achievements and Performance

Racial Diversity

In 2024, we worked with other London Buddhist Centres to support London-wide People of Colour (POC) activities for our Sangha members. This involved monthly online POC events, two weekend retreats, and a Brixton-hosted POC day. Brixton also contributes some of its funds towards the European Chair's Assembly Diversity Group, part of whose remit is to employ a racial diversity coordinator. We hope that these initiatives will offer more pathways into our community for people of all ethnic groups, as well as offer specific support for People of Colour to deepen their Buddhist practice within our community.

Although our community is becoming increasingly diverse, especially at our classes, there is still room for growth. We now have POC representation on the Trustee board, and our hope is that, within a few years, our diversity efforts will result in more members of our Sangha from Black, Asian, and other ethnic groups stepping into leadership roles.

Gender Diversity

Historically and culturally, the Buddhist tradition has maintained a strict divide between men and women practitioners. The Triratna Buddhist Community is unique in the Buddhist world as it recognises equal ordination for both women and men, who both join a single Sangha. However, it also acknowledges the benefits of sharing our lives with those whose experiences are more likely to align with our own. In Triratna, this has led to the practice of women being trained and ordained by other women, and men by men. For this reason, alongside our many mixed events, our study groups and residential communities are often established as women's or men's groups.

We are aware, however, that this structure does not suit everyone. In response to the growing awareness of gender diversity, Triratna is currently in the process of creating more supportive contexts for people who are gender diverse, so that they have the necessary conditions to deepen their practice, become Mitras, and train for ordination. These needs vary widely among individuals. Examples include connecting people with the broader Triratna Gender Diverse Sangha, establishing gender-diverse study groups and ordination training programmes or, in the case of people transitioning, supporting them to move between the existing men's or women's wings of the Order and movement.

Chair's Report

As the founder of our Buddhist movement, Bhante Sangharakshita, used to say: we only commit to the unknown. In 2023, I stepped into the role of Chair of the Brixton Buddhist Community, and at that time, everything was still very new and unknown to me. 2024 has been a year of learning and growth for both the community and myself and it has felt truly rich, rewarding, and deeply enriching.

Our project continues to deepen. This year we welcomed two new Order members into our community, Tejasvati and Sraddhin, who have each made a lifelong commitment to practice the Dharma, witnessed and supported by our sangha. Welcoming them back after their ordination retreat was a very special and moving occasion. They have both since become key members of our project. We also welcomed five new Mitras, and several others have asked for ordination. It is inspiring to see people deepening their Going for Refuge and the project itself evolving in response.

The year began with great energy through our Meditation Challenge, which brought an unprecedented number of people to our classes. It was a wonderful way to start the year and launch ourselves strongly into 2024. Our drop-in classes and courses have continued to attract more participants, and our People of Colour day retreat was also a real success.

There have been so many highlights including the second instalment of the Summer of Love festival, which brought vibrancy, excitement, and growth to our sangha and was again a big success. The Alfoxton retreat, where a group of practitioners spent five days in intensive meditation, created ripples of benefit that continue to be felt within the wider community. Our festival days, each one, a joyous celebration of the living legacy of Buddhism, passed down through the ages from the Buddha to the present day.

Another great strength of our community is the growing culture of generosity. This year, more and more people have given their time, energy, and resources freely to support the project. Our sangha thrives on generosity and volunteers - without whom we could not sustain ourselves.

On a personal note, I have greatly enjoyed learning how to serve as Chair: guiding the project, supporting the flourishing of our sangha, and deepening friendships within the community. In the midst of the busyness of Brixton, it is heartening to see the Dharma thriving at the Brixton Buddhist Community. The project continues to grow from strength to strength, and I feel fortunate to be part of it. I am also grateful for the trustees of our community, who have been fully engaged, harmonious, and deeply committed. While at times our project feels precarious, particularly as we continue to seek a secure venue, I remain confident in our future. As long as we continue to deepen in the Dharma, I believe our path will be bright and prosperous.

Looking ahead as we move into 2025, I look forward to continuing to serve as Chair and to supporting the next chapter of our community’s growth. Together, we will keep deepening our practice, strengthening our sangha, and sharing the Dharma in Brixton and beyond.

Prajnaghosa, Chair, July 2025

Programme Coordinator's Report

We got our year off to a great start with our three-week 'meditation challenge' during which participants were invited to see if they could meditate every day, coming to classes twice a week to support them in doing so. It boosts attendance at the centre to run this in January. We invited two well-known teachers to lead a session each which was an additional attraction for many. People went on to attend further classes and courses throughout the year.

In 2024 we ran six courses, the ones in January and September being the most well attended in accordance with the trend of previous years. Using data, both quantitative and anecdotal, on 2023's course attendance and participant satisfaction we have been able to incorporate learnings about which courses work best at which time of year and which leaders work well together to improve the attendance and quality of our courses in 2024.

We ran two weekend retreats at Vajrasana Retreat Centre in 2024 which were well attended. We ran a longer meditation intensive retreat for regulars at Alfoxton Park Retreat Centre which was very positive for those who attended. We also ran a smaller retreat at Rivendell Retreat Centre for regulars which was fully booked and provided an opportunity for people to deepen their connections with others in the community and to practise together within the framework of myth and ritual.

The 'Summer of Love' festival, a series of five events taking place on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer, comprising music performances, rituals, yoga and 'gong baths' ran again. This festival continues to see a huge increase in numbers. Prajñaghosa developed the idea and it continues to be a unique element in our year's calendar and will be continued in coming years.

As usual we hosted four festival days throughout the year with some Mitra ceremonies. These are an important part of our yearly calendar as they provide the opportunity for regulars to come together and practice as well as for newer Sangha members to come and experience Buddhist ritual. We continued to try and attract well-known teachers to give key-note talks which have been a draw for people to come.

We have a regular class called 'Through Buddhist Eyes' run by a team of volunteers. The class involves inviting Sangha members to lead sessions on creative ways into practice. This has taken the form of rituals, writing and drawing workshops, singing and a tea ceremony. The events run on a Saturday morning and provide an important context for Sangha members to come together and also a space for people who can't make weekday evenings to come and practice together.

2024 saw two of our regular People of Colour day retreats. The Triratna People of Colour group is a pan-London group which involves members of our community. The group hosts events in different Triratna centres around London and it was a pleasure to be able to host them again. It is very important to us to provide a space for people of colour in our Sangha to practise together and to be represented, especially as Brixton has such a high population of people of colour.

Shraddhamalini, Programme Coordinator (as of January 2025), July 2025

Women's Mitra Convenor’s Report

Tejasvati (ex-Lizzy) was ordained in Spring of 2024 and assumed the role of ‘Women’s Sangha Coordinator’ as no Women’s Mitra Convenor was in place. She co-leads a large study group of twenty women which started in Autumn 2024, with Vandanasuri and Bex, a GFR Mitra. It has been a great success and out of the twenty women 6 have become Mitras.

In the autumn, a fundraising campaign for the Women’s Mitra Convenor role was very successful and Shraddhamalini from the London Buddhist Centre was appointed to start in January 2025.

Meanwhile, the pool of women Order Members available to teach in Brixton continued to grow. Maitrinita, a Trustee, has developed People of Colour events in Brixton and is a valuable addition to the Council. Vandanasuri, originally from the London Buddhist Centre, has become increasingly involved in teaching and supporting new women in Brixton. Tarāmani co-leads courses, and Maitrekara has also started teaching and attending events.

Regular women’s study events have continued. Four women asked for ordination in 2024.

Shraddhamalini
Women’s Mitra Convenor (As of January 2025)
July 2025

Men's Mitra Convenor’s Report

Here are some of the highlights of 2024 from my perspective as Men’s Mitra Convenor.

Our residential community, Danaprasada, continued to provide a wonderful platform for six men to live and practice Buddhism together. The community continued to act as a hub for many of our wider community activities, which include men's study groups and events, chapter meetings, gfr meetings, trustees meetings as well as a social hub for many friendships to flourish.

In 2024 a new men's study group embarked on a course of Buddhist study with eight participants. There is also a second study group which is in its third year of study. These study groups are a highlight of Brixton community life, meeting weekly as they do they serve as a forum to explore and deepen understanding of how Buddhist practice relates to our actual lives. It's heartening to see how, as the men grow to trust and enjoy one another more fully, and as their understanding and confidence in Buddhist practice increases, a special atmosphere of confidence and possibility emerges in these groups.

In 2024, two more men from our community also asked to become ordained, and the ‘going for refuge group’, which is for those men who have asked to join the Triratna Buddhist order to deepen their training, continued after its inception in 2023.

In 2024 we had one man getting ordained, it was particularly moving to see Shraddhin get ordained as he had originally been in a study group I had co-lead with Sagarasila, and we had both got to know him very well over the four years of the group. He has thrived in our community since getting ordained and is a great example of someone taking their life and Buddhist practice very seriously and making genuine progress.

We had another five Brixton retreats in 2024, which included two retreats for newcomers and regulars at Vajrasana, one longer meditation retreat at Alfoxton and one weekend retreat for Mitras and study groups at Rivendell. We also had one men’s working retreat at Alfoxton. It was lovely to see the men engaged with the meaningful work of restoring and renovating this retreat centre which previously belonged to William Wordsworth and his sister Dorothy.

In 2024, one man became a Mitra with the commitment of deepening their connection to the Three Jewels of Buddhism. The ceremony, held on the Sangha day festival day, was marked by great rejoicing from the Brixton Buddhist Community. It was delightful to hear Nat talk about what had led him to this point of wanting to deepen his connection to the Buddhist path and community.

Our classes and courses at Effra Space reached another all-time high. They remain the primary gateway for newcomers to connect with the vision, practices, and people of our community. The special and friendly atmosphere of our regular events is due to both the quality of our teaching team and the fantastic support team, all of whom volunteer their time with great humour and dedication. The overall success of our programme is attributable to the efforts of our centre team, a small group financially supported to work together in promoting and organising all our events. It is a great privilege and inspiration to collaborate with this team in an atmosphere of dedication, creativity, and friendship, and to witness the impact of their efforts in the growing number of people coming to Effra Space and transforming their lives through encounter with the Dharma.

Maitrinara, Men’s Mitra Convenor, July 2025

Finance Officer's Report

2024 saw a profit of £11.5k in 2024 and a performance 23% above budget. This was a relatively large profit for us which follows on from 3 years of deficit during which we have increased the size of the team and rented more space to increase our activities. This 3-year deficit period can be seen as us investing in Brixton, allowing us to extend the activities we offer and increase the size of our sangha, and as our bank balance has now returned to its level prior to this period and significant growth has been achieved, we can say that our investment has paid off! This has been achieved while continuing to offer the majority of our services on a donation basis so that those who cannot afford to pay are not prevented from attending.

Key contributors to our 2024 success are: the 46% increase in fundraising income compared with 2023; the increase in activities offered and attendees attracted; and the maintaining of the main costs of payroll and rent at 2023 levels.

The following table summarises income and expenses by category for 2024 and shows the end of year cash balance. The sections following give more explanation on these categories*.

	2024	2023
Income		
Money from events	**£66,459**	£52,581
Money from fundraising	**£40,131**	£27,394
Gift aid	**£6,320**	£9,407
Subtotal	**£112,910**	£89,382
Expense		
Class rent & event costs	**(£52,129)**	(£51,965)
Team	**(£46,811)**	(£43,710)
Contributions to other Triratna charities	**(£2,480)**	(£2,037)
Subtotal	**(£101,420)**	(£97,712)
Net surplus/deficit	**£11,490**	(£8,330)
Cash balance previous year	**£47,952**	£56,282
End of year cash balance	**£59,442**	£47,952
Restricted balance	£156	£156

2024 categorisations have changed since 2023, as follows:

- ***Money from events includes all income from any specific activity paid for (including retreats, Monday and Wednesday classes, weekend classes, courses, special events (eg Summer of Love).***
- ***Money from fundraising includes standing orders and one-off donations.***

All of the following comparisons between 2023 and 2024 take account of these categorisation changes which effectively reduces 2023 Money from fundraising by £5,256 and increases 2023 Money from events by the same amount

INCOME

Money from events

Overall income in this category was £66,459, a 21% increase over 2023 income. Money from Events is composed of Retreats, Weekday Drop-in classes, Courses and Weekend Events. Interest on our deposit account (£1,240) is also included in the high level total for this category but is not detailed in the specific events below. The following detail explains how each of these have performed in 2024 in comparison with 2023 equivalents:

Retreat

Retreat	2024	2023	% change
Vajrasana	**£4,949**	£2,747	80%
Alfoxton	**£2,519**	£2,730	-8%
Vajrasana	**£9,364**	£8,712	7%
Rivendell	**£3,452**	£1,608	115%
Vajrasana	**£4,815**	£3,289	46%
Total	**25,099.00**	**19,086.00**	32%

Income increased 32% overall in 2024 with all but the Alfoxton retreat showing gains. Whilst the number of retreats remained the same, attention to the number of bursaries and the team paying a bursary contribution were the main contributors to the gain.

Weekday drop-in classes

Class day	2024	2023	% change
Monday	**£14,002**	£12,106	16%
Wednesday*	**£4,780**	£3,955	21%
Total	**£18,782**	£16,061	17%
*Total Wednesday evening class income is £20,165 when Courses (which are run on a Wednesday) are taken into account.			

Monday drop-in average class numbers increased from approximately 36 to 49 per night with a 16% increase in income (all cash collected at Effra Space is recorded against the Monday class).

Wednesday drop-in shows a 21% increase in income, this is due to 2 additional special events (Gong bath, sound / movement events) run on 2024.

Courses

Courses (# weeks)	2024	2023	% change
Heart's release (6)	**£3,283**	£0	
J&G (8)	**£2,736**	£0	
Intro to Buddhism & Meditation (6)	**£2,645**	£2,185	21%
Living with confidence (5)	**£2,574**	£781	230%
LWFA (8)	**£2,312**	£2,969	-22%
Meditation & the dhyanas (4)	**£1,835**	£1,424	29%
Taste of Freedom of 2023 (6)	**£0**	£2,153	
Vision & transformation (6)	**£0**	£1,196	
Total	**£15,385**	**£10,708**	**44%**

The courses run in 2024 were not always the same as in 2023, but where they were a comparison of income has been made. Overall attendees in 2024 increased 20% over 2023, 266 versus 222 in 2023, with an overall 44% increase in income.

Weekend Events

Weekend Events	2024	2023	% change
Day retreat	**£2,016**	£1,243	62%
Study	**£1,717**	£440	290%
TBE	**£1,099**	£608	81%
Buddhist Festival	**£661**	£1,013	-35%
POC	**£460**	£387	19%
Special (skills auction)	**£0**	£2,082	-100%
Total	**£5,953**	£5,773	3%

Day retreat – There was one fewer Day Retreat in 2024 (3 versus 4 in 2023) but numbers attending was greater, (total in 2024 was 82 and 58 in 2023) and 62% greater income achieved.

Study – 5 study mornings run in 2024 versus 3 in 2023
TBE (Through Buddhist Eyes) - There was one fewer TBE event in 2024 (3 versus 4 in 2023), but booking was made necessary in 2024 and income was raised 81%.

Buddhist Festivals – Income collected at festivals decreased by 35% as the emphasis at festivals has shifted towards encouraging people to make standing order commitments rather than collecting money on the day.

POC (People of Colour) – one event day each year with a 19% increase of income in 2024.

Special (skills auction) – The skills auction of 2023 was not repeated in 2024, but due to its success may be tried again in coming years.

Money from fundraising

Fundraising	2024	2023	% change
Standing orders	**£26,032**	£18,276	42%
Major gifts (Single source =>£1,000)	**£10,267**	£7,781	32%
One-off donations	**£3,832**	£1,337	187%
Total	**£40,131**	**£27,394**	**46%**

2024 was a very successful year for fundraising with an overall 46% increase over 2023. The main reasons for this success were a very successful telephone campaign in October to ask for one-off and major donations towards the employment of a Women's Mitra Convenor together with the encouragement of people at festival days to set up standing orders.

Gift Aid

Gift aid	2024	2023	% change
Gift aid	**£6,320**	£9,407	-33%
Total	**£6,320**	**£9,407**	**-33%**

A late recognition of a 2024 gift aid submission to HMRC resulted in this apparent decrease in income. In reality a further £7,868 gift aid relating to 2024 was received in January 2025. When this is taken into account a 31% decrease in gift aid turns into a 51% increase. This increase is due to larger income and a focus on ensuring as many donors as possible consider gift aid collection.

OUTGOING

Overall costs rose by only 4% and this was mainly due to salary increases in line with inflation.

Expense	2024	2023	% change
Class rent & event costs	**(£52,129)**	(£51,965)	0%
Team	**(£46,811)**	(£43,710)	7%
Contributions to Triratna charities	**(£2,480)**	(£2,037)	22%
Total	**(£101,420)**	**(£97,712)**	4%

Reserves policy and risk management:

Triratna Buddhist Community (Brixton) has no appreciable assets and operates from rented premises. The charity is operated by a combination of part-time paid employees and volunteers. Income is from attendees of classes, courses, retreats and special events run by the charity.

A reserves policy is considered necessary in order to respond to the risk of losing our rented premises at short notice and thereby losing the basis of our financial support. In such an event the reserves policy seeks to maintain the paid employees (and volunteers) for a period of at least 6 months in order to maintain our programme of events as best we can whilst searching out alternative premises. The reserves policy will also allow for administrative expenses during this period. The table below shows the reserves amount within the closing bank balance:

Reserves		
Payroll (6 months)	£23,405	
Expenses (6 months)	£3,536	
Total	**£26,941**	
2024 closing bank balance	**£59,287**	(minus restricted balances)

Amaladana, Finance Officer, July 2025

Charity Name	No (if any)
TRIRATNA BUDDHIST COMMUNITY (BRIXTON)	

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	1/1/2024		12/31/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Fundraising	40,131	-	-	40,131	32,650
Retreat	25,099	-	-	25,099	20,716
Class	18,782	-	-	18,782	10,708
Course	15,385	-	-	15,385	9,407
Gift aid	6,320	-	-	6,320	14,925
Weekend events	5,953	-	-	5,953	-
Interest	1,240	-	-	1,240	976
Restricted funds		300	-	300	360
Sub total*(Gross income for AR)*	112,910	300	-	113,210	89,742
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	112,910	300	-	113,210	89,742
A3 Payments					
Payroll	46,811	-	-	46,811	43,710
Rent	23,460	-	-	23,460	26,800
Retreat	20,135	-	-	20,135	14,981
Donation	2,480	-	-	2,480	2,037
Administration & expenses	7,071	-	-	7,071	6,830
Course	1,463	-	-	1,463	960
Restricted funds	-	300	-	300	2,754
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	101,420	300	-	101,720	98,072
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	101,420	300	-	101,720	98,072
Net of receipts/(payments)	11,490	-	-	11,490	- 8,330
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	47,796	156	-	47,952	56,282
Cash funds this year end	59,286	156	-	59,442	47,952

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

B1 Cash funds

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Current account	3,166	-	-
	Deposit account	56,119	156	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	59,286	156	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name Triratna Buddhist Community (Brixton)		
On accounts for the year ended	31/12/2024	**Charity no (if any)**	1084889

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's 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.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives 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:	Fay Pritchard	**Date:**	23/09/25
Name:	Fay Pritchard		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	MAAT		
Address:	8 Darwin Street, Shrewsbury, SY3 8QE		

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

TRIRATNA BUDDHIST COMMUNITY (BRIXTON)

England & Wales - Charity number 1084889

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report for the Period

From: 01/01/2023 Period Start Date To: 31/12/2023 Period End Date

Charity name: TRIRATNA BUDDHIST COMMUNITY (BRIXTON)

Charity registration number: 1084889

Objectives and Activities

The object of the Association is the advancement of the Buddhist religion, in particular by:

- Encouraging members and others to live in accordance with the teachings of the Buddha
- Supporting ordained members of the Triratna Buddhist Community and other duly ordained Buddhists at the discretion of the Council of the Association
- Maintaining close communication with and working under the guidance of the Triratna Buddhist Order, and cooperating with other groups that have the same objectives
- Using applications of the Buddha's teachings to promote the health and well-being of all

Our Community

The Brixton Buddhist Community is a network of individuals united by the shared aim of developing spiritually and living in accordance with Buddhist principles of friendship, generosity, honest and kindly communication, and care for each other's spiritual welfare. A key part of this vision is to help others benefit from the teachings of the Buddha, such as meditation, mindfulness, ethics, and social engagement. The community is made up of practitioners at different levels of commitment to the Buddhist path: Order Members, Mitras, people who attend regularly, and people who drop in to our classes.

What is an Order Member?

An Order Member is someone who has been ordained into the Triratna Buddhist Order.

Ordination is a significant and powerful ceremony in which an individual makes a lifelong commitment to following the Buddhist path, placing it at the centre of their life. Training for ordination is a process that takes many years of personal practice, Dharma study, and periods spent on retreat. During ordination, a practitioner commits to practising for the benefit of all beings, acting in accordance with the ten Buddhist ethical precepts, and living in harmony with others. At ordination, they are given a special meditation practice and a new Buddhist name to signify their commitment to the spiritual life. You can usually recognise an Order Member by the symbolic white scarf (kesa) they wear, embroidered with the Three Jewels.

What is a Mitra?

Everyone who has contact with the Brixton Buddhist Community (such as attending a class) is considered a 'friend'. However, someone who feels a particular connection with our

community and has decided to follow the Buddhist path can ask to become a ‘Mitra’ (which simply means ‘friend’ in Sanskrit). Becoming a Mitra marks a deepening of commitment for the practitioner, and there are special activities, including retreats and study groups, open to Mitras to support them in this. People ask to become a Mitra when they:

- Consider themselves Buddhists
- Are trying to live in accordance with the five ethical precepts of Buddhism
- Feel that the Triratna Buddhist Community is the appropriate spiritual context for them

Once a person’s request to become a Mitra has been accepted, they take part in a simple public ceremony on a festival day. This ceremony is recognised at all Triratna centres worldwide, and they will be regarded as a Mitra wherever they go. Later, some Mitras may also decide to request ordination and begin the process of training for ordination. However, this is not expected, and many people happily practise as Mitras within our community for the rest of their lives.

What is a Study Group?

All Triratna Buddhist Centres offer a four-year programme of study covering the key aspects of the Buddha's teachings and Sangharakshita's approach to them. These study groups are mainly for Mitras, to help them deepen their commitment to the Buddhist path. However, at Brixton, we offer the first year of this programme to anyone who would like to deepen their understanding of Buddhism and Buddhist practice. If you are interested in joining a study group, please speak to an Order Member at one of our classes.

The main activities undertaken by the Brixton Buddhist Community are as follows:

- Weekly meditation classes for both beginners and experienced meditators
- Weekly Buddhist courses
- Several weekend and day retreats
- Men’s and women’s Mitra study groups (weekly meetings to study a four-year Buddhism course)
- Occasional study mornings led by visiting Order Members
- Buddhist event day celebrations, held four times per year
- One People of Colour event per year
- ‘Through Buddhist Eyes’ – four morning activities per year where regular visitors to our activities, the Sangha members, can share how their lives are influenced by their Buddhist practice
- A small team of part-time employees, offering an opportunity for people to share skills needed to run the charity in a Buddhist environment
- A small men’s community where up to six men can live and practise together
- A men’s Order chapter, where male Order Members regularly meet to discuss their practice

The Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set, and ensure they are consistent with the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management

Triratna Buddhist Community (Brixton) is a registered UK charity. We are constituted as an unincorporated association and voluntarily linked to the network of Triratna Buddhist Community (formerly Friends of the Western Buddhist Order) charities. We are governed by a standard Triratna Buddhist Community constitution. Decisions about the community’s vision, activities, finances, and public communications are made by a board of Trustees who meet bi-monthly. They are all volunteers, with the exception of Viryanaga and Prajñaghosa, each performing the role of Chair (in the first and second half of 2023 respectively). Because we are a spiritual community, the Trustees are all experienced Order Members able to guide

the spiritual direction of the community.

Trustees during 2023 re as follows:

Name	Legal Name	Other role
Viryanaga	Viryanaga Kitsune	Chair (Up to June)
Prajñaghosa	Guilhem Monin	Chair (From July)
Maitrinita	Jacqueline Clarke	N/A
Maitrinara	Sam Farquharson	Men's Mitra Convenor
Amaladana	Alan Worrell	Finance Officer
Amarapuspa	Mary Clark	Women's Mitra Convenor (up to November 2023)
Dharmasvara	Richard Bolley	(From December)
Suddhaka	Jonathan Clark	(Up until April)
Sagarasila	Joe Krohn	(Up until April)

Trustee changes in 2023: there was a Chair handover in the middle of 2023 from Viryanaga to Prajñaghosa and 2023 saw Amarapuspa, Suddhaka and Sagarasila stepping down as Trustees and the welcoming of Dharmasvara and Maitrinita as Trustees. Much appreciation was expressed for those stepping down whose dedication and skill have contributed greatly to the healthy growth of our Sangha.

Voting members

Voting members are committed members of the Sangha who are invited to take part in voting on key decisions in the running of Brixton Buddhist Community such as the election of new Trustees. All decisions must be passed by majority vote and voting members are welcomed to give their opinions to any motion suggested. All voting members are either Order Members or people training for ordination and are selected based on the length of time they have been involved with the community and their level of commitment.

Dharmasvara (until December), Elena, Pam, Ian, Lizzy, Emma, Alex and Daisy-May are our voting members.

Leadership roles

Chair – Viryanaga/Prajñaghosa. The role of the Chair is to oversee the direction of the community, support the team and all the volunteers, and make the many small day-to-day decisions involved with running a thriving Buddhist organisation. 2023 saw Viryanaga step away from this role after many years of excellent leadership, handing over to Prajñaghosa at the end of June 2023.

President – Paramabandhu. Paramabandhu is the President of Brixton Buddhist Community. A president offers spiritual counsel and friendship to a community, and can be a source of help when issues arise. Paramabandhu is a senior Order Member, who along with others holds responsibility for ordinations within the Triratna Buddhist Community. He is also an ex-Chair of the London Buddhist Centre in East London, where he lives and is a highly valued teacher. He visits us at least twice a year.

Mitra Convenors – Maitrinara (Men's Mitra Convenor) and Amarapuspa (Women's Mitra Convenor up until November 2023): We have two Mitra Convenors, both of whom are volunteers. Amarapuspa looks after the women's Sangha, and Maitrinara takes care of the men's Sangha. A Mitra Convenor takes special responsibility for supporting Mitras within our community, both through running events and meeting with people individually. They also meet with men and women who are becoming more involved with our community, to help them find appropriate study groups or events to support their practice. They help to guide people in the process of becoming Mitras and are also often a point of contact for Mitras who want to ask for ordination. They are always happy to hear from people interested in becoming more involved in our community.

The Centre Team

The centre team is the organisational hub of Brixton Buddhist Community. Together they are responsible for coordinating all the events, as well as managing our online content. Lizzy and Steph work two days a week, Alex and Elena work one day a week each and Jo works half a day.

Viryanaga / Prajñaghosa	– Chair (handover during year)
Ian / Steph	– Events Coordinator (handover during year)
Elena	– Online Media Coordinator
Lizzy	– Team Champion and Programmes Coordinator
Jo	– Supporter Care Manager
Alex	– Graphic Design

Reference and Administrative details

Registered Charity Name: TRIRATNA BUDDHIST COMMUNITY (BRIXTON)
Registered Charity Number: 1084889
Address: Brixton Buddhist Community, 45 Abbotswood Road, London, SW16 1AJ

Financial Review

Charity Name			No (if any)	CC16a
TRIRATNA BUDDHIST COMMUNITY (BRIXTON)				
Receipts and payments accounts				
For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2023	To	Period end date 31/12/2023	

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Fundraising (unrestricted)	32,650	-	-	32,650	26,928
Retreat	20,716	-	-	20,716	14,104
Course	10,708	-	-	10,708	9,777
Gift aid	9,407	-	-	9,407	9,714
Class	14,925	-	-	14,925	8,729
Fundraising (restricted)	-	360	-	360	3,380
Interest	976	-	-	976	235
	-	-	-	-	-
***Sub total** (Gross income for AR)*	89,382	360	-	89,742	72,867
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	89,382	360	-	89,742	72,867
A3 Payments					
Payroll	43,710	-	-	43,710	35,848
Rent	26,800	-	-	26,800	11,700
Retreat	14,981	-	-	14,981	9,474
Donation	2,037	-	-	2,037	6,770
Administration & expenses	6,830	-	-	6,830	5,468
Fundraising (restricted)	-	2,754	-	2,754	2,975
Course	960	-	-	960	1,396
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	95,318	2,754	-	98,072	73,631
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	95,318	2,754	-	98,072	73,631
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 5,936	- 2,394	-	- 8,330	- 764
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	53,734	2,550	-	56,284	-
Cash funds this year end	47,798	156	-	47,954	- 764

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current account	8,949	270	-
	Deposit account	38,849	- 114	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	47,798	156	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

Achievements and Performance

Racial Diversity

In 2023, we worked with other London Buddhist Centres to support London-wide People of Colour (POC) activities for our Sangha members. This involved monthly online POC events, two weekend retreats, and a Brixton-hosted POC day. Brixton also contributes some of its funds towards the European Chair's Assembly Diversity Group, part of whose remit is to employ a racial diversity coordinator. We hope that these initiatives will offer more pathways into our community for people of all ethnic groups, as well as offer specific support for People of Colour to deepen their Buddhist practice within our community.

Although our community is becoming increasingly diverse, especially at our classes, there is still room for growth. We now have POC representation on the Trustee board, and our hope is that, within a few years, our diversity efforts will result in more members of our Sangha from Black, Asian, and other ethnic groups stepping into leadership roles.

Gender Diversity

Historically and culturally, the Buddhist tradition has maintained a strict divide between men and women practitioners. The Triratna Buddhist Community is unique in the Buddhist world as it recognises equal ordination for both women and men, who both join a single Sangha. However, it also acknowledges the benefits of sharing our lives with those whose experiences are more likely to align with our own. In Triratna, this has led to the practice of women being trained and ordained by other women, and men by men. For this reason, alongside our many mixed events, our study groups and residential communities are often established as women's or men's groups.

We are aware, however, that this structure does not suit everyone. In response to the growing awareness of gender diversity, Triratna is currently in the process of creating more supportive contexts for people who are gender diverse, so that they have the necessary conditions to deepen their practice, become Mitras, and train for ordination. These needs vary widely among individuals. Examples include connecting people with the broader Triratna Gender Diverse Sangha, establishing gender-diverse study groups and ordination training programmes or, in the case of people transitioning, supporting them to move between the existing men's or women's wings of the Order and movement.

2023 in Numbers

Number of new Mitras in 2023: **6**

Total number of Mitras at end of 2023: **53**

Number of ordination requests in 2023: **6**

Total Mitras training for ordination at end of 2023: **25**

Total people in or having completed training courses in the Buddha’s teaching, the Dharma, in 2023: **60**

Total number of course attendees: **197**

Chair's Report

In July 2023, I was pleased to become the new Chair of the Brixton Buddhist Community, taking over from Viryanaga. I want to express my heartfelt thanks to him and to the entire community for welcoming me so warmly into this new role. While I'm uncertain whether I'm the perfect fit for this position, I know that since my ordination, something within me has been activated. I feel a deep desire to find a place where I can continue to live out my ordination and serve Bhante Sangharakshita's vision of Buddhism. The Brixton Buddhist Community is where I want to fulfil that purpose.

I am incredibly grateful to be part of a project where people practise at all levels, allowing us to embrace the full depth and breadth of Buddhist teachings. I want to extend my gratitude to all the Order Members and individuals who have contributed so much to this project. Without their generosity and effort, none of this would be possible. I also want to acknowledge our media team, who work diligently to spread the Dharma and make our courses and classes easily accessible.

The entire project has thrived this year, with our community growing from strength to strength. Our classes are well attended, and we've cultivated a warm and welcoming atmosphere. It's inspiring to see so many people joining our activities, with some now on the verge of ordination. Not only has our community grown, but it has also deepened, as we've created pathways for individuals to advance in their practice and take the next steps. I am deeply grateful to Bhante Sangharakshita for his visionary understanding of growth and human potential. Under his guidance we've witnessed people flourishing and growing at all levels, which is immensely rewarding.

What motivates me to serve this community even more is how we embody the ideal of friendship. Some people have been practising here for over two decades, while others, like myself, are relatively new. Our community also exemplifies openness to the wider world, welcoming people from all walks of life. We bridge the gap between the rich cultural diversity of Brixton and our spiritual community, and we are committed to being fully inclusive, ensuring that everyone feels welcome.

2023 has been a year of significant growth for our project and one of my focuses has been to encourage teachers from outside the Brixton context to visit, teach, and perhaps play a fuller role within our community. This initiative aims to build a larger teaching community to support future growth. I am also pleased to say that we launched a new series of summer events celebrating art and beauty. The first year has been a tremendous success, allowing various artistic expressions to be enjoyed by our Sangha within the context of spiritual growth.

With such enthusiasm from the Sangha, the Trustees and I have been working closely on reaching out to more people and making the Dharma more available in South London. We, therefore, cherish the idea of one day having our own premises—it is our direction of travel, who knows!

I must say that I feel delighted to serve Bhante Sangharakshita's vision of the Dharma within the Brixton Buddhist Community, which I believe has something invaluable to share with the world. I look forward to 2024 and many more years to come.

Prajñaghosa
Chair
August 2024

Programme Coordinator Report

We kicked off the year with a three-week 'meditation challenge' during which participants were invited to see if they could meditate every day, coming to classes twice a week to support them in doing so. This attracted more people to classes, between 50-70 per session (our usual average being around 30). We managed to get three well-known teachers to lead three of these sessions which I think helped to boost attendance. Many of these people went on to attend further classes and courses throughout the year.

In 2023 we ran five courses, the ones in January and September being the most well attended in accordance with the trend of previous years. Using data, both quantitative and anecdotal, on 2023's course attendance and participant satisfaction we have been able to incorporate learnings about which courses work best at which time of year and which leaders work well together to improve the attendance and quality of our courses in 2024.

We ran two open retreats at Vajrasana Retreat Centre in 2023 which were well attended although just shy of being fully booked as they had been in previous years. We ran a longer meditation intensive retreat for regulars at Alfoxton Park retreat centre which was very positive for those who attended but also didn't attract as many participants as we had hoped (around 8 retreatants as opposed to a desired number of about 16). We have reflected that the camping element of the retreat isn't attractive to many people and in future plan to find an alternative venue with indoor accommodation. We also ran a smaller retreat at Rivendell Retreat Centre for regulars which was fully booked and provided an opportunity for people to deepen their connections with others in the community and to practise together within the framework of myth and ritual.

A great success of 2023 was the introduction of the 'Summer of Love' festival; a series of six events taking place on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer, comprising music performances, rituals, yoga and 'gong baths'. Normally our summer events are poorly attended but the introduction of this festival saw a huge increase in numbers; the launch event at which the well known musician Joel Culpepper performed, saw our largest attendance ever at around 90 people. We have our new Chair, Prajñaghosa, to thank for this idea and a lot of the organisation that went into it. I think it's been an extremely positive introduction into the yearly calendar and we will continue to develop this in future.

As usual we hosted four festival days throughout the year with some Mitra ceremonies. These are an important part of our yearly calendar as they provide the opportunity for regulars to come together and practice as well as for newer Sangha members to come and experience Buddhist ritual. We continued to try and attract well-known teachers to give key-note talks which have been a draw for people to come.

We also hosted a monthly class called 'Through Buddhist Eyes' run by a team of volunteers. The class involves inviting Sangha members to lead sessions on creative ways into practice. This has taken the form of rituals, writing and drawing workshops, singing and a tea ceremony. The events run on a Saturday morning and are our least well-attended, but provide an important context for Sangha members to come together and also a space for people who can't make weekday evenings to come and practice together.

2023 saw the second of our People of Colour day retreats. The Triratna People of Colour group is a pan-London group which involves members of our community. The group hosts events in different Triratna centres around London and it was a pleasure to be able to host them again. It is very important to us to provide a space for people of colour in our Sangha to practise together and to be represented, especially as Brixton has such a high population of people of colour. This event was very well attended and as a result we have decided to run two events of this kind in 2024.

Lizzy
Programme Coordinator
August 2024

Finance Officer's Report

2023 has seen continued growth in our activities in Brixton, with Income increasing by 53% over the past two years due to the expansion of our offerings and a rising number of attendees. We continue to provide the vast majority of our services on a donation basis, ensuring that those unable to pay are not prevented from participating.

We have expanded our rental space and slightly increased our paid team FTE count, which now stands at 1.83 FTE, to support this growth. This expansion has increased our costs, which have risen by 63% over the same period. We are working towards achieving a break-even position, focusing our fundraising efforts on increasing standing order contributions. Additionally, we are exploring the introduction of new services or modifying existing ones that are not attracting sufficient interest. In 2023, we introduced Saturday classes, day retreats, and a creative 'Summer of Love' event series, which drew strong attendance during the typically slower holiday period.

We anticipated operating at a deficit of £5k in 2023 as we reorganised the team and allowed for a handover period for those transitioning out, including the role of Chair. However, we exceeded this deficit by £3k due to the need to settle some invoices missed in 2022, as well as delayed receipts from our January 2024 retreat.

The following table summarises income and expenses by category for 2023 and shows the year-end cash balance. The sections following provide more detailed explanations of these categories.

		2023	2022
Income			
Money from events		**£47,325**	£32,846
Money from fundraising		**£32,650**	£27,333
Gift aid		**£9,407**	£9,714
	Subtotal	**£89,382**	£69,893
Expense			
Class rent & event costs		**(£51,965)**	(£28,038)
Team		**(£43,710)**	(£35,848)
Contributions to other Triratna charities		**(£2,037)**	(£6,770)
	Subtotal	**(£97,712)**	(£70,656)
	Net surplus/deficit	**(£8,330)**	(£764)
Cash balance previous year		**£56,282**	£57,046
End of year cash balance		**£47,952**	£56,282
Restricted balance		£156	£2,549

INCOME

Money from events

Overall income in this category was 12% above budget, primarily due to a strong performance in class income.

- Classes – Income was 34% above budget, with class attendance rising from approximately 28 to 36 participants per night compared to 2022.
- Retreat – Net retreat results met the budget after accounting for a late payment of a Rivendell Retreat Centre invoice from November 2022.
- Courses – A slight improvement over budget, with a comparable number of attendees to 2022 (222 vs. 232).

Money from fundraising

- The 2023 fundraising budget was set 47% higher than 2022, which proved to be overly optimistic as we fell short of our target by 13%. This shortfall was mainly due to an overestimate of major donations (those over £1,000). Standing order income slightly exceeded its challenging target, resulting in a 74% increase in standing order income compared to 2022.

Gift Aid

- Gift Aid income was only 69% of the budget for two reasons: one of our GASDS claims was rejected due to a form completion error, which will be corrected in 2024; and lower fundraising income resulted in a reduced Gift Aid collection.

OUTGOING

Class rent and event costs

- These costs increased significantly over 2022 for the following reasons:
    - Rent increase – Our rental charges increased, and we also expanded the number of weekend events from 6 to 17 compared to 2022. These changes resulted in an additional £3.8k in rent costs.
    - Late payment of 2022 invoices – £3.9k worth of invoices from 2022 were paid in 2023.
    - Reclassification – an annual £3.5k donation we make towards costs incurred by the Danaprasada community have been moved from the 'Contributions to other Triratna charities' category into this one.

Team

- Team FTE increased by 0.3 of an FTE in 2023, due to the need to provide a handover of the Chair role and to supplement the fundraising function. Costs were kept down to 93% of the budgeted amount however, because budgeted pay for sickness cover was not required.

Contributions to other Triratna charities

- Only 27% of budgeted costs were spent in this area, as the Danaprasada contribution was re-categorized as explained above, and our contribution to the European Chair's Assembly was reduced to 2.5% due to operating at a loss during 2023.

Reserves policy and risk management

Triratna Buddhist Community (Brixton) has no appreciable assets and operates from rented premises. The charity is run by a combination of part-time employees and volunteers. Income is generated from attendees of classes, courses, retreats, and special events organised by the charity.

A reserves policy is considered necessary in order to respond to the risk of losing our rented premises at short notice and thereby losing the basis of our financial support. In such an event, the reserves policy aims to retain employees for at least six months to continue our programme of events while we search for alternative premises. The reserves policy would also allow for administrative expenses during this period.

Amaladana
Finance Officer

August 2024

Women's Mitra Convenor's Report

2023 was my final year as Women's Mitra Convenor for Brixton, stepping down in December. Although I was reluctant to leave the role, my responsibilities as a carer had increased, leaving me with less energy to effectively carry out the duties. Additionally, I was no longer able to attend or teach evening classes, which limited my opportunities to meet and befriend newer women. I also stepped down from related roles, including Chair of the Women's Mitra Convenor Gathering in March 2023, and from the team revising the Dharma Training Course for Mitras, the Centre Team, and as a Trustee for the charity.

While no obvious successor emerged for the role of Women's Mitra Convenor, I felt confident that the Sangha could fill the gap left by my departure. The Centre Team and Trustees were united in their commitment and there was a strong network of experienced women who could foster outreach to newer women. During this period, I was accepted as a Private Preceptor after successfully completing the consultation process the previous year. I continued leading two study groups, one of which completed its course at the end of 2023. My many friendships with women in the Sangha continue, and I am particularly keen to support the fourteen women in the ordination process, participating actively in groups set up for this purpose called kulas.

In 2023, the number of women attending classes and events continued to grow. Many of these women expressed interest in deepening their practice. With the help of Order Member Vajratara, a 'Vajra Kula' was formed, consisting of women Mitras training for ordination and external female Order Members beginning to get involved in Brixton. We met regularly after women's events and on Zoom to discuss outreach and support for newer women. Women's study events continued throughout the year at Danaprasada, with both new women and experienced Mitras participating. Various women Order Members, including myself, led these events. The community at Danaprasada was very welcoming and supportive, providing a positive atmosphere for these events.

I also met regularly with Maitrinara, the men's Mitra Convenor, and Lizzy, the Centre programme coordinator. Maitrinara proposed a creative solution to meet the needs of newer women: Lizzy would assume the new role of 'Women's Sangha Coordinator'. I endorsed this proposal to the Council when we sought funding for the role. I continued to support Lizzy both as a friend and in her new role. She organised a large study group of twenty women to start in Autumn 2024, which she will lead with Vandanasuri and Bex, a GFR Mitra. With Lizzy taking on this role, the Vajra Kula began to seem redundant and was dissolved in the summer of 2023.

Meanwhile, the pool of women Order Members available to teach in Brixton continued to grow. Maitrinita, who became a Trustee when I stepped down in December, has developed Person of Colour events in Brixton and is a valuable addition to the Council. Vandanasuri, originally from the London Buddhist Centre, has become increasingly involved in teaching and supporting new women in Brixton. Tarāmani continues to co-lead courses, and Maitrekara, another Order Member from the LBC, has also started teaching and attending events. Regular women's study events have continued.

I was very moved and heart-warmed by the many gifts and rejoicings that accompanied my stepping down from the Mitra Convenor role in December. I felt uplifted by taking in how many more committed women were regularly involved than when I first started and how much they obviously benefitted from their involvement and are also benefiting others. I feel blessed to have been able to serve the wonderful women of Brixton Triratna for so many years.

Amarapuspa
Women's Mitra Convenor
September 2024

Men's Mitra Convenor’s Report

2023 was a big year for the Brixton community as we welcomed our new Chair Prajñaghosa to continue the fantastic work of his predecessor Viryanaga. This appointment heralded in a new phase of growth and friendship to our community. The end of 2023 also saw Amarapuspa step down as Women's Mitra Convenor. We owe her a great deal of appreciation for the dedication and creativity she brought to the role for so many years. Here are some of the highlights of the year from my perspective as Men’s Mitra Convenor.

Prajñaghosa, our new Chair, joined our men's residential community, Danaprasada. Our household continues to be a creative and social hub for the wider community. As well as living together, we host men's study and GFR groups, the centre team meetings on a weekly basis, Trustees meetings, chapter meetings and a range of social events.

In 2023, two men's study groups met weekly, with a total of 16 participants. These study groups are a highlight of Brixton community life, serving as a forum to explore and deepen our understanding of how Buddhist practice relates to our deeper aspirations. It's heartening to see how, as the men grow to trust and enjoy one another more fully, and as their understanding and confidence in Buddhist practice increases, a special atmosphere of confidence and possibility often emerges in these groups. In July, after completing the four year course, one of the study groups led by Sagarasila and me, came to an end. We shared some great times as a group and I appreciated co-leading the group with Sagarasila and witnessing his calm and intelligent exploration of the Dharma. Some of these men subsequently asked for ordination into the Triratna Order. In 2023, the four Mitras who had asked for ordination met weekly to deepen their practice and friendships. They also regularly travelled to Padmaloka, the men's ordination centre, for ordination training retreats.

We had a record five Brixton retreats in 2023, which included two retreats for newcomers and regulars at Vajrasana, one longer meditation retreat at Alfoxton and one weekend retreat for Mitras and study groups at Rivendell. We also had one men’s working retreat at Alfoxton. It was lovely to see the men engaged with the meaningful work of restoring and renovating this retreat centre which has the amazing heritage of previously belonging to William Wordsworth and his sister Dorothy. Working together during the day and enjoying each other's company around the campfire at night, we fostered a wonderful atmosphere of playfulness, camaraderie, and adventure.

In 2023, a total of five men—Jez, Jack, Sergio, Theo, and Dan—became Mitras, deepening their connection to the Three Jewels of Buddhism. The ceremonies, held on various festival days throughout the year, were marked by great rejoicing from the Brixton Buddhist Community. It was delightful to hear each of them reflect in their own unique ways on what had led them to this point of wanting to deepen their connection to the Buddhist path and community. Furthermore, two Brixton Mitras, Graham and Olivier, requested ordination and began the training process to join the Triratna Buddhist Order.

Our classes and courses at Effra Space remain the primary gateway for newcomers to connect with the vision, practices, and people of our community. In 2023, I am delighted to report that participation reached an all-time high. The special and friendly atmosphere of our regular events is due to both the quality of our teaching team and the fantastic support team, all of whom volunteer their time with great humour and dedication. The overall success of our programme is attributable to the efforts of our centre team, a small group financially supported to work together in promoting and organising all our events. It is a great privilege and inspiration to collaborate with this team in an atmosphere of dedication, creativity, and friendship, and to witness the impact of their efforts in the growing number of people coming to Effra Space and transforming their lives through encounter with the Dharma.

Maitrinara
Men’s Mitra Convenor
August 2024

Team Champion's Report

We welcomed Steph to the team in 2023, taking over from Ian as Events Coordinator. She has brought a lot of knowledge, skill and enthusiasm to the role as well as much friendship. The team has greatly benefitted from her input and I think being in the team has also led to a deepening of her practice and a greater commitment to the community.

We continue to gather weekly on a Monday to meet and work together at Danaprasada, the men's residential community. This has provided an opportunity for us to understand how to work more effectively together and to deepen practice and friendships within the team.

This year Prajñaghosa officially became Chair and took on more of a managerial role within the team. This required some re-organisation of the ways we had worked previously when Viryanaga was Chair, in order to understand and accommodate Prajñaghosa's vision for the community moving forwards. Although this took a bit of figuring out, I think the re-orientation has been very positive and, as a team, we are feeling increasingly empowered to work in a way that is both independent and collaborative.

I organised a couple of practice days for the team, during which we reflected on the ways in which we can approach work as a spiritual practice and how we can have a stronger sense of a shared vision for the work of the centre team. The feedback I received from these days was that they were helpful and contributed to a clearer sense of our direction as a team.

Lizzy
Programme Coordinator
August 2024

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
TRIRATNA BUDDHIST COMMUNITY (BRIXTON)	

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	1/1/2023		12/31/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Fundraising (unrestricted)	32,650	-	-	32,650	26,928
Retreat	20,716	-	-	20,716	14,104
Course	10,708	-	-	10,708	9,777
Gift aid	9,407	-	-	9,407	9,714
Class	14,925	-	-	14,925	8,729
Fundraising (restricted)	-	360	-	360	3,380
Interest	976	-	-	976	235
	-	-	-	-	-
***Sub total**(Gross income for AR)*	89,382	360	-	89,742	72,867
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	89,382	360	-	89,742	72,867
A3 Payments					
Payroll	43,710	-	-	43,710	35,848
Rent	26,800	-	-	26,800	11,700
Retreat	14,981	-	-	14,981	9,474
Donation	2,037	-	-	2,037	6,770
Administration & expenses	6,830	-	-	6,830	5,468
Fundraising (restricted)	-	2,754	-	2,754	2,975
Course	960	-	-	960	1,396
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	95,318	2,754	-	98,072	73,631
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	95,318	2,754	-	98,072	73,631
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 5,936	- 2,394	-	- 8,330	- 764
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	53,734	2,550	-	56,284	57,046
Cash funds this year end	47,798	156	-	47,954	56,282

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

B1 Cash funds

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Current account	8,949	270	-
	Deposit account	38,849	- 114	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	**47,798**	**156**	**-**
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval

CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of: Charity Name: Triratna Buddhist Community (Brixton)

On accounts for the year ended: 31/12/2023 | **Charity no (if any)**: 1084889

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's 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.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives 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: Fay Pritchard. **Date:** 14/10/24

Name: Fay Pritchard

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): MAAT

Address: 8 Darwin Street, Shrewsbury, SY3 8QE

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

TRIRATNA BUDDHIST COMMUNITY (BRIXTON)

England & Wales - Charity number 1084889

Accounts

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FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

AMALADANA

'Overall, Brixton Buddhist Community has performed well against budget in 2022'

The following table summarises income and expenses by category for 2022 and shows our end of year cash balance. The sections following give more explanation on these categories.

Income	2022	2021
Money from events	£32,846	£29,396
Money from fundraising	£27,333	£22,187
Gift aid	£9,714	£6,589
Subtotal	£69,893	£58,172
Expenses		
Event costs	-£28,038	-£20,602
Support for the centre team	-£35,848	-£35,675
Contributions to other Triratna Charities	-£6,770	-£3,400
Subtotal	-£70,656	-£59,677
Net Surplus/Deficit	-£764	-£1,505
Cash balance previous year	£57,046	£58,551
End of year cash balance	£56,282	£57,046

Overall Brixton Buddhist Community performed well against budget in 2022, almost breaking even when a £5k deficit had been forecast. The following points highlight the main variation against budget:

- Fundraising fell below expectations but this was balanced by below budgeted payroll costs;
- A significantly higher contribution to costs at Danaprasada was decided upon part way through the year to better reflect the great facility it offers to support our sangha;
- Class income exceeded budget by 62%

MONEY FROM EVENTS

Class, course and retreat events returned to in-person throughout the year and a 12% additional income over budget was realised in this category..

Classes – 62% above budget. The usage of the main hall and studio has allowed us to offer beginner and regular meditator focus. More people are able to attend and all can enjoy the shared reception area for a vibrant tea break!

Retreat – Retreat income was close to budget and a small surplus was due to late payment (2023) of the Rivendell retreat balance..

Courses – A 30% increase in course attendees in 2022 over 2021 (232 v 179) but course income has not increased in line with that and overall income was 76% of budget.

MONEY FROM FUNDRAISING

Major donors (single contributions >£500) and one-off appeals (one-off donations as opposed to regular standing orders) both exceeded budget, but standing order sign-up was only 48% budget causing an overall fundraising shortfall of 77%.

GIFT AID

Gift aid income fell mainly as a result of lower than budgeted fundraising.

OUTGOINGS

Lower than budgeted rent was the result of late invoicing from Effra Space meaning that November and December rent was paid in January 2023.

Payroll costs were 77% of those budgeted because of a later than planned take on of the Publicity Coordinator role and because budgeted pay for sickness cover was not required.

As well as our 5% contribution to the European Chairs Assembly, our contribution to Danaprasada (the men's residential community) was increased to £3,500 to better recognise the value of the community to the Brixton sangha and the material value it brings as a meeting place.

AMALADANA
FINANCE OFFICER
MAY 2023

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CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
TRIRATNA BUDDHIST COMMUNITY (BRIXTON)	1084889

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	1/1/2022	To	12/31/2022

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Fundraising (unrestricted)	26,928	-	-	26,928	22,187
Retreat	14,104	-	-	14,104	16,530
Course	9,777	-	-	9,777	9,547
Gift aid	9,714	-	-	9,714	6,589
Class	8,729	-	-	8,729	3,316
Fundraising (restricted)		3,380	-	3,380	420
Interest	235	-	-	235	2
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total*(Gross income for AR)*	69,487	3,380	-	72,867	58,592
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	69,487	3,380	-	72,867	58,592
A3 Payments					
Payroll	35,848	-	-	35,848	35,675
Rent	11,700	-	-	11,700	8,990
Retreat	9,474	-	-	9,474	4,990
Donation	6,770	-	-	6,770	3,400
Administration & expenses	5,468	-	-	5,468	3,453
Fundraising (restricted)		2,975	-	2,975	1,955
Course	1,396	-	-	1,396	1,634
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	70,656	2,975	-	73,631	60,097
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	70,656	2,975	-	73,631	60,097
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 1,169	405	-	- 764	- 1,505
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	54,903	2,144	-	57,047	-
Cash funds this year end	53,734	2,550	-	56,283	- 1,505

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

B1 Cash funds

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Current account	14,861	1,494	-
	Deposit account	38,873	1,056	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	53,734	2,550	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	Agreement Error	OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name Triratna Buddhist Community (Brixton)		
On accounts for the year ended	31/12/2022	**Charity no (if any)**	1084889

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2022

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's 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.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives 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: Fay Pritchard **Date:** 16/01/24

Name: Fay Pritchard

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): AAT licensed accountant no: 1004354

Address: 8 Darwin Street, Shrewsbury, SY3 8QE

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

TRIRATNA BUDDHIST COMMUNITY (BRIXTON)

England & Wales - Charity number 1084889

Accounts

BRIXTON BUDDHIST COMMUNITY



ANNUAL REPORT

2021

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ABOUT US

Brixton Buddhist Community is part of the Triratna Buddhist Community; an international Buddhist movement founded in 1967 by Urgyen Sangharakshita. "Triratna" means "three jewels". These three jewels are shown in our logo.

BRIXTON BUDDHIST COMMUNITY

They represent the three highest ideals that lie at the heart of Buddhism:

The Buddha the ideal of Enlightenment

The Dharma the teachings of the Buddha

The Sangha the spiritual community



We call ourselves

Brixton Buddhist Community

rather than a group or an organisation, because this spiritual community - the Sangha - is key to our practise and understanding of Buddhism.

OUR COMMUNITY

Brixton Buddhist Community is a network of individuals united by the shared aim of developing spiritually and living in accordance with Buddhist principles of friendship; generosity; honest, kindly communication and care for each other's spiritual welfare. A key part of this vision is helping others benefit from the teachings of the Buddha, such as meditation, mindfulness, ethics and social engagement.

The community is made up of practitioners at different levels of commitment to the Buddhist path; Order Members, Mitras, people who attend regularly, and people who just drop in to our classes.

WHAT IS AN ORDER MEMBER?



Someone who has been ordained into the Triratna Buddhist Order, is an 'Order Member'.

Ordination is a significant and powerful ceremony in which an individual makes a lifelong commitment to following the Buddhist path, placing this at the centre of their lives.

Training for ordination is a process which takes many years of personal practice, dharma study and periods of being on retreat. During their ordination, a practitioner makes commitments to practice for the benefit of all beings, to act in accordance with 10 Buddhist ethical precepts and to live in harmony with others. At Ordination they are given special meditation practice and a new Buddhist name to signify their commitment to the spiritual life. You can usually recognise an Order Member because they wear a symbolic white scarf (kesa) embroidered with the three jewels.

WHAT IS A MITRA?

"Everyone who has contact with Brixton Buddhist Community, (such as coming to a class) is considered a 'friend'."

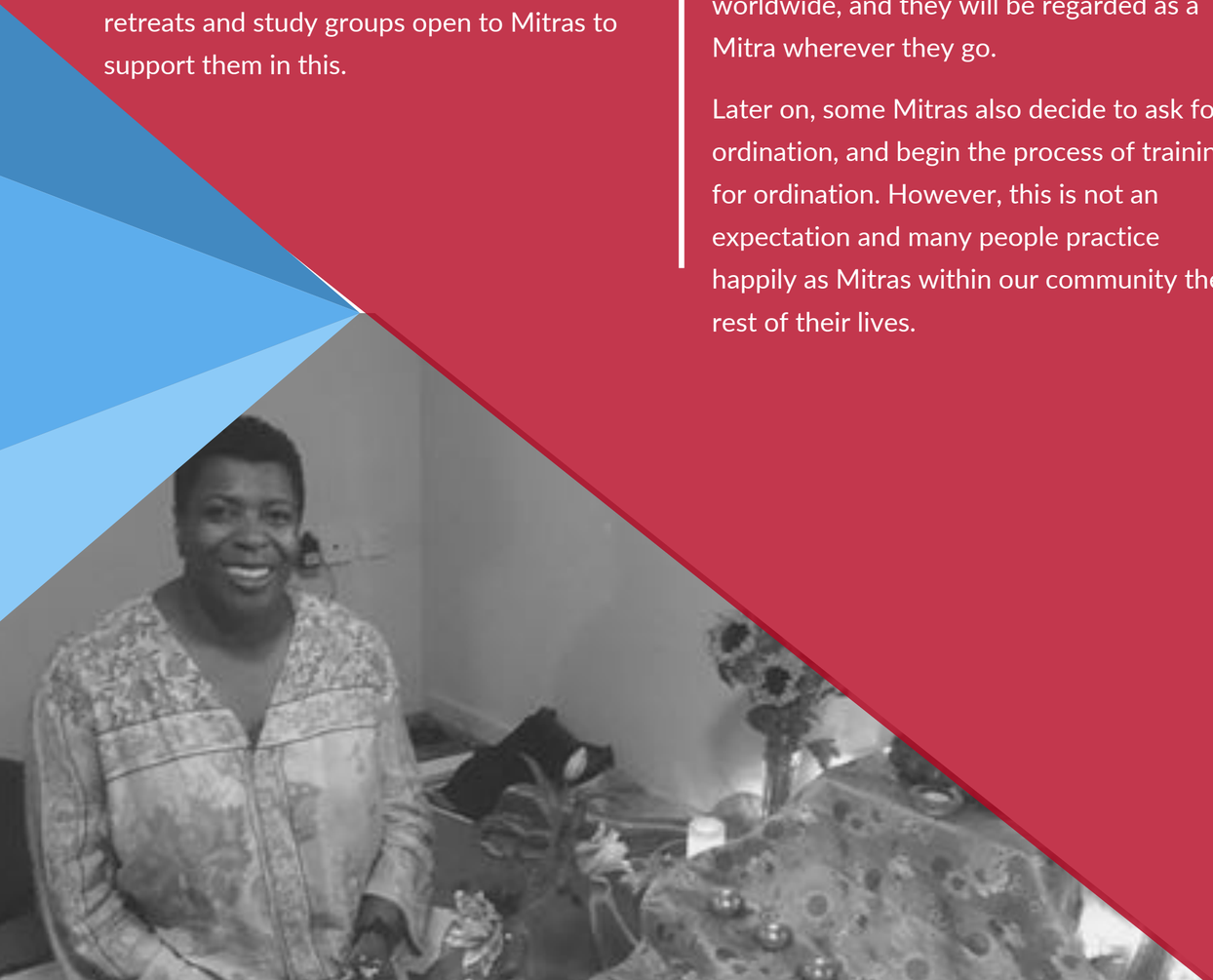
However someone who feels a particular connection with our community and has decided to follow the Buddhist path can ask to become a ‘Mitra’ (which simply means ‘friend’ in Sanskrit). Becoming a Mitra marks a deepening of commitment for the practitioner, and there are special activities, including retreats and study groups open to Mitras to support them in this.

People ask to become a Mitra when they:

- Consider that they are Buddhists.
- Are trying to live in accordance with the five ethical precepts of Buddhism.
- Feel that the Triratna Buddhist Community is the appropriate spiritual context for them.

Once a person’s request to be a Mitra has been accepted, they take part in a simple public ceremony on a festival day. This ceremony is recognised at all Triratna centres worldwide, and they will be regarded as a Mitra wherever they go.

Later on, some Mitras also decide to ask for ordination, and begin the process of training for ordination. However, this is not an expectation and many people practice happily as Mitras within our community the rest of their lives.





WHAT IS A STUDY GROUP?

All Triratna Buddhist Centres offer a four-year programme of study which covers the key aspects of the Buddha's teaching and Sangharakshita's approach to it. These study groups are mainly for Mitras to help them deepen their commitment to the Buddhist path.

However, at Brixton we offer the first year of this programme to anyone who would like to deepen their understanding of Buddhism and Buddhist practice. If you are interested in joining a study group, then speak to an Order Member at one of our classes.

DIVERSITY

RACIAL DIVERSITY

Brixton's rich cultural diversity is huge part of its appeal and we are keen that our community is fully representative of the community it serves.

Although our community is increasingly diverse, especially at our classes, we still have a way to go. This is particularly true amongst our teaching team and trustee board. Our hope is that within a few years, our diversity work will mean more members of our sangha from Black, Asian and other ethnic groups will start to feel sufficiently experienced to step into more of these leading roles.

Currently we work with the other London Buddhist Centres to support London-wide People of Colour activities for our sangha members. Brixton's trustees are also developing a new diversity plan with input from the London Buddhist Centre's Mindful of Race Group, and our involvement with the European Chair's Assembly Diversity Group. We hope this initiative will offer more pathways into our community for people of all ethnic groups, as well as offer specific support for People of Colour to deepen their Buddhist practice within our community.



The Triratna Buddhist Community is unique in the Buddhist world as it recognises equal ordination for both women and men

GENDER DIVERSITY

Within the Buddhist tradition, historically and culturally there has been a strict divide between men and women practitioners. The Triratna Buddhist Community is unique in the Buddhist world as it recognises equal ordination for both women and men, who both join a single sangha. However, it also recognises that there is much to gain by sharing our lives with those who have an experience closest to our own.

In Triratna this has lead to the practice of women being trained and ordained by other women and men by men. It is for this reason that alongside our many mixed events, our study groups and residential communities are often established as women's or men's groups

Yet, we are aware that this structure does not suit everyone. In response to the emerging awareness of gender diversity, Triratna is currently in a process of creating more supportive contexts for people who are gender diverse, so that they have the necessary conditions to deepen their practice, become Mitras and train for ordination. These needs vary widely by individual, but examples include connecting people with the broader Triratna Gender Diverse Sangha, establishing gender diverse study groups and ordination training programmes, or in the case of people transitioning, supporting them to move between the existing men's or women's wings of the Order and movement.

TRUSTEES 2022

Brixton Buddhist Community is a registered UK charity. Decisions about the community's vision, activities, finances, and public communications are made by a board of trustees who meet bi-monthly. They are all volunteers, with the exception of Viryanaga, the Chair. Because we are a spiritual community, the trustees are all experienced Order Members able to guide the spiritual direction of the community. We are keen to have more women and people for colour on the trustee board, and hope to achieve this as more people in our community become ordained in the coming years.



MAITRINARA
MEN'S MITRA CONVENOR



AMARAPUSPA
WOMEN'S MITRA CONVENOR



SUDDHAKA



SAGARASILA



VIRYANAGA
CHAIR



AMALADANA
FINANCE OFFICER



VOTING MEMBERS

Brixton Buddhist Community is a registered UK charity. Decisions about the community's vision, activities, finances, and public communications are made by a board of trustees who meet bi-monthly. They are all volunteers, with the exception of Viryanaga, the Chair. Because we are a spiritual community, the trustees are all experienced Order Members able to guide the spiritual direction of the community. We are keen to have more women and people for colour on the trustee board, and hope to achieve this as more people in our community become ordained in the coming years.



ELENA



PRAJNAGHOSA



ARYANISHA



IAN



EMMA



ALEX



MAITRINITA



DAISY



LIZZY



PAM

LEADERSHIP ROLES



VIRYANAGA

CHAIR

The role of the Chair is to oversee the direction of the community, support the team and all the volunteers, and make the many small day-to-day decisions involved with running a thriving Buddhist organisation. Initially this role was voluntary position, but as our community has grown in recent years, the work has also grown into a full-time responsibility, with Viryanaga now employed by the charity.



PARAMABANDHU

PRESIDENT

Paramabandhu is the president of Brixton Buddhist Community. A president offers spiritual counsel and friendship to a community, and can be a source of help when issues arise. Paramabandhu is a senior Order Member, who along with others, hold responsibility for ordinations within the Triratna Buddhist Community. He is also an ex-chair of the London Buddhist Centre in East London, where he lives, and is a highly valued teacher. He visits us at least twice a year.

MITRA CONVENORS

We have two Mitra Convenors, both of whom are volunteers. Amarapuspa looks after the women's sangha, and Maitrinara takes care of the men's sangha.

A Mitra Convenor takes special responsibly for supporting Mitras within our community, both through running events and meeting with people individually. They also meet with men and women who are becoming more involved with our community, to help them find appropriate study groups or events to support their practice. They help to guide people in the process of becoming mitras and are also often a point of contact for Mitras who want to ask for ordination. They are always happy to hear from people interested in becoming more involved in our community.



MAITRINARA

MEN'S MITRA CONVENOR



AMARAPUSPA

WOMEN'S MITRA CONVENOR

OTHER TEACHERS

If you come to our events, often one or two of our trustees will be teaching. However, there are also some other wonderful Order Members who support our community though teaching.



MAITRINITA



VAJRATARA

They either live in South London or regularly visit us. You may also see some of our Mitras who are training for ordination teach at our Monday meditation class.

The centre team is the organisational hub of Brixton Buddhist Community. Together they are responsible for coordinating all the events, as well as managing our online content. Lizzy and Ian work two days a week, while Alex and Elena currently work one day a week each.

THE CENTRE TEAM



VIRYANAGA
CHAIR



LIZZY
PROGRAMMES CO-ORDINATOR



ELENA
ONLINE MEDIA CO-ORDINATOR



ALEX
GRAPHIC DESIGN



IAN
EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR

2021 IN NUMBERS...



ORDINATION REQUESTS

5

NEW MITRAS

3

1

NEW STUDY GROUP



MITRAS IN THE BRIXTON SANGHA

2019: 27

2020: 35

2021: 44

MITRAS TRAINING FOR ORDINATION

2019: 12

2020: 16

2021: 20

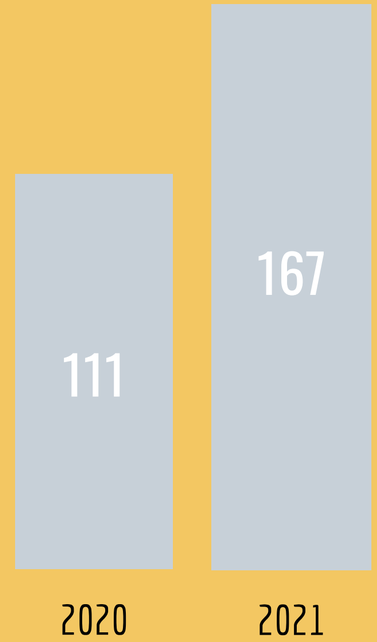
PEOPLE IN OR HAVING COMPLETED DHARMA TRAINING COURSES

2019: 32

2020: 39

2021: 52

AN EVER WIDENING CIRCLE, THE SANGHA GROWS



COURSE ATTENDEES

CHAIR'S REPORT
VIRYANAGA

Sangharakshita, the founder of the Triratna Buddhist Community, has spoken of the spiritual community as not a group, not even a positive supportive group, but as a collection of individuals working in accordance with a shared vision and common ethical principles.

I was speaking to a friend the other day, the Chair of another Triratna Centre. He came to visit me in Brixton around 5 years ago, and was recounting his experience of visiting one of our meditation classes, crammed in under the eves of the roof in the upstairs room at Yoga Point. I'd almost forgotten those times; 10-15 people who mostly all knew each other, sitting in front of a small Buddha rupa on the makeshift roof slate shrine, and the portal window.



The buses would rumble past and the noisy yoga classes would leave downstairs during our meditation sit. We've grown a great deal individually and collectively during this time.

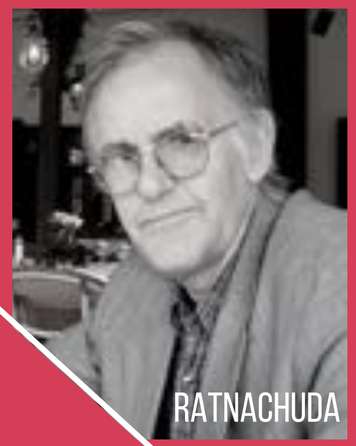
Over the 6 years I've been involved with the Brixton Buddhist Community, we've moved from being a small positive spiritual group, to a large positive spiritual group. Now it feels like perhaps we are just starting to grow into a true spiritual community, as Bhante meant it - a collection of true individuals practising the Dharma.



One illustration that quickly comes to mind for me is a Dharma Study group that Suddhaka and I led for the past 4.5 years, which finished this year. It must be said, we were a rather rag-tag bunch of whoever was around at the time, literally whoever we could invite from the small classes back then. A few departed along the way, but those that finished are all now serious Dharma practitioners in their own right, displaying the qualities of generosity, selflessness, kindness, wisdom and awareness to a high degree. Many are now in the ordination process themselves, taking responsibility and starting to teach at some of our classes.

> "WE'VE GROWN A GREAT DEAL, INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY..."

Another example is the support for Rathachuda and Amarapupsa by members of the sangha this year. If you are newer, you may not have come across Ratnachuda, but he was formerly a chair of Brixton and invested a great deal of love and energy into helping the sangha flourish.



RATNACHUDA

Amarapuspa, his partner, has been central here for many years too, and remains our women's mitra convenor. Ratnachuda unfortunately fractured his leg this year, resulting in an operation and extended hospital stay, so it's been very tough for him and Amarapuspa. What's been impressive is both Amarapuspa's effort in supporting Ratnachuda, but also the people in the sangha rallying around to help, whether that's hospital visits, taking around food etc. .

For me, this sums up sangha better than anything: genuine friendships and care between people who might not otherwise have close connections. More than just fair weather acquaintances or 'friends' you only see at meditation class

I know these aren't isolated examples, and I hear inspiring and heartwarming accounts of friends, mitras and Order Members involved with Brixton going beyond themselves in small ways every day. We are now blessed in having a good number of experienced people around the Brixton Buddhist Community. Those who've come in, come through and who, from my perspective, seem to have developed spiritually to a large degree, expressing brighter and brighter qualities over time. With such fine people around, living out the Dharma in their lives, I've no doubt that our community will continue to flourish. All we need to do is continue to broaden and deepen our own understandings, and continue to offer a space and place, both figuratively and literally, for people to encounter and explore the Dharma in their own lives.

"THIS SUMS UP SANGHA BETTER THAN ANYTHING: GENUINE FRIENDSHIP AND CARE BETWEEN PEOPLE WHO MIGHT NOT OTHERWISE HAVE CLOSE CONNECTIONS"

If you are feeling an affinity with the Buddhist path and you want to make a statement of commitment for the sake of your own practice, then you could also ask to formally join our community as a 'mitra' (a Sanskirt word meaning 'friend'). I won't say more about that here, but please ask someone in the community about that if you want to find out more.



THE ORDER TEAM

I like to use these reports to highlight some developments, but also to appreciate those who contribute practically to the running of the community. Largely, this year has been about regrouping from the disruption caused by covid. Both individually and well as collectively. Our classes and courses are now all fully in-person again, but are still returning to the sizes they were before the pandemic. We also had disruption to our normal retreat programme in 2022 because of difficulties with retreat centre availability. Thankfully this has been resolved, and I'm pleased to say that we'll again have two large sangha retreats at Vajrasana next year.

The core teaching team of Suddhaka, Amaladana, Amarapuspa, Sagarasila, Maitrinara, Aryanisha and myself, have been very stable and consistent over the last few years, running study groups and the public events, supported by a number of guest teachers. In this last year we've especially benefited from Vajratara attending regularly, especially to support the women's sangha, as well as visits from Paramabandhu, our centre president, and other Order Members, especially some from the East London Buddhist Centre.

It's looking likely that our teaching team may look somewhat different in the coming years as people take a step back or prepare to take long retreats and sabbaticals. It is however a great blessing to have a number of other Order Members and mitras involved and increasingly stepping up to teach.

Firstly, Prajnagosha, who has been teaching at Brixton for over a year now, has recently taken over coordination of the Monday Meditation class from Maitrinara, who resolutely supported the class for a number of years. Prajnagosha's enthusiasm and energy has been a delight to have around and the friendliness and warmth of his teaching is often commented on. We're very fortunate indeed to have him with us.

> "IT WILL NOT BE SO LONG BEFORE SOME OF BRIXTON'S OTHER MITRAS WHO ARE TRAINING FOR ORDINATION...I THINK THERE WILL BE A COHORT OF REMARKABLE DHARMAFARERS NOT TOO FAR AWAY. "

Some of you will already know the Maitrinita, with her warmth, clarity and delightful energy. Mairinita has been involved for some years already, but after completing her breathworks training this year, she may be more available to be present at more events. This will be a huge boon for the sangha. I'm also really pleased that Brixton has been able to host a London People of Colour event this year, led by Maitrinita.



Il'd like to mention Dharmasvara too. He is an Order Member who has been living in Brixton for some years, but who has also recently become involved in the community. He is a wonderfully insightful and considerate man. He recently supported a course I was leading, and very kindly and courageously stepped in at short notice when I became ill.

I hope that he feels moved to join the core teaching team in the coming year, as he's such a wonderful presence, and he has much wisdom and kindness to offer.

In terms of special mentions, I'm also delighted that Tom Axtell, a stalwart of the Monday Night team has been invited for ordination in 2023. I wish him all the best for his ordination retreat, and look forward to having him join the Brixton Order team on the other side of that.



"SO THERE IS FLUX AND CHANGE, BUT PLENTY OF FRESH GREEN GROWTH, AND MUCH TO BE GRATEFUL FOR."

Neither is this list the end of it. It will not be so long before some of Brixton's other mitras who are training for Ordination, will themselves be invited. Knowing them, and being involved in their processes in some cases, I think there will be a cohort of remarkable Dharmafarers not too far away. So there is flux and change, but plenty of fresh green growth, and much to be grateful for.

TRAINING, LEADERSHIP AND MONEY

To help create healthy opportunities for succession, we've put in place a couple of programmes this year to support those able to step forward to teach and to take responsibility for the running of the community. Firstly, Sagarasila is heading up a teacher training programme for our newer teachers to gain confidence and experience, so that they might take up bigger teaching roles in future. Secondly, we've also changed how we run the charity this year too, by inviting a broader range of people to participate in our council meetings, which set the vision and direction of the activities month to month.

The employed 'centre team' went through a few changes this year too. I went down to being part-time again, after formally being full-time as chair/centre manager. I did this because I wished to just focus on the chair's role, and I wanted to hand over some of my many administrative and organisational duties. This freed up some money to allow Alex and Ian to join the team. Alex as our graphics designer, working one day per week, Ian as our publicity coordinator doing two days per week. Lizzy moved sideways within the team, becoming our Programme Coordinator, taking up many of my previous functions.

She continues to work two days per week. Elena is working one day a week for us as our Online Media Coordinator, recording and sharing talks, and interviewing those in our sangha to share the inspiration of our community as widely as possible.

Alex and Ian have both been great additions to the team, bringing their skills and enthusiasm for the Dharma.

> "I REMAIN VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE WORK ETHIC, PASSION AND CREATIVITY OF EVERYONE ON THE TEAM,"

Even though the number of hours the team is working overall hasn't increased hugely, their joining has created a feeling that we are actually now a team. This has been both enjoyable and supportive for everyone. I remain very impressed with the work ethic, passion and creativity of everyone on the team, and it's strangely satisfying to see excellent programmes and publicity going out that I've had very little, if anything, to do with. They are all excellent people, it's a joy to work with them.

And then of course there is money, some people don't like conflating money with spiritual community. But we are still of the world, and money is necessary if we want to have a space to invite people into to freely offer them the Dharma. I prefer to see our fundraising as giving those people with adequate income or savings the opportunity to put their money behind the values they really care about, rather than consumer products or the momentary delights of a worldly experience.

We are a registered charity, with the added layer that all of our money must be used for the furtherance of Buddhist practice and spent in accordance with Buddhist ethical principles. So no executive salaries, profits for shareholders, and we use every penny as carefully as we can. Mainly this is to support the basic living costs of the team, so that they can do the bulk of the organisational work, and also to cover the costs of venue spaces for events. You'll get a clearer sense of this from Amaladana's finance report.

"I PREFER TO SEE OUR FUNDRAISING AS GIVING THOSE PEOPLE WITH ADEQUATE INCOME OR SAVINGS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT THEIR MONEY BEHIND THE VALUES THEY REALLY CARE ABOUT, RATHER THAN CONSUMER PRODUCTS OR THE MOMENTARY DELIGHTS OF A WORLDLY EXPERIENCE."

We've had some incredibly generous one-off gifts this year, as well as many continuing to give regular standing orders every month. I cannot express how important this ongoing generosity is. We, along with everyone else, are facing increasing costs and we just simply could not operate without this - again the community is co-created, with love, with energy and frankly with money. So quite simply, thank you if you give, and please keep giving.

VIRYANAGA
CHAIR
AUGUST **2022**

SERVING THE DHARMA

I'd like to sum up this report by thanking the volunteers who help run the classes, courses and retreats. We remain a largely volunteer organisation, with just a handful of employed part-time team members to help coordinate it all. Without all you wonderful volunteers offering your warmth, friendship, skills and time everything we do just wouldn't be possible.

"BRIXTON (BUDDHIST COMMUNITY) DOES HAVE...AN INTANGIBLE ENERGY OF WARMTH, POSITIVITY AND GOODWILL TO THOSE WHO COME THROUGH OUR DOORS, AND OFFERS GENUINE COMMUNITY AND LIFELONG CONNECTION FOR THOSE WHO STAY".

I also want to thank the council of trustees, who volunteer their time and energy to help to steer the project and support the sangha. There is a great deal of trust and shared vision that has built up between us, and our meetings are by and large, enjoyable and harmonious.

I'll finish by going back once more to the story about my friend, sharing his experience of visiting Brixton all those years ago. The thing I found most interesting about his account was, besides the close and cramped environment he remembered a certain energy and feeling hanging in the room. It's something I recognise and which I've come to think of as the 'Brixton Magic' and it continues to be commented on by guests and visitors. Triratna groups can be friendly, but Brixton does have something a bit more, an intangible energy of warmth, positivity and goodwill to those who come through our doors, and offers genuine community and lifelong connection for those who stay.

Long may this continue, and long may we, the individuals that make up that community, continue to mature in the Dharma, so that we become those true individuals who are able to heroically and powerfully express the qualities of generosity, ethics, equanimity, energy, mindfulness and wisdom in every aspect of our lives.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

AMALADANA

2021 posed similar Covid challenges as 2020, requiring a constant review of events offered with respect to the latest government safety guidelines. The team, teachers and volunteers were flexible in providing in-person or online events as required throughout the year. The centre team increased in size in line with our budget and in order to meet the needs of our growing sangha.

'the centre team increased in size in line with our budget'

The following table summarises income and expenses by category for 2021 and shows our end of year cash balance. The sections following give more explanation on these categories.

Income	2020	2021
Money from events	£15,449	£22,771
Money from fundraising	£21,411	£22,187
Gift aid	£11,259	£6,589
Subtotal	£48,119	£51,548
Expenses		
Event costs	£14,229	£13,978
Support for the center team	£21,856	£35,675
Contributions to other Triratna Charities	£3,382	£3,400
Subtotal	£39,467	£53,053
Net Surplus/Deficit	8651	-1505
Cash balance previous year	49900	58551
End of year cash balance	58551	57046

Overall we experienced a small deficit of £1.5k instead of our aim to break even in 2021. The main contributor to the deficit was an over optimistic gift aid budget, see detail below.

We would like to return to our policy of providing all events on a donation basis so that people are not excluded from any event due to cost.

When our performance against budget allows we will again offer all events, including retreats, on a donation basis. We also retain our ambition to lease or own our own premises in order to better control our calendar of activities and provide a solid base for our growing sangha.

'we retain our ambition to lease our own premises'

MONEY FROM EVENTS

Class, course and retreat events were mixed format (either in-person or online) throughout the year to comply with government regulations. A very significant 47% additional income over budget was realised under Money from events.

Classes – 11% above budget.

Retreat – Our ability to run 2 in person retreats at Vajrasana and receive January 2023 income for a third Vajrasana retreat allowed us to increase our retreat budget almost 5-fold. (The budget assumed we would only be able to hold 2 online retreats).

Courses – Similar numbers attended courses in 2021 as in 2020 (179 v 171) but there was a 16% increase in income verses budget.

MONEY FROM FUNDRAISING

The need to manage a turbulent year detracted energy from the fundraising effort and was responsible for an 11% drop in budgeted income.

GIFT AID

A 38% drop with respect to the gift aid budget was the main reason our overall budget was just missed in 2021. This was mostly due to an oversight at the end of Q1 2021 when we reduced our fundraising budget by 30% but did not correspondingly reduce our gift aid budget which is directly related to it, thereby overstating our forecast income for the year. (The reduction in fundraising budget was brought about by a need to focus on organizing our programme to address COVID regulations and a corresponding delay in beginning fundraising planning and activity).

OUTGOINGS

A negotiated rent reduction with an understanding landlord allowed us to reduce planned rent costs by almost 40%.

Support costs were slightly above budget due to illness in the team but otherwise were in line with our planned increase of .5FTE for 2020.

Contributions to other Triratna charities includes a 5% contribution to the European Chairs Assembly.



AMALADANA
FINANCE OFFICER
MAY 2022

WOMEN'S MITRA CONVENOR'S REPORT

AMARAPUSPA

The year up to December 2021 has been full of changing contexts as we have adjusted to different Covid restrictions. Throughout this a steady core of the women's community has continued to grow and develop. Charlotte Lawes was ordained as Aryanisha. Three women; Pam, Elena and Emma(?) asked for ordination and three others; Bex, Alison and Sara (?) became Mitras. New women were added into the two thriving study groups. We now have eleven Brixton women in ordination training.

I continue to find it a joy to be in a role supporting women to explore their connection with Buddhism and deepen their commitment.

The two women's study groups have seemed to thrive despite being online. Aryanisha has been co leading the Year Three group. It's been wonderful witnessing her step up to being an Order Member. We work well together.
Friendships have developed in the groups and in person meet ups have taken place as restrictions have eased. However, meeting online for study groups has seemed to meet women's needs and there has been no strong impetus to switch to meeting in-person. Each group has women living outside the London area including one in New Zealand who formerly lived in Brixton.

I continue to be part of Jewel Quest South East which is a group of Order Members who aim to support women in ordination training throughout the South East by bringing them into contact with wider sanghas and a variety of Order Members.



AMARAPUSPA
WOMEN'S MITRA CONVENOR
MAY 2022

"THE TWO WOMEN'S STUDY GROUPS HAVE SEEMED TO THRIVE DESPITE BEING ONLINE"

Brixton women are invited to these events and also other events held at the Croydon Buddhist Centre. As I continue to be one of the few women Order members active in Brixton, this gives women an opportunity to meet more Order Members and to have a sense of the wider Movement.

I have enjoyed working with Maitrinara, our men's Mitra Convenor, and Viryanaga, our Chair, to put on special events such as festival days and study mornings. I find being on the Council of trustees stimulating and rewarding as we work well together.

I became chair of the women's Mitra Convenor Gatherings during the year and have coordinated events both online and in-person. Mitra Convenors around the world have been invited to and taken part in the online events. This again, indirectly broadens the context for Brixton women.

It continues to be a challenge to be one of the few active Order Members in Brixton. I continue to reach out to female Order Members from other areas to take part in Brixton events. We continue to benefit from Vajratara's contributions to study mornings at the men's community, Danaprasaddha.

Vajratara also gave a talk at one of our festival days. Maitrinita has also taken part in some events including an online weekend retreat in Spring 2021. We continue to attract many new women. Two of these women are interested in forming a Year One study group. I lead and also support classes and courses partly in order to meet and engage with new women.

I look forward to another year as the women's Mitra Convenor in Brixton.

MEN'S MITRA CONVENOR'S REPORT

MAITRINARA

"I feel proud of how Brixton Buddhist Community has pulled together during the pandemic and how we have emerged from it with more breadth and depth in the Sangha."

DHARMA TRAINING COURSES (DTC) - OFTEN REFERRED TO AS STUDY GROUPS

A great development in the Men's Sangha is the formation of a new DTC in April this year, led by Amaladana and myself. The 10 men starting the first year of the course have got off to a really bright start. Many of them had already got to know each other over the year or more we have been gathering this group together, having already been on courses, retreats and classes together and this has really helped the group come together.

In May the first men's DTC in the Brixton Buddhist Community came to an end after four years of training together. The men in that group really appreciated what they had been through together, and were very appreciative of the guidance of Viryanaga and Suddhaka who had led the group. Several of the men have already asked for ordination into the Triratna order, and are continuing their Dharma training in this way.

I am looking forward to seeing the men develop their understanding and response to the Dharma, as well as deepening their friendships together.

The other DTC is also going strong, now in its third year. It has been sad to lose Stephen from the group, as he follows his vocation to help address the environmental crisis by continuing his training in California. We wish him well and rejoice in the brightness and clarity he has brought to the group.

MITRAS AND MEN TRAINING FOR ORDINATION

I was delighted to see Cameron become a Mitra this year in a beautiful Parinirvana day ceremony. Four men: Ian, Andy, Alex Bermingham and Jac, took the joyful step of asking for ordination into the Triratna Buddhist order. They joined the established men's Training for Ordination (TFO) group and have started attending training retreats at Padmaloka, the men's ordination training retreat centre.





RETREATS

The online retreats we had been doing together as a Sangha have been surprisingly good over the last two years of lock-down, but It was also a great relief to get back to in-person retreats which we did in Vajrasana in November last year.

We have had two retreats so far this year, one at Vajrasana and one at Alfoxtons, a new Triratna eco-retreat and cultural centre in Somerset. Both of these retreats were special in different ways. The Vajrasana retreat was fully booked and ran with a total of 62 people in January of this year.

Vajrasana is such a beautiful and inspiring retreat centre and I very much enjoyed co-leading this retreat with Amarapuspa. This retreat allowed many newer members of our community to get the unique experience of what more in depth Dharma practice can bring, as well as what it feels like to practise as part of a genuine spiritual community, with the depth of communication and responsiveness to one another, that comes from spiritual friendship. I particularly appreciate the team who were quite inexperienced in running retreats but did really well.

The camping retreat in Alfoxtons in April was a quite different retreat. I was excited to be co-leading the first long meditation retreat we have had in Brixton Buddhist Community. We were in the wild environs of Wordsworth's old house nestled in the Quantock hills, meditating together under a large tent over a lashed hazel branch construction.

We were lucky with the weather, and being so close to nature helped inspire meditation.

"I WAS EXCITED TO BE CO-LEADING THE FIRST LONG MEDITATION RETREAT WE'VE HAD"

The devotional practices on this retreat were led by Aryanisha who created a series of beautiful pujas and shrines, and encouraged us to tap deeper into the energies of this amazing place.



MEN'S COMMUNITY

The Danaprasada residential men's community in Streatham welcomed Sergio and Jack to live with us and they are responding very positively to this opportunity to live, practice and be in closer communication with other Buddhists. It's been a delight to see how both of them are really contributing to the life of the community, and to the wider Brixton Buddhist community.



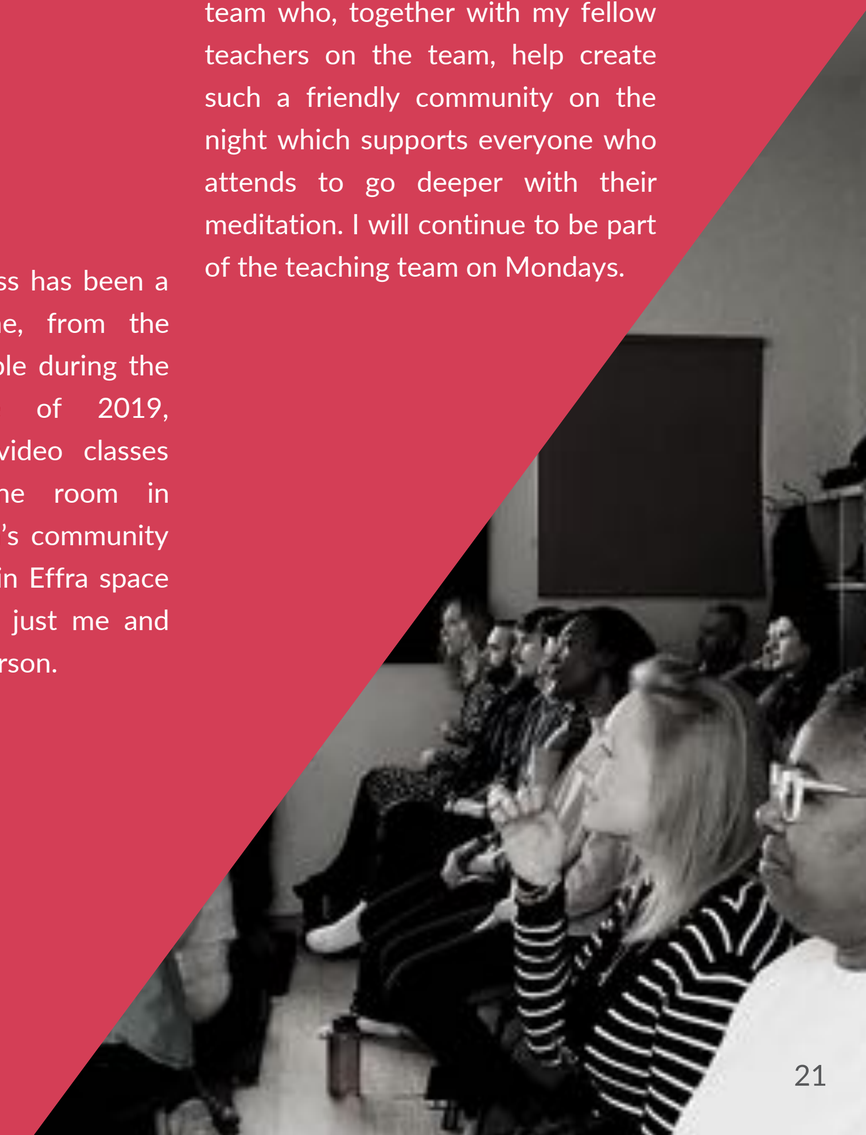
MONDAY NIGHT CLASS

After four years of holding overall responsibility for the Monday night meditation class I am happy to be handing it on to two wonderful Order members; Prajnagosha and Sagarasila, who will bring their enthusiasm to the class, as well as restarting the class for regulars in the second room in Effra space.

Being part of this class has been a great journey for me, from the highpoint of 60+ people during the meditation challenge of 2019, through to running video classes from our tiny shrine room in Danaprasada, the men's community house, and then later in Effra space during lockdown with just me and the team present in-person.

"I CONTINUE TO WISH EVERYONE IN THE SANGHA INSPIRATION IN PRACTISING THE DHARMA FOR THE SAKE OF ALL BEINGS."

A great privilege of this time has been the wonderful Monday night team who, together with my fellow teachers on the team, help create such a friendly community on the night which supports everyone who attends to go deeper with their meditation. I will continue to be part of the teaching team on Mondays.



PROGRAMME COORDINATOR'S REPORT

LIZZY

2021 has been a year of transition, both within the centre team, and for our Sangha more broadly. We began the year with our classes still running online and finished it with a full return to in-person classes, courses, retreats and festival days.

People warmly welcomed a return to in-person events and it has been joyful to gather in large numbers for festival days. Our numbers are, in fact, larger than before the pandemic as quite a few people connected virtually with our Sangha during lockdown and have since joined in-person events.



The Monday night meditation drop-in resumed in-person in June, albeit with everyone meditating together, rather than with a separate class for regulars as we had previously held before the pandemic. Our Wednesday night Dharma class also returned to in-person in June, having previously taken the form of a pre-recorded video discussion between two of our teachers which was then posted on YouTube.

"PEOPLE WARMLY WELCOMED A RETURN TO IN-PERSON EVENTS...IT HAS BEEN JOYFUL TO GATHER AGAIN..."

LIZZY
EVENTS COORDINATOR
(NOW PROGRAMME COORDINATOR)
MAY 2022

We also ran our first in-person course of the year, Think, Act, Live (based on the Sikkha project course, Not About Being Good) in September for which we received the highest number of bookings for any course to date (54).

2021 also brought with it some transitions for the centre team. I was on long-term sick leave from April until September and Viryanaga was on sick leave for a period after that. We were supported by Maitrinara and Amaladana, as well as Alex Bermingham who stepped into my role while I was off. Due to the reduction in our team, as well as teacher availability, the trustees made the decision to stop running Dharma night classes at the end of August in order to focus our attention on courses.

"WE RECEIVED THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF BOOKINGS FOR ANY COURSE TO DATE"

We have continued to be greatly helped by the media team; a small but vital team of volunteers who help with our media and promotions. Emma has been a huge help in managing our mailing list communications, Lotte is very effectively managing our Discord channel (Discord is an online chat room that we have made use of as a way of connecting the Sangha during lockdown). I have also benefited from an excellent and responsive team of proof readers.



DESIGNER & BRAND MANAGER'S REPORT

ALEX

It's been a very busy year for the Brixton Sangha as we navigated through the Pandemic. We had gaps in the team due to illness and leave for a sustained period, so I initially stepped in to help with this; and in particular with keeping our events scheduled, organised and promoted. I've been working in a variety of areas to provide help and team cover on and off during the last year or so.

I've needed to stay quite flexible and fluid with my role, but have mainly provided cover for the events coordinator position, which focuses on our classes and courses. There's been quite a range of work going on, including admin, bookings, promotion and design. It's been good to try my hand at a variety of things; I quickly realised there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes which is all quite critical to making our events happen and run smoothly. This includes everything from making sure the ticketing website is updated, to writing descriptive info about classes, to making sure order members have the right equipment and team to run their nights.

" IT HAS BEEN A REAL HONOUR TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CARVE OUT IMAGERY THAT BOTH REPRESENTS AND PROMOTES THE THING I LOVE MOST – OUR INCREDIBLE SANGHA!"

During this time I've continued to develop and explore our visual identity and graphics. By trade I'm a graphic designer and illustrator, so that has been by far my favourite part of the job! It has been a real honour to have the opportunity to carve out imagery that both represents and promotes the thing I love most – our incredible Sangha! I find this quite an integrating activity to be involved in, as it brings together my love of visual art with the Dharma. It's also helped me learn more about marketing more broadly, and working alongside Viryanaga and his vision in this area has taught me a lot.

As well as the positive aspects of the job, there have also been some challenges. There has been lots of uncertainty, both in terms of other team member's leave and plans, and the nature of providing cover has meant lots of periods of starting and stopping, with relatively short notice.



I've also needed to try and find a balance with my work outside of the Brixton sangha, and developing my freelance output on my other days. Luckily Buddhism puts a big emphasis on the realities of constant flux, both in our lives and the wider world, so perhaps this has been a useful area to reflect on in work too!

It's been really great to work alongside my friend and teacher, Viryanaga, and also with our talented team members Elena and Lizzy. Most recently we welcomed Ian to the team which has been a great pleasure, particularly as we are both training for ordination and attending retreats together. Our work can now be an additional space in which to develop our spiritual relationship. Building on a right-livelihood Buddhist work principle here is very rewarding and useful as a context for our practice!

" IT'S BEEN REALLY GREAT TO WORK ALONGSIDE MY FRIEND AND TEACHER, VIRYANAGA"

This said, I'm very glad to say I'm now moving into a permanent one day a week fixture of design and cover work for the Sangha – so my work-life is likely to become more balanced and settled as a result.

The Brixton Sangha is very special. We have a lot of inspired, talented, and loving people here in South London, who are committed to living the Dharma in their lives as best they can. It's a real joy to be involved with the community and to be able to plug time, energy and creativity towards supporting and promoting it. I am looking forward to what the following year will bring us!

ALEX
GRAPHIC DESIGNER
MAY 2022

MEDIA COORDINATOR'S REPORT

ELENA

My work with the Brixton Buddhist Community started in April last year, towards the end of the 2021 lockdown. My main tasks then were to live stream the Monday meditation classes and record the Dharma night classes, as well as editing the videos to upload to Youtube.

To start my job by going straight into the nerve-wracking task of live streaming meditation classes was a big challenge! However I had the support of volunteers such as Emma and Jac who were brilliant at helping and making me feel more confident.

The other challenge I had back then was the video editing and managing the Youtube studio, which was something I hadn't done before but I was able to learn it quite quickly with the help of Jac who did some training.

At the end of the lockdown restrictions, we stopped the live streaming and the recording of regular classes and the video content was mainly created from special events such as festivals, retreats and one-off events with guest speakers. I have also recorded talks made during our Sangha retreats in Vajrasana in September last year and more recently in January.



" I HAD THE SUPPORT OF VOLUNTEERS SUCH AS EMMA AND JAC WHO WERE BRILLIANT AT HELPING AND MAKING ME FEEL MORE CONFIDENT."

I have enjoyed my work as a media coordinator very much. I feel very grateful to be working with such a kind, supportive and experienced team. I have also been able to work with interesting, inspiring Dharma content and I have learnt new skills such as video editing, live streaming and Youtube studio management. It's been a delight to work as a Media coordinator for the Brixton Community and I look forward to more this year!

I hope the Sangha videos will also be enjoyed by other members of our community and by people outside it who may be interested in knowing more about Buddhism. I'm planning to use them not only on our Youtube channel but also across other channels, especially on Instagram where we want to create content showcasing the diversity and vibrancy of our community.

An exciting project I have been working on this year is the Sangha videos which feature members of our Sangha explaining why they consider themselves Buddhists and how their practice relates to their everyday lives and to the wider world. I've been enjoying this project very much. It has given me the opportunity to hear moving and inspiring stories and create bonds with people in the Sangha I didn't know very well.

ELENA
MEDIA COORDINATORR
MAY 2022

"I FEEL VERY GRATEFUL TO BE WORKING WITH SUCH A KIND, SUPPORTIVE AND EXPERIENCED TEAM. "

PUBLICITY COORDINATOR'S REPORT

IAN



I joined the team as Publicity Coordinator in April 2022 and am grateful to be able to contribute to the work of sharing the Dharma in South London.

We already have a great team and working culture here, which has made getting used to the new role much easier for me! As well as the fantastic design work, video and photography and course development and organisation, I've been so impressed and slightly humbled by the work of our volunteers on the email newsletter and social media. We're lucky to have so many talents within the Sangha and I think it shows.

I hope we can build on what we've already achieved by reaching out to different communities – really making the Buddha's vision of the Dharma available, accessible and inviting for all. We are starting to work more closely with the People of Colour Sangha and are planning to host a PoC event in Brixton later in 2022. We're currently discussing different ways to keep our core Sangha engaged online.

As well as letting people know about events, courses and classes, a particularly enjoyable part of my role has been celebrating our Sangha through our publicity - on Instagram and Facebook - and by including more images of people on our website. There are lots of exciting possibilities for doing more of this in the future, whilst being mindful of the inherent pitfalls of social media and online communication.

IAN
PUBLICITY COORDINATORR
AUGUST 2022

BRIXTON
BUDDHIST
COMMUNITY

info@brixtonbuddhistmeditation.org

Brixton Buddhist Community
is a registered UK charity
(charity no. 1084889)

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name: Triratna Buddhist Community (Brixton)		
On accounts for the year ended	31/12/2021	**Charity no (if any)**	1084889

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2021

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's 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.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives 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:	Fay Pritchard	**Date:**	17/10/22
Name:	Fay Pritchard		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	AAT licensed accountant no: 1004354		
Address:	8 Darwin Street, Shrewsbury, SY3 8QE		

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

TRIRATNA BUDDHIST COMMUNITY (BRIXTON)

England & Wales - Charity number 1084889

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021



BRIXTON BUDDHIST COMMUNITY

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ABOUT US

Brixton Buddhist Community is part of the Triratna Buddhist Community; an international Buddhist movement founded in 1967 by Urgyen Sangharakshita. "Triratna" means "three jewels". These three jewels are shown in our logo.

BRIXTON BUDDHIST COMMUNITY

They represent the three highest ideals that lie at the heart of Buddhism:



The Buddha
the ideal of Enlightenment



The Dharma
the teachings of the Buddha



The Sangha
the spiritual community

We call ourselves Brixton Buddhist **Community**, rather than a group or an organisation, because this spiritual community - the Sangha - is key to our practise and understanding of Buddhism.

ABOUT US

Brixton Buddhist Community is a network of individuals united by the shared aim of developing spiritually and living in accordance with Buddhist principles of friendship; generosity; honest, kindly communication and care for each other's spiritual welfare. A key part of this vision is helping others benefit from the teachings of the Buddha, such as meditation, mindfulness, ethics and social engagement.

The community is made up of practitioners at different levels of commitment to the Buddhist path; Order Members, Mitras, people who attend regularly, and people who just drop in to our classes.

WHAT IS AN ORDER MEMBER?

Someone who has been ordained into the Triratna Buddhist Order, is an 'Order Member'.



Ordination is a significant and powerful ceremony in which an individual makes a lifelong commitment to following the Buddhist path, placing this at the centre of their lives.

Training for ordination is a process which takes many years of personal practice, dharma study and periods of being on retreat. During their ordination, a practitioner makes commitments to practice for the benefit of all beings, to act in accordance with 10 Buddhist ethical precepts and to live in harmony with others. At Ordination they are given special meditation practice and a new Buddhist name to signify their commitment to the spiritual life. You can usually recognise an Order Member because they wear a symbolic white scarf (kesa) embroidered with the three jewels.

WHAT IS A MITRA?

Everyone who has contact with Brixton Buddhist Community, (such as coming to a class) is considered a 'friend'. However someone who feels a particular connection with our community and has decided to follow the Buddhist path can ask to become a ‘Mitra’ (which simply means ‘friend’ in Sanskrit). Becoming a Mitra marks a deepening of commitment for the practitioner, and there are special activities, including retreats and study groups open to Mitras to support them in this.

People ask to become a Mitra when they:

- Consider that they are Buddhists.
- Are trying to live in accordance with the five ethical precepts of Buddhism.
- Feel that the Triratna Buddhist Community is the appropriate spiritual context for them.

Once a person’s request to be a Mitra has been accepted, they take part in a simple public ceremony on a festival day. This ceremony is recognised at all Triratna centres worldwide, and they will be regarded as a Mitra wherever they go.



Daisy's Mitra ceremony

Later on, some Mitras also decide to ask for ordination, and begin the process of training for ordination. However, this is not an expectation and many people practice happily as Mitras within our community the rest of their lives.

WHAT IS A STUDY GROUP?

All Triratna Buddhist Centres offer a four-year programme of study which covers the key aspects of the Buddha's teaching and Sangharakshita's approach to it. These study groups are mainly for Mitras to help them deepen their commitment to the Buddhist path.

However, at Brixton we offer the first year of this programme to anyone who would like to deepen their understanding of Buddhism and Buddhist practice. If you are interested in joining a study group, then speak to an Order Member at one of our classes.



One of our women's study groups. (Some of our groups meet online and some in-person)

GENDER DIVERSITY

Within the Buddhist tradition, historically and culturally there has been a strict divide between men and women practitioners. The Triratna Buddhist Community is unique in the Buddhist world as it recognises equal ordination for both women and men, who both join a single sangha. However, it also recognises that there is much to gain by sharing our lives with those who have an experience closest to our own. In Triratna this has lead to the practice of women being trained and ordained by other women and men by men. It is for this reason that alongside our many mixed events, our study groups and residential communities are often established as women's or men's groups.

Yet, we are aware that this structure does not suit everyone. In response to the emerging awareness of gender diversity, Triratna is currently in a process of creating more supportive contexts for people who are gender diverse, so that they have the necessary conditions to deepen their practice, become Mitras and train for ordination. These needs vary widely by individual, but examples include connecting people with the broader Triratna Gender Diverse Sangha, establishing gender diverse study groups and ordination training programmes, or in the case of people transitioning, supporting them to move between the existing men's or women's wings of the Order and movement.

RACIAL DIVERSITY

Brixton's rich cultural diversity is huge part of its appeal and we are keen that our community is fully representative of the community it serves. Although our community is increasingly diverse, especially at our classes, we still have a way to go. This is particularly true amongst our teaching team and trustee board. Our hope is that within a few years, our diversity work will mean more members of our sangha from Black, Asian and other ethnic groups will start to feel sufficiently experienced to step into more of these leading roles.

Currently we work with the other London Buddhist Centres to support London-wide People of Colour activities for our sangha members. Brixton's trustees are also developing a new diversity plan with input from the London Buddhist Centre's Mindful of Race Group, and our involvement with the European Chair's Assembly Diversity Group. We hope this initiative will offer more pathways into our community for people of all ethnic groups, as well as offer specific support for People of Colour to deepen their Buddhist practice within our community.



The Triratna People of Colour Group

TRUSTEES 2020-21

Brixton Buddhist Community is a registered UK charity. Decisions about the community's vision, activities, finances, and public communications are made by a board of trustees who meet bi-monthly. They are all volunteers, with the exception of Viryanaga, the Chair. Because we are a spiritual community, the trustees are all experienced Order Members able to guide the spiritual direction of the community. We are keen to have more women and people for colour on the trustee board, and hope to achieve this as more people in our community become ordained in the coming years.



AMARAPUSPA
Women's Mitra Convenor

MAITRINARA
Men's Mitra Convenor

VIRYANAGA
Chair



AMALADANA
Finance Officer

SUDDHAKA

SAGARASILA

LEADERSHIP ROLES

CHAIR

The role of the Chair is to oversee the direction of the community, support the team and all the volunteers, and make the many small day-to-day decisions involved with running a thriving Buddhist organisation. Initially this role was voluntary position, but as our community has grown in recent years, the work has also grown into a full-time responsibility, with Viryanaga now employed by the charity.



VIRYANAGA

PRESIDENT

Paramabandhu is the president of Brixton Buddhist Community. A president offers spiritual counsel and friendship to a community, and can be a source of help when issues arise. Paramabandhu is a senior Order Member, who along with others, hold responsibility for ordinations within the Triratna Buddhist Community. He is also an ex-chair of the London Buddhist Centre in East London, where he lives, and is a highly valued teacher. He visits us at least twice a year.



PARAMABANDHU

MITRA CONVENORS

We have two Mitra Convenors, both of whom are volunteers. Amarapuspa looks after the women's sangha, and Maitrinara takes care of the men's sangha.

A Mitra Convenor takes special responsibly for supporting Mitras within our community, both through running events and meeting with people individually. They also meet with men and women who are becoming more involved with our community, to help them find appropriate study groups or events to support their practice. They help to guide people in the process of becoming mitras and are also often a point of contact for Mitras who want to ask for ordination. They are always happy to hear from people interested in becoming more involved in our community.



MAITRINARA
Men's Mitra Convenor



AMARAPUSPA
Women's Mitra Convenor

OTHER TEACHERS

If you come to our events, often one or two of our trustees will be teaching. However, there are also some other wonderful Order Members who support our community though teaching. They either live in South London or regularly visit us. You may also see some of our Mitras who are training for ordination teach at our Monday meditation class.



MAITRINITA



VAJRATARA ARYANISHA

CENTRE TEAM

The centre team is the organisational hub of Brixton Buddhist Community. Together they are responsible for coordinating all the events, as well as managing our online content. Lizzy works two days a week, while Alex and Elena currently work one day a week each.



VIRYANAGA
Chair



LIZZY
Events
Coordinator



ALEX
Temp Events
Coordinator



ELENA
Online Events
Coordinator

2020/21* IN NUMBERS...

NEW STUDY GROUPS

2



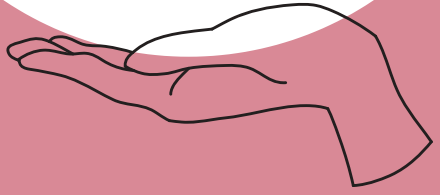
NEW MITRAS

5



ORDINATION REQUESTS

4



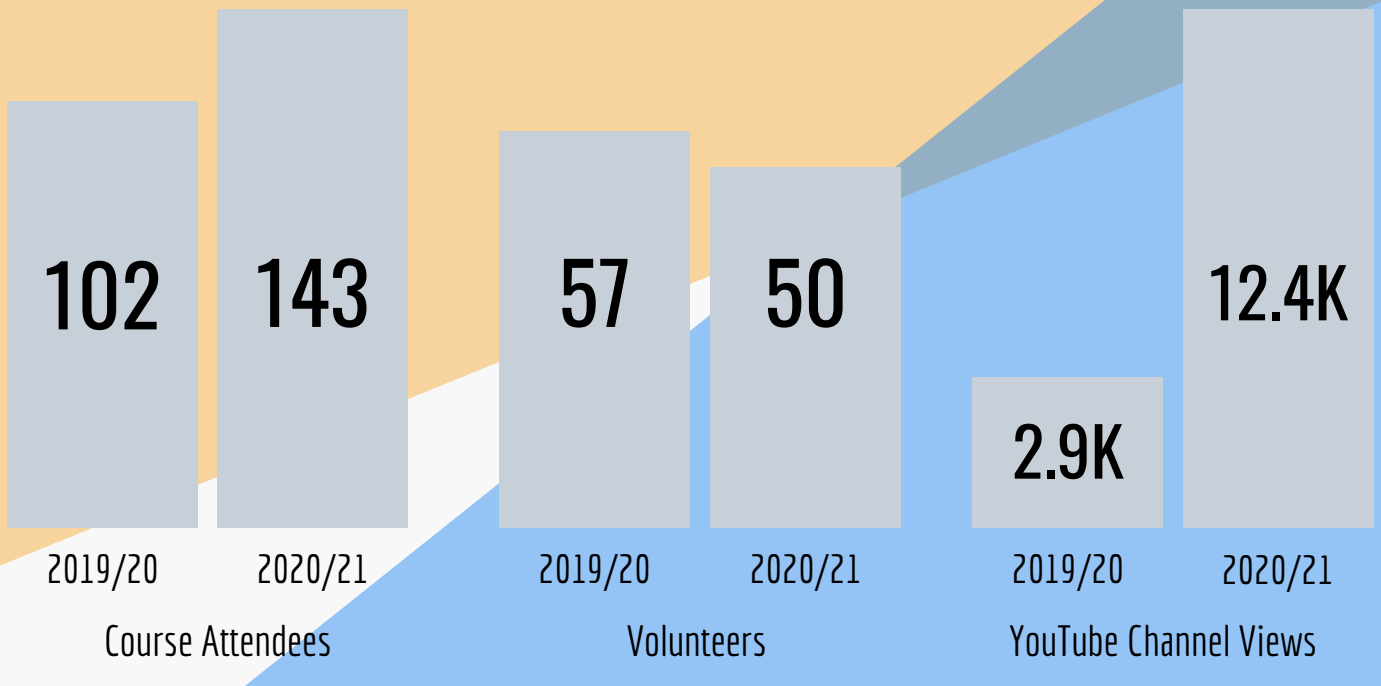
MAKING A TOTAL OF...

35
Mitras in the Brixton Sangha

18
Mitras training for Ordination

37
People in study groups

OTHER CHANGES IN THE SANGHA



*Figures calculated by the tax year [6 April 2020 - 5 April 2021]. Some of the figures in the later reports differ due to having been calculated by the calendar year.

VIRYANAGA

2020-2021 Chair's Annual Report

I won't mention the 'C' word, but it's hard to summarise this year without saying something of its effects, not least that this annual report comes to you much later in the year than normal. Often when I reflect on the previous year for my annual report I find a particular thread of inspiration emerging. This year my main feelings are simple gratitude and a sense of pride in the team and volunteers of the Brixton Buddhist Community. Our community charted these extraordinary times commendably, and helped many others along the way.

"There was a powerful sense of our community pulling together to do something important - provide meditation and the Dharma for all those who needed it."

Ever since the first days of the 2020 lock-down, we unfailingly produced weekly online content, and quickly adapted to each and every change in the rules to keep providing events. I have heard many stories about how our live-streams or videos were a 'lifeline' to people, and how a virtual connection to the Sangha gave them a sense of solidarity and support.

We did this despite various people in the team being unwell at times, including two of our teachers, Sagarasila and Amalavajra, who are suffering the long-term effects of the illness. I especially appreciated the culture of support which emerged in our community, and remains alive today, with everyone willing to step in to help whenever needed. I'd like to wholeheartedly thank everyone who taught at our classes this year, whether as a guest or a regular teacher, Maitrinita, Aryanisha and especially Vajratara who has been a frequent visitor bringing her wealth of experience and vision for Dharma practice. I'm also particularly grateful to Maitrinara, Amarapuspa and Amaladana for always being willing to do whatever was required to keep the whole thing going.

I found great inspiration in the volunteer class teams; the Monday night team and the Dharma night team, and the volunteer media team, who support our online presence and publicity. Again the same spirit of support and responsibility came through, and I found it a delight to witness the countless acts of helpfulness happening around me. There was a powerful sense of our community pulling together to do something important - provide meditation and the Dharma for all those who needed it. Thank you everyone!

OFFERINGS TO THE WORLD

As we hopefully emerge from the phase of social restrictions here in England, I find I'm clearer about what the global Triratna community has to offer the world, and what we as the Brixton Buddhist Community have to offer the people of South London.

There are a great many negative consequences of the pandemic: there is a mental health crisis, many have lost livelihoods or loved ones, and there is an epidemic of social isolation and loneliness. Meanwhile, the agents of distraction and unmindfulness, such as alcohol, Netflix and 24-hour BBC news have boomed as people sought refuges from the uncertainty and fear of a situation out of their control.

"...what the Dharma offers and what our community has to offer, is a way... to positively thrive within the changing circumstances."

Of course, from the Dharmic perspective, our lives have never been controllable. Uncertainty and change is the very nature of existence. Yet, it is so easy to think that if we set up our lives in just the right way, we can somehow prevent ourselves from being affected by this eternal truth. The pandemic seems to have brought people face-to-face with these realities, and without the Dharma, many have fallen into despair or distraction.

Yet, what the Dharma offers, and what our community has to offer, is a way not only to come to terms with these realities, but to positively thrive within the changing circumstances. If we allow the wisdom of Dharma practice to change us in this way, we can then be available to respond with compassion to others caught up in the vicissitudes of life.

THE DEEPENING SANGHA

Without our normal unrestricted public classes this year, it's been hard to judge how many are now regularly involved in our community. I have a sense that many more people engaged with us online this year, and now that we have opened our doors again it remains to be seen who will come through them. I still haven't gotten used to introducing myself to someone new at a class only to find that they already know me from YouTube!

What is obvious however, is that many in our community have continued to deepen their experience and commitment to Dharma practice. I'm delighted that we had a number of new ordination requests this year, and that our festival days have continued to hold ceremonies for those wanting to become mitras and join our community formally as Buddhist practitioners.

Perhaps the most significant development for Brixton was the Ordination of ex-Charlotte, who became Aryanisha, meaning “she whose dream is of the noble ones”. Aryanisha was due to be ordained in 2020, but the first lockdown prevented that and she found herself in the difficult position of having to wait an entire year before she could finally join the Order. I witnessed her having a challenging year because of this, but she coped well, and we’re all glad she could finally receive her kesa in May 2021.

"...we’re fortunate to now to have another Dharmacharini in the sangha, as well as one of the youngest female Order Members anywhere in the world. "

Aryanisha has been a teacher at Brixton for some years already, but we’re fortunate to now to have another Dharmacharini in the sangha, as well as one of the youngest female Order Members anywhere in the world.

THE FUTURE OF BRIXTON BUDDHIST COMMUNITY

As we tentatively open our doors again, it's been really nice to meet people at classes and be able to switch off the cameras at some events. At both our Dharma night class and Meditation class there have been plenty of newcomers visiting us for the first time. We are also working hard to get our in-person courses running again, as well as preparing for an in-person retreat in September.

However this is not without its challenges. We have fewer teachers than we did at the start of the pandemic, and our financial reserves are somewhat depleted after 18 months without in-person events. These would usually provide a significant proportion of the donations which we rely on. I would like to make a very big thank you to everyone who set-up standing orders or gave donations online last year. This was a major lifeline for us, and without these people giving, the sangha would not be in such fine health now.

Unfortunately, while we are in the process of returning to public events, there already looks to be a shortfall developing for next year’s 2021-22 accounts, which will make it harder for us to deliver the vision of offering the Dharma to more people in South London. To address this I’ve recently launched an ‘opening up appeal’ seeking to raise £9,000 which will give us the funds needed to get public events running again, while also continuing to support a team member one day per week to produce additional online content.

Alongside our normal activities, for the past 12 months of Maitrinara, Amaladana, Adam and myself have also been meeting regularly as a Building Kula to explore the options available for buying or leasing our own permanent space. As of Spring 2021, an opportunity to take over the full-time management of Effra Space presented itself, which was an exciting possibility for us. Unfortunately, despite some detailed negotiations, this fell through and so for the moment we continue hiring rooms at Effra Space on an ad hoc basis. However, we remain keen to establish our own Buddhist Centre in South London within the next year or two and continue to look out for suitable property, as well as undertake the necessary financial planning needed to make this a reality.

SERVING THE DHARMA

I'd like to sum up this report by thanking everyone who has volunteered to support classes or courses in the last year. We remain a largely volunteer organisation, with just a handful of mostly part-time team members fulfilling a few core roles. Without all you wonderful volunteers offering your warmth, friendship, skills and time, everything we do just wouldn't be possible.

"Without all you wonderful volunteers offering your warmth, friendship, skills and time, everything we do just wouldn't be possible."

The centre team had a challenging year and went through a few changes in response to changing need. Last summer we recruited Jac one day a week, to help us with all the new technical challenges of running a online events. Jac made a major contribution in this area but stepped down late last year. We were then fortunate to be able to recruit long standing sangha member Elena to this role. She has been doing a wonderful job managing the tech and editing the videos for release each week since joining the team.

Things also haven't been easy for Lizzy, our event's coordinator, as she suffered a lengthy period of illness and was off work for some time. Lizzy usually works two days a week, and I really rely on her skill and experience to help me manage and coordinate all the events and activities. From an operational point of view, this was a big loss for the team, and made the first half of the 2021 particularly challenging. However, I'm delighted to report Lizzy has been starting to feel better and has been able to return in a limited capacity in recent weeks. When it was clear that Lizzy was going to be off work for some time, we took on Alex Bermingham as a temporary events coordinator one day a week to provide some cover until Sept 2021. Its been a joy to work with Alex and I've been very appreciative of his flexibility and willingness to help out.

Finally, I also want to thank the council of trustees, who all volunteer their time and energy to help to serve the community, as well as support me as Chair. There is a great deal of trust and shared vision that has built up between us over the years, and our meetings are both enjoyable and harmonious - a rare combination for meetings! The council currently made up of Amarapuspa, Maitrinara, Suddhaka, Amaladana, Sagarasila, and myself as Chair. I've been keen that we improve the gender balance and diversity of the council for some time now, and am hoping that this year this will finally be possible.

A big thank you also goes to Brixton's president, Paramabandhu, for visiting us twice yearly and for his consistent friendship, kindness and support of both me and our community.

Viryanaga
Chair of Brixton Buddhist Community
August 2021

AMALADANA

2020-2021 Finance Officer's Annual Report

"Brixton Buddhist Community's move from in-person to online formats was rapid"

Our forecast for 2020 was substantially challenged by the COVID pandemic. Prior to the lockdown restrictions over 40% of our income was from in-person events, either from cash or card donations, and in-person meetings were the basis of all courses, events, classes and retreats.

Brixton Buddhist Community's move from in-person to online formats was rapid, due in large part to a magnificent effort by the Chair, Danaprasada community and our technical team. This enabled us to overcome an existential threat to our level of income and achieve 82% of the pre-COVID forecast with a 17% increase in funds.

We have maintained our policy of providing all activities on a donation basis so that people are not excluded because of cost. We also retain our ambition to lease or own our own premises in order to better control our calendar of activities and provide a solid base for our growing sangha. The additional technical support that is required to run our online presence has caused us to augment the core team slightly with an additional 1 day per week for technical support.

"...this enabled us to overcome an existential threat to our income stream"

2020-2021 FINANCES

The following table summarises income and expenses by category for 2020 and shows our end of year cash balance*. The sections following give more explanation on these categories.

Income	2020	2019
Money from events	£15,449	£28,436
Money from fundraising	£21,411	£12,737
Gift aid	£11,259	£2,582
Subtotal	£48,119	£43,756

Expenses		
Event costs	£14,229	£14,230
Support for Lizzy, Viryanaga & Jac	£21,856	£10,828
Contributions to other Triratna Charities	£3,382	£800
Subtotal	£39,467	£25,858

Net Surplus/Deficit	8651	17898
Cash balance previous year	49900	32002
End of year cash balance	58551	49900

*figures calculated by calendar year

MONEY FROM EVENTS

All classes, courses and retreats were converted to an online format during 2020.

- Classes – 75% income against budget achieved. Some of this has been offset against reduced rental charges, see outgoings.
- Retreats - Retreat income significantly down as our 2 large Vajrasana retreats had to be cancelled
- Courses – Courses were attended by slightly more people than in 2019 (171 v 168)* and 68% of income was achieved against the budget. As with classes, some of this has been offset against reduced rental charges, see outgoings.

MONEY FROM FUNDRAISING

- Unrestricted – an increase of 8% compared to budget was helped by enthusiastic and innovative requests made online, and the generosity of the community.
- Restricted - restricted funds are composed of amounts collected to support Aryanisa's ordination retreat and donations to be made to Amaravati, and these total £3,703.

GIFT AID

We were able to claim higher levels of Gift Aid this year, although only 75% of budget was achieved as some retreat and course income could not be claimed against (these must be advertised as free)

OUTGOINGS

- Rent costs were 58% of budget due to inability to hold public classes with COVID restrictions.
- Payroll slightly above budget due to need to take on Jac (increased need for technical support)
- Contributions to other Triratna charities includes a 5% contribution to the European Chairs Assembly, of which we are part

OUTLOOK

Reserves were healthy at end of the 2021 financial year, but support costs will increase further in 2021-22 as a result of taking on Viryanaga full-time. Additional rental costs are also expected as classes open again. Our reserves will be needed for a lease on our own premises, so additional fundraising will be still be needed to balance the budget next year.

*figures calculated by calendar year

AMARAPUSPA

2019-2020 Women's Mitra Convenor's Annual Report

It has continued to be a joy to serve women in the Brixton Triratna Buddhist community as their Mitra Convenor. This is despite the challenging circumstances of the pandemic and lock downs. Meet-ups have mainly been over Zoom for much of the year. Classes and courses have mainly been recorded or live streamed.

"We continue to attract some great women who engage well in exploring the Dharma. "

Viryanaga, our chair, Maitrinara and others on the media team should be particularly appreciated for how much work they've done to keep activities running online. We continue to attract some great women who are engaged in exploring the Dharma. A new Brixton online women's study group started during the first lockdown. It includes a woman who moved to New Zealand, but stayed connected. The group is fairly large for online (8) but works well. To make up for the lack of more informal ways for getting to know each other, we have a 10 minute space at the end of each session where different group members talk about an item of significance in their lives from objects, to books, to images, to people etc. Most have become or are becoming Mitras.

My other study group, now in year three, is also large (8). The group has adjusted to being online despite missing meeting in each other's homes. It is an evening group and many will have been on Zoom all day with work. Despite this, there has been a good level of engagement. particularly when people share their projects. We have all been delighted to welcome back Aryanisha from her April ordination retreat. Aryanisha had been supporting the group as a Mitra and then moved into co-leading with me before her ordination. Her input has been very appreciated.

Saraka moved to Edinburgh at the beginning of the year. She carried on meeting with her year four group until April when they fully completed the Dharma Training Course.

All the women in that group had asked for ordination. Saraka has made some very valuable and helpful contributions to Brixton over the years, including being a regular and excellent teacher on our Sangha nights. She is missed.

We now have nine Brixton women who have asked for ordination. They and the sangha in general have benefited from involvement in Brixton by Vajratara who is on the ordination training team at Tiratanaloka. She has co-led a Brixton Sangha Retreat and also some wonderful study mornings in Brixton. Another woman Order Member, Maitrinita has also been involved with Brixton activities this year. Maitrinita is especially active with the London People of Colour events, and her involvement has been an inspiration for our Mitras in Brixton. Maitrinita has co-led two Brixton online sangha retreats and some workshops over the year. I have really appreciated her involvement.

"I would love to see more women ordained in Brixton Buddhist Community and look forward to continuing to support women in their spiritual development this coming year. "

This year I also have joined a team of Southern Region Order Members to plan region wide events for women who are in training for Ordination, such as some events at the Croydon Buddhist Centre which Brixton women are invited to. In addition, I am now the Chair of the women's Mitra Convenors Gathering - a meeting of women Mitra Convenors from Buddhist centres all around the UK and beyond, which is now increasingly international. This has the aim of providing a broader context for Brixton women training for Ordination.

The Croydon and Southern region offers an opportunity for Mitras to meet a wider variety of women Order Members and Mitras in ordination training. This seems particularly important for a small situation like Brixton with very few local women Order Members.

I continue to be the only women Order Member trustee (out of 6 trustees). Aryanisha's ordination had been delayed due to pandemic conditions. It has been wonderful to welcome her back to Brixton. I would love to see more women ordained in Brixton and look forward to continuing to support women in their spiritual development this coming year.

Amarapuspa
Women's Mitra Convenor
August 2021

MAITRINARA

2019-2020 Men's Mitra Convenor's Annual Report

This year has obviously been a difficult year in many ways, but also an encouraging year in others. I particularly appreciated the way the sangha pulled together in friendship and in supporting Brixton activities, in our classes, courses and online retreats for the benefit of the many.

MEN'S GROUPS

Alongside our two established weekly men's study groups, a new group started to form during lock-down, initially online but more recently in-person. This group is being led by Amaladana and myself. It's great to see a new generation of men coming through who are enthusiastic about exploring the Dharma together on the basis of friendship. It has been heartening to witness the men in all of the study groups develop their confidence in friendship, meditation and the Dharma, as well as finding more ways to more creatively engage with their lives.

During the course of the last eighteen months, eight men from one men's study group took the step of deepening their connection to the three jewels and to the Triratna Buddhist community by becoming Mitras. The Mitra ceremonies were held during the Padmasambhava day, Sangha day and Buddha day festivals. Under the restrictions of lock-down the festivals were in-person but live streamed for the wider Brixton Buddhist community. During the ceremony each man talked movingly about the reasons why they wanted to become Mitras in the Triratna movement. They each reported being affected strongly in their own ways by both the ceremony itself and the outpouring of support and love from the community, in the form of cards, presents and well wishings.

"It has been heartening to witness the men in all of the study groups develop their confidence in friendship, meditation and the Dharma"

During the pressures of lock-down two men in our community took the courageous step to ask for ordination into the Triratna Buddhist Order. They joined the Going For Refuge group in Brixton which meets weekly to explore and develop their practice, and support each other

on the basis of friendship. They also started to engage with the online ordination training retreats held at Padmaloka.

The Men's Chapter is also going strong. This group is for the male Order Members in the Brixton Community. Throughout the lock-down we met online weekly to share our lives and practice.

DAILY MEET-UP

During the first lock-down we quickly innovated to produce online classes, courses and retreats. But one of the highlights for me was the daily midday meet-up which ran for several months. This meet-up was both a source of support and a way of getting to know people in the sangha much better, as we checked in about how our lives were unfolding during those unprecedented times.

CLASSES & COURSES

Throughout the lock-down the Monday meditation class ran online or in-person every Monday without fail. This ranged from livestream broadcasts from men's community shrine room, back to live streamed classes at Effra space, and then now into in-person classes again. These weekly live streams were watched live by up to 35 people, and viewed on catchup by many more. Both established sangha members and people entirely new to Triratna, even to meditation, joined these classes regularly.

" The Monday night team is a real source of joy...They create the atmosphere of friendliness, helpfulness and inclusivity at these classes, whether online or in-person"

Many have reported that these classes were a source of genuine solace, community, and inspiration during some dark times. They also expressed a lot of appreciation for this regular opportunity to practice communally.

That we were able to run these classes week-in week-out was made possible by the dedicated and enthusiastic Monday night team. The Monday night team is a real source of joy and support to work with. They create the atmosphere of friendliness, helpfulness and inclusivity at these classes, whether online or in-person, which helps people to relax and feel part of the evening, as well as helps the evenings run smoothly.

I would particularly like to thank the tech team who ran the gauntlet every week of getting the tech up and running for this event. I would also like to thank everyone else in the Sangha who were part of the teams for the online retreats and courses that we held throughout lock-down.

MEN'S WORKING RETREATS

Prior to lock-down many men from Brixton had enjoyed the yearly working retreat at Guhyaloka in the awe-inspiring Spanish mountains. We weren't able to run these retreats last year but I am delighted to say the working retreat is back this summer as we join our efforts in to help renovate the house and garden of Alfoxtons in Somerset. This is Triratna's newest retreat centre, and is being developed into an eco-friendly retreat centre, primarily for creative and literary retreats.

COMMUNITY

The men's community in Streatham has been my main source of friendship and camaraderie during the lock-down. The community provides a real opportunity for us men here to grow through friendship and being closely involved in each other's lives and practice. Like everyone else we were really thrown back onto our resources during the lock-down, but the atmosphere of communal care helped create stability and support that felt very important.

We missed being a social hub for Brixton community, and not being able to host study groups, media team meetings, trustees meetings, as well as social events such as dinner and film nights, but I am delighted to say that, for now at least, we are able to welcome friends back in for these activities.

" The community provides a real opportunity for us men here to grow through friendship and being closely involved in each other's lives and practice."

Sadly two community members decided to leave for health issues during the lock-down and they will be missed. Although we are looking forward to inviting new men to join us to be part of this vibrant and supportive residential community.

Thank you.

It has become more obvious to me personally how much the Brixton Buddhist Community means to me and the myriad ways that we support one another to be forces of good for the world. I continue to feel inspired at the vision of co-creating a community of practitioners which takes as its guiding lights the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha. A big thank you to everyone involved in helping the Brixton Sangha to thrive, and may all blessings be yours!

Maitrinara
Men's Mitra Convenor
July 2021

LIZZY

2019-2020 Events Coordinator's Annual Report

This last year has been very interesting from the perspective of organising events for the Brixton Buddhist Community. The conditions of the pandemic have been challenging but have also afforded opportunities for different kinds of events and connections in the sangha.

" The conditions of the pandemic have been challenging but have also afforded opportunities for different kinds of events and connections in the sangha."

Under the leadership of Viryanaga, the centre team responded quickly to the need to move our events online. My sense is that people within the sangha were grateful for this and the ongoing connection it provided during a difficult and uncertain time.

The format of our events had to change; Monday night meditation became a YouTube livestream, followed by a discussion on Zoom, while the Wednesday Dharma night class mostly aired as a pre-recorded video. At various points, when there was an ease in restrictions, we were able to hold in-person classes for limited numbers of people and some hybrid events. Our courses continued online and we saw an increase in bookings.

Some of the positive repercussions of moving online were that people who previously hadn't been able to attend our in-person classes and courses, either due to care commitments or health and mobility issues, were now able to attend. It also opened up our events to people living much further afield.

From my perspective, although there are obvious limitations of an online format, people attending these events still felt engaged with the Dharma and connected to the Sangha. The fact that many people who hadn't previously been engaged with our events became regular attendees, is testimony to this.

The move to online events also had impacts on the work of the centre team. My role became more focussed on producing online publicity and ensuring that information was up-to-date as we moved through various phases of lockdown. We also welcomed Jac onto the team to deal with the recording and editing of class videos and managing our Youtube channel, which became an important way for people to access our teaching and events. I've greatly appreciated this addition to the team as the move online (and the various alterations to events caused by lockdown plans changing) created quite a lot of extra work for the centre team. We had to get to grips with new systems and technology, as well as innovate and manage new ways of receiving income. The role of Online Events Coordinator has now been taken over by Elena.

"...we still hope to continue to reach people through the online platforms we have established during [the lockdown] and make our content accessible to a wider range of people."

We have continued to be greatly helped by the media team; a small but vital team of volunteers who help with our media and promotions. Emma has been a huge help in managing our mailing list communications, Olivier has provided excellent input on marketing and Lotte is very effectively managing our Discord channel. (Discord is an online chat room that we have made use of as a way of connecting the Sangha during lockdown.) I have also benefited from an excellent and responsive team of proof readers. It has been such a pleasure to work with this team of volunteers and I feel hugely grateful for their support.

I also feel very grateful to Maitrinara who has been leading study sessions with the centre team. This has really helped me to feel connected to the vision behind the admin! These sessions, as well as our team check-ins have also helped to foster a greater sense of right livelihood among our remote-working team.

An exciting development in 2020/21 has been the creation of a Brixton Buddhist Community brand book and new logo. These were designed by Alex Bermingham who has thoughtfully reflected on the values of the community and sought to represent this through our branding. As the amount of people working on media and publicity continues to expand, this resource becomes increasingly helpful and necessary in ensuring that our visual presence is consistent and recognisable.

Overall, although the year has presented us with many challenges, I feel that the centre team has been given the opportunity to diversify the way we connect people with our community and events. Moving forward, while a return to regular in-person classes is obviously desirable, we still hope to continue to reach people through the online platforms we have established during this period and make our content accessible to a wider range of people.

The continuing success and growth of the Sangha during this period should give us great confidence in the commitment of our community, as well as in the strength of our events, whatever the medium.

Lizzy Laurance
Events Coordinator
July 2021

BRIXTON BUDDHIST COMMUNITY

info@brixtonbuddhistmeditation.org

Brixton Buddhist Community
is a registered UK charity
(charity no. 1084889)

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
TRIRATNA BUDDHIST COMMUNITY (BRIXTON)	1084889

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	1/1/2020		12/31/2020

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £
A1 Receipts				
Fundraising (unrestricted)	18,806	-	-	18,806
Gift aid	10,674	584	-	11,259
Class	10,526	-	-	10,526
Fundraising (restricted)	-	6,516	-	6,516
Courses	5,463	-	-	5,463
Retreat	2,926	-	-	2,926
Interest	61	-	-	61
	-	-	-	-
***Sub total** (Gross income for AR)*	48,456	7,101	-	55,557
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	48,456	7,101	-	55,557
A3 Payments				
Payroll	21,857	-	-	21,857
Rent	8,755	-	-	8,755
Retreat	4,596	-	-	4,596
Administartion & expenses	3,803	-	-	3,803
Fundraising (restricted)		3,911		3,911
Donation	3,382	-	-	3,382
Course	601	-	-	601
Support	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	42,995	3,911	-	46,906
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total payments	42,995	3,911	-	46,906
Net of receipts/(payments)	5,462	3,189	-	8,651
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	49,901	-	-	49,901
Cash funds this year end	55,363	3,189	-	58,552

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

B1 Cash funds

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
	Current account	24,471	3,189
	Deposit account	30,891	-
		-	-
	Total cash funds	55,363	3,189
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name

CC16a

[redacted]

Last year to the nearest £
12,737
2,582
12,140
420
7,739
16,337
114
52,069

-
-
52,069

10,162
11,160
7,013
3,070
-
800
1,300
666
-
-
34,171

-
34,171

17,898
-
-
17,898

[redacted]

Endowment funds to nearest £
-
-
-
-

OK

Endowment funds to nearest £
-
-
-
-
-
-

Current value (optional)
-
-
-
-
-

Current value (optional)
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

When due (optional)

Date of approval

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name: Triratna Buddhist Community (Brixton)		
On accounts for the year ended	31/12/2020	**Charity no (if any)**	1084889

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2020

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's 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.

Independent *examiner's* statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives 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: Fay Pritchard **Date:** 08/10/21

Name: Fay Pritchard

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): AAT licensed accountant no: 1004354

Address: 8 Darwin Street, Shrewsbury, SY3 8QE

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).