

Pundarika UK Annual Report

1st June 2021 - 31st May 2022

Registered Charity Number 1104530

Contact Details

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Trustees

Jason Upton - Chair
Michelle Bernard - Secretary
Rosie Roberts - Treasurer
Erica Whitfield
Carole Bishop
Matt Hart

Charity Commission Classification

Pundarika UK is committed to:

- Religious activities
- Education/training
- Relief of poverty

Background

In 1999 the Tibetan Buddhist teacher Tsoknyi Rinpoche requested some of his British students to set up Pundarika UK in order to organise Buddhist teachings for the general public as well as raise funds to support his monastic communities in Nepal and China (Tibet). We registered with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Trust in 2004.

Since then, we have been organising an annual six-day residential retreat every year for which we use rented accommodation. Buddhist philosophy is taught as well as meditation instruction given. These retreats are popular although numbers are limited by the nature of the

accommodation, usually we have around 150 people.

After expenses, profits from the retreat are used to support Rinpoche's monastic community, now mainly nuns in Nepal. We also support a girls' school in Nepal. Many of our supporters pay a monthly standing order to support the nuns as well as the school in Nepal.

Activities this year for Public Benefit

Our 2022 Easter retreat was held online due to the ongoing concerns around covid. The retreat lasted six days with 759 people attending from different countries around the world. The retreat was offered on a donation basis to allow people to pay what they could afford. We believe that this accounted for the high number of people attending from so many different countries. Each day, Tsoknyi Rinpoche taught from a text by Khenpo Gangshar titled: *Naturally Liberating Whatever You Meet, Instructions to Guide You on the Profound Path*. Gerardo Abboud provided translation from Tibetan into English as well as offered afternoon Q&A sessions. In addition, we held morning and afternoon meditation sessions which included video instructions by Tsoknyi Rinpoche. We received very positive feedback regarding the format of the retreat which attempted to mirror an in-person retreat by providing four online sessions each day. As per last year, the retreat was held via Zoom. We opted to use the Zoom Events platform in order to increase the security of the event as well as to provide greater flexibility in terms of delivery. We combined webinars for the principal teachings with large zoom rooms for greater interactivity in the Q&A sessions. Overall, the retreat was a tremendous success and allowed us to expand our community to those living in other countries.

Finances

The retreat brought in donations of £55,276. The relatively small overheads associated with hosting an online retreat (£5,610) meant that we turned a good profit enabling us to increase our yearly donation to Tsoknyi Rinpoche's projects. We donated £30,000 to the Tsoknyi Gechak School and £35,000 Tsoknyi Gechak Ling Nunnery. The latter figure included donations made by our regular supporters who offer monthly payments to assist with the living costs of nuns within the nunnery. At the start of this financial year, we had 45 monthly sponsors, as well as people making generous individual donations.

Future Plans

In August 2023, we plan to host our first in-person retreat since 2019. Our usual venue, the Bruton School for Girls, Somerset, has unfortunately closed. The trustees have explored several options for venues which will accommodate our needs. In the end, we chose the Lord Wandsworth College, Hampshire, and preparations are already underway. With the tremendous success of our two online retreats, we plan to offer a hybrid retreat of both in-person and online attendance. We hope that this will allow those who are unable to come in-person to still attend.

We are also in the process of updating our website. Last year, we hired Carbon Creative to create a new website to improve its look and feel as well as offer improved functionality. We hope that

the website we help us attract new participants for our activities. It will also allow us to expand our activities to include online talks and events. Furthermore, we are planning to start a membership scheme that will provide access to videos from past retreats. This will be hosted on our new website. A date for the launch of the new website has not been set yet.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Upton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jason Upton
Chair
Pundarika UK

Date: 25th March 2023

PUNDARIKA UK
Statement of accounts for period 1st June 2021 - 31st May 2022

	BANK	CASH	PAY-PAL	
<u>Funds as at 01/06/21</u>	£	£	£	£
Balance LloydsTSB current account	50,370.18			
Cash in hand		36.82		
Balance at PayPal account			19,944.50	
TOTAL FUNDS				70,351.50

GENERAL FUND Receipts & Payments (unrestricted funds)

<u>Receipts</u>				
Retreat donations	5,121.27		47,893.10	
Translator donations	50.00			
Malay retreat donations	985.00		948.69	
Cash float transfer				
Recordings	10.36		120.56	
Re-payments	95.00			
Miscellaneous	52.23			
Gift Aid				
TOTAL RECEIPTS	6,313.86	0.00	48,962.35	55,276.21

<u>Payments</u>				
Retreat Venue				
Printing				
Insurance				
Accommodation & Hospitality				
Flights and Travel				
Website costs	403.67		530.58	
Office Expenses	203.98			
Recording Equip & Expenses	687.79			
Translator fees & gifts	2,354.66			
Retreat set-up costs			1,151.57	
Retreat workers expenses				
Equipment storage				
Transfer Charges	73.13			
Bank				
Miscellaneous	145.66		0.00	
Refunds			58.98	
Trustees Expenses				
TOTAL PAYMENTS	3,868.89	0.00	1,741.13	5,610.02

MONASTIC COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND Receipts & Payments (restricted funds)

<u>Receipts</u>				
Sponsors	7,954.00		1,981.62	
Donations for Nepal School	1,993.00		1,041.10	
Monastic donations	2,408.00			
TOTAL RECEIPTS	12,355.00		3,022.72	15,377.72
<u>Payments</u>				
Monastic donations				
Asian Monastic Support	35,000.00			
Nepal School Support	30,000.00			
TOTAL PAYMENTS	65,000.00		0.00	65,000.00

Fund transfers				
From PayPal to Bank	50,000.00		50,000.00	
TOTAL FUNDS at 31/05/22				
Balance at bank	50,170.15			
Cash in hand		36.82		
Pay-Pay account			20,188.44	
TOTAL FUNDS				70,395.41



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Pundarika UK

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 May, 2022

**Charity no
(if any)**

1104530

Set out on pages

Pages 1 & 2, section A only required.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 05/04/22DD / MM / YYYY.

**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 (other than that disclosed below *) 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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

20 March, 2023

Name:

Roy Sutherwood

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

Not required for receipt and payment accounts.

Address:	The Coach House
	1 White Hart Street
	London SE11 4EP

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).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

