

Triratna Buddhist Community (Leeds)

Charity number 1132691

A company limited by guarantee number 06977449

Annual Report & Financial Statements

for the period 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024

Triratna Buddhist Community (Leeds)
Trustees' report for the year ended 31 July 2024

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors:

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

John Halsall
Dharmachari Samanartha (resigned May 2024)
Giles Watts
Andrew Bickley
Teresa Coldicott
Nagakusala Dharmacharin
Debra Keighley
Kathy Jarvis (appointed March 2024)

Charity number 1132691 Registered in England and Wales
Company number 06977449 Registered in England and Wales

Registered and principal address:

Beech House, Troy Road, Horsforth, Leeds, LS18 5NQ

Bankers:

Charities Aid Foundation, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ.
Triodos Bank, Deanery Rd, Bristol BS1 5AS

Independent examiners:

Catherine Muller and Rachel Boyd

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and was formed on 30 July 2009. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association as amended on 26 October 2009 and 7 August 2012. The liability of the members in the event of the company being wound up is limited to a sum not exceeding £10.

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees of the charity are also the directors for the purposes of company law and are appointed by the members at the AGM.

Triratna Buddhist Community (Leeds)

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 July 2024

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects:

The advancement of the Buddhist Religion in particular:

1. To encourage members to live in accordance with the teachings of the Buddha.
2. To support ordained members of the Triratna Buddhist Order and duly ordained Buddhists, at the discretion of the Directors of Triratna Buddhist Community (Leeds).
3. To maintain close communication with and work under the guidance of the Triratna Buddhist Order and in co-operation with other groups with the same objects.
4. To use applications of the Buddha's teaching to promote the health and well-being of all.

The charity's main activities

Triratna Buddhist Community (Leeds) runs Leeds Buddhist Centre and its activities. Through Leeds Buddhist Centre we have taught the practice of Buddhism and meditation since our foundation in 1983. The Centre is affiliated to the Triratna Buddhist Community, an international Buddhist movement with many Centres throughout the UK and the world. The Triratna Buddhist Community draws from different Buddhist traditions and aims to apply the principles of Buddhism to modern life.

The main objective of Triratna (Leeds) is the advancement of the Buddhist religion. In particular this means that we: Encourage members and others to live in accordance with the Teachings of the Buddha. We aim to support people who want to learn about and practice Buddhism. To do this, we provide courses in Buddhist teaching (Dharma), including basic meditation techniques, and further classes and courses for those who want a deeper understanding of Buddhist practice and how this can be explored in contemporary society.

We have a library to provide access to Buddhist literature not easily available elsewhere. Our work is done by Sangha (our community) members on a voluntary basis. We raise money from donations at the classes and events we run at the Centre, from donations from the community, and from courses we run for external organisations. We try and promote the Buddhist ethic of 'dana' or giving, so most of our activities are paid for by donation and people are free to attend even if they have no money. We have a commitment to making our activities and premises accessible to all by providing access for disabled people. The centre has been adapted to provide access to most wheelchair users.

The contribution made by members of the Triratna Buddhist Order remains essential to provide the experience, depth of practice and understanding of Buddhism needed in a spiritual community, and to make this available to others.

We maintain close communication with and work under the guidance of the Triratna Buddhist Order and in co-operation with other groups, with the same objects.

We work in co-operation with other Triratna Centres, retreat centres and with the Preceptors College (which oversees the ordination process). This allows us to maintain clarity with regard to our vision, to benefit from the experience of other groups with similar objectives, and so make the best use of the resources we have in Leeds.

There are a number of Buddhist groups in the Leeds area, supporting an estimated 2,900 Buddhists in the Leeds District (Census 2021). Our meditation classes are attended by people of different faiths and of none.

We use the application of the Buddha's teaching to promote the health and well-being of all. Our practice as Buddhists means our concern for others' well-being extends beyond our own Sangha, and wherever possible we engage with and respond to the wider community.

We feel we are an active part of the Leeds community, contributing to people's lives and well-being in our Sangha and beyond. We provide an accessible Buddhist Centre for Leeds, and West and North Yorkshire, but there are no restrictions based on where people live. People currently come to our classes and sangha activities from as far away as Hebden Bridge, Keighley, Skipton, Huddersfield, Harrogate and York. Our community is made up of members of the Triratna Buddhist Order, Mitras — people who have made a formal commitment to practice with the Triratna Buddhist Community, and a wider group of friends exploring Buddhism, meditation and mindfulness.

Public benefit statement

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular the advancement of religion.

Achievements and performance

Our main community practice event continued to be our weekly Sangha Night meetings at our premises in Horsforth. Members of our community joined our Sangha Night meetings in-person or online.

We continued our weekly drop-in guided meditation on Wednesday lunchtimes, which was open to everyone. These were held online throughout the year, and for the second part of the year people could join these meditations in-person too.

On Tuesday evenings we held online-only practice evenings for members of our community. This has been highly valued, including by those who cannot easily travel to our Buddhist Centre in the evenings.

We offered three courses for newcomers starting in September, January and April: Radical Dharma & Meditation twice, and Exploring Buddhism and Buddhist Practice in our Everyday Lives. Each course comprised of six classes on Tuesday evenings at the Buddhist Centre. After each course we offered a follow-on course at our Thursday evening Sangha Nights.

During the year we also held two regular study classes for Mitras, people who have committed to practising in our community. One study group met online, and the other met face-to-face.

In November and March we held residential weekend retreats of our community at The Beamsley Project in Wharfedale.

Between September and July, we held a dozen or so day retreats at our Buddhist Centre. These included a women's day, two Order days, two study days, a Wesak (Buddha day) festival, a day for newcomers, a men's day, a day retreat for mitras and Order Members, and festival days for Padmasambhava, Triratna Day and Dharma Day.

In late December, Sarahadaya and Jules hosted a mid-winter cultural evening at our Centre of music, singing, stories and poetry. And on New Year's Eve we held a puja.

On 28th September 2023, Cat, Hilary and Jan became Mitras at a ceremony witnessed by friends, family and members of our community. In April, George, Lukas and Ray became Mitras, and in May, Annie became a Mitra; each ceremony was witnessed by friends and family at our Centre. Our Centre is run and sustained by volunteers. This year our Heart Kula practice mornings for our volunteers resumed, to support each other and keep in communication. The gardening team has been looking after our garden.

In April, Samanartha stepped down as a trustee having been one for almost thirty years. The trustees rejoiced in his service and his merits.

Financial review

The income for the year was £49103 and the expenditure was £30625, net income for the year was £18478.

Trustees also personally settled contractors invoices for work to the value of £4200, this amount is included in donations.

In 2023 The Windhorse Trust made secured loan of £150,000 for the purchase of our premises, repayable after 10 years. The terms of this loan were generous, with interest capped at 3% for the first two years of the term. Interest thereafter would be variable at 2% above base rate. There are no capital repayments due for the first 2 years. Capital repayments begin at £2500 per quarter in January 2025 and increase annually thereafter.

Our monthly income has increased in the last year and, having reviewed our forecasts and reserves, we have concluded that the organisation can continue and be treated as a going concern for the next 12 months and beyond.

Reserves policy

The Charities reserves policy is to have 3 months expenditure, measured by the net current assets figure on the balance sheet, as it relates to 25% of the total expenditure as shown on the income and expenditure account. Currently reserves, as defined above, are £8851 and expected quarterly expenditure is £7565 so we are within our target.

This assumes that expenditure continues at a similar level, and relates to 31/7/2024.

The charity's free reserves, excluding fixed assets, at the year end were in deficit by £84099. This figure takes into account the long term creditor of £99950 relating to the loan to purchase the property. This deficit figure is considerably lower than that in 2023 (£108290) and the trustees are confident that the loan will be able to be repaid out of income in the year the repayments are due and that excluding the long term creditor figure gives a realistic free reserves figure.

The charity held a designated fund at the end of the year of £367 to cover future roof repairs

Triratna Buddhist Community (Leeds)

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Triratna Buddhist Community (Leeds)

We report to the charity trustees on our examination of the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 July 2024, which are set out on pages X to Y.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the charitable company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').


Having satisfied ourselves that the accounts of the charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, we report in respect of our examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out our examination we have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

We have completed our examination. We confirm that no material matters have come to our attention in connection with the examination giving us cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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



Rachel Boyd (CIPFA qualified)
11/01/25



Cath Muller

A Commune in the North Ltd
The Farmhouse, Jossey Lane
Bentley
DONCASTER
DN5 0BS

Triratna Buddhist Community (Leeds)
Statement of Financial Activities
summary income and expenditure account
for the year ended 31 July 2024

	Notes	2024 Total Funds	2023 Total Funds
Income From:			
Grants and Donations	2	48109	87086
Sales and Fees		196	124
Fundraising		699	2500
Bank Interest		99	96
Total Income		49103	89806
Expenditure On:			
Stipends		3985	5313
Retreats		3575	4002
Centre Costs		5586	2677
Other Admin Costs		0	39
Premises Costs		8995	33879
Independent Examination		300	1020
Collection For Individuals		0	700
Loan Interest		2471	2904
Legal and Professional Fees		0	2507
Depreciation		5713	5713
Total Expenditure		30625	58754
Next Income / Expenditure		18478	31052
Fund Balances Brought Forward		171641	140589
Fund balances Carried Forwrd		190119	171641

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities

Triratna Buddhist Community (Leeds)
Statement of Financial Activities
Balance Sheet
for the year ended 31 July 2024

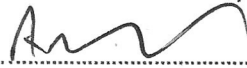
	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets			
Building	4	274218	279931
Total Fixed Assets		<u>274218</u>	<u>279931</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors and Prepayments	5	4582	7082
Cash at bank and at hand	6	12169	19502
Total Current Assets		<u>16751</u>	<u>26584</u>
Current Liabilities:			
amounts falling due in one year			
Creditors and Accruals	7	7900	18081
Total Current Liabilities		<u>7900</u>	<u>18081</u>
Net Current assets / (liabilities)		<u>8851</u>	<u>8503</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>283069</u>	<u>288434</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	8	92950	116793
Net Assets		<u>190119</u>	<u>171641</u>
Designated Fund (roof repairs)		367	
General Fund		189752	
Total Funds		<u>190119</u>	

For the year ended 31 July 2024 the charitable company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with Section 476. The trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime and with FRS 102.

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 17 February 2025

Signed  (Trustee)

Name Andrew Birkley (Solapala)

Triratna Buddhist Community (Leeds)

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 July 2024

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice:

Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) and with the charities act 2011

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

Going concern

The trustees are satisfied that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the resources, if it is more likely than not that the charity will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Grants and Donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Where grants are related to performance and specific deliverables, they are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

Expenditure and liabilities

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out the resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Taxation

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £1000 are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition. Gifted assets are shown at the value to the charity on receipt. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

Freehold Land and Buildings; Over 50 years

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the

Triratna Buddhist Community (Leeds)
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 31 July 2024

2. Grant and Donations	2024	2023
	£	£
Retreats	7116	5528
Other events and classes	3940	1082
Other donations (including gift aid)	37053	80476
	<u>48109</u>	<u>87086</u>

3. Restricted funds

A Fund entitled "New Building Fund" was a restricted fund up to the end of the previous accounting year. The purpose of the restriction was to provide funds towards the purchase and refurbishment of a new building. This fund was closed and the balance of £22044 was transferred to general funds

4. Tangible Assets	Land and Buildings	Total
	£	£
Cost		
At 1 August 2023	285644	285644
Additions	0	0
At 31 July 2024	<u>285644</u>	<u>285644</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 August 2023	5713	5713
Charge for the year	5713	5713
At 31 July 2024	<u>11426</u>	<u>11426</u>
Net book value		
At 1 August 2023	<u>279931</u>	<u>279931</u>
At 31 July 2024	<u>274218</u>	<u>274218</u>

5. Debtors and prepayments	2024	2023
	£	£
Prepayments	2332	1177
Other debtors	2250	5905
	<u>4582</u>	<u>7082</u>

6. Cash at bank and at hand	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash at bank	11839	19727
Cash at hand	330	55
	<u>12169</u>	<u>19782</u>

Triratna Buddhist Community (Leeds)
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 31 July 2024

7. Creditors and Accruals

	2024	2023
	£	£
Building Loan due within one year	7000	14157
Accruals	900	3924
	<u>7900</u>	<u>18081</u>

8. Creditors; Amounts falling due after one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Building Loan	92950	116793
	<u>92950</u>	<u>116793</u>

Security Over Assets

The Windhorse Trust who has made the loan to Triratna Buddhist Community (Leeds) has a charge over the property Beech House, Troy Road, Horsforth, LS18 5NQ

9. Related party transactions

Donations from trustees and related parties

The total value of unconditional donations to the charity from the trustees or related parties was £4240 (2023; £42024)

Trustee expenses

During the year two trustees were paid a total of £145 in respect of travel. (previous year; one trustee was paid £338)

Trustee remuneration and benefits

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

Other transactions with trustees or related parties

	2024	2023
	£	£
Name of Trustee		
Item		
Dharmachari Samanartha	3985	5313
Stipend	<u>3985</u>	<u>5313</u>

10. Funds held as agent

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gender Diverse Chapter of Triratna UK		
Funds at 1 August	280	393
Incoming Funds	1316	1101
Funds Expended	695	1214
Funds at 31 July	<u>901</u>	<u>280</u>