



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date			Period end date		
<b>From</b>	6	April	2020	<b>To</b>	5
					April
					2021

## Section A Reference and administration details

<b>Charity name</b>	Triratna Buddhist Community (Shrewsbury)
<b>Other names charity is known by</b>	Shrewsbury Triratna
<b>Registered charity number (if any)</b>	1157987
<b>Charity's principal address</b>	86 Canon St
	Shrewsbury
	SY2 5HF

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Zoe Stephenson (Saravantu)	Chair		Council of Trustees
2	Harvey Mason (Jayaratna)	Treasurer		Council of Trustees
3	Jonathan Bruton (Akasharaja)		6 <sup>th</sup> October 2020 - present	Council of Trustees
4	Tim Crosskey (Abhayanara)			Council of Trustees
5	Simon Moss (Vajrapriya)	Secretary		Council of Trustees
6	Karen Lambert (Vajradevi)			Council of Trustees
7	Sioned Wynn (Prabhakari)		7 <sup>th</sup> October 2019 – 31 October 2020	Council of Trustees

## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Institution
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by the Council of Trustees

### Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Our Council of Trustees met for a formal meeting every two months in the reporting period, and informally most weeks to cope with the adaptations needed for the Covid-19 situation.

We maintain close communication with other members of the Triratna Buddhist Order and work in harmony with other Triratna Centres and Institutions.

## Section C

## Objectives and activities

**Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

To support the Buddhist religion, in particular by:

- 1) Encouraging people to live ethical lives in accordance with the teachings of the Buddha;
- 2) Using applications of the Buddha's teachings to promote the health and well-being of all;
- 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;
- 4) Supporting ordained members of the Triratna Buddhist Order, and other duly ordained Buddhist, at the discretion of the Council of Trustees.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

At introductory level:

- Running meditation courses and drop-in classes for people who want to learn to meditate.
- Running introductory courses for people who want to learn about Buddhism
- Running courses especially for younger people (18-30) who want to learn about meditation and Buddhism

For regulars:

- Running a weekly class of meditation and discussion ("Sangha Night")
- Running regular study groups for people to deepen their understanding and practice of ethics, meditation and wisdom.
- Running occasional day events addressing specific themes
- Running a daily early morning meditation session online

For those seeking ordination into the Triratna Buddhist Order:

- Running occasional events to support their training for ordination.

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

### **Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

There were fewer opportunities for volunteers to work together contribute practically to the Centre's activities.

- The garden was maintained by an enthusiastic team.
- The fabric of the building was maintained and cleaned, with Covid necessitating more intensive cleaning regime from the volunteers.
- As always, all the teaching is conducted and supported by enthusiastic volunteer teams.
- And of course, it is the donations from members of our community that underpin the activities of the Centre.

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

The period April 2020 – April 2021 has of course been dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Upon the first lockdown, all activities migrated online to the Zoom platform, and mostly stayed there during this reporting period.

The trustees immediately started meeting weekly online to plan our response and support our community. The first response was to canvas for emergency gifts and loans for anyone in need; a large number of our community offered these resources, which were happily not needed.

We quadrupled the number of “drop-in” meditation sessions from once fortnightly to twice weekly, with a beginner’s class every Saturday, and a class for regulars every Sunday.

We also added an extra early morning meditation session every day for regulars.

We started two extra social events, to provide additional contact for people feeling isolated: a Sunday night “Sangha Social”, and a Thursday afternoon “Silver Sangha” especially for those in later life. The former dwindled away after the first lockdown, but the latter continues and is greatly valued.

The online nature of the Centre has had some unexpected bonuses: some more geographically remote members of our community found it much easier to engage with activities; and we have formed an informal twinning arrangement with a small group in Denmark, who had little active teaching in their area. They now feel like treasured members of our own community.

Most of our 5 regular festivals were also held online. This again had some benefits, as for two of them we could join in with an internationally organised online event, thereby giving our local community members a feeling of connection with something much larger.

We did manage one in-person festival in the period: a “Padmasambhava Day”, which included a ritual for 6 people to become Mitras (friends) in our community.

There was one fundraising event: an online meditation retreat led by Tejananda.

During this period, two people in the Shrewsbury Sangha requested ordination into the Triratna Buddhist Order.

## Section E

## Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Our policy is to have reserves of £5,000, to ensure we can make the loan interest payments due at the end of each financial year, and cover the core costs of running the Centre in the event of a sudden decline in income.

### Details of any funds materially in deficit

n/a

### Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

We were very lucky that our main sources of income continued without disruption: regular standing order donations, and rental income from the flat. Most other income sources dwindled: we continued to receive some income from online newcomers' courses, but most fundraising events were cancelled and our hire-out income was eliminated.

The main costs were servicing our loans, maintenance and utilities, insurance, and contributions to a central development fund.

There was a successful fundraising appeal within our community for funds to purchase IT equipment to enable us to run "hybrid" zoom events, mixing in-person and online attendance. This raised £1,830, and covered the full cost of the equipment.

We repaid £16581 of our loans in this financial period

## Section F

## Other optional information

## Section G

## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Full name(s)

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Date

# INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SHREWSBURY BUDDHIST CENTRE

I report on the accounts of the charity the Shrewsbury Buddhist Centre for the Year Ended 5<sup>th</sup> April 2021

## RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts: you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2)e of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply; it is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the charity Commissioners under section 43(7) (b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

## BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with records. It includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion given by the accounts.

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

All records that were asked for were provided to me in my examination, and no matters came to light that suggested true and accurate records were not being kept.

Signed:



W. McGinley

Upper Demesne,  
The Turning,  
Garway,  
HR2 8RJ

20<sup>th</sup> October 2021