

Trustees' Annual Report for the Triratna Buddhist Community (Shrewsbury) (charity number 1157987) for the 2023-24 financial year

Registered address

8 Darwin Street, Shrewsbury SY3 8QE

Organisational structure and appointment of trustees

The charity is a CIO. Its trustees are appointed by the board of trustees.

Trustees in the year under review

Tim Abhayanara Crosskey

Richard Nagamani Dawson (treasurer) (until 22.10.2023)

Simon Vajrapriya Moss (secretary) (until 15.6.2023)

Jonathan Akasharaja Bruton (Chair)

Zoe Saravantu Crosskey (until 11.2.2024)

Harvey Jayaratna Mason (until 17.12.2023)

Gillian Jyotidana Davies

Sioned Prabhakari Wynn (from 15.6.2023)

Jaine Ajayasraddha Daley (from 15.6.2023)

Fay Utpalavajri Pritchard (treasurer) (from 17.12.2023)

Purpose of the charity

The charity was originally set up in 2014 with the aim of bringing the benefits of Buddhist practice to the local community in Shrewsbury and the surrounding area. All adults in Shrewsbury and the local area are welcome to participate in our activities. Children are welcome to some of our activities under the supervision of a parent or guardian.

Our activities and performance in line with our charitable aims

- During the financial year in question, the Triratna Buddhist Community (Shrewsbury) continued to provide opportunities for the local and wider community to learn Buddhist meditation practices and study the Buddhist religion.
- We offered a total of 6 courses in both meditation and Buddhism during the period.
- We continued to offer a weekly class which allowed members of the local and wider community to attend the centre on a regular, drop-in basis to learn about meditation and Buddhism.
- As well as providing services of this sort to newcomers to Buddhism, the charity continued to provide a context for Triratna Buddhists to meet, study Buddhism and practise together.
- We also put on weekend meditation retreats for both experienced members of the community and newcomers to deepen their experience and practice of the Buddhist religion.
- We continued to provide a context for committed regulars to train for ordination in the Triratna Buddhist Order.

- We started offering regular opportunities for young people under the age of 30, with a young Buddhist as a member of the new centre management team (see below)
- We continued to foster and practise a healthy culture of volunteering, with many members of the community freely giving their time and energy to allow the community to continue to share the benefits of the Buddhist religion in the local and wider community.
- We set up a new centre management team, the Sanghadharakula, to take responsibility for the day-to-day running of the centre. This was done partly to relieve the trustees of this responsibility to allow them to focus on their statutory duties and their spiritual and financial oversight of the development of the community as a whole.
- We appointed a centre coordinator to take on a wide range of administrative responsibilities as part of the Sanghadharakula mentioned above. This was initially a voluntary position (see note below) with a retreat allowance.
- We also appointed a bookkeeper to do the centre's books in return for a retreat allowance.
- In the year under review, for the first time ever, we started offering financial support to the chair of the centre and the centre coordinator (the latter's circumstances having changed). We consider this to be an important step towards making it possible for people to devote time to the centre as a spiritual practice without losing out financially.
- We continued to provide financial support for the chair and the two Mitra convenors to go to the meetings that relate to their work. These are important for maintaining the inspiration and spiritual effectiveness of those individuals.
- We supported one Order member to go on a retreat for private preceptors – those Order members who take responsibility for ordaining other people. This is a key function in our movement that will ensure that it continues to grow and thrive.
- We continued to offer bursaries to help people with limited financial resources to go on retreat.

Our income and expenditure

- Our activities in the year under review were, as before, funded by a combination of planned giving by regular supporters and donations given for classes and courses. We claimed Gift Aid in the amount of £3587 on income in the previous year (22/23)
- Our income amounted to £45492, an increase of £10203 on the previous year. Our expenditure amounted to £26596, an increase of £12124, mainly accounted for by expenditure on financial support for the chair and the centre coordinator, a capital project to improve the building, maintenance, retreat venue hire and one-off funding grants. This left us with a surplus of £18896.
- We continued with a policy of prudent and far-sighted use of our financial resources and succeeded in paying off the remainder of our loans. The centre is therefore now owned outright by the charity, which puts it in a very advantageous position.

Triratna Shrewsbury**Receipts and payments account for years ended 5 April**

	2023	2024
Receipts		
Donations from regular activities	3199.17	2466.93
Donations from intro courses, etc.	2688.42	5142.38
Planned giving	12827.74	11629.67
Gift aid reclaim	5817.58	3586.93
Bookshop sales	492.98	1309.55
Flat rental	6630.00	6720.00
Room hire	620.00	2852.50
Fundraising	1040.50	6382.45
One-off gifts	1500.00	200.00
Retreats	0.00	3117.40
Stock adjustment	0.00	2058.73
Sundry	472.66	25.00
Total	35289.05	45491.54
Payments		
Accountancy fees	469.20	510.00
Bookshop and library	553.31	941.00
CCPAS and DBS	169.50	357.52
Chair and mitra meetings	733.79	736.00
Cleaning, kitchen, shrine expenses	491.45	1122.14
ECA development fund	1218.00	1399.00
Fundraising contributions	0.00	1438.00
Garden	4845.00	845.32
Insurance	1352.00	1248.77
Loan interest	1295.25	608.67
Maintenance	964.90	3243.47
Office expenses	0.00	221.25
Private preceptors retreat	97.50	285.00
Publicity	0.00	838.22
Retreat allowance	0.00	1958.00
Retreats - venue hire	0.00	4202.00
Sundry	101.18	482.39
Support - Chair & Centre co-ord.	0.00	2400.00
Visiting teachers expenses	0.00	907.80
Training for teachers	0.00	420.00
Travel	160.48	263.04
Utilities	2020.08	2168.13
Total	14471.64	26595.72
Surplus for the year	20817.41	18895.82

Triratna Shrewsbury

Balance sheets as at 5 April

	2023	2024
Assets		
Premises	201355.6	201355.6
Cash at bank	10903.79	12740.88
Bookshop stock	0.00	2058.73
Total Assets	212259.39	216155.21
Less Liabilities		
Loans	15000.00	0.00
Net Assets	197259.39	216155.21
Financed by:		
Accumulated fund	176431.98	197259.39
Add surplus for the year	20827.41	18895.82
	<u>197259.39</u>	<u>216155.21</u>

Notes

Gift Aid - claim of £3,586.93 received from 22/23 income; claim for 23/24 to be processed and included in the 23/24 accounts.

Loan 1 - Fully repaid December 2023. All loans have now been fully repaid.

Bookshop Stock valuation introduced on 05/04/23 for more accurate accounting. Closing stock 05/04/23

23050.91

21131.08

ded in 24/25 accounts.

04/23 £2058.73

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 5th April 2024

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.

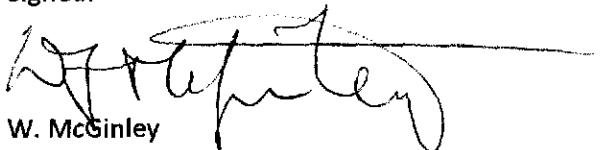
BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT.

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. McSinley

Upper Demesne,
The Turning,
Garway,
HR2 8RJ

21st January 2025