

Trustees Annual Report

Year ending 31 December 2023.

Welcome to our fourth annual report, to be filed with the Charities commission on 18 July 2024.

Our Purpose

The purpose of Bodhicharya UK is to advance the understanding and practice of the Buddhist faith and philosophy by promoting the Bodhicharya principles of healing, helping and harmony. We do this by:

- (a) providing meetings, teachings and retreats;
- (b) encouraging and participating in interfaith and intercultural dialogue;
- (c) promoting and supporting well-being in body, mind and spirit; and
- (d) supporting the relief of those in need.

The trustees take account of the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit in all of its activities.

Chairperson's Statement

We registered the Charity in August 2020 and like everyone else we endured a long period of lockdown and reduced activities. It was a useful time to put in place good administration processes and policies for our work, and also marked the great shift to remote video access, to meetings and events, which has been so instrumental in expanding the number of regular activities and widening participation.

Since emerging from lockdown, the Bodhicharya UK Team and the work we do has grown and gone from strength to strength. Sadly and most notably, our Treasurer, sangha member and friend, David Fry, passed away in October 2023. The wisdom and kindness with which he helped support and guide the early development of Bodhicharya UK will be sorely missed, as will he for the person he was. As with every ending, there is a new beginning, and we are very pleased that Jay Rao from Bodhicharya London stepped into the Trustee Treasurer role in January 2024.

Some more highlights of our activity to date include:

- Creating better communication networks and collaboration between Bodhicharya groups in the UK. This has included more online activities and a greater awareness about them across all groups.

- Bodhicharya UK becoming an official member of Medway InterFaith Action (MIFA), Bodhicharya Kent becoming an active part of Medway's Interfaith Community which has raised the profile of the Buddhist faith amongst MIFA members. A great example of encouraging and participating in interfaith and intercultural dialogue.
- Supporting Green Tara Animal Sanctuary by way of donations and purchasing chicken coups for the sanctuary's rescued chickens. A great example of helping others – in this case abandoned animals.
- Sponsoring the write up of a new Dharma book by Ringu Tulku Rinpoche on death and dying, the first of many such projects we hope to help with in support of the Buddhist tradition.
- Establishing collaborative links with other Buddhist traditions, including the Western Chan Fellowship and the Jodu Shinshu Tradition via two faith leaders also operating in Kent, namely Stuart McLeod and David Quirk-Thornton, with a view to share a dedicated space for the study and practice of the Buddha Dharma.
- Taking part in the Medway Faith Leaders's Forum in Medway, Kent, which aims to increase understanding and collaboration between faith groups and also create a Faith Covenant to help better represent the needs of faith communities within the Local Authority.
- Creating collaborative links with the Local Authority in Medway, Kent, for the proposed establishment of a Bodhicharya UK Centre in conjunction with the Western Chan Fellowship and the Jodu Shinshu Tradition. The Centre is envisioned to be a place of healing, helping and harmony where Bodhicharya UK can carry out its objectives for the benefit of the local community and visitors to the area.
- Hosting retreats and teaching events by Ringu Tulku Rinpoche and other Bodhicharya teachers in 2022 and 2023. This year Bodhicharya Kent celebrated its 10 year anniversary with Ringu Tulku Rinpoche in collaboration with the International Dzogchen community, E-Vam Institute and The Meridian Trust. A great example of providing Buddhist meetings, teachings and retreats.
- The creation of a Dharma School outreach team. Due to receiving many requests from schools to "visit your Temple" sent to Bodhicharya Kent's email inbox in Medway, a team of volunteers from Bodhicharya Kent and London created the Dharma School outreach programme, which has delivered classes in Buddhism and meditation.
- Hosting an online teaching series with Shri Dharmakirti who resides at the Bodhicharya Retreat Centre in Sikkim, India, offering a chance for support from Bodhicharya UK.

- Launch of the Dharma Support Project which aims to support people in their study and practice of the Buddha Dharma as well as help people attend courses or training that supports their spiritual, emotional and physical well-being or that of others. Bodhicharya UK funded a place on a residential retreat in March 2024 in Kent and funded one year's access to the Ringu Tulku Archive for an individual..

We extend our thanks and gratitude to our Patron Ringu Tulku Rinpoche for his continuing inspiration, guidance and support, and to the Medway Mayor at the time, Madame Mayor Nina Gurung (now Councillor Nina Gurung), for her continued encouragement and support in the endeavour to establish the new centre.

Our success is also directly linked to the hard work of our core team, group leaders and network of volunteers and friends throughout the UK who are too numerous to mention. We have made steady progress in difficult times, and I'd like to personally thank everyone for their time, energy, commitment and consistency in moving us forward and helping fulfil our objectives and vision for the benefit of all.

Over the next 12 months we plan to:

- Continue collaborating with Medway Council, The Western Chan Fellowship and the Jodu Shinshu Tradition to establish a Bodhicharya UK Buddhist Centre in Medway
- Make Bodhicharya London as a branch of Bodhicharya UK
- Host retreats and teaching events by Ringu Tulku Rinpoche and other Bodhicharya teachers in the UK
- Offer Bodhicharya UK's donation platform to all Bodhicharya groups in the UK when they host Ringu Tulku Rinpoche, to increase awareness of and donations to the charity
- Create a Legacy Fund option for donors to Bodhicharya UK
- Continue to develop the Dharma School outreach team and offering
- Continue to support Green Tara Animal Sanctuary

Thank you all for an inspiring and beneficial start to the Bodhicharya UK project. I look forward to continuing our work together over the next 12 months and fulfilling the charity's objectives for the benefit of all.



Administrative Details

Charity registration number 1190768; constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Principle address: 43 Trinity Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME71JA

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity:

Cesare Saguato (Chair)

Jay Rao (Treasurer)

Sally MacKinnon

Stuart McCleod

Michele Sisto

Annual accounts for Bodhicharya UK

Year ending 31 December 2023

	£	£
	Year ending	Year ending
	2023	2022
Receipts		
Donations	8,744	8,865
David Fry Book sponsorship	1,500	-
Centre Fund	500	-
Green Tara Fundraiser	1,153	-
2024 Retreat deposits	600	-
Book sales	38	24
Total Receipts	12,535	8,889
Payments		
Rent	1,080	920
Event costs	2,930	3,884
2024 event costs	600	-
Book costs	103	356
Subscriptions	-	50
Admin	290	224
Total Overheads	5,003	5,434
Donation to Mary Heneghan - David Fry book	1,500	-
Donations to Rigul Trust	-	175
Donations to Shri Dharmakirti	1,667	-
Donations to Green Tara	204	674
Total Donations	3,371	849
Total Payments	8,374	6,283
Surplus for the year ending 31 December 2023 or year ending 31 December 2022	4,161	2,606
Cash balance at 1 January 2022 or 1 January 2023	6,745	4,139
Cash balance at 31 December 2022 or 31 December 2023	10,906	6,745

Notes

- These accounts are prepared on receipts and payments in line with Charity Commission guidelines.
- Donations are from online donations, meetings, larger events and direct gifts.
- Administrative expenses relate to the cost of providing IT, online meeting platform costs and PayPal charges.
- The work of the charity is undertaken by volunteers. No Trustee, official or other person working on behalf of the charity received any emoluments for the work.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the accounts above



Signature:

Full name: Jay Rao

Position: Treasurer

Date: 14 July 2024