

London Zen Group (LZG)

Trustees Report for the year ending 31st December 2024

OUR AIMS

It is our aim to advance the Sōtō Zen Buddhism religion in London for the benefit of the public through the holding of

- regular classes and guided sessions of zazen meditation,
- ceremonies for attendees who are bereaved or have friends or relatives who are ill,
- open lectures and workshops on Buddhist ethics and doctrines, sutras and stories,
- and other open communal activities related to Zen practices and culture

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Schedule and Activities

LZG maintained a daily schedule of zazen meditation entirely staffed by its volunteers and trustees. This year, in April, we began to hold a session on Saturday afternoons as well - with introductions beginning at 17:30 and zazen beginning at 18:00.

Members of the public were welcome to join our daily morning sessions from Monday to Friday from 7.00 to 8.00 AM in person at our dojo or via our Zoom channel. Regular evening sessions of zazen have been held on Mondays (18:30 – 19:45), Thursdays (19:30 – 20:00 pm), Fridays (18:30 – 19:15 pm) and Saturdays (17:00 - 18:30). Drop-in introductions to the practice of zazen-meditation were offered on Monday, Thursday evenings as well as Saturday Afternoons. These were always a half-hour duration, and took place just before each session's normal start time.

On Sunday mornings LZG offered a slightly extended period of zazen from 9.00 to 10.30 AM, followed by an extended ceremony, communal cleaning of the dojo space (*samu*) and socializing with coffee and biscuits. Evening and Sunday morning periods of meditation also offered opportunities for training attendees in various ceremonial elements of our tradition.

LZG continued its successful study group activity on Monday evenings following the regular evening zazen sessions on these days. Participants are discussing texts from the Buddhist and Zen traditions under the guidance of one of LZG's ordained priests. This year was focused on traditional koans from the Blue Cliff Record and transitioned to a study of many of the main masters in the historic zen lineage.

Each Friday evening, after our scheduled sitting, from 7:00 – 8:00pm, LZG offered public talks on Zen-Buddhist doctrine, philosophy and history. The talks are followed by socializing and free discussion.

Guided workshops for sewing Zen-Buddhist ceremonial robes (*kesas* and *rakusus*) were offered on Sunday afternoons. This activity was designed for those seeking to formally Take Refuge in the Three Treasures and receive the Buddhist Precepts, or for those to be formally ordained as priests in the Sōtō Zen tradition.

Of those who attended the sewing workshop, four of our regular members received the precepts at formal ceremonies in the UK (Crosby, outside of Liverpool) as well as at a retreat in the Aran Islands near Galway in Ireland. These ceremonies were completed with two different senior teachers/priests in our lineage, each from France. As with previous years, our sewing workshop was attended by another person from a different

group/lineage who needed direct advice and supervision in their sewing for receiving the precepts. As we are open to all, we welcome people from different groups to this activity.

LZG also offered Japanese calligraphy classes on selected Wednesday evenings at its premises.

LZG also held a half-day of silent zazen practice on the morning of December 7th to commemorate the Buddha's awakening

This year during April, we painted our meeting space. This redecoration occurred over the course of 3 very full days and was possible thanks to the hard work of the trustees along with dozens of volunteers from our extended community, one of which was a professional painter and decorator. Food was donated to fuel the endeavour and volunteers were able to drop in and out throughout the 3 days. We estimate about 24 people volunteered in total, and the result was a freshly painted, clean and fresh meeting space.

ATTENDANCE

From January to December 2024, LZG, hosted **547** events and meetings with a total of **3,332** attendees. This included:

- 399 regular zazen meditation sessions,
- 101 introduction classes given to new attendees,
- 103 sessions of zazen combined with studies, talks and discussions,
- 21 sewing events,
- 24 calligraphy sessions.

The statistics describe a 15% increase in attendance over the previous year. A detailed statistical summary of activities is attached to this report.

OUR FINANCES

As a small, non-company charity, we prepare our annual accounts in the receipts and payments format according to the Charity Commission CC16a standard.

LZG received £16,298 worth of donations for the financial period of 1st January to 31st December 2024. LZG is primarily financed through voluntary donations, and earns a small amount (£660) for renting our practice space out to a group which is in line with the goals of our charity (another Soto Zen Group), we also operate a tiny used book boutique operating on a break-even basis. This year the boutique made £135 which is partly due to the selling of home-printed sutra books, with minimal cost.

During the same time, LZG made payments of £11,629 in operational expenses.

As a result, LZG realized net receipts of £5463.92. This surplus reflects a 25.9% increase over our surplus from last year, and may be due to higher attendance, along with the offering of a contactless payment method for donations.

LZG's funds increased to £39,913 by the end of the year.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

LZG is governed by its board of trustees who are at the same time the caretakers of the group. Trustees meet several times per year and manage the current operations. They plan events and plan future operations and direction of the charity.

TRUSTEES

New trustees are co-opted by the body of existing trustees. New trustees will typically be long-standing members of the community who are also responsible to run regular sessions of zazen. Volunteers are experienced members of the community who may volunteer and be trained and qualified to lead zazen sessions or introductory sessions.

No new trustees were appointed during 2024.

One new volunteer committee member (caretaker) was appointed this year

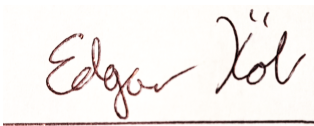
Volunteers:

- Anna Fahey

Trustees of LZG in 2023

- Rev Alana Berrington - Treasurer
- Rev Edgar Koeb - Secretary
- John Blythe
- Rev Martin Landolt
- Rev Ryan Roberts
- William (Bill) Lamdin - Chair

SIGNATURES



Rev. Edgar
Koeb

20 February
2025



Rev. Alana Berrington

19 February
2025



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
London Zen Group - CIO

No (if any)
1194847

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
1/1/2024

To

Period end date
12/31/2024

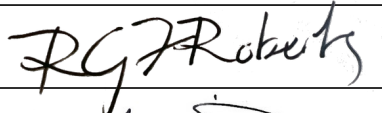
Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations - Online	6,431	-	-	6,431	-
Donations - Direct Deposits/Standing Orders	5,715	-	-	5,715	-
Donations - Cash	1,585	-	-	1,585	-
Donations - Contactless	2,567	-	-	2,567	-
Income - 3rd party user groups	660	-	-	660	-
Book Sales	135	-	-	135	-
Gift Aid and GASDS	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	17,093	-	-	17,093	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	17,093	-	-	17,093	-
A3 Payments					
Rent	9,000	-	-	9,000	-
Gas and Electric	834	-	-	834	-
Internet	428	-	-	428	-
Council Rates	375	-	-	375	-
Boutique	13	-	-	13	-
Godo expenses	26	-	-	26	-
DIY	195	-	-	195	-
Equipment	26	-	-	26	-
Supplies	303	-	-	303	-
Zoom	156	-	-	156	-
Miscellaneous expenses	273	-	-	273	-
Sub total	11,629	-	-	11,629	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	11,629	-	-	11,629	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	5,464	-	-	5,464	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	34,450	-	-	34,450	-
Cash funds this year end	39,914	-	-	39,914	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cooperative Account 65214200	39,914	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	39,914	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Rev. Ryan Roberts	2/19/2025
	Rev. Alana Berrington	1/27/2025