

DHARMA MANDIR NEWPORT

England & Wales · Charity number 1203325

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2023-05-31

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Unit 4
Oak House
Vaughan Court
Coedkernew
Newport
NP10 8BD

Phone 07904082373

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Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO, TO BE CARRIED OUT IN NEWPORT, WALES AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ARE:1. THE ADVANCEMENT OF RELIGION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT ACCORDING TO THE TEACHINGS AND TENETS OF HINDUISM (SANATAN DHARMA) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATEMENT OF FAITH ATTACHED TO THIS CONSTITUTION.2. THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN THE HINDI AND SANSKRIT LANGUAGE, CULTURE, PHILOSOPHY, ART, LITERATURE, MUSIC AND HISTORY.

Activities: Dharma Mandir Newport hosts cultural and religious celebrations such as Diwali and Navratri, empowers youth through Bhagavad Gita classes, and serves as a vital community support network during hardship and loss by facilitating wakes and memorials. Our multifaceted approach reflects a commitment to belonging and cultural appreciation revolved around the tenets of Sanatan Dharma.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Religious Activities, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** LOCAL
- Throughout Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£8,777	£134	-	-
2023-12-31	£3,039	£397	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Kessia Raghoonauth	Chair	2023-05-31
Armand Khusul		2023-05-31
Vyas Bikuntidat Sharma		2023-05-31

DHARMA MANDIR NEWPORT

England & Wales - Charity number 1203325

Accounts

Dharma Mandir Newport

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

As at 31st December 2024

Charity No: 1203325

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Dharma Mandir Newport

Charity Registration Number: 1203325

Contact Address: Unit 4
Oak House
Vaughan Court
Coedkernew
Newport
NP10 8BD

Trustees

Kessia Ragoonauth
Armand Khusul
Vyas Bikuntidat Sharma

Chair
Deputy Chair
Spiritual Leader

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank
1 Balloon Street
Manchester
M4 4BE

Trustees' Annual Report

From 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Dharma Mandir is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, governed by the terms of its Constitution. The charity is registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, with charity no. 1203325 on 31 May 2023.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Trustees are appointed for a three-year term and reappointed in accordance with the Constitution. New trustees can be nominated by the existing board members. On the appointment of each new trustee, induction is provided by the existing trustees as to the aims of the charities and the activities undertaken to achieve the objectives of the charity.

Organisational Structure

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the trustees, and the charity is also supported in its day-to-day activities by an executive committee of the core users of the charity and a number of volunteers. All trustees act on a voluntary basis with regards to the charity and received no remuneration or other benefits.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the Dharma Mandir Newport charity focus on two main areas:

1. **Advancement of Religion:** Promoting the teachings and tenets of Hinduism (Sanatan Dharma) for the public benefit in Newport and the surrounding areas.
2. **Advancement of Education:** Supporting public education in the Hindi and Sanskrit languages, as well as aspects of Hindu culture, philosophy, art, literature, music, and history.

These objectives aim to enhance community understanding and appreciation of Hinduism.

Activities

Throughout 2024, Dharma Mandir Newport has continued to serve as a spiritual, cultural, and community hub for Hindus in South Wales. Our focus has remained on promoting Sanatan Dharma while creating opportunities for people of all ages to come together in prayer, celebration, and learning.

Over the year, we celebrated many of the major Hindu festivals including Diwali, Navratri, Krishna Janmashtami, Ganesh Chaturthi, Hanuman Jayanti, Pitru Paksha, Guru Purnima, Ram Navami, Makar Sankranti, and Maha Shivratri. One of the highlights has been our annual Kanya Puja, which has seen growing participation from families and children and continues to be our most popular gathering.

Alongside these major events, we have held monthly pujas at the mandir, supported by live streaming through Zoom and Facebook to ensure accessibility for those unable to attend in person. Each occasion combines prayer with cultural elements such as music, drama, meditation, yoga, and spiritual talks, always concluding with free community meals that embody the spirit of hospitality and sharing.

In addition to festivals, the mandir has been a setting for important life events within our community. We have hosted weddings and conducted funeral memorial services, providing spiritual guidance and support at significant milestones in people's lives.

Our regular online programmes have continued, including weekly Saturday evening Satsangs and Thursday Bhagavad Gita discovery sessions aimed at youth engagement. These initiatives have helped deepen knowledge of Hindu teachings while strengthening connections across generations.

We have also welcomed visits from local schools and maintained positive engagement with civic leaders, including MPs and councillors, reinforcing our commitment to education, interfaith dialogue, and public benefit.

All of this has been possible thanks to the dedication of our volunteers, who have given their time and energy to ensure the smooth running of our events and activities.

Achievements and Performance

Building on the strong foundations of our inaugural year, 2024 has been another year of growth and meaningful engagement for Dharma Mandir Newport. Our activities have continued to attract widespread participation from the local community, while also drawing interest from civic leaders, schools, and cultural organisations.

Our **Bhagavad Gita discovery sessions** remain a cornerstone of our youth development work. These classes continue to nurture confidence and spiritual understanding among young people, many of whom are now comfortable presenting during our weekly Zoom Satsangs. Their active involvement demonstrates how the next generation is becoming deeply engaged with Sanatan Dharma.

Our **major religious and cultural celebrations**, including Diwali, Navratri, and Krishna Janmashtami, once again featured vibrant contributions from local and national talent. Dance schools and community groups specialising in Bharatanatyam, Kathak, and classical music enriched our events with inspiring performances. In addition, singers and musicians from within and beyond Newport helped bring our festivals to life, further strengthening cultural appreciation and community pride.

A key milestone this year has been the **growth in our charity membership**, which has now surpassed 200 registered members—double the figure recorded in 2023. This remarkable increase reflects the trust, enthusiasm, and commitment of our community to our vision and activities.

Overall, 2024 has confirmed Dharma Mandir Newport's role as a thriving hub for worship, culture, and learning. With rising membership, strong youth participation, and vibrant cultural partnerships, we are well-positioned to continue expanding our impact in the years ahead.

Financial Review

The principal source of income are the donations received by Dharma Mandir Newport. Volunteers have helped to organise the activities of the charity and have enabled the charity to achieve its objectives during the year.

During 2024, Dharma Mandir Newport has continued to benefit from a rent-free arrangement with our landlord, Well Investment Ltd., for which we remain deeply grateful. This support has allowed us to direct more of our resources towards community activities and cultural programmes. We recognise, however, that service charges and other associated costs may be introduced in the future. To ensure long-term sustainability, we are actively planning to raise funds through regular donations, membership contributions, and grant applications so that the mandir remains financially secure and able to serve the community.

Reserves Policy

At the year end, Dharma Mandir Newport held unrestricted cash funds of £11,285. These funds are held to meet future expenditure that may occur. At present, the trustees aim to hold sufficient reserves to be able to meet the ongoing costs of the various activities organised by the charity.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The office bearers and trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose at any time the financial position of the charity, and which enable them to fulfil their responsibility to prepare financial statements in compliance with the Charities Act 2011.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf,



Armand Khusul
Trustee
Deputy Chair

10/10/2025

Dharma Mandir Newport

Receipts and Payments Account

Year ended 31 December 2024 (01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024)

<u>Receipts</u>	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Donations	8,777	3,039
Membership	-	-
Activities for Generating Funds	-	-
Bank & Deposit Interest	-	-
Total Receipts	8,777	3,039
<u>Payments</u>		
General Expense	134	397
Total Payments	134	397
Net of Receipts/(Payments)	8,643	2,642
Transfers	-	-
Opening Cash Funds	2,642	0
Closing Cash Funds	11,285	2,642

Dharma Mandir Newport

Statement of Balances

At 31 December 2024

<u>Bank, Deposit & Cash Balances</u>	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Bank, deposit & cash balances brought forward	2,642	0
Movement in year:		
Net of Receipts over Payments for the year	8,643	2,642
Bank, deposit & cash balances carried forward	11,285	2,642
<u>Assets</u>		
Gift Aid	-	-
Receivable	-	-
Total Assets	-	-
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Costs not yet billed	-	-
Total Liabilities	-	-

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 10/10/2025

For and on behalf of the trustees



Armand Khusul
Trustee
Deputy Chair

DHARMA MANDIR NEWPORT

England & Wales - Charity number 1203325

Accounts

Dharma Mandir Newport

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

As at 31st December 2023

Charity No: 1203325

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Dharma Mandir Newport

Charity Registration Number: 1203325

Contact Address: Unit 3
Oak House
Vaughan Court
Coedkernew
Newport
NP10 8BD

Trustees

Kessia Ragoonauth
Armand Khusul
Vyas Bikuntidat Sharma

Chair
Deputy Chair
Spiritual Leader

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank
1 Balloon Street
Manchester
M4 4BE

Trustees' Annual Report

From 31 May 2023 to 31 December 2023

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

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Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the Dharma Mandir Newport charity focus on two main areas:

1. **Advancement of Religion:** Promoting the teachings and tenets of Hinduism (Sanatan Dharma) for the public benefit in Newport and the surrounding areas.
2. **Advancement of Education:** Supporting public education in the Hindi and Sanskrit languages, as well as aspects of Hindu culture, philosophy, art, literature, music, and history.

These objectives aim to enhance community understanding and appreciation of Hinduism.

Activities

Dharma Mandir Newport was registered as a charity on 31 May 2023, our activities during the period leading to 31 December 2023 have been focused on promoting the teachings of Hinduism and enhancing community engagement through various cultural and spiritual events. In line with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, we have taken care to ensure our activities are accessible and beneficial to all members of the community.

Our main activities have included in-person prayers (pujas) and cultural celebrations for significant Hindu festivals such as Diwali, Navratri, Krishna Janmashtami, Ganesh Chaturthi, Hanuman Jayanti, Pitru Paksha, Guru Purnima, and Ram Navami. These events have attracted dignitaries and local MPs, further fostering community relations and awareness of our charity's mission.

At each event, we host prayers, performances, plays, drama, meditation, yoga, and spiritual talks, providing a diverse range of activities that cater to various interests and age groups. We also hold monthly pujas (prayers), conducted both in-person and virtually via Zoom and Facebook Live on the last Sunday of each month. At the end of each event food is offered to the community, free of charge. This embodies the spirit of community and sharing that we uphold.

In addition, our online initiatives include weekly Zoom Satsangs (gatherings in prayer) every Saturday at 5 pm and Bhagavad Gita discovery classes every Thursday at 6 pm, aimed at youths. These online sessions provide an inclusive platform for young people to engage with Hindu teachings and culture.

Our commitment to public benefit is reflected in our outreach efforts, which include broadcasting our events on major social media platforms, making them accessible to a wider audience. We have also welcomed visits from public schools seeking to enrich their understanding of Hinduism, fostering interfaith dialogue and educational opportunities.

We are deeply grateful for the support of our volunteers, whose contributions of time, energy, and expertise have been instrumental in organising and executing these activities. Without their dedication, we would not be able to fulfill our objectives and serve the community effectively.

In conclusion, our activities have aimed to foster a deeper appreciation for Sanatan Dharma, and provide a welcoming space for all, reinforcing our belief in the power of harmony, unity and community spirit.

Achievements and Performance

As our first year of operation since registering as a charity on 31 May 2023, Dharma Mandir Newport has successfully executed a range of events that have significantly contributed to our objectives and community engagement. The support from the local community have been remarkable, our activities have drawn the attention and participation of local MPs, schools, and nurseries, culminating in a letter of support from Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on the occasion of Diwali.

Our Bhagavad Gita discovery sessions have notably fostered youth development, leading to increased confidence among participants. Many youths have not only engaged in the virtual classroom but have also presented during our wider Zoom Satsang sessions on Saturdays, showcasing their growth and commitment.

Our larger religious and cultural events, such as Diwali and Krishna Janmashtami, have attracted local and national talent, including dance schools specialising in Bharatanatyam, Kathak, and classical dancing. These performances have brought the community closer together, fostering a greater appreciation for cultural diversity and artistic expression.

By the end of the year, we are proud to report that our charity membership numbers, as recorded through completed membership forms, have surpassed 100. This growth reflects the increasing interest in our activities and the community's support for our mission.

Overall, our achievements in this inaugural year lay a solid foundation for continued service to the community.

Financial Review

The principal source of income are the donations received by Dharma Mandir Newport. A number of volunteers and supporters have helped to organise the activities of the charity and have enabled the charity to achieve its objectives during the year.

During this first reporting period, Dharma Mandir Newport has benefited from a rent-free arrangement with our landlord, Well Investment Ltd., which we greatly appreciate. While we await details on future service charges, we recognise the need to prepare for these expenses and plan to raise funds through additional donations and grants in the coming year to ensure our continued financial sustainability.

Reserves Policy

At the year end, Dharma Mandir Newport held unrestricted cash funds of £2,642. These funds are held to meet future expenditure that may occur. At present, the trustees aim to hold sufficient reserves to be able to meet the ongoing costs of the various activities organised by the charity.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The office bearers and trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose at any time the financial position of the charity, and which enable them to fulfil their responsibility to prepare financial statements in compliance with the Charities Act 2011.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf,



Armand Khusul
Trustee
Deputy Chair

31 October 2024

Dharma Mandir Newport

Receipts and Payments Account

Year ended 31 December 2023 (31/05/2023 to 31/12/2023)

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
<u>Receipts</u>		
Donations	3,039	3,039
Membership	-	-
Activities for Generating Funds	-	-
Bank & Deposit Interest	-	-
Total Receipts	3,039	3,039
<u>Payments</u>		
General Expense	397	397
Total Payments	397	397
Net of Receipts/(Payments)	2,642	2,642
Transfers	-	-
Opening Cash Funds	0	0
Closing Cash Funds	2,642	2,642

Dharma Mandir Newport

Statement of Balances

At 31 December 2023

<u>Bank, Deposit & Cash Balances</u>	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Bank, deposit & cash balances brought forward	0	0
Movement in year: Net of Receipts over Payments for the year	2.642	2.642
Bank, deposit & cash balances carried forward	2.642	2.642
<u>Assets</u>		
Gift Aid Receivable	-	-
Total Assets	-	-
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Costs not yet billed	-	-
Total Liabilities	-	-

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 31 October 2024

For and on behalf of the trustees



Armand Khusul
Trustee
Deputy Chair

Dharma Mandir Newport

Notes to the accounts

1. First period of accounts

As this is the first set of accounts for Dharma Mandir Newport, no prior year's figures are available for comparison.