

BLACK MOUNTAIN ZEN CENTRE

(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Reference and administrative details of the charity

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a Memorandum and Articles of Association, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. The company was incorporated on 30 August 2016 and registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 5 June 2017.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

NI640489

Registered Charity number

NIC106141

Registered office

165 Donegall Pass
Belfast
Northern Ireland
BT7 1DT

CHAIRPERSON

Paul McCrory

TRUSTEES

Paul Haller
Michael O'Keefe Resigned on 15 April 2025
Paul McCrory
Frank Liddy
Richard Hall
Jean Gallagher
Jonathan Nixon
Steve Williamson
Clare McFadden
Paul Tohill
Mary Price

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Tony Clarke

53 Andersontown Road
Belfast
BT11 9AG

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The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the company for the 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the company's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practices applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019)

Structure, Governance and Trustees

Black Mountain Zen Centre which is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in Northern Ireland, registration number NI640489.

The Personnel

The current board of directors for Black Mountain Zen Centre has changed from the previous trustees' report.

The board of directors consists of directors from the previous year which are: Paul Haller, Jean Gallagher, Clare McFadden, Paul Tohill, Mary Price, Jonathan Nixon, Frank Liddy, Steve Williamson, Richard Hall and Paul McCrory.

Michael O'Keefe has resigned from the board.

Clare McFadden took up a new role as secretary. Mary Price has resumed her role as chairperson of the board, Paul McCrory has continued in his role as treasurer.

The board would like to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to Michael O'Keefe for his dedicated participation and valuable contributions during his long tenure on the board.

Chairs' Statement:

On behalf of the BMZC Board, I wish to express our deep appreciation and gratitude to our Guiding Teacher, Ryushin Paul Haller, and our Resident Teacher, Myogan Djinn Gallagher. I thank them for their commitment to Black Mountain Zen Centre, and for their time and energy and the countless ways they have supported the Sangha during the year. There can be no doubt that the support Paul and Djinn have provided, over many years, has guaranteed the survival of the Centre as a place of practice of Soto Zen Buddhism in Northern Ireland and beyond. I am deeply grateful to our Treasurer, Paul McCrory, who has provided judicious support to the Board this year and continues to work on our behalf to ensure that BMZC remains in a financially healthy position.

Sincere thanks also to the Sangha, members, supporters and volunteers, to our online doans and members of our in-person doanryo.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank all our Board members for their commitment to the work of the Board and for their attendance and contributions to Board meetings.

The Board met on four occasions throughout the year.

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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) continued...

Chairs' Statement (continued)

We had three resignations – from our Vice-Chair Adam Murray, long-time members Michael O'Keefe, and Margaret Mulholland. We sincerely thank each of them for their contribution to the Board and BMZC over many years. At our first meeting in October 2024, Clare McFadden was elected as Company Secretary to replace Steve Williamson.

An exciting development this year has been our participation in an envisioning process that will result in a Development Strategy to underpin BMZC's growth and sustainability into the future. Board, Sangha members, and the wider community took part in the process that was guided by Esther Haller-Clarke of Haller-Clarke Hurson. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Esther for guiding us through the envisioning process. We expect the Development Strategy document to be available and distributed in the very near future.

Our well-established in-person and online activities have continued throughout the year. Daily zazen, our Book Study Group, Friday Well-being Ceremony and Sharing Circle, regular one-day sittings, yoga for sitters, workshops and classes by our Guiding Teacher, Ryushin Paul Haller, and bi-annual sesshins have all been well attended.

New, additional offerings that have received good support include Wednesday evening in-person zazen, a Precepts study group, a Rakusu sewing group, and Oryoki meals during regular all-day sittings.

In May 2025, three Sangha members received Jukai or lay ordination from their teacher, Rev Myogan Djinn Gallagher. During the year approximately 40 people attended our Sunday morning Introduction to Zazen.

Our Journey:

BMZC is pleased to continue to offer both online and in-person sittings as well as workshops and classes. It must be noted, however, that this would not be possible without the efforts of Djinn Gallagher, our Resident Teacher, who has put in much time and effort to facilitate the online and in-person community with whom we now practice daily. BMZC continues to offer group sittings, workshops and retreats on a dāna basis and we would like to take this opportunity to also thank our sangha for their donations towards the centre and its teachers.

Guiding Teacher

Ryushin Paul Haller Roshi has continued to serve as our Guiding Teacher, and he has the deep appreciation of the board for fulfilling this vital role. Paul has been the guiding light for us and for Zen practice as a whole in N. Ireland since he first brought Zen to his home place in the year 2000. His vision for what would ultimately become possible, his tireless devotion to visiting twice every year, leading sesshins, workshops, and sittings and giving dharma talks, and his calm guidance and raised eyebrow are all ultimately responsible for ensuring we have all come such a long way since those early days.

Paul led both our sesshins the past year in Tobar Mhuire Retreat and Conference Centre, Crossgar and Ards Friary, Creeslough. We would like to once again extend our thanks for his teachings in addition to the various online classes and workshops that Paul has offered to his students and fellow sangha members at Black Mountain Zen Centre.

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) continued...

Centre Management:

Sincere thanks to Rev Djinn Gallagher for her continued residency at BMZC; for her dedication to Buddhist practice and the development of our local and wider Sangha.

The full range of BMZC offerings continues to be successfully communicated via our website, Instagram and Facebook. BMZC continues to be registered and compliant with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and is a member of the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA), a membership and representative body for the voluntary and community sector in NI.

Six new membership applications were received during the year and approved by the Board. There are currently 40 members who make monthly donations towards the running of the Centre. We rely on these donations to cover the cost of rent, utilities, equipment and other

Website, Social Media and Online Giving

The Board wishes to express our deep thanks for all those involved with the maintenance and work on the BMZC website.

BMZC continues to offer teachings to our sangha through platforms such as Zoom, Soundcloud and Vimeo.

Charity Commission for N. Ireland

BMZC continues to be registered and compliant with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. Our Charity number is 106141, Company number NI640489.

Finance, Gift Aid and Fundraising

The Board wishes to express gratitude to our Treasurer, Paul McCrory, and our accountants, Tony Clarke and Colleen Doherty, for their assistance during the past year. All accounts and confirmation statements were filed with Companies House. All tax returns were filed with HMRC, and rate exemptions were secured from Land & Property Services.

The Annual accounts have been prepared by our accountants based on bank statements and spreadsheets prepared by the Treasurer and are available separately from this report.

BMZC also expresses deep gratitude to our sangha for their generosity and support in the form of time and donations – to our sangha both home and afar, our deepest bows.

BMZC is a charity organization which relies on the concept of dāna to provide offerings, classes and teachings. These donations enable BMZC to build a reserve of funds to fall back on in addition to allowing BMZC to plan and grow in the years forthcoming.

Lastly, the board would like to express our ongoing thanks to all our members who submit application forms, set up their standing orders or agreed cash donations, and who continue to contribute to the centre. Thank you.

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) continued...

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

Financial Review

The results for the year ended 31 March 2025 are set out on pages 9 and 10 of the financial statements.

The total income for the year ended 31 March 2025 amounted to £56,112 (2024: £51,823) The total expenditure was £51,920(2024: £64,215)

The Trustees consider that the unrestricted funds of the charity is sufficient and adequate to fulfil their obligations. The charity held £75,117 in reserves at the year end (2024: £70,925).

Reserves Policy

The income of the Company is considered adequate and the risks associated with any significant reduction in income is regarded as unlikely. The Trustees are satisfied with the current level of reserves at the present time. The Trustees are reviewing the Reserves Policy in the current year.

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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) continued...

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The Trustees (who are also directors of Black Mountain Zen Centre for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standard (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the income resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transaction and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and the enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2019. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees, on 21-11-2025 and signed on behalf by:



Paul McCrory

Trustee