

## Milntuim Hermitage Trust

### Annual Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

#### Trustees' Annual Report

#### Trustees and Administration Details

Milntuim Hermitage Trust was constituted as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (no. SC043482) on the 12th October 2012 and is governed by its constitution.

The charity is made up of its board of trustees, who are the only members. Any person, nominated individual or body can apply to be a member of the board and is appointed at the discretion of the trustees. At each AGM, all of the trustees must retire from office but may be re-elected.

#### The current trustees are:



#### The Objects of the Charity

The object of the charity is to offer the teachings of the Buddha as preserved and practised within the Theravada tradition, specifically through:

Supporting a monastic sangha of persons – primarily nuns (siladhara) of the Forest Tradition of Luang Por Chah – who have undertaken the rules of training (sikkhapada), and:

Supporting lay people in their practice of meditation and ethical living according to the principles of Theravada Buddhism.

#### General Overview

#### The Community

[REDACTED] has continued to be the main monastic presence at Milntuim, however several siladharaa and anagarikaas have visited for periods of time. One siladhara has offered to stay through the up-coming period of Winter Retreat to support [REDACTED] while she engages in an extended period of solitary retreat practice.

#### Teachings

[REDACTED] has offered teachings, leading several meditation retreats held away from the Hermitage: at Amaravati Buddhist Monastery (6 days), in the Czech Republic (one week) and in Spain (5 days). The Hermitage does not offer such retreat opportunities; this is in line with the long-term vision which is to support nuns in their monastic practice, without needing to attend to too many extra duties.

## **Milntuim Hermitage Trust**

### **Annual Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2024**

#### **Trustees' Annual Report**

The monthly meditation days have continued each month, apart from February when [REDACTED] was on personal retreat. She also offered a number of Zoom meditation sessions for the Buddhist Society, the Women's Buddhist Network (WBN), and the Amaravati Lay Buddhist Association (ALBA) as well as two lunchtime guided meditations for the Comrie Centre for Peace and Reconciliation (CCPR).

In August, [REDACTED] attended the Buddhist Society Summer School, held at the Agricultural College near Cirencester, and offered a talk and meditation session which were well received.

#### Guests and Visitors

In total there were about 80 overnight guests, and numerous visitors - including some staff from a local early years' school who are keen to incorporate an ethic of mindfulness into their work with the children.

There were also some visits by monks of the Amaravati/Chithurst communities.

#### Festivals

As usual, we held a Wesak Festival, on 12th May – celebrating the Buddha, his Birth, Enlightenment and Final Passing. This was well-attended. The Kathina-time Robe Offering ceremony was held on 3rd November; it was sponsored by a Sri Lankan family who came a couple of days before to help with preparation. They were also very helpful in the clearing up after the event. With the technical help of one of the trustees, the domestic water supply held out for both events. However, we are still interested in exploring an alternative strategy.

#### Safeguarding

This continues to be an area of interest, and most of the trustees have now completed the basic training offered by the NSPCC. [REDACTED] as found it helpful to discuss particular situations regarding vulnerable adults and children visiting the Hermitage with the Safeguarding Officers and other trustees.

#### Projects

1) The Stupa: work has now finally begun, after careful consultation with a well-regarded local architect who has had many years of experience with the planning department. He confirmed that the following changes would enable the project to go ahead without the need to apply for planning permission:

- changing the proposed location from the woodland to the garden area
- reducing the size and altering the design of the stupa

## Milintuim Hermitage Trust

### Annual Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

#### Trustees' Annual Report

- having it as a structure that could be dismantled and relocated in the future if necessary
- the absence of trees with roots in the immediate vicinity that would be impacted by the foundation

██████████ has prepared the concrete foundation on the mound in front of the house and has arranged for the stupa to be carved in sections over the winter months. We hope to have an inauguration ceremony in spring/early summer 2025 – possibly in conjunction with Wesak.

2) The domestic water supply is still a concern. After discussion of various possible strategies, ██████████ the plumber, is going to prepare some costings for the installation of an extra holding tank that could be located in the garage. Hopefully, this will allow a greater capacity which will be very helpful at times of heavy use – e.g. festivals or other occasions when many people come to the Hermitage.

3) The Hydroturbine project is moving along very slowly. ██████████ who has installed a great many turbines throughout Scotland will be working with a young Sri Lankan engineering student, guiding her on applying for the various permissions that are needed and preparing a design.

4) Website: some of the trustees, together with a friend in the village who has relevant experience, have interviewed possible user groups as a preliminary to designing a suitable website. We hope that this will enable interested people to access relevant and accurate information about the hermitage. It is not intended as a tool for promoting the hermitage or events that take place here.

5) Leaflet: the preparation of an introductory leaflet is also on-going. This will provide some information about the Theravada Tradition as well as things to keep in mind when visiting the Hermitage. It will also explain the safeguarding policy we now have in place.

#### Beaver Management

This remains a concern. The dam wall of the main pond is severely compromised at one side, owing to the beavers' activity – however, it seems that they are also taking steps to remedy this. Hopefully, with ██████████ cooperation, a non-invasive strategy can be applied that will prevent a collapse that part of the dam wall.

## **Milntuim Hermitage Trust**

### **Annual Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2024**

#### **Trustees' Annual Report**

Further upstream there have been significant changes to the environment as a result of a very large dam that has been constructed across the original burn. A temporary boardwalk that enabled access to the upper section of the woodland is no longer fit for purpose.

Alternatives, including the installation of a flow device – which may happen soon - and possible installation of a longer and more stable section of boardwalk are under consideration. NB In accordance with current legislation regarding beaver protection, a licence for the installation of the flow device is being applied for.

#### **Public Benefit, Volunteers and Support – Dana**

During the year, there have been over 80 overnight guests; mostly for fairly short visits, and some for periods of a week or more in a supporting (during retreat time), or caretaking role (during times [REDACTED] absence). There is an overwhelming sense of appreciation shown for such opportunities. People seem to find that staying at Milntuim supports them in their Buddhist practice and in re-establishing an inner calm and helpful sense of perspective. The hermitage continues to be totally reliant of alms – usually referred to as DANA – and it has been most generously supported, with both food and other requisites, throughout the year. Much practical help has also been provided by volunteers who offer rides to/from the station or village as needed; and help with practical tasks relating to festivals, gardening and DIY. We also called on some local people to assist in the extending of a boardwalk and, although the structure ultimately failed, their efforts were greatly appreciated. Members of the Camphill Community at Corbenic continue to visit periodically; there is an interest in developing an on-going relationship, as a number of the residents are interested in Buddhist practice.

#### **Financial Offerings**

Income from regular standing orders and one-off donations has remained steady and the Hermitage's basic running costs (see details on pages 8&9) have again been met. Work on the stupa is now underway, with an initial deposit of half the cost being paid up front. This was financed by the remaining balance in the Restricted Fund (a donation made specifically for this purpose) plus surplus funds accumulated from previous years. As a result of this increased expenditure there was only a small surplus in income over expenditure at the end of the year. Despite this, funds overall are very healthy.

Milntuim Hermitage Trust

Annual Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

Trustees' Annual Report

Projects for the Coming Year

During the first months of the coming year - up until the end of April - [REDACTED] will be engaged in a time of solitary retreat; another Sister, [REDACTED] will be here looking after things during that time.

Other projects that we hope to complete are:

- Completion of foundation and installation of the Stupa
- Continue work of preparation for hydro-turbine
- Routine maintenance and repainting of main house and outbuildings
- Install boardwalk or other strategy for re-establishing access to upper gate
- Monitor main dam wall

Conclusion

The Hermitage continues to be appreciated by those who visit. It is also seen as a source of inspiration and encouragement by others further afield, particularly at times of uncertainty. At Ajahn Candasiri's request, there will be more visits for longer periods by nuns and anagarikaas, as she moves towards reducing the amount of responsibility she currently carries.

It is the trustees' policy to hold unrestricted reserves of £3,000 to provide for approximately three months' operating costs at the current level of activity. At the end of the year, this had been achieved.

Approved by the trustees on 02/05/2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Signe [REDACTED] .....(Trustee)

[REDACTED]

**Milntuim Hermitage Trust****Annual Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2024****Trustees' Annual Report****Independent Examiner's Report**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2024.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

The trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Milntuim Hermitage Trust****Annual Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2024****Trustees' Annual Report****Independent examiner's statement**

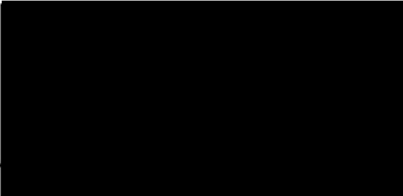
In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or

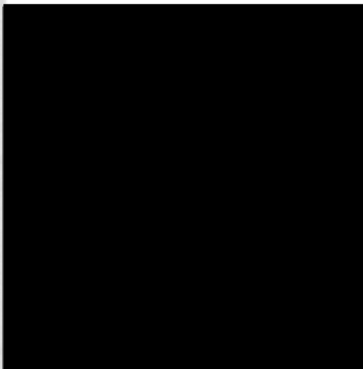
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed.



..... (Independent Examiner) Date.....

18/5/2025



**Milntuim Hermitage Trust**  
**Receipts and Payments Account for the Year Ended**  
**31st December 2024**

	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>				
Donations	0	20,497	20,497	19,783
<b><u>Other income:</u></b>				
Gift Aid	0	3,366	3,366	3,571
Winter Fuel payment	0	500	500	0
Cash donation (taxi fares)	0	14	14	0
Bank interest	0	2,096	2,096	1,403
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26,473</b>	<b>26,473</b>	<b>24,757</b>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>				
<b><u>Payments for charitable activities:</u></b>				
House Running Costs (Heat, Light & Rates)	0	4,371	4,371	3,681
House & Garden Maintenance	0	5,986	5,986	4,665
Office & Telephone	0	1,705	1,705	1,412
Insurance	0	1,928	1,928	1,865
Travel	0	1,693	1,693	998
Welfare	0	640	640	149
Other	0	644	644	1,618
<b><u>Governance Costs:</u></b>				
Independent Examination	0	200	200	200
<b><u>Purchase of Fixed Assets:</u></b>				
Stupa	1,813	6,687	8,500	0
Equipment (Bathroom heater)	0	535	535	136
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>1,813</b>	<b>24,390</b>	<b>26,203</b>	<b>14,724</b>
Transfer between funds	0	0	0	0
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for year</b>	<b>-1,813</b>	<b>2,083</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>10,033</b>
Bank & cash funds brought forward	1,813	129,045	130,858	120,825
Bank and cash funds carried forward	0	131,128	131,128	130,858

