



Harnham Buddhist Monastery Trust

Trustees Report 2022

The Trustees of Harnham Buddhist Monastery take this opportunity to offer our best wishes to the extended community of friends and supporters and to report on the activities of the monastery and the Trust during 2022.

It was very good to be able to open up the monastery to visitors again in 2022 as the pandemic began to calm down. We are sincerely indebted to the lay supporters for their ongoing support and to the sangha for their continued inspiring presence, commitment and willingness to share their experience of the Buddha's path with us.

This report provides information about the organisation of the monastery and its resident community together with details of the activities undertaken during 2022. A summary of our financial situation is also included.

The Trust

Harnham Buddhist Monastery Trust (HBMT) is a Registered Charity (no.1126476) and a Company Limited by Guarantee (no.6688355) and is the governing body responsible for the stewardship of Harnham Buddhist Monastery. The governing documents for HBMT are the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The primary objective of the Trust is to promote the teachings of the Buddha: 'by providing, maintaining and supporting, in accordance with the Theravada Vinaya, residential establishments for a Monastic Sangha of persons who have undertaken the rules of training (*Sikkhapada*) and to support lay people in the practice of the teachings of the Buddha.'

In 2022 the Trustees (who are also Directors of HBMT Ltd.) were: Philippa Padbury, Myint Su, Mike Pearce, John Bower, Kath Jones, and Paul Hansen (Chair). Penny Wakefield-Pearce was employed as Trust Secretary, Treasurer and Office Administrator. Ian Plagaró Neill continued to help the team as Office Assistant.

The day to day affairs of the Monastery are overseen by the 'Management Group' (comprising members of the monastic community and the Office Administrator) with reference to the Trustees.

Representatives from the Thai and Sri Lankan communities have offered to act as a link between the sangha and their communities and other lay supporters have volunteered to be contacted for tasks such as helping with cooking, events and retreats.

The Resident Community

As it is usual in our monasteries several changes of residents took place during the year 2022. Before the beginning of the winter retreat Tan Mahesako departed to Thailand for his fourth year as a bhikkhu mainly at Wat Nanachat and Tan Adicco departed to Amaravati to continue training.

On April 30th Anagarika Francesco took the eight precepts under Luang Por Munindo and intends to continue his training as a samanera.

In July Jon Price, who was our kitchen manager, took anagarika precepts. Soon afterwards Jon decided to leave the anagarika training and return to Kusala House, he continued to be our kitchen manager after that. He stayed for a total of 6 months.

On the 5th of October, to the delight of the community Ajahn Punnyo returned to Harnham indefinitely, still visiting his mother every now and then for short periods of time.

By the end of the year Beat Zogg expressed interest in taking anagarika precepts, it is now expected that he will do so in spring 2023.

The community list at the end of 2022 was:

Luang Por Munindo
Ajahn Punnyo
Tan Samacitto
Tan Succino
Tan Jotisaro
Samanera Nibbuto
Anagarika Ben
Anagarika Francesco

Sangha visitors

Ajahn Kaccana came to visit from Chithurst from the 27th June to the 7th of July. In August Ajahn Sucitto also visited from Chithurst for 1 week.

Events

After the long pandemic that disturbed the normal activities of the monastery so much, we could hold all events more or less as usual this year. Some formal measures were kept against COVID-19 for the first few months of the year.

In April we celebrated Songkran with a Pah Bah offering, some degree of caution was kept against COVID-19, for instance, the monastic community used face masks when in situations in which there was close proximity to the lay community.

This year we celebrated Luang Por Munindo's birthday in a modest fashion. Ajahn Punnyo's birthday celebration was a bigger event as he reached the milestone of turning sixty years old.

As the bhikkhu community was less than five bhikkhus, we could not celebrate a full Kathina, so a Pah Bah was held instead. We had male and female monastics coming from several of our branch monasteries; to mention a few names we had the good fortune to host Ajahn Amaro, Ajahn Candapalo, Ajahn Karuniko, Ajahn Ahimsako, Ajahn Khemaka etc.

Activities

This year only a couple of short retreats were held at Kusala House, without the presence of a visiting teacher.

Although the number of lay visitors naturally increased from the past two years, it was noticed that the pre-pandemic number of visitors has not yet been reached.

This year the monastic community accepted a few invitations to receive offerings outside the monastery from some of our most regular supporters.

Luang Por Munindo continued to offer Dhamma talks to the resident community, the guests staying at Kusala House and the lay visitors. Most of these were uploaded online for the public.

(ratanagiri.org.uk/teachings/talks)

Also Luang Por Munindo continued to share online, his reflections on the Dhammapada verses every month (full moon) (ratanagiri.org.uk/teachings/dhammapada-reflections).

The news/blog was also sent out once a month (new moon) (ratanagiri.org.uk/news) to update the wider community on the activities of the monastery and any monastery related information that would be useful for them to know about in the upcoming weeks.

We held a lake work day most months, occasions where lay visitors were welcome to come for the day and join the Sangha and guests at work.

Finances

Income

In 2022 the total income was approximately £145,973 (£134,157 in 2021). Of this £119,616 was donated to General Funds, £26,357 to Restricted Funds (i.e. specified by the donor for a particular purpose).

Expenses

In 2022 total expenses were approximately £131,931 (£150,028 in 2021), £116,338 from General Funds and £15,593 from Restricted Funds.

Here is a breakdown of the basic costs spent in maintaining the monastery: (excluding expenses such as travel, publication production, and exceptional expenses covered by Restricted Funds):

	Annual Cost (£)	Monthly Cost (£)
Utilities and firewood	23,084	1924
Household expenses	5170	431
Motoring expenses	7045	587
Rent, rates and insurance	13,487	1124
Repairs and maintenance	15,157	1263
Phones and Internet	2409	201
Welfare (medicines, dentist, etc.)	1,343	112
Office Administration (inc salary, etc.)	21,884	1824
Governance costs (accountant)	3,876	323
Events (retreats, festivals, etc.)	444	37

The Monastery also receives many donations of food and small household items throughout the year. A number of tasks, that might otherwise represent expenses to the Trust, are undertaken by volunteers, such as gardening, maintenance, driving and IT assistance.

Standing Orders

At present, regular donations by standing orders cover about 25% of the running costs each month. It is very helpful in managing the monastery's finances to know that regular costs will be covered to at least this extent. To set up a standing order donation, forms are available on the website www.ratanagiri.org.uk and at the monastery.

Reserves

As the level of donations can be variable the Trust holds funds in reserve to ensure that immediate liabilities can be met in case of a sudden drop in donations.

The Trust currently holds the following Reserve Funds:

1. Short Term Reserve: £25,000 (approximately 3 months basic running costs).
2. Long Term Reserve: at the end of 2022 held £221,157 (*for improvements to monastery buildings and property purchase - for example the Trusts hopes to purchase the freehold of part of the monastery which is currently leased, should it become available.*)
3. Replacement Fund: £13864 for emergency repairs and replacements.
4. Ageing Samanas Fund: of approximately £99,342 which is invested to provide for any increased costs involved with looking after elderly (or disabled) sangha members. It is hoped that this will enable us to provide a level of care such that aged and infirm sangha may continue to live within the monastery for the duration of their life.
5. An Endowment Fund: £4023 invested to generate income as a safeguard for the long term future of the monastery.

Banking

The Trust holds the funds spread over several types of bank accounts with different providers. These are two current accounts, an account to receive standing orders, two deposit accounts and a unit trust. As far as possible the Trustees have chosen banks that are ethically principled.

Should you require any further information about HMBT's finances please contact the Trust Secretary, email: secretary@ratanagiri.org.uk

Policies

The Trust has adopted policies for: Risk Management, Investments, Vulnerable Beneficiaries (including Child Protection), Conflicts of Interest, Volunteer Management, Complaints Handling, Data Protection and Health and Safety.

Harnham Buddhist Monastery Trust (HMBT) is the governing body responsible for the stewardship of Harnham Buddhist Monastery.



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