



Harnham Buddhist Monastery Trust

Trustees Report 2021

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 2021.

Sadly, due to the ongoing covid pandemic, it was necessary to continue to restrict visitors access to the monastery for much of 2021. It did become possible for supporters to bring offerings to be received by the sangha in person. The generosity shown by the lay community during this unusual time meant that the Trust hardly needed to call upon its Reserve Funds (maintained for such emergencies). Through the pandemic Luang Por Munindo has continued to offer Dhamma talks that were made available online. 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 the last twelve months. 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.'

The Trustees (who are also directors of HBMT Ltd.) in 2021, were: Philippa Padbury, Myint Su, Mike Pearce, John Bower, Kath Jones, and Paul Hansen (Chair) and Penny Wakefield-Pearce who is also the Trust Secretary and Treasurer. Towards the end of 2021, Penny stood down as a trustee/director in order to return to the employed position of Office Administrator as Anthony Morgan was leaving the role. In December, Ian Plagarone Neill joined 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 is usual in our monasteries several changes of residents have taken place during the year 2021.

In April Tan Samvaro went to Chithurst and it is now expected that he will continue his training there.

In July Tan Samacitto came from Wat Pah Nanachat in NE Thailand to continue his training at Harnham for an indefinite period of time.

Also in July, Tan Atthadassi arrived from Amaravati to spend the Vassa and Tan Jotisaro left for Amaravati to spend the Vassa and stayed there until November, when he received *upasampadā*.

In November Benjamin took Anagarika precepts and Tan Atthadassi returned to Amaravati.

In December Tan Tikkhanyano finished his time at Harnham and went to Amaravati to spend the winter retreat and Tan Adicco moved to Amaravati.

Also in December Tan Mahesako went to Thailand to spend at least part of his 4th year in training as a bhikkhu there and Tan Sihanado arrived with the intention of staying for the winter retreat.

Through the year, due to the pandemic, Ajahn Punnyo stayed most of the time with his mother at Ampleforth, but from July has been coming to Harnham from time to time.

The community list at the end of 2021 was:

Luang Por Munindo

Ajahn Punnyo (Intermittently)

Tan Samacitto

Tan Sihanado (mostly away due to family bereavement)

Tan Succino

Tan Jotisaro

Anagarika Gabriel (Now Samanera Nibbuto)

Anagarika Ben

Sangha visitors

This year we had the good fortune to receive Luang Por Sucitto for a week in the month of November.

Events

This year, like the previous one, has been marked by the COVID pandemic, therefore because of restrictions and caution most events and festivals were not celebrated publicly, although some of these events were observed in the monastery with chanting the parittas or a Dhamma reflection by Luang Por Munindo.

In September, to celebrate the 70th birthday of Luang Por Munindo, we had our first big public event since the beginning of the pandemic, though it was necessary to continue with precautions against COVID such as mask wearing.

In the first half of the year the daily puja was live-streamed via VIMEO to make available the opportunity for those who were at home to join the monastic community.

Activities

No formal retreats, for lay people or monastics, were held at Kusala House in 2021.

We saw very few people coming to stay, because of quarantines and COVID restrictions.

During the summer, it became possible to receive small numbers of lay supporters in the Dhamma Hall conservatory to chant the anumodana, whilst continuing to take precautions such as wearing masks and keeping a safe distance.

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

(ratanagiri.org.uk/teachings/talks)

Also Luang Por Munindo continued to share online his reflections on Dhammapada verses every month (full moon), (ratanagiri.org.uk/teachings/dhammapada-reflections) although from December, translations of these into other languages were brought to a halt due to the reduction in the number of residents in the community.

The news/blog was also sent out once a month at the 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.

The lake property at Harnham continues to flourish and develop every year. The mighty storm that left the community without electricity for just over 5 days, fortunately did not have much impact on the trees at the lake. The only significant damage was to one medium sized tree and the doors of the barn were slightly damaged, but nothing to be lamented.

We held a lake work day most months, when occasionally visitors would come for the day and join the sangha and guests at work.

Building Projects

There was no major building project this year. Although the memorial garden was renovated to make it easier to maintain, together with the restoration of the small pond there.

Also worth mentioning is the reconstruction of the bathroom in the Dhamma Hall accommodation that had been planned for sometime, with better use of space.

Other projects

Through the year, and to a lesser degree in the winter retreat period, the maintenance of the properties and small projects have been the main focus of attention, for example, the repair of the roof over the porch at No. 2 Cottage, the clearing of the car port at Mangala House, the construction and installation of two wooden sheds (one at Kusala House and one behind the Dhamma Hall) and so on.

Consideration has been given to the building of a jetty in the lake, the expansion of the island in the lake, and the building of an exercise room with an external toilet outside Mangala House, but nothing concrete has happened yet.

Other

In November there was a powerful storm that left the hill without electricity for just over 5 days.

After this some measures were taken to ensure that in the future a situation like this doesn't have the same impact, such as the acquisition of a generator and of several rechargeable

lanterns. Plus we have created a response document in case there is a red alert for a storm, so the community would be better prepared for the impact..

Finances

Income

In 2021 the total income was approximately £134,157 (£81,476 in 2020). Of this £83,147 was donated to General Funds, £50887 to Restricted Funds (i.e. specified by the donor for a particular purpose).

Expenses

In 2021 total expenses were approximately £150,028 (£84,718 in 2020), £118,846 from General Funds and £31,382 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	21,702	1808
Household expenses	15,241	1270
Motoring expenses	9033	752
Rent, rates and insurance	12,704	1058
Repairs and maintenance	6,289	524
Phones and Internet	4840	403
Welfare (medicines, dentist, etc.)	1310	109
Office Administration (inc salary, etc.)	10,464	872
Governance costs (accountant)	3,102	258
Events (retreats, festivals, etc.)	1166	97

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 running costs).
2. Long Term Reserve: at the end of 2021 held £220,744 (*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: £15,000 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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