

REDBRIDGE BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE
CHARITY NO:1075351



Annual Report and Accounts
For the year ended
31 October 2022

Charity Information

President

Ven. Pethigamuwe Hemaratana – Chief Incumbent

Hon. Joint Secretaries

Mr Bennet Samarakoon

Mr Manoj Fernando

Hon. Joint Treasurers

Mr Mangala Kannangara

Mr Thilak Mudalige

Board of Trustees

Ven Pethigamuwe Hemaratana

Mrs Sumana Hemalatha Wimalasundera

Mrs Mallika Pearl Nanayakkara

Mr Bandu Jay Perera

Dr Siri Abeysekera

Mrs Renuka Perera

Dr Palitha Serasinghe

Mr Aruna Perera

Dr W Gunawardana

Independent Examiner

Mr Sarath Jayaratne

119 Belgrave Avenue Romford

Essex

RM2 6PS

Bankers

HSBC

74 High Street Barkingside

Ilford,

Essex

IG6 2DN

Charity Commission registration number:

1075351

Charity Address

Redbridge Buddhist Cultural Centre

9 Balfour Road

Ilford

Essex

IG1 4HP

9, Balfour Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 4HP Tel: 020 8478 8286

Registered Charity No: 1075351

Trustees' Annual Report of the RBCC for the year 2021/2022

The Annual General Meeting was held on 18th December 2021 to appoint the executive committee members and the trustees of the RBCC for the year 2021/2022. The following members served as the trustees of the charity:

- Venerable P. Hemaratana
- Mrs. Mallika Nanayakkara
- Mrs. Hema Wimalasundara
- Mr. Bandula Perera
- Mrs Renuka Perera
- Dr Siri Abeysekera
- Dr Palitha Serasinghe
- Mr Aruna Perera
- Dr W D Gunewardhana

Activities & Achievements of the Charity

The following activities were carried out to achieve the objectives of the charity during the year 2021/2022.

Given the prevailing post-pandemic circumstances, the well-being and safety of both the venerable monks and the devotees remained paramount. This emphasis persisted throughout the year. Our approach involved maintaining a reduced presence of devotees, while actively promoting their engagement with online platforms for religious and cultural pursuits, particularly in the early months of 2022. As the year progressed, we gradually eased these limitations on gatherings, eventually opening the Vihara to the public for their religious activities by the latter part of 2022.

Blessings for the new year

On January 8th, 2022, the customary Pirith chanting occurred at the Vihara. This event aimed to bestow blessings upon devotees and their families through a restricted in-person gathering. Moreover, a multitude of individuals joined virtually to invoke the genuine and exceptional virtues of the Triple Gem. The Ratana Sutra, renowned as a protective chant, was regularly recited by the Maha Sanga at the temple. This recitation served to bestow blessings upon all those impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and those confronted with any manifestation of adversity, negativity, illness, or the fear of death.

New Year Ceremony

The annual Sri Lankan New Year Ceremony holds significant importance within the Sri Lankan community in the UK. Once again, RBCC orchestrated this event online on April 9th. Devotee families and their children were able to partake in this year's celebration. The

organising committee, alongside the children, parents, and teachers, embraced innovation by arranging a pre-recorded performance by the Dhamma School children. This endeavour proved to be both challenging and demanding for our Media and IT team, who worked tirelessly to create the video presentation. The collaborative effort of the children, parents, and IT team deserves high praise. Moreover, this initiative played a substantial role in restoring the emotional well-being of both children and adults, especially in the aftermath of disruptions caused by the pandemic to their daily lives.

Wesak Day

Wesak full moon day stands as the primary occasion on the Buddhist calendar, dedicated to commemorating the birth, enlightenment, and passing away of Buddha. On May 15th, religious activities unfolded throughout the course of Wesak day. Typically, the observance of Sil (eight precepts) takes precedence and traditionally occurs at the temple. However, this year, due to constraints, the event was conducted with a restricted assembly at the Vihara.

Awarding of Credentials to Ven. P Hemaratana Thero

On June 4th, 2022, an official ceremony held at the Kotte Raja Maha Vihara in Sri Lanka marked a significant occasion. Venerable Pethigamuwe Hemaratana thero, who serves as the head of the Vihara and the President of the Board of Trustees of Redbridge Buddhist Cultural Centre, was granted the prestigious title of Chief Prelate (Sanganayake) of England by the Sri Jayawardhanapura Kotte Sri Kalyani Samagree Dharma Maha Sanga Sabha. Following this recognition, a welcome ceremony took place at the Labugama Sri Dhamma Rakkhitaramaya, attended by devotees and well-wishers, with a substantial gathering of participants.

Poson Day

Poson day religious activities were also held in the month of June with a limited gathering at the Vihara.

Vas Aradhana (Invitation for Rain Retreat) and Offering Katina Robe to Maha Sanga (Katina Ceremony)

The Rain Retreat and Katina procedures commence on the full moon day of July. In the current year, just as in the past, multiple families of RBCC devotees took on the role of main Dayakas (sponsors) for this virtuous undertaking. The invitation for venerable monks to partake in the Rain Retreat was extended on July 13th. Additionally, the ceremony to present the Katina Robe took place on October 23rd, 2022. The event saw the participation of a small contingent of devotee representatives at the Vihara premises, while other devotees joined the occasion online.

Special sermons and chanting by the venerable monks

Despite the challenges posed by post-pandemic constraints and disruptions to daily life events, the venerable monks persisted in their efforts and took an additional step to offer guidance and services for the religious requirements and emotional well-being of the devotees.

In this regard, the resident monks of the Vihara undertook various religious ceremonies, including conducting funerals for devotee families, engaging in chanting and bestowing blessings upon victims of COVID-19. This multifaceted approach aimed to provide solace and support during these trying times. The Vihara played a crucial role in assisting bereaved families and victims, employing diverse strategies to help them navigate their challenging circumstances throughout the year.

Redbridge Faith Forum

The Head of the Vihara, Venerable P. Hemaratana Thero, remained engaged in the proceedings of the Redbridge Faith Forum. RBCC, in turn, played an active role in promoting harmony among the diverse faith communities by means of the forum's initiatives.

Venerable P. Hemaratana Thero, alongside several committee members, took proactive involvement in the Annual Peace Walk held on October 16th in Ilford. RBCC demonstrated its support for this event by participating actively. The Peace Walk team was greeted with a warm welcome during their journey, and a brief meeting and refreshments were arranged by RBCC members at the Vihara.

Regular Religious activities

Throughout the early months of 2022, the daily and weekend pujas (religious ceremonies) were seamlessly conducted online, without experiencing any disruptions. As the year progressed, the Vihara gradually resumed in-person gatherings for the public, but with certain limitations by the end of the year.

To ensure the protection and well-being of both devotees and the global community, the venerable monks undertook special Pujas and Pirith chanting. These devotional practices were aimed at safeguarding devotees and extending blessings to the wider world.

Dhamma School

The Dhamma school continued its operations through Zoom until July 2022. Subsequently, for the new academic year beginning in September 2022, lessons transitioned to being conducted within the Vihara premises, with students participating in person.

The commitment displayed by the Dhamma school coordinators and teachers is deeply acknowledged and valued. Their dedication played a pivotal role in ensuring the successful continuation of Dhamma School classes during this period.

Fundraising

We were unable to have any special fundraising events this year but were able to maintain the requirements with regular donations and the reserves of funds.

Special note

We wish to express our sincere gratitude for the unwavering commitment shown by the venerable monks and all devotees. Their understanding and patience during the challenging times of post-pandemic restrictions were truly commendable. Additionally, we are deeply

thankful for the constant support extended by devotees from all quarters, even in the face of financial and other adversities experienced by them throughout this unparalleled post-pandemic period.

Board of Trustees
Redbridge Buddhist Cultural Centre
27 August 2023

Independent Examiner's Reports to

The Trustees of REDBRIDGE BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 October 2022 which are set out on the page 8 -11. My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by Charity Commissioners. 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 seeking explanation from you as Trustees concerning and such matters. In my examination, no such matters of concern has come to my attention.

In my opinion of the financial statements give true and fair view of the Charity's income and expenditure for the year ended 31 October 2022

Sarath Jayaratne BA(Hon) FCCA

Accountants

119 Belgrave Avenue

Gidea Park

Romford

Essex

RM2 6PS

29 August 2022

REDBRIDGE BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE-CHARITY NO:1075351

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 October 2022**

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Income from charitable activities			
Donations	1	33,475	22,068
Other income from fund raising	2	882	4,185
Total income		34,356	26,253
Expenditure on charitable activities			
Fund raising, cultural events and other expenses	3	(4,384)	(1,381)
Travel and subsistence	5	(2,760)	(1,010)
Utilities, services and insurance expenses	4	(6,508)	(5,184)
Repairs and maintenance		(1,517)	(467)
Telephone and other office expenditure	6	(1,368)	(1,750)
Legal and other professional fees		(100)	(536)
Gift and donation towards community support	8	0	(3,105)
Total expenditure		(16,637)	(13,433)
Total income over expenditure		17,719	12,820
Finance cost and other charges			
Interest charges	7	(1,350)	(1,314)
Depreciation		(323)	(295)
Net movement of funds - Surplus(deficit) for the year		16,046	11,211

REDBRIDGE BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE-CHARITY NO:1075351

Balance Sheet

As at 31 October 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed Assets			
Equipments	10	210	532
Freehold Land & Building.	10	297,673	297,673
Total non-current assets		297,883	298,205
Current Assets			
Receivables	11	5,463	-
Bank/building society balances		104,949	101,549
Cash in hand		260	256
Net current assets		110,672	101,805
Total assets		408,555	400,010
Loans due after more than one year		(25,575)	(33,077)
Total Net Assets		382,980	366,933
Represented by:			
Unrestricted Fund at the beginning of the period		366,933	355,723
Net Movement For the year		16,046	11,211
Total Funds		382,980	366,933

Notes on pages 10 to 11 are form part of this financial statements. The financial statements have been approved by Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf.



Ven. P Hemaratana
Trustee



Mrs Renuka Perera
Trustee

**Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 October 2022**

Note 1	Income from donations	2022	2021
		£	£
	Monthly Standing Orders from devotees	21,665	19,653
	Donation - Katina ceremony*	11,184	460
	Other donations from devotees & visitors	625	1,955
		<u>33,475</u>	<u>22,068</u>
	*Katina donation for the year 2021 and 2022 received in the current financial year.		
Note 2	Income from other fund raising	2022	2021
		£	£
	Fund raising - cultural events	880	570
	Donation other - Towards community support	0	3565
	Donation other - Lottery & vihara development	0	50
	Bank interest	2	0
		<u>882</u>	<u>4,185</u>
Note 3	Fund raising, cultural events and other expenses	2022	2021
		£	£
	Hall & Marquee Hire	300	-
	Awarding of Credentials ceremony	3,490	-
	Raffle Prizes and Gifts	-	20
	Subscriptions	228	180
	Sundry - other expenses	367	1,181
		<u>4,384</u>	<u>1,381</u>
Note 4	Utilities, services and insurance expenses	2022	2021
		£	£
	Cleaning services	231	216
	Gas and Electricity	3,644	2,350
	Insurance - property	1,135	1,157
	Licensing Cost, security & alarm	851	726
	Water rates/charges	648	735
		<u>6,508</u>	<u>5,184</u>
Note 5	Travel and subsistence expenses	2022	2021
		£	£
	Air ticktes, travelling and accomodation	2,760	1,010
		<u>2,760</u>	<u>1,010</u>
Note 6	Telephone and other office expenditure	2022	2021
		£	£
	Postage	95	121
	Stationery and printing	52	56
	Telephone, fax and broadband services	1,221	1,573
		<u>1,368</u>	<u>1,750</u>
Note 7	Finance cost	2022	2021
		£	£
	Interest paid on mortgage	1,257	1,314
	Bank charges	93	-
		<u>1,350</u>	<u>1,314</u>

Note 8	Gift and donation towards community support expenditure	2022	2021
		£	£
	Funeral expenses paid - devotees	-	3,150
		<u>0</u>	<u>3,150</u>
Note 9	Receivables	2022	2021
		£	£
	Claim due from EE limited	5,463	-
		<u>5,463</u>	<u>0</u>

Note 10. Property, plant and equipments

	Land & Building	Furnitures & Equipments	Library Books	IT Equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost or revaluation					
At 1 November 2021	297,673	14,573	1084	539	313,869
	<u>297,673</u>	<u>14,573</u>	<u>1084</u>	<u>539</u>	<u>313,869</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 November 2021	0	14,430	1,084	150	15,514
Charge for the year	0	143	0	180	323
At 31 October 2022	<u>0</u>	<u>14,573</u>	<u>1084</u>	<u>329</u>	<u>15,837</u>
Net book value					
At 31 October 2021	297,673	143	0	389	298,205
At 31 October 2022	<u>297,673</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>210</u>	<u>298,032</u>

Note 11. Trustees and committee members benefits

The trustees and committee members of RBCC render their service on voluntary basis and there were no payment made to the trustees or committee members during the year