

REDBRIDGE BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE
CHARITY NO:1075351



Annual Report and Accounts
For the year ended
31 October 2024

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

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**

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

Registered Charity No: 1075351

Trustees' Annual Report of the RBCC for the year 2023/2024

The Annual General Meeting was held on 23rd December 2023 to appoint the executive committee members and the trustees of the RBCC for the year 2023/2024. The following members served as the trustees of the charity:

- Venerable P. Hemaratana
- Mrs. Mallika Nanayakkara
- Mrs. Hema Wimalasundara
- 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 2023/2024.

Blessings for the new year

On January 6th, 2024 from 7.00 to 12.00 pm the customary Pirith chanting was held 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. The event was also broadcasted via online platform forums.

Food Fair

In order to find necessary funds for the cost of New Year Festival, a food fair was held at the temple premises on 17th March 2024 from 3.00pm onwards. This was a very successful event attended by many devotees and well-wishers.

New Year Ceremony

The annual Sri Lankan New Year Ceremony holds significant importance within the Sri Lankan community in the UK. The event was held on 20th April 2024 at Woodbridge High School from 10.00am onwards attended by a very large gathering and devotee families and their children were able to partake in this year's celebration. The organising committee, alongside the children, parents, and teachers worked very hard to make this event a success. The collaborative effort of the children, parents, and organizers deserves high praise. Moreover, this initiative played a substantial role in restoring the emotional well-being of both children and adults, and wider community affiliated to the Vihara in their daily lives.

Wesak Day & Dansela (free food to the devotees)

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 26th, 2024 religious activities unfolded throughout the course of Wesak day. Typically, the observance of Sil (eight precepts) takes precedence and traditionally occurs at the temple. This programme was followed by a *Dansela* where free food was given to the large gathering of devotees at the temple premise.

Poson Day & Bakthi gee singing of religious songs)

Poson day religious activities were also held on 23rd June, 2024 with a large gathering of devotees at the Vihara followed by songs by children from the Sunday school and their parents and *Dansela* where free food was given to the large gathering of devotees at the temple premise.

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

The invitation for venerable monks to partake in the Rain Retreat was held on July 21st, 2024. This event held at the Vihara premises with the participation of sponsors of this year Katina ceremony, while other devotees joined the occasion online.

The ceremony to present the Katina Robe took place on October 27th, 2024 at Loxford School hall with a huge gathering of devotees.

Special sermons and chanting by the venerable monks

This year saw the venerable monks fully attending and engaging in 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 religious activities in funerals for devotee families, engaging in chanting and bestowing blessings upon those affected by ill health and sometimes visiting them personally. 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.

Regular Religious activities

Throughout the early months of 2024, the daily and weekend pujas (religious ceremonies) got back to pre-pandemic level as devotees started to come into the temple in person. As the year progressed, the Vihara totally resumed in-person gatherings for the public.

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 operated throughout the terms of the academic year and all the students were very eager to attend the temple in person which started from new academic year beginning in September 2023, lessons transitioned to being conducted within the Vihara premises, with students participating in person.

The commitment displayed by the Dhamma school coordinator 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

Apart from the food fair in March, 2024 and sponsorships for the New Year Festival in April, we were unable to have any other 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. Additionally, we are deeply thankful for the constant support extended by devotees from all quarters, even in the face of financial and other adversities.

Redbridge Buddhist Cultural Centre
20 December 2024

**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 2024 which are set out on the page 7-10. 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 2024

Sarath Jayaratne BA(Hon) FCCA

Accountants

Excel Accounting Solutions

119 Belgrave Avenue

Gidea Park

Romford

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RM2 6PS

27 August 2025

T:01708704775

REDBRIDGE BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE-CHARITY NO:1075351

Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 October 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Income from charitable activities			
Donations	1	30,709	22,285
Other income from fund raising	2	6,297	3,915
Total income		<u>37,006</u>	<u>26,200</u>
Expenditure on charitable activities			
Fund raising, cultural events and other expenses	3	(4,692)	(13,320)
Travel and subsistence	6	(1,850)	(4,958)
Utilities, services and insurance expenses	4	(10,344)	(8,893)
Repairs and maintenance	5	(4,493)	(131)
Telephone and other office expenditure	7	(1,642)	(1,194)
Legal and other professional fees	9	(6,034)	(300)
Office equipment and other equipment		(327)	(1,864)
Total expenditure		<u>(29,382)</u>	<u>(30,660)</u>
Total expenditure over income		<u>7,624</u>	<u>(4,460)</u>
Finance cost and other charges			
Interest charges	10	(1,379)	(1,388)
Depreciation		0	(210)
Net movement of funds - Surplus(deficit) for the year		<u>6,245</u>	<u>(6,058)</u>

Balance Sheet
As at 31 October 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets			
Equipment		0	0
Freehold Land & Building.	10	297,673	297,673
		<u>297,673</u>	<u>297,673</u>
Total non-current assets			
Current Assets			
Receivables	11	252	0
Bank/building society balances		92,124	95,217
Cash in hand		2,127	1,500
		<u>94,503</u>	<u>96,717</u>
Net current assets			
		392,176	394,390
Total assets			
Loans due after more than one year		(9,225)	(17,683)
		<u>382,950</u>	<u>376,707</u>
Total Net Assets			
Represented by:			
Unrestricted Fund at the beginning of the period		376,705	382,980
Net Movement For the year		6,245	(6,273)
		<u>382,950</u>	<u>376,707</u>
Total Funds			

Notes on pages 8 to 11 are form part of this financial statements. The financial statements have been approved by Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf.



Trustee



Trustee

**Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 October 2024**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Note 1		
Income from donations		
	20,872	20,283
Monthly Standing Orders from devotees	8,636	0
Donation - Katina ceremony	1,201	556
Other donations from devotees & visitors	0	1,445
Donation - Felicitation ceremony	<u>30,709</u>	<u>22,284</u>
	2024	2023
	£	£
Note 2		
Income from other fund raising		
	3,307	1,425
Fund raising at cultural events	2,128	1589
Fund raising - foods stall	751	840
Raffle draw at new year festival	113	61
Other income - refunds, interest and other	<u>6,297</u>	<u>3,915</u>
Note 3		
Fund raising, cultural events and other expenses		
	1,240	2200
Hall & Marquee Hire	0	9055
Felicitation ceremony	3,204	1985
Cultural & religious event expenses	248	80
Sundry - other expenses	<u>4,692</u>	<u>13,320</u>
Note 4		
Utilities, services and insurance expenses		
	1,494	517
Cleaning services	5,735	4993
Gas and Electricity	1,281	1209
Insurance - property	190	179
Licensing Cost, security & alarm	775	693
Water rates/charges	871	1302
Security & alarm	<u>10,344</u>	<u>8,893</u>
Note 5		
Repairs and maintenance		
	393	163
Sundry Repairs	4,100	69
Boiler and heating system	<u>4,493</u>	<u>232</u>
Note 6		
Travel and subsistence expenses		
	1,850	4958
Air tickets, travelling and accommodation	<u>1,850</u>	<u>4,958</u>

Note 7 Telephone and other office expenditure	2024	2023
	£	£
Postage	318	163
Stationery and printing	139	69
Telephone, fax and broadband services	1,185	962
	<u>1,642</u>	<u>1,194</u>

Note 8 Finance cost	2024	2023
	£	£
Interest paid on mortgage	1,257	1257
Bank charges	122	131
	<u>1,379</u>	<u>1,388</u>

Note 9 Legal and other professional fees	2024	2023
	£	£
Preparation of guests Monk's visa and health surcharges	4,534	0
Preparation and registration of Trust Deed	1,500	300
	<u>6,034</u>	<u>300</u>

Note 10. Property, plant and equipment

	Land & Building	Furniture & Equipment	Library Books	IT Equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost or revaluation					
At 1 November 2023	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 2023	0	14,573	1,084	539	16,196
Charge for the year	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 October 2024	<u>0</u>	<u>14,573</u>	<u>1084</u>	<u>539</u>	<u>16,196</u>
Net book value					
At 31 October 2023	297,673	0	0	0	297,673
At 31 October 2024	<u>297,673</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>297,673</u>

Note 11 Receivables	2024	2023
	£	£
Claim due from HSBC	252	0
	<u>252</u>	<u>0</u>

Note 12. 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