

AUKANA TRUST

2021



ANNUAL REPORT

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The Aukana Trust is a religious charity whose object is the promotion of the Buddhist Faith. It was established by a Deed of Trust on 17 June 1985 and registered with the Charity Commission (registration number 326938) on 19 September 1985.

The Spiritual Head of the charity is Paul Harris.

Trustees:

David Gilbert, Chairman – appointed chair at a trustee meeting on 25 January 2021

Paul Harris

Brother Nigel Skene

Anda Lutkevics

Peter Case – appointed at a trustee meeting 7 April 2021

Elizabeth Kemp – appointed at a trustee meeting 7 April 2021

As Spiritual Head of the Aukana Trust, Paul Harris has the right to nominate all new trustees. Also, a new trustee may be appointed by a resolution of a meeting of the trustees.

Address of the charity:

9 Masons Lane, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire, BA15 1QN

telephone: 01225 866821

e-mail: info@aukana.org.uk Website: www.aukana.org.uk

Addresses of monasteries run by the charity:

The Monastery of Absolute Harmony,

9 Masons Lane, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire, BA15 1QN

The Monastery of Infinite Compassion,

10 Masons Lane, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire, BA15 1QN

Address of the meditation centre administered by the charity:

The House of Inner Tranquillity,

9-10 Masons Lane, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire, BA15 1QN

Address of teacher's accommodation administered by the charity:

8 Masons Lane, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire, BA15 1QN

Bankers:

HSBC Bank plc, 46 Fore Street, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 8EL

Solicitors:

Bishop, Longbotham and Bagnall, 3 Church Street, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire, BA15 1LR

Independent Examiner:

Stephen Passfield, 5 Clearwood, Dilton Marsh, Nr Westbury, Wiltshire, BA13 4BD

AIMS AND ORGANISATION

To quote from the Trust Deed the object of the charity is 'to promote the Buddhist Faith in all aspects including both meditative and theoretical aspects and in furtherance of this object but not further or otherwise:-

- a) To provide facilities for the general public to attend lectures and classes concerning the Buddhist Faith;
- b) To provide libraries and facilities for writing translating printing publishing and selling books and pamphlets; and
- c) To establish centres schools colleges institutions monasteries nunneries communities and retreats in the United Kingdom and elsewhere and to provide such support as may be necessary for persons attending the same for the purpose of studying the Buddhist Faith.'

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Aukana Trust has regard for the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in the preparation of this report.

At the House of Inner Tranquillity Meditation Centre and associated monasteries in Bradford on Avon the Trust provides facilities for instruction in the teaching of the Buddha. Due to various government measures instigated to slow the spread of Covid-19 the Trust had to severely restrict the number of meetings and retreats offered during the year. To compensate for this Paul Harris continued doing livestreams that he had instigated in March 2020 using the House of Inner Tranquillity (HoIT) Facebook page. When meetings resumed in late July 2021, to increase accessibility of the lecture and Q&A meetings, these were also streamed live on Facebook.

Activities during the year ending 30 September 2021 include:

- Paul Harris conducting 49 livestreams on Facebook before meetings resumed.
- 10 weekly group meetings held with an average attendance of 22 people.
- Livestreaming of lecture and Q&A group meetings from 4 August 2021 with an average of 14 people attending online.
- Retreats resuming in September 2021 with one 6-day silent and one weekend retreat completed. Each was fully attended by 4 people.
- 3 new videos added to the HoIT YouTube channel. The channel had 92 videos, 703 subscribers and 9,173 views in total.
- 19 Podcasts were uploaded during the year making a total of 127. There were 16,500 listens during the year.
- The HoIT Facebook page had 616 followers and 522 likes at year end.
- The Friends of HoIT Facebook page – a group administered by meditators who post regularly – had 641 members at year end and more than 20,000 recorded "reactions" in the year.

All the media platforms can be reached from the Aukana Trust web site. The Trust's 10 published book titles can also be ordered through the web site via an online shopping cart facility or by contacting the Trust directly.

On 30 September 2021 one monk was in residence fully supported by the Trust. The financial support (as authorised in section 14 of the Trust Deed) for Paul Harris was increased substantially in May 2021 from an annual stipend of £3,000 to an annual stipend of £18,000. This was to enable Paul Harris to have greater flexibility and independence. To maximise the potential State Pension Paul Harris could receive, a one off payment of £6,380 for retrospective National Insurance contributions was made in May 2021. The Trust intends to pay an annual National Insurance contribution on behalf of Paul Harris going forward. The Trust also supported a full-time lay student and trustee, Anda Lutkevics, who has been in residence since February 2000 and works as housekeeper and administrator.

In keeping with Buddhist traditions, no charge is made for any of the facilities offered by the Trust. The major part of the Trust's income derives from donations. This financial year roughly 80% of this is made up of various miscellaneous donations and monthly donations from 60 meditators and supporters which contributed £22,118. A Gift Aid tax reclaim contributed 12.5% of the total income.

For meditators attending and practising at the Centre, an integral part of the Buddha's training is the development of generosity, service and friendliness in all aspects of life. Over the year the Trust has received various non-financial donations, particularly in respect of food and household goods as well as assistance from meditators in the day-to-day upkeep of the Centre. A restricted number of people served the Centre as regular day students when Covid-19 government guidance allowed them to attend.

RESERVES POLICY

To reflect the high potential costs of repairs to the buildings the Trustees aim to maintain reserves at a minimum level of 2 times the annual expenditure with the exclusion of exceptional items. The policy is reviewed annually. At 30 September 2021 the Trust had cash reserves of £154,206. There were no items of exceptional expenditure. Total expenditure for the year was £46,101. The reserves are about 3.3 times this figure.

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Trustee

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Trustee

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Date



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

AUKANA TRUST

On accounts for the year ended

YEAR TO END SEPTEMBER 2021

Charity no (if any)

326938

Set out on pages

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below~~ *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

[Signature]

Date:

28/3/2022

Name:

STEPHEN PASSFIELD

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

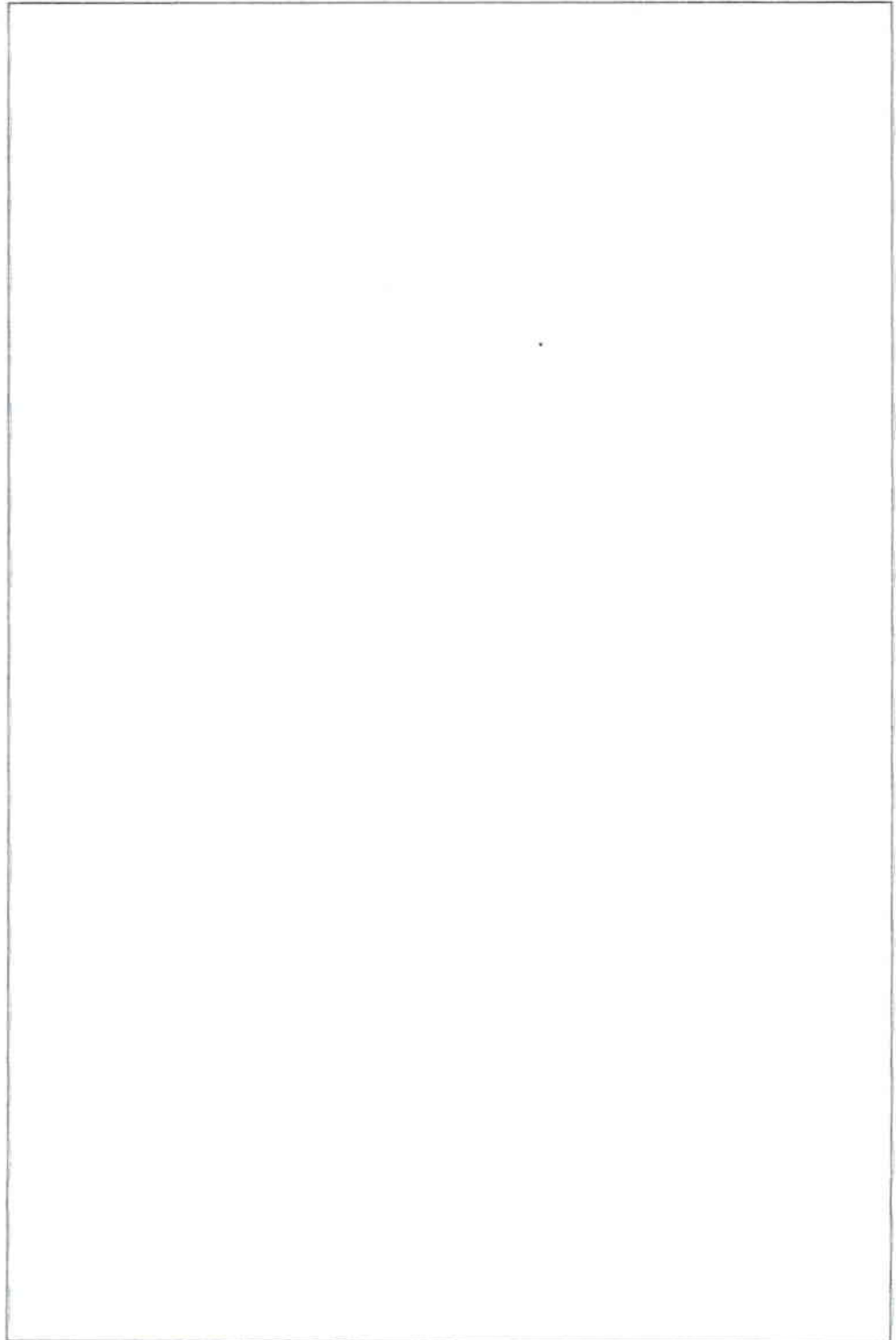
[Empty box for professional qualification]

Address:

S CLEARWOOD,
DILTON MARSH, WESTBURY
WILTSHIRE, BA13 4BD.

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.



AUKANA TRUST (Charity no 326938) STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES, 30.9.2021

CASH FUNDS				
Bank balances	68,909.55	65,738		
Building Society balance	84,981.17	83,986		
Petty cash	178.91	208		
PayPal Business	115.60	0		
Amazon Seller Account	20.81	6		
Total reconciled to Receipts and Payments schedule	154,206.04	149,937		
OTHER MONETARY ASSETS				
Publishing debtors				
Jim Vuylsteke	0.00	0		
Shops	0.00	0		
Mail order	0.00	7		
				7
ASSETS USED BY THE CHARITY				
Freehold property	389,000.00	389,000		
Improvements to above	54,707.57	54,708		
				443,708
OTHER ASSETS USED BY THE CHARITY				
Motor vehicle				
Furniture & equipment				
ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR SALE				
Aukana published book stock	17,605.04	17,743		
Shop stock - books, incense, Buddha figures and cards	228.88	172		
				17,915

Comparison as at 30.9.2020

Actual values

Actual values

Values at cost

APPENDIX

AUKANA TRUST: PUBLISHING ACCOUNT 2020 - 2021

	526	899	1166	1082	734	891	1163	1379	1510	1627	Totals for 2020-2021	Totals for 2019-2020
	Modern Buddhism	Life as a Siamese Monk	Buddhist Character Analysis	Unfolding of Wisdom	Buddhism in a Foreign Land	The Plain Facts	Inner Tranquility	Meditation Retreat	Purpose of Life	Postcards from Beyond		
Opening physical stocks 1/10/20	526	899	1166	1082	734	891	1163	1379	1510	1627	10977	11066
Cost/book £	1.40	1.85	1.35	1.77	1.92	1.37	1.78	1.57	1.86	1.34		
Stock value £	736.40	1,663.15	1,574.10	1,915.14	1,409.28	1,220.67	2,070.14	2,165.03	2,808.60	2,180.18	£17,742.69	£17,881
Less Net sales for the year	8	10	6	9	4	5	4	7	11	22	86	89
Less Donations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Plus stock gains												0
Less stock reductions												0
Closing physical stocks 30/9/21	518	889	1160	1073	730	886	1159	1372	1499	1604	10890	10977
Cost/book £	1.40	1.85	1.35	1.77	1.92	1.37	1.78	1.57	1.86	1.34		
Stock value £	725.20	1,644.65	1,566.00	1,899.21	1,401.60	1,213.82	2,063.02	2,154.04	2,788.14	2,149.36	£17,605.04	£17,743

Summary of Publishing income for the year

	2020-2021	2019-2020
	£	£
Sales receipts for the year	753.20	883.28
Less opening debtors	6.95	23.79
Plus closing debtors	0.00	6.95
	<u>-6.95</u>	<u>-16.84</u>
Gives actual sales value for the Year	746.25	866.44
Deduct cost of sales - calculated by Publishing costs		
Value of opening stock	17,742.69	17,881.03
Less value of closing stock	<u>17,605.04</u>	<u>17,742.69</u>
	137.65	138.34
Net receipts for publishing for the year	<u>608.60</u>	<u>728.10</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

The accounts have been prepared entirely as Receipt and Payment accounts with an accompanying statement of Assets and Liabilities in accordance with Charity Commission Guidance. An Appendix showing details of the Aukana book movements has been provided for the benefit of the trustees.

The funds of the Charity are all unrestricted funds so all financial information has been given in total.

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS

RECEIPTS

Donations - Meditation Courses: The donations from those attending meditation courses have the portion above cost used in the tax reclaim according to the rules of Gift Aid – our present suggested donation is £30 per meditator per day.

Donations - General: Tax is reclaimed on donations of any value where a Gift Aid Declaration has been signed by the donor. We advise donors that if they wish to give regularly they can set up a monthly standing order and sign a Gift Aid declaration.

Publishing: To date, the Trust has published ten books.

PAYMENTS

SUPPORT: Teachers

From May 2021 the annual stipend for Paul Harris was increased from £3,000 (in place since 2010) to £18,000.

A one off payment of £6,380 for retrospective National Insurance contributions was made in May 2021 on behalf of Paul Harris.

SUPPORT: Residential Lay Student

One residential student received pocket money.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

ASSETS USED BY THE CHARITY

Freehold Property: The Trust owns three properties:-

9 Masons Lane, Bradford on Avon bought in 1986 for £79,000.

10 Masons Lane, Bradford on Avon bought in 1993 for £200,000.

8 Masons Lane, Bradford on Avon bought in 1997 for £110,000.

OTHER ASSETS

Publishing Debtors and Stocks: See Statement of Assets and Liabilities and Appendix.

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Trustee

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Trustee

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Date