



**Annual General Meeting Report  
2022**



## Offerings in the Dharma life

*Buddhafield exists to bring the teachings of the Buddha into reality in our lives. This is done by honouring our aspiration to embody wisdom and compassion, to study the Dharma and to connect with each other in community. As a post-COVID recovery year and by all our hearts desires, this has been an excellent year for Buddhafield. Thanks to everyone who has participated in small and large ways to keep weaving this beautiful tapestry.*

- Amaragita, Chair of Trustees



### Mitra News

This year has seen the development of Mitra study within Buddhafield. Zoom has become an easier and more accepted way of meeting, so we have been able to expand our Mitra study offerings. There are now four Mitra study groups and a pre-Mitra study group. We have a total of 40 Mitras with 34 actively involved in study.

We had Mitra ceremonies for three beautiful beings this year- Sara and Jason - both of whom have key roles at

the festival - and Sharon who is the mandate holder for Buddhafield Southeast.

Danaraja has put down being the men's Mitra convenor. Much gratitude to him for holding the role over the last 4 years. We are in the process of appointing Alobhin and Muditajina as joint Mitra convenors.



## Pathways to Ordination

Muditajina returned from his Spanish mountain top ordination retreat to a wonderful candlelit welcome and ritual at the autumn team gathering. It was extra special that his preceptor was there, and we had a sneak peek into their experience of the ordination journey. May we welcome back many more people in our community who take this step!



At our spring and autumn team gatherings, we have a space for dialogue and connection with Order Members for those who have asked for ordination. We want there to be support for people in their journey to ordination and these meetings are part of this process. There are 23 Mitras in the sangha who have asked for ordination.

Buddhafield held a joint GFR retreat with Tiratnaloka this year on our land at Bowerwood. This provided an opportunity for more women and non-binary people to go on a retreat. We had excellent feedback and five participants who came over from Europe especially for this event.

In November, Amaragita and Viryanaya held a GFR weekend at Tiryan House entitled - *The Lotus and the Dakini*. They use a form of practice evaluation called the Practice Lotus to do a stocktake and then explored the authentic naked expression of the Dakini as a powerful symbol of integrated practice.

## 2022 Events

We had a full calendar of beautiful events this year. Attendee figures below are booked tickets and do not include the crew and contributors that are integral to each event.

### **Buddhafield Festival (attendees: 2346, mandate holder: Muditajina)**

The festival was a sold-out event in the midst of a heatwave. We had many rave reviews, and plenty of magical abundance.



We welcomed new people into the teams and rejoiced in those passing their role on:

- Joanna and Sanghadara for the Dharma Parlour, while saying goodbye to Dayajoti who held the role for 7 years. We offered our gratitude to Dayajoti who is leaving us for a 3 year retreat in France and look forward to her deep dive and return with treasures.
- Sam has stepped into crew food - taking over from Ruth who held and shaped this huge job for many years.
- Alex has stepped into compliance for the festival and the Health and Safety role in general operations.
- Rose Lander has taken on the ticket office role and we said goodbye and thanks to Polly.
- Jayasuri stepped in as the People of Colour Space co-ordinator while Chris took on the Men's Space.

The team is happy harmonious and doing well. Look out for a new Workshop Space 5 and a space dedicated to somatic movement in 2023.

**Green Earth Awakening (attendees: 146, mandate holder: Rose Lancaster passing on to David Basak and Joanna Spence for 2024)**

A beautiful late autumn event on the rolling hills of Devon. The event was well attended with powerful talks, processing and great feedback.

The GEA lead role is in the process of being handed on. It will be split into two - Content and mandate holder – which will be held by Joanna Spence, and Event holder - which will be held by David Basak. From 2024, the event will be annual. It's not clear yet whether this will affect the bi-annual GEA retreat – known as Routes to Resilience. The latter will take place in May 2023 and its future discussed in 2023.



**Buddhafield Café (@Glastonbury and @Green Gathering as well as the festival, mandate holder: Priyadaka)**

After two years of staying at home during the COVID crisis, the Buddhafield Café got back on the road this year. Both external events went very well. A meditation team of 4 travelled with the cafe to Glastonbury. They held multiple well-attended sessions.

Priyadaka is the new Cafe mandate holder – taking over from Danaraja. Ciara has done a fantastic job as the kitchen manager. We are hoping to bring another paid



member into the cafe next year. There will be a small working event in 2023 to give new life to the kitchen decor as well as a sangha building retreat for those working in cafe. See the Buddhafield calendar for dates.

## 2022 Retreats

*This year the retreats circle ran a full program of events for the first time since the pandemic. We began with a pilgrimage along the Ridgeway for the spring yatra, where a strong sense of camaraderie emerged in the sometimes-wild conditions. Next came the women's training for ordination retreat, coinciding with the bluebells at Bowerwood. In mid-May, we headed to a beautiful meadow near the river Dart where we held two meditation retreats - the Body of Bliss, an innovative event exploring techniques developed by Rob Burbea, which was followed by the much-loved Total Immersion with Paramananda. Our final event of the year was the well-attended beginners retreat 'Awakening to a Life of Deep Meaning' at Frogmill, which received a lot of very positive feedback. Over the year we have hosted more than a hundred retreatants and Yatrikas, alongside the teams running the events, and generated a surplus of over £19,000.*

- Mark, Retreat Mandate Holder



### **At Home with the Elements (attendees: 104, leader: Lotus passing on to Utpaladhi & Ruth Love for 2023)**

This popular online retreat started its life as a month-long event during the pandemic. This year, it was shortened to two weeks yet still made more than £5,000. We had at least 80 people joining us to meditate every morning as seven different leaders helped us journey through the elements. The retreat remains a great way to connect with people during the winter months as well as an international community and others who can't join us in a field during the year.



*It's highly unlikely that I will attend a live Buddhafield in a field, so this is a great way of engaging with the energy! The admin team are all fabby.*

- Retreat Participant



**Spring Yatra (attendees: 39, leader: Lokabandhu)**

An early Yatra this year meant some icy conditions and reminded everyone that while we offer these retreats as restorative, they aren't meant to be viewed as relaxing holidays. They are where we can be in relationship with nature through practice– whatever conditions it brings.

*Amazing. Some of the people I have met on these Yatra's have become close and loved friends and I'm grateful to be able to participate.*

*For me to spend a week submersed in nature whilst able to practice with likeminded individuals is so precious and to be supported to do this by a team behind the scenes.*

- Retreat Participant

**Archetypal Symbolism of the Refugee Tree- GFR Retreat with Tiratnaloka (attendees: 21, leaders: Vajratara and Karunadhi from Tiratnaloka, Dayajoti, Amaragita and Viryanaya)**

We welcomed the opportunity to offer people a chance to be on the GFR journey within the Buddhafield context among the bluebells at Bowerwood. This event followed directly from our spring team gathering and so held a sense of being prepared in some ways by the whole community. We welcomed women and non-binary participants to this event.

*I had a wonderful experience on this retreat, probably one of the best retreats I've ever had. I loved the synergy between Tiratnaloka and Buddhafield - would love to see more of this.*

- Retreat Participant

**Buddhafield Southeast Spring & Autumn (attendees: spring – 48, autumn – 34, mandate holder: Sharon Trodd)**

Buddhafield Southeast asked to be included under the main Buddhafield system a few years ago now after starting as a sperate entity – like Buddhafield North and Buddhafield East. It still operates relatively independently and yet is a precious and beautiful jewel in the retreat calendar. West Wartling woods is a special place for



families to gather in the southeast and enjoy a low-key camp held by practice, communal living and friendship.

*My first retreat with Buddhafield and I can't wait for the next. Coming as a single dad with my very young daughter I felt welcomed with open arms.*

- Retreat Participant

**Men's Wilderness (attendees: 12, leaders: Muditajina, Danaraja passing on to Akashapala and Muditajina for 2023)**

*The wild setting of Snowdonia was the perfect place to explore the inner wilderness of our minds, becoming closer as a community and to ourselves. We took in 6 mountain peaks, including Snowdon and Moel Hebog, covering 120km and around 8000 metres of up!*



*I am tired from waking with the birds each morning and walking long days, but they were beautiful ones, filled with silent walking, friendship, laughter, kindness, chanting and the epic beauty of Snowdonia. I have seen mountain sides turned purple, awoken dragons in a fortress, chanted my way up a mountain, slept by forgotten ruins, waded through a river, and found friends I never knew I had.*

*I am very grateful to be able to be a part of this, of Buddhafield, and to work in a team with such ease that it never feels like work. My thanks go to Priyadaka, Danaraja, Luke, Francis and all the men who made this so special. I admire the courage it takes to keep going when faced with parts of yourself that pull you back, and I celebrate the dharma, without it we would be lost in that wilderness. May all those Men go well.*

-Muditajina

**Body of Bliss: Metta and Samādhī 2022 (attendees: 21, leaders: Viryadeva and Dayajoti with yoga from Maitriyoti)**

Offering experienced meditators the opportunity to go deeper into loving-kindness as a route to Samādhī. This retreat followed on from a Body of Bliss online course offered in 2021 and then Dayajoti and Maitriyoti took the golden thread of this practice into a practice-specific kula group at Village 2.



*I don't think I'll ever forget this retreat; it really created the perfect conditions for me to progress. Just like the Dharma, it was magical & beyond words and I'm very grateful to you all for creating it.*  
- Retreat Participant

**Total Immersion -The Poetics of Awakening (attendees: 28, leaders: Paramananda, Alobhin and Padmadharshini)**

A two-week only version of the Total Immersion this year. Paramananda held this retreat alongside Alobhin and Padmadharshini.

*I think Buddhafield is doing a lot of things well and is attracting younger people. It's quite hard to conceptualise quite what this is but well done and thank you!*  
- Retreat Participant

**Village (attendees: Village 1: 34, Village 2: 174, mandate holder: Kamalanandi passing on to Ruth Love for 2023)**

The Village retreat ran in a heatwave this year and with much gratitude offered to Blackaton Brook for bringing much needed to relief to retreatants and crew of all ages. With over 300 people on site at Village 2 and many of them children, it's always a beautiful mix of chaos, sound, peace and silence with a strong team at the centre weaving it all together. It's difficult to encapsulate the poignancy of a retreat that aims to hold everything from new-borns to people considering the end of their lives. With many rituals throughout the week, activities from misty morning to starry nights and the blessings of our land at Frog Mill, the Village continues to be the high point of the year for many families.



*This was a truly magical family experience for us. Everything about the transient nature of the retreat - of how the field arises and passes away - of how the Buddhafield arises and passes away - were very meaningful and have had a big effect on our family. I was grateful for the inclusivity and the support we received.*  
- Retreat Participant

**Awakening to a Life of Deeper Meaning - Beginners Retreat (attendees: 26, leaders: Alobhin and Ratnadeva)**

Alobhin and Ratnadeva welcomed an intrepid group of Beginners to Frogmill to see how Buddhist practice can help integrate the ups and downs of life with the help of nature's lessons.

*Thanks for an incredible retreat!*  
- Retreat Participant





## Team Gatherings

This year we held the spring team gathering at Bowerwood and the autumn at Mayhill in Gloucestershire. Both were packed to the treetops. We offered a balanced programme with time for work, meditation, study, friendship, singing around the fire and anticipating or rejoicing in the season. We also had Mitra ceremonies at each. These beautiful gatherings are how we connect as a community to hold the powerful events that we offer throughout the year. If you didn't make on this year, please consider them for your calendar next year.



*As we know Sangha exists not as a concept but as a potential that must keep manifesting over and over within our world. Our community can grow as a sangha through these rare and precious opportunities to meet by ourselves and for ourselves. Between these gatherings we throw ourselves into the world for the benefit of others.*

*The very act of meeting for friendship and sharing is a radical, creative and subversive act in itself. It challenges the views of nihilism and cynicism. Friendship needs no justification.*

- Danaraja



## Resources

### **Kit (mandate holder: Trevor Walker, deputy and kit week organiser: Laura Claffey)**

Trevor holds the extraordinary mandate of making sure we have all the Kit we need for our events. As there is no one local to work with him, we held two 'Kit weeks'. A group of volunteers spent a week at the beginning and end of the year checking the canvases, restocking first aid containers, sorting and tidying the retreats kitchen and so on. The hot tub wood burner got a makeover. Festival play equipment was oiled.



The barn is looking beautifully clean and tidy. New labels and a map are being made to help keep it this way in the future. The March 2023 kit week will focus on renovating the compost toilets.

### **Vehicles (mandate holder: Fern Rotheray)**

There were no major changes in the management of Buddhafields vehicles this year. Finishing touches were made to the new Cafe van in time for Glastonbury Festival. The rest of the vehicles continued to be used by Retreats, BFF and GEA and usual and all served their purpose. Discussion has begun about whether it is time to replace Ivy. Regarding hire - legal restrictions meant we were again limited to 7.5t lorries, this was challenging but we made it work. We are in the process of reviewing this process in the hope we can return to 18t vehicles next year, which will better suit our needs. Fern has asked to put down the mandate and hopes to hand it over in early 2023.



### **Land (lead link: vacant)**

*Bowerwood (land manager: Pom McFadden)*

Bowerwood has held workdays every month and the April team gathering took place there this year. It was a good chance for the team to see the results of the consistent, year-round work here. A small storage barn is in process and people came together for a few fierce weather days to help with the raising.



Frogmill (land manager: Mike Fletcher)

Low key year but the Frogmill Land team managed to keep young trees alive in drought and kept on top of some dangerous tree issues in the winter. We had a successful hay cut, repaired gates and fences and extended the orchard planting in March with Lou and few others. Biodiversity continues to increase, and the land was prepared for the two retreats that we had at Frogmill this year.



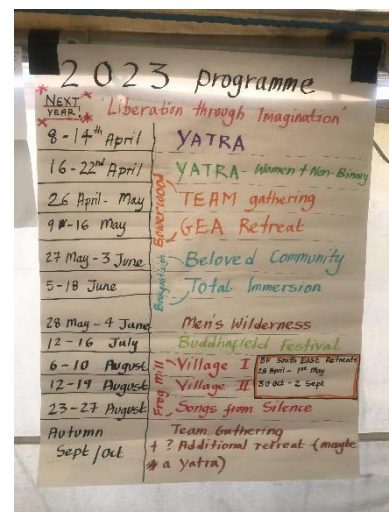
Highlights were the intimate ritual we had to release Andy's (Zeb's Dad) oak tree from its protection to spread its branches. Another highlight was the amazing and careful village pre-set up and tat down led by Mark. Our supportive, kind farming neighbour Michael Stanbury had stray sheep that our village youngsters helped shepherd back into his fields. Thank you to all the helpers.

### **Sustenance (lead link: Ruth Love, team holder: Dave Bevan, organiser: Sharon Trodd)**

Sustenance – which includes kitchens, washing up and tea tent duties – are at the heart of every event that we have. The teams that hold these areas expressed the need for additional support this year and it was clear that there needed to be some way to hold an overview of sustenance teams and processes. Following a consultation and report from the autumn team gathering, the Sustenance for Sustenance circle was created and now sits in Ops. The team are meeting regularly to begin the process of looking at the various needs and projects that people are excited to address in 2023.

### **Programming (lead link: Muditajina)**

This year we set an intention to get as much of the 2023 programme as possible scheduled and sorted prior to the end of May 2022. This worked quite well – we have had a few minor shifts from the pictured programme but otherwise things are as they were proposed at the spring team gathering. We expect to adhere to the same timetable for scheduling in 2023-24.



### **Connectivity and Communication (lead link: Lotus)**

Publicity (mandate holder: Beth Jones)

Beth Jones took on the role of publicity mandate holder early this year. She ensured that we had a regular social media presence as



well as communication with our audience. We had good numbers this year and reached out to some new groups for publicity and networking. Working with the various teams, Beth is hoping to create more links between teams and publicity in the coming year. We have been invited to join the new Digital Creative Sangha forming within Triratna - Beth and Lotus will be attending these meetings.

#### *Front of House (mandate holder: Lotus)*

Joe Hill joined the team for email support. During the high traffic point of the year, just before the festival, we answer up to 100 emails a day.

Many 2023 events went up on the website before Glastonbury. By the end of the season, the Men's Wilderness had already sold out and the Yatra was half full. The family events went up in October.

#### *Volunteer Coordination (bundle holder: Ruth Love)*

Approximately 2000 volunteers and contributors worked with us this year. The new role of volunteer liaison was created this year and held by Ruth. They have shepherded it through its first year and are now looking to pass on the role to someone who can continue its development and find connections between the different areas of Buddhafield and how we support our volunteers.

Ruth created the Code of Conduct and took it to its first consent-based decision-making session at the autumn team gathering. They also managed the revival of the Anuruddhas program which is currently taking applications for next year.

#### *Buddhafield Base (lead link: Amaragita, project lead: Lotus, team holder: Viryanaya, organiser: Oscar Gillespie)*

Huge steps in the Buddhafield Base project this year. We finalised and completed the business plan and share offer, registered as a Community Benefit Society, opened our own bank account and applied for charitable status with the HMRC.



We have had pledges and donations from the Order Convention, Buddhafield Festival, GEA and online presence amounting to around £70,000 – around half of this has been banked and the rest is in process. This brings our total – with agreed in principles loans, reserves and other sources – up to just over £500k. The team will continue the fundraising journey throughout 2023. We are also getting into the finer details of anticipating our planning needs, viewing properties and preparing to tell



the story of Buddhafield Base to those we need to support our dreams – planners, local communities, funders and so on.

*The journey to Buddhafield Base is mythic as well as earthly. Along the way so far, we have applied the fire of will, taken great leaps of faith to engage the power of flight and opened to a reign/rain of abundance. We also weather storms at sea as our vision meets forces that we cannot control. In the next year, we aspire to write the next chapter of our adventure - coming to shore at our new home.*

- Lotus

*IT & Data Management (bundle holder: Buddhasevaka)*

Buddhasevaka has been settling into role this year having come on board in January as 'Tom' and having his ordination retreat soon after. Sam has stepped back from the IT role but will still be working on the backend of Participate and at the festival. Work continues to improve the Participate system to help it meet the complex needs of Buddhafield. We are looking at reviewing both the main Buddhafield website and the Base website in the new year to improve the look and feel.

*Fundraising (lead link: vacant)*

We are always so grateful to all those who give a regular amount each month however small or large. This year we have focussed on fundraising for Base. More Fundraising on the horizon for 2023.

**Guardianship (lead link: Kamalanandi)**

*Safeguarding (bundle holder: Kamalanandi)*

We have had another successful in-house training each year and completed ongoing DBS checks. Comprehensive safeguarding coverage on all our events and year-round work ensuring Buddhafield meets its safeguarding requirements as a registered charity.

*Health and Safety (bundle holder: Alex Post)*

We welcomed Alex Post into the role this autumn. They have been a volunteer on site crew at the festival for the last few years and are based in Manchester. They have already begun making connections and contacting people to create new connections and ease for healthy and safety at our events.



### *Inclusivity (lead link: vacant)*

We made some good progress raising awareness around the needs of crew members and volunteers who have restricted diets on our events. We have also begun to roll out conversations with area coordinators at the festival about the Buddhafield Inclusivity Document. Kamalanandi has stepped down as Mandate Holder and this position is now vacant.



### **Sangha Harmony (lead link: Rose Lancaster)**

More people reached out for support with challenges around communication in teams. There was more of a presence for this circle at Buddhafield Festival. They teamed up with the on-site mediation team which worked well. A new development was debriefing people who were at the front end of difficult interactions during the festival.

We had a sangha harmony session at each of the team gatherings as well as a 'Holding Teams' focused offering in the autumn.

### **Mandates (lead link: Cait Crosse)**

This year, the mandates system mandate was handed over from Samuel to Cait at the beginning of the year. The Mandate System Circle's year focuses around three main events: the Mandates day (1-day meeting of mandate holders and team holders) in January, and the two team gatherings.

A few reflections on the year:

- Cait is still making the role her own and re-forming the Mandates System circle.
- At the moment, Amaragita and Cait are working together. They're still in the process of establishing a regular rhythm of meetings with the wider circle. They met in November to evaluate the year and plan ahead. While the main focus of the role is on the three events mentioned above, they also agreed that the system could benefit from a bit more care (Cait making it known she's available for support, periodic reminders on Slack, the development of more resources, etc.)
- At both team gatherings, Cait delivered two workshops: an 'Introduction to the Mandates System' session and a session in which Mandate holders could



update each other on their work. At the Autumn team gathering, the latter session was open and well attended, and the focus became more on sharing information from the Mandate Holders to the wider sangha.

- We're continuing to learn from and evaluate these team gathering sessions. Some have found the introductory sessions overwhelming - the quest to find accessible ways to communicate the mandate system continues! Cait is thinking of running an introductory session more aimed on practical ways to interact with the Mandates system, rather than trying to describe it.
- Zoom and the amount of ongoing contact between Mandate Holders over winter means that information sharing meetings have a bit of a different function, but still feel important as opportunities for connecting in, self-reflection and reflection on the functioning of the system overall.



## Final Figures 2021

	£	£	£
	Income	Expenditure	Surplus/ Deficit
<b>Online events</b>			
Body of Bliss day	145.00		145.00
At Home with the Elements	10,631.00	210.00	10,421.00
Body of Bliss Course	3,729.00	518.17	3,210.83
Sangha Night	158.22	0.00	158.22
	<u>14,663.22</u>	<u>728.17</u>	<u>13,935.05</u>
<b>Main retreat programme</b>			
I am because we are	4,269.36	3,147.85	1,121.51
Spring Yatra	1,380.00	0.00	1,380.00
Total immersion	14,685.34	11,665.96	3,019.38
Wild Camping Yatra	7,218.29	6,564.12	654.17
Womens Yatra	7,593.53	2,021.04	5,572.49
	<u>35,146.52</u>	<u>23,398.97</u>	<u>11,747.55</u>
<b>Other Retreats</b>			
BFSE retreat	4,422.15	1,428.05	2,994.10
Routes to Resilience	8,531.04	2,866.26	5,664.78
Men's Wilderness	2,009.96	2,430.57	-420.61
Village 1	1,140.00	2,205.09	-1,065.09
Village 2	16,827.53	9,308.41	7,519.12
Village 2 2020 (refunds)	-1,140.00	0.00	-1,140.00
	<u>31,790.68</u>	<u>18,238.38</u>	<u>13,552.30</u>
<b>Team retreats</b>			
Spring	670.52	1,803.89	-1,133.37
Autumn	585.00	2,280.74	-1,695.74
	<u>1,255.52</u>	<u>4,084.63</u>	<u>-2,829.11</u>
<b>Festival</b>			
Income	286,202.38		
Direct costs		143,416.42	
Overheads		42,033.02	
Depreciation/equipment asset cost		8,446.61	
Profit			<u>92,306.33</u>
Donation To Charity			<u>95,990.71</u>





## Financial Highlights 2022

	£	£	
<b>Buddhafield Festival</b>			Best ever ticket sales and Income!!
Ticket sales	409,000		Up from £286,000 in 2021
Traders and other income	19,250		
Total Income		428,250	
Forecast Surplus (donated to charity)		<b>160,000</b>	
<b>GEA</b>			
Ticket sales	24,230		
Total Income		<u>24,230</u>	
Forecast Surplus (donated to charity)		<b>1,000</b>	
<b>Retreats</b>			
Booked places	50,000		Up from 30,000 in 2021
Rereat dana (estimated)	35,000		Compared with £38,000 in 2021
		<u>85,000</u>	
<b>Buddhafield in the Web</b>			
Booked places & dana (approx.)	5,000		
		<u>5,000</u>	
<b>Support</b>			
Buddhafield is now able to support staff and volunteers through bundle system	<b>103,000</b>		Compared with £82,000 in 2021
<b>Base donations</b>			
	17,000		Cash
	3,000		Grant
Total for year		<u>20,000</u>	Not including pledges/share issue
<b>Overall forecast surplus (estimated)</b>		<u>80,000</u>	Compared with £40,000 in 2021

## Coming Up in 2023...

The return of many of our popular retreats and events as well as our first ever singing retreat, the return of the Anuruddha program and continued progress towards finding a new home for Buddhafield.

Thank you to everyone that makes Buddhafield the vibrant, beautiful, ever-changing manifestation of loveliness that it is.

