

# Reflect

THE OXFORD CENTRE FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES  
ANNUAL REVIEW 2021

The Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies promotes the study of Buddhist texts, societies, theories and practices.



**WE NEED YOU –**  
to help secure the  
future of scholarly  
interaction with  
Buddhism.

# Director's message



In 2001, when I took the first steps towards creating the Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies, I had several aspirations, some of which have now been realised.

My main aim was to enhance and support Buddhist Studies at Oxford, at that time sorely under-represented. This, I am glad to say, we have achieved. The Chair of Buddhist Studies, and our many lectures, seminars etc., have contributed towards a thriving Buddhist Studies presence at Oxford.

I also wanted to ensure that the fruits of work at Oxford were shared far and wide. Our signature online courses in Pali - now complete - offer interested parties all over the world first class opportunities to study one of the foundational languages of Buddhism to a high level. The Pali Hub offers a free comprehensive bibliography of Early Buddhist scholarship, and our Journal continues in its mission to provide rigorous original scholarship that is accessible to non-specialists.

My dream of a communal space for discussing Buddhist Studies has appeared in our office/library, with several plans in operation to develop the local use of the library space, once we can all meet again in person.

As I retire (although I remain on the Board), it is good to see the Centre so firmly rooted, and I look forward to seeing it develop, with your help, in the future.

**Professor Richard Gombrich**

## From our new Chair of Trustees



Early in 2020, Professor Gombrich decided to stand down as chair of the trustees of OCBS and, later in the year, as its Academic Director. There are therefore three simple but fundamental messages to convey at this moment.

First, we are all immensely grateful to Professor Gombrich for all that he has contributed to OCBS since its formation. And secondly, the trustees are delighted to report that he continues to serve as a trustee and that the Board remains committed to realising the vision for OCBS that he has outlined above.

The immediate, and pressing, focus of the trustees is therefore on securing a stable financial future for OCBS so that it can continue beyond, say, the next year or two. We are on our way to doing that, with our online teaching initiatives, and in this Review you will find details of our future plans.

**Charles Shaw**

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Centre provides one to one support in reading texts with students from all over the world.

# News from the last year

## Stefano Zacchetti

This year we were deeply saddened by the sudden death of Stefano Zacchetti, Numata Professor of Buddhist Studies at Balliol College. Ever since his arrival in 2012 he has participated generously in the work of the Centre, and served as our Deputy Academic Director and Deputy Chair of the Trustees. It has been a joy to watch Buddhist Studies at Oxford blossom under his dedicated leadership. His warm and openhearted nature enriched all our lives.



## Change in Status

Since August, the Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies has ceased to be a Recognised Independent Centre of the University of Oxford, following the University's decision to discontinue the category. We have now signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University, and look forward to continuing our support for Buddhist Studies at Oxford.

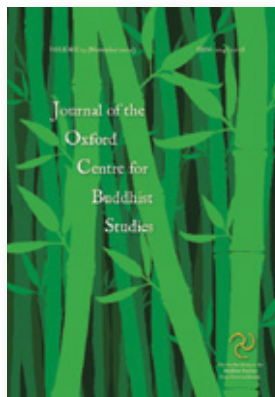
## Podcasts

The Centre now has 18 lectures provided free on its website. It is planning a new online series for next year.



## Journal

The Journal enters its tenth year, with a new Supplement, and increasing contributions.



## So-Wide Visitorship

The visit of an academic monastic to work with students at Oxford for a term had another successful year.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Our library is open to anyone who lives in the Oxford area, with the catalogue listed online.





# From a firm foundation...

This year we have consolidated our online activities in Pali teaching, as well as introducing an exciting new resource in Pali and Early Buddhist scholarship – the Pali Hub.

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Our Pali Online course is now complete. Levels 1 - 4 take someone from complete beginner to advanced, including considering matters such as verse. The response to these courses continues strong with a steady stream of students. An online live tuition week that assists with level 1 was also well attended.

The Pali Reading Club also continues, giving students a chance to continue their studies, and the Advanced Reading Course (this year online) was again well attended.

As well as our teaching activities, this year we launched a long-cherished dream. Thanks to the generosity of benefactors who wish to remain anonymous, we launched the Pali Hub. The centrepiece of

this project is a comprehensive bibliography of all scholarship devoted to Pali and Early Buddhist Studies. Already standing at over 9,000 records, plans for the future include increasing the remit to articles written in languages other than English. The Hub also contains an archive of all of Professor Gombrich's articles that we have been able to digitise.

The response to the Hub has been overwhelming, and we are excited to see this important resource facilitating research in Buddhist Studies around the globe.

The strength of our online platform has enabled us to continue during lockdown.



# ... into the future

Looking ahead, a new Director will expand our work in Buddhist Studies. The OCBS aims to raise funds for a two-year inaugural term.

Much has been achieved by the Centre so far. We have for instance:

- built a working organisation,
- set up a Chair in Buddhist Studies,
- established a well-received Journal, and
- pioneered top-quality, accessible teaching.

We have also developed a reputation across the world, and a network of collaborators,

friends and supporters, and extensive experience in providing online academic resources. The time is ripe to expand in further directions.

Please find details below of what is needed to settle a new Director into the organisation. We also welcome your thoughts at this crucial time in the Centre's history.

A new Director will have strong foundations to build on and will be free to develop exciting new initiatives.

**Cost £50,000 a year**

Our robust, practised infrastructure requires

**£50,000** a year to continue. We have funding for the first year already.

Given our existing resources, to fund the next two years, we now need to raise

**£150,000**

The Centre exists thanks to the generosity of its supporters and their commitment to Buddhist Studies. If you would like to join us as we embark on the next stage of our journey, or know someone else who might like to, then please contact: [steven.egahn@ocbs.org](mailto:steven.egahn@ocbs.org)



# Financial statement

year ending 31 March 2020

The OCBS completed the financial year ending March 2020 with £91,075 in reserves.

Income Statement	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	31/3/2020 Total funds £	31/3/2019 Total funds £
<b>Income and Endowments from</b>				
Donations and legacies	15,553	7,500	23,053	41,125
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Charitable activities	25,888		25,888	14,529
Library	-	-	-	7,488
Other income	7	-	7	
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,448</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>48,948</b>	<b>63,142</b>
<b>Expenditure on</b>				
Charitable activities	84,328	13,500	97,828	85,859
Other	3,699		3,699	1,824
<b>Total</b>	<b>88,027</b>	<b>13,500</b>	<b>101,527</b>	<b>87,683</b>
<b>Net gains on investment</b>				
Net Income/(Expenditure)	(46,579)	(6,000)	(52,579)	(22,607)
<b>Reconciliation</b>				
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>125,154</b>	<b>18,500</b>	<b>143,654</b>	<b>166,261</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>78,575</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>91,075</b>	<b>143,654</b>
Balance Statement	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	31/3/2020 Total funds £	31/3/2019 Total funds £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Tangible Assets	829		829	863
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Debtors	30,821		30,821	14,718
Investments	24,018		24,018	50,761
Cash at bank	36,358	12,500	48,858	87,990
<b>Total</b>	<b>91,197</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>103,697</b>	<b>153,469</b>
Creditors (within 1 year)	(13,451)		(13,451)	(10,678)
Net Current Assets	77,746	12,500	90,246	142,791
Total Assets less current liabilities	78,575	12,500	91,075	143,654
Net Assets	78,575	12,500	91,075	143,654
<b>Funds</b>				
Unrestricted funds	-	-	78,575	125,154
Restricted funds	-	-	12,500	18,500
<b>Total Funds</b>			<b>91,075</b>	<b>143,654</b>

# Financial realities of the OCBS

**£150,000**

funds our full transition plan, comprising:

**£100,000**

for a Director's inaugural two years.

**£50,000**

for continued core costs to cover those two years.

**£2 million**

endows the Centre's core running costs for the future.

**Contact: [steven.egan@ocbs.org](mailto:steven.egan@ocbs.org)**

The Centre wishes to thank Dr. Thet Thet Nwe, The Institute of Oriental Philosophy, Dhammachai International Research Institute and the 60th Dhammachai Education Foundation, Christine Tong, Sanjukta Gombrich, The Oxford Buddha Vihara, The Doris Field Charitable Trust and The Pye Charitable Settlement for their generous support.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

The OCBS provided scholarships for several students on its last Advanced Reading Course.



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for Buddhist Studies (OCBS)**

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