

Leicester Buddhist Vihara "THE WISDOM" Newsletter

East Midlands Buddhist Association (EMBA)

Charity Registration number 519860



The origin, purpose, planning & production of "THE WISDOM" Newsletter – message from the Trustees

The EMBA published its 1st newsletter in July 1988 as a type written (to cover events from the inauguration of the EMBA in April 1987 till June 1988) thanks to the efforts by late Mr. Janaka Dias Abeygunawardena who was our 1st president.

The 1st printed newsletter 'The Wisdom' was published annually in May 1990, December 1991 & in May 1993. The printed newsletter in colour was edited by Mrs. Thusithamala Weerasena on behalf of the EMBA and sent over from Sri Lanka to UK for free distribution. Due to the soaring printing & freight costs incurred, 'The Wisdom' was subsequently computer generated biannually since 1993. Our resident monks - Ven. D. Rathnaji & Ven. B. Ananda provided the editorial input on religious contents whilst Dr. Hobina Rajakaruna provided the technical assistance.

Since 1994, Dr C Nanayakkara volunteered to take over the editorial role supported by the same two resident monks (& later by Ven. Sumana) for almost without a break till 2011. Dr Senarath Perera (a past Secretary & past Trustee) contributed to a regular column under a pseudonym 'Kalyanamithra'. During 1996/97, for approximately 18 months, Mr Ranjit Abrew (a past Secretary) volunteered to publish the newsletter during the presidency of late Mr Nimal Wijeratna (also a past Trustee).

No added costs were incurred from the EMBA funds for stationery & postage throughout its production & distribution. In the later years, Dr C Nanayakkara added every new copy onto our EMBA website (which was maintained initially by Dr Nanda De Silva (a past Trustee)).

It was unfortunate that the EMBA could not get a volunteer to take over this role for the ongoing production of this popular newsletter.

Message from EMBA President

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for the singular honor bestowed on me to serve as the President of the East Midlands Buddhist Association (EMBA). It is indeed a privilege to hold office of this esteemed institute and I pledge to take EMBA to greater heights of achievement and recognition.

We set forth from a good foundation laid down by our Past President and the Committee through their hard work and dedication.

While celebrating our past achievements we need to look towards the future. The progress of any organization depends on its ability to incorporate new energies and new ideas to adapt to changing needs and demands. The wisdom and experience that comes with age is indispensable. However, admixing youthful energy, enthusiasm and novelty can make the ordinary extra ordinary.

In the year 2020 my aim is to make Leicester Buddhist Vihara a 'home' to everyone, a place to learn and practice the teachings of Lord Buddha and cultivate universal compassion to all living beings.

The newly appointed committee met for the 1st time on 23rd February 2020 and agreed on a full calendar year of activities. Sadly, these activities had to be temporarily suspended with the imposition of social distancing to combat the Covid 19 pandemic. I am thankful to Ven. Saddhananda Thero and the committee for rising to the challenges and making the impossible possible. We have been able to deliver some out of the ordinary programmes.

I invite all of you to join us in this journey and I value the contributions of each and every one of you. I am confident of your fullest support and cooperation. Let us work together and ensure that the EMBA grows from strength to strength.

Message from Ven. Marassana Saddhananda Thero

ලෙස්ටර් බෞද්ධ විහාරය මගින් එළිදක්වනු ලබන සය මාසික සඟරාවට සුභාසිත්ශත පනිවිඩයක් එක් කිරීමට ලැබීම පිළිබඳව අනිශ්චිත සතුටට පත්වෙමි.

ලෙස්ටර් බෞද්ධ විහාරය පුරා 29 වසරක් එක්සත් රාජධානිය තුල බෞද්ධ සද්දැනුවත්යන්ගේ ආගමික කටයුතු සිදු කල පුන්යායනනයක් බව සියලු දෙනා දන්නා කරුණකි. ඉතිහාසය පුරාවටම එකී සන්කාර්යයට මූලිකත්වය සපයමින් අප්රතිහත ගමනක නියැලෙන මෙම විහාරයේ ආදි කතෘන් සෑම දෙනාටම පුන්යානුමෝදනා සිදු කරමි. දුරදක්නා සුලු නායකත්වය සැමදා යහපත් ක්රියාවන් සිදුකරන්නාක් මෙන්, වර්තමාන සභාපතිත්වය සහ කමිටු සාමාජිකයන් විහාරයේ අනාගතාභිවුර්දිය වෙනුවෙන් කැපවෙන බව මෙම සඟරාව තුලින්ම මොනවට විද්යමාන වේ. සමගිව එක් රැස්ව සමගිව වෙන්ව යාම එදා ලිවිවි රජ දරුවන්ගේ රාජ්ය පාලනය සිහිකරන්නක් වේ. පටු අරමුණු පරමාර්ථ ඉවත්කොට ලාබ සන්කාර පසෙක දමා රට සම්බුද්ධ ශාසනාභිවුර්දිය වෙනුවෙන් අප කැපව කටයුතු සිදුකරන ඔබ සියලු දෙනාට තුනුරුවන්ගේ පිහිටාගිර්වාදය ප්රාර්ථනා කරමි.

තෙරුවන් සරනයි

OPENING TIMES

Open 7 days a week from
6.30am-10pm

DHAMMA STUDY & MEDITATION PROGRAMMES

Monday 6.30pm
Wednesday 8am
Saturday 5.30pm

DHAMMA SCHOOL

Sunday 3pm-6pm

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

EMBA Management structure.....1

All night pirith chanting...2
Vesak celebration.....2

Poson celebration.....3
Leicester vihara dhamma school..... 3
Cultural activities..... 3
Maintaining vihara.....3

Other activities and achievements..... 4
Work in progress.....4
Future activities.....4
How you can get involved.....4
How to contact us..... 4

EMBA Management Structure (2020)

Board of Trustees

Mrl Gamini Perera
Dr. Charith Nanayakkara
Mr. Amitha Abayaratne

Board of Management

President - Dr. (Mrs.) Nelun Perera
Vice President - Mr Athula Morapitiya
Secretary - Mr Kosala Mendis
Treasurer - Mrs Piyumi Perera

Committee Members

Mr. Asitha Gunawardana
Mr. Devapriya Perera
Mr. Dilan Panadura
Mr. Dushantha Bopagamage
Mrs. Kanchana Lankapurage

Patron(s)

Ven. Bogoda
Seelawimala
Nayaka Thero
Ven. Marassana
Saddananda Thero

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES TO DATE...

All night pirith chanting - 4th January 2020

Dhamma Sermon by Ven. Akurala Samitha – 16th February 2020

Week long pirith chanting – 1st – 7th April 2020

Vesak Seela Program – 3rd May 2020

Poson programme – 7th June 2020

ALL NIGHT PIRITH CHANTING

The year started off with an all-night pirith chanting ceremony to invoke blessings to Ven. Rathanajothi (the head monk), the resident monk and to all the devotees of EMBA. Twelve Buddhist monks conducted the pirith chanting sitting inside a beautifully decorated traditional “pirith mandapaya” from 8.30pm to 5.30am. This was followed by offering of heel dana (early morning meal) and the pan waduma to transfer merit to all those departed. A large number of devotees helped in various ways to make this event a success.



EMBA committee would like to thank Ven. Akurala Samitha Thero for an inspiring Dhamma talk and a motivating Q&A session for the students of the Leicester Buddhist Vihara Dhamma School.

WEEK LONG SETH PIRITH

A week long seth pirith chanting to bless EMBA devotees and the general public during the coronavirus pandemic was transmitted via Facebook by the resident monk Ven. Marassana Saddhananda Thero



The EMBA wishes to extend their gratitude to Most Ven. Gunawansa, Ven. Kahawanugoda Wimaldhamma, Ven. Hoorigaswawe Saddhawasa, Ven. Mapalagama Soratha, Ven. Uduwara Indrarathana, Ven. Tissapura Sugatharathana, Ven. Kalawane Rathanajothi, Ven. Galpothayaye Pemananda, Ven. Hapugoda Subodha, Ven. Pannala Sumana, Ven. Mawarale Santhrindiya & Ven. Marassana Saddhananda for making this historical event a success

VESAK CELEBRATION

The virtual Vesak sil programme comprising of observing the 8 precepts, Dhamma talks & Meditation & Pirith chanting by Ven. Usgoda Dhammagaru from Los Angeles, USA, Ven. Katakadure Jinananda from Baranasa, Isipathana, Migadaya, India, Ven. Dhammapala from Myanmar and Ven. Marassana Saddhananda was transmitted via Facebook and Youtube on 3rd May 2020.

In the evening a live telecast of Vesak Bakthi Gee (devotional songs) was delivered by children of the Leicester Buddhist Vihara Dhamma School via Youtube.

The EMBA committee would like to thank all the monks and the students for their contributions.



Ven. Jinananda



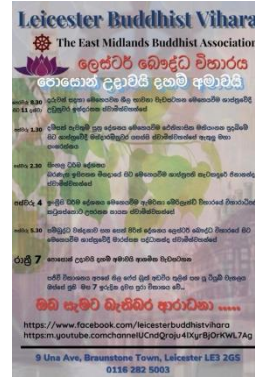
Ven.
Dhammagaru



Ven.
Dhammapala

POSON CELEBRATION

A virtual Posen Sil programme for children of the Dhamma school followed by dhamma talks & chanting of Pirith is organised for 7th June 2020. We thank the Theros, Ven. Udunuwara Indrarathana Jethawana Vihara, Birmingham, Most Ven. Katugasthota Uparathana, Maryland, USA, Ven. Mandaram nuwara Yassasi, Mahiyangana Rajamaha Vihara, Sri Lanka & Ven. Katakadure Jinananda Thero, Baranasa, India for their contributions. The day will conclude with a video on Buddhist practices showcasing the talents of children of the Leicester Vihara Dhamma School.



Ven.Indrarathana



Ven. Uparathana



Ven. Yassasi

LEICESTER VIHARA DHAMMA SCHOOL

Prior to the lockdown, the Dhamma school was held at the Braunceton Civic Centre, Leicester, twice a month on a Sunday from 3pm-6pm. Parents of the children voluntarily contributed £5 a month per family towards the hall hire. Since the lockdown the Dhamma school has been conducted initially via skype and now via Zoom every Sunday 3-4pm. The Dhamma school is grateful to Prof Chanaka Jayawardena for organising the Zoom facilities.

Enrolment of new students for the academic year 2020/2021 will commence from July 2020. To improve Dhamma school facilities you are welcome to make contributions. For further information please contact Ven. Marassana Sadhananda Thero.



Dhamma School Objectives:

- Teach Buddhist practices and facts in Dhamma
- Promote good morals and values
- Develop leadership and team working
- Help learn the Sinhala language

Total students:

- Senior school (9 – 15years) = 15
- Junior school (5 -8 years) = 15

Head teacher:

Venerable Marassana Sadhananda Thero

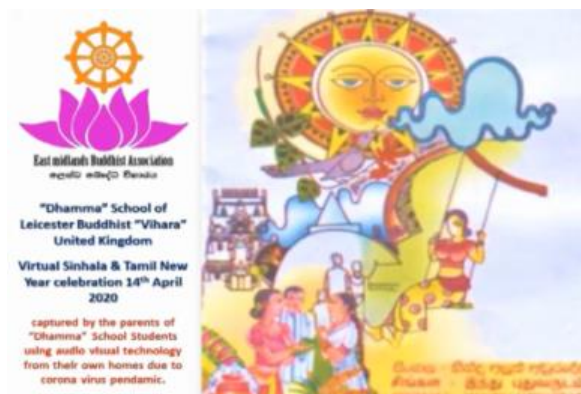
Support staff:

Dr Nelun Perera
Mrs Umanga Upahari
Mrs Sadamali Jayathilaka

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

14th April 2020:

The students of the Leicester Buddhist Vihara Dhamma School organised a virtual Sinahala and Tamil Avurudhu Programme via Facebook and Youtube



31st March 2020

Leicester Mercury congratulates Mr Vipula Atukorala for his elaborately carved semi-circular stone slab, "Sandakada Pahana" (half moonstone) which stands proudly outside the temple symbolizing the Sinhalese architecture of ancient Sri Lanka

We thank all the students of the Leicester Vihara Dhamma school for their excellent performances



OTHER ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

12th January 2020:

Ven. Saddhananda Thero was added to University Hospitals of Leicester list of chaplains. Devotees hospitalised in one of the three hospitals in Leicester can contact the chaplaincy office in the hospital and request Thero to visit them and offer spiritual support.

23rd February 2020:

Four profile email addresses were created for the 3 office bearers and the ITANPC sub-committee for correspondence.

- president.emba1987@gmail.com
- secretary.emba1987@gmail.com
- treasurer.emba1987@gmail.com
- itandpcom@gmail.com

23rd February 2020:

A new EMBA logo and a letterhead were designed.

27th February 2020:

EMBA was added to the list of charitable organisations on amazon.co.uk to receive donations generated from Amazon Smile online purchases with no additional cost to the purchasing price.



30th March 2020:

The EMBA created a facebook profile, facebook page and an Instagram page for the Leicester Buddhist Vihara to communicate with the devotees and the wider community.



<https://www.facebook.com/leicesterbuddhistvihara>

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

E-mail addresses for all office bearers to maintain consistency
Calendar of events for the entire year
Periodical newsletter
New subcommittee concept for improved management style

WORK IN PROGRESS:

Website development
Review of the EMBA Constitution
New Membership Database

FUTURE ACTIVITIES:

Dhamma school concert and prize giving
Vandana and Meditation programme
Atavisi poojawa
Raja bojana poojawa
Vas aradhana, padu mangalaya & Katina ceremony

Sub-Committees

Dhamma School - Sujeewa Muthunawagone (Lead), Dimani Athukorala, Chesika Morapitiya, Manel Kularatne, Arosha Hewage, Lakmini Mudalige, Sadamali Jayathilaka

IT and Publication Sub Committee:

Devapriya Perera (Lead), Dushantha Bopagamage (Co-lead), Gayan Thilakarathna, Lalith Hewage, Wikum Dias. Will Read

Events Management Sub Committee:

Ven Saddhananda Thero (Advisor). Athula Morapitiya (Lead), Dushantha Bopagamage

Vihara Management Sub Committee:

Dilan Panadura (Lead), Kanchana Lankapurage, Asitha Gunawardana

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

- Become a member – Fill in a membership (forms available to download from the website / collect from the temple)
- Make a one off or regular donation / Gift aid – Fill in a Gift aid form (forms available to download from the website / collect from the temple)
- Offer Dana (view the Dana Calendar on the website)
- Contribute to the daily upkeep of the temple (utility bills) – i.e. use the donation box
- Sponsor Dhamma & Cultural events (i.e. dhamma talks, atavisi Pooja, Katina ceremony, dhamma school events, avurudhu programme) by making a contribution towards event expenses (i.e. pirikara, travel costs of monks, venue hire, refreshments etc) view the calendar of events on the website
- Sponsor visiting monks – Contribute towards visas, insurance & airfare
- Sponsor temple development projects: The temple currently needs the following: garden shed, lawn mower and an electric shower (for the upstairs bathroom).
- For more information please contact the resident monk Ven. Saddhanada Thero or EMBA Secretary

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS CAN MAKE THE TEMPLE A 'HOME' TO EVERYBODY

CONTACT DETAILS

ADDRESS:

9, UNA AVENUE
NARBOROUGH ROAD
SOUTH
LEICESTER
LE3 2GS

TEL: +44 (0) 1162825003

E-MAIL:

itandpcom@gmail.com

WEBSITE:

<http://www.leicesterbuddhistvihara.co.uk>