

## **The history of the UK Association for Buddhist Studies**

**Peter Harvey**

February 28, 2019

In 2011, I was asked to do a history of UKABS, as I am the only person who has been on its committee continuously from the start, and founded it with Ian Harris in 1995. Since 2011, I have said, 'I will do it soon', but Koko Kawanami nailed me down to a deadline by putting a talk by me on this on the programme of the 2017 conference. So, I trawled through my computer and box files and have produced this talk, along with various documents for the website. I have since updated the talk with further details. The idea for founding UKABS arose in, of all places, Hawai'i. Ian Harris, myself and Stewart McFarlane travelled together to a June 1995 conference there organised by David Kalupahana (1933– January 2014). He had invited us to this conference, paid for by a Korean temple in Hawai'i, when he attended a conference in Leeds in April 1994 (organised by Ian Harris and Phillip Mellor). It was kind of him to invite me, as my paper at the Leeds conference criticised some of his ideas (not knowing he was in the audience)! Lance Cousins was also at the Hawai'i conference. He had previously been very active on the Buddha-L e-list, and I remember an American scholar, who had electronically interacted with him, but never met him, saying with glee, 'Ah, so *you're* Lance Cousins!'. At the conference, I mentioned to Ian that I was thinking of starting a group for scholars in the north-east of England with an interest in Buddhism. Ian saw such a plan as too modest in scale, and said: why not make it UK-wide? Lance encouraged us to develop this idea. As I'd picked up a post-card from a place called 'The Pali Lookout', he also encouraged me to send this to Richard Gombrich, who I'd had little or no contact with then. Over the summer of 1995, Ian and I developed our ideas. We originally thought of a 'British Association for the Study of Buddhism' as a section of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, but this idea then fell way. On June 13, Ian wrote letters, on behalf of us both, seeking funding from the Spalding Trust and the Numata Center, Berkeley. We were unsuccessful (though in 1998 we got some £300 from Spalding to improve the cover of our journal). Its text said:

Dear Sir or Madam

[Provisional] British Association for the Study of Buddhism

My colleague Peter Harvey and I are planning to institute a semi-formal association for the academic study of Buddhism, in all its forms, here in the UK. If the initial stages of the project are successful our eventual aim could be to affiliate with the International Association of Buddhist Studies. To our knowledge, nothing of this sort has been attempted in the UK before. Indeed, the only recent academic conference specifically dedicated to the study of Buddhism took place here in April 1994 and was co-organised by myself and Philip Mellor at the University of Leeds. The situation here, then, is in stark contradiction to that in the USA and Japan where longstanding and influential organisations for the encouragement of Buddhist studies have existed for a considerable time.

The first part of our plan is to invite everyone working in the field, be they staff in academic institutions, post-graduate students, unaffiliated scholars or interested Buddhist practitioners to an initial gathering at a geographically central location. We are presently compiling an exhaustive mailing list. The event, either one day or over a weekend [probably in the Christmas vacation 1995/6], will be a combination of scholarly, business and social activities. We hope that the eventual outcome, though this is hardly likely to be concluded on the day itself, will be the identification of a group of committed individuals able to plan future events, constitute an organisation, etc. The primary aim, however, will be to foster and coordinate Buddhist studies in the UK.

In order to avoid any potential institutional rivalry, we feel it would be ideal if we could hold the initial event in a neutral location. The ability to subsidise the travelling

expenses of scholars on low incomes would clearly be another advantage. At present we have no funds to cover such eventualities. We are therefore writing to you in the hope that you may be able to be of assistance. In short we are seeking financial support for the booking of the venue, assistance with travel for the group indicated above, secretarial, and postage costs. *In toto*, we estimate that this will come to a figure of £1500. Would the Numata Foundation be willing to help in this connection?

We will of course be happy to provide any further information you require.

Yours sincerely

Ian Harris  
Reader in Buddhist Studies  
University College of St. Martin  
Lancaster

Peter Harvey  
Reader in Buddhist Studies  
University of Sunderland  
Sunderland

We sought the help of Russell Webb, editor of *Buddhist Studies Review*, in gaining contact details of people who might be interested in joining UKABS, also drawing from the mailing lists of the Spalding symposium on Indian Religions and the British Association for

the Study of Religion, as well as thinking of those we knew or knew of. E-mail had taken off in the early 1990s, and was very useful.

We set about spreading news of the plan to form what came to be called the UK Association for the Study of Buddhism – not ‘of the Study of Buddhism’, as with IABS, - how can one have an association of studies? –, which was emailed to various possibly interested parties on Sept. 27, 1995. WE had already got the agreement of Richard Gombrich and David Ruegg to give papers at an inaugural conference, which was to be at SOAS for Monday July 8<sup>th</sup>, 1996. We then posted out the leaflet given below.

The figure drawing on the leaflet, which was later used for the front of *Buddhist Studies Review*, came from the front of a Brill book catalogue. It shows part of a 3<sup>rd</sup> century CE relief slab originally encasing a *stūpa* from Nāgārjunakonda, Andhra Pradesh, which also showed a Bodhi-tree and empty throne, and a stylised *stūpa*.

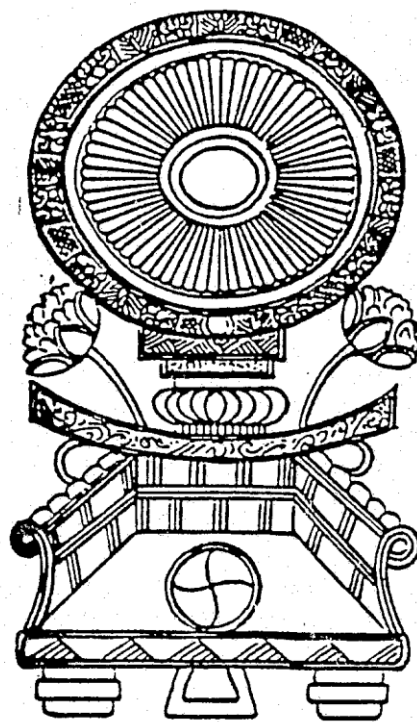
**UK Buddhist Studies Association  
Inaugural Meeting  
School of Oriental and African  
Studies  
Thornhaugh Street  
Russell Square  
London**

**Monday July 8th 1996**

**Programme:**

- 10.30 Registration + Meet for coffee
- 10.45 Professor Richard Gombrich: The Buddhist attitude to thaumaturgical healing rituals
- 12.15 Lunch
- 1.30 Discussion of the aims and activities of the Association
- 3.00: Professor David Seyfort Ruegg: The Inner Asian *yon mchod* relation and its Indian precedents: the socio-religious and politico-religious link between a Spiritual Counsellor and his royal or princely donor.
- 4.30 Finish

**UK Buddhist Studies  
Association**



**Information about the Association  
+  
Inaugural Meeting  
School of Oriental and African  
Studies  
Thornhaugh Street  
Russell Square  
London**

**Monday July 8th 1996**

## UK BUDDHIST STUDIES ASSOCIATION

We would like to announce the formation of the above association, which aims to act as a focus for Buddhist Studies in the UK. It is open to academics, post-graduates, and unaffiliated Buddhist scholars or interested Buddhist practitioners. Currently, the scholarly study of Buddhism in the UK is carried out by lone individuals or very small groups of people in any one location. Moreover, scholars may be located in a range of departments: Religious Studies, Theology and Religious Studies, Comparative Religion, Philosophy, Law, Psychology, Anthropology, Asian Studies, etc. The Association aims to help inform people of the ongoing work of others, and of any relevant conferences, visiting scholars, seminar series, etc., through a newsletter and/or internet bulletin board. It seeks to foster communication between those working in various fields: Buddhism in South, Central, and East Asia; historical and contemporary aspects (including developments in 'Western' Buddhism); theoretical, practical, and methodological issues.

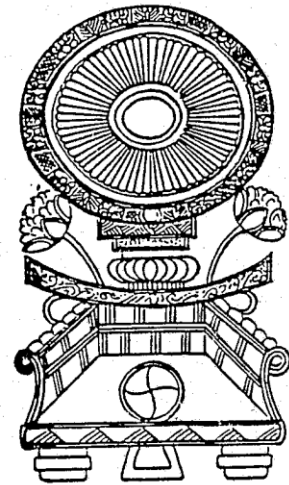
The first meeting of the association will be on **Monday July 8th 1996 at the School of Oriental and African Studies [SOAS], Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London.** At the meeting there will be papers by Professor Richard Gombrich and Professor David Seyfort Ruegg, as well as discussion of the nature and scope of the Association, and planning of further activities. It is also intended to produce a list of scholars and their research interests, along with contact addresses (including e-mail addresses where appropriate).

If you are interested, please contact Dr. Peter Harvey, at School of Social and International Studies, University of Sunderland, Forster Building, Chester Road, Sunderland, Tyne and

Wear SR2 7PZ by completing the attached tear-off slip.

Peter Harvey,  
Reader in Buddhist Studies,  
University of Sunderland  
(E-mail: peter.harvey@sunderland.ac.uk)

Ian Harris,  
Reader in Buddhist Studies,  
University College of St Martin,  
Lancaster  
(E-mail: i.harris@lancaster.ac.uk)



*\*\*Please also bring this notice to the attention of any postgraduate students, etc., who may be interested.\*\**

**Reply Form  
UK BUDDHIST STUDIES  
ASSOCIATION  
Membership information**

Name: .....

Title: .....

Address [home]:  
.....  
.....  
.....

Telephone number: .....

Address [institution]:  
.....  
.....  
.....

Telephone number: .....

Fax number: .....

E-mail number: .....

Research interests:  
.....  
.....  
.....

.....PTO

Research interests [cont.]:  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Are you willing to allow this information to be made available to other members of UKBSA?:

**YES/NO**  
[delete as appropriate]

Will you be attending the inaugural meeting on Monday 8th July 1996, School of Oriental and African Studies?:

**YES/NO**  
[delete as appropriate]

If your answer to the above is yes, please enclose an attendance fee of:

*ch 80 -*      **£5 - waged**  
                         **£2 - unwaged**

If you are unable to attend the meeting, do you still wish to be kept informed about the Association?

**YES/NO**  
[delete as appropriate]

Please tear off and send to:

Dr Peter Harvey, Reader in Buddhist Studies,  
School of Social and International Studies, Forster  
Building, University of Sunderland, Chester Road,  
Sunderland, Tyne and Wear SR2 7PZ.  
[e-mail: peter.harvey@sunderland.ac.uk]

A website for the Association was set up early in 1996 by David Webster, a visiting lecturer (later a research student) at the University of Sunderland and an email discussion list began operating on June 25 1996.

By June 27 1996, UKABS had 121 members:

- 59 academics, 33 independent scholars, 20 postgraduate students, 5 retired academics and 4 Buddhist practitioners not in any of the previous categories.
- 43 were from London, 16 from SE England excluding London, 10 from SW England, 4 from the Midlands, 11 from NW England, 14 from NE England, 6 from Scotland, 4 from Wales, 9 overseas.

A 47-page Members' Handbook was produced in June 1996. Its contents were:

Description of the Association  
Analysis of membership  
Membership details (name, address, email address, research interests)  
Members' publications

List of UK courses with elements relating to Buddhism

List of related groups, and useful internet discussion lists on Buddhism

List of internet sites with live links from UKBSA website

How to join the association

A Newsletter was also circulated, which drew on the email discussions.

The Association's inaugural conference elected the members of the association's committee: Lance Cousins as President, Ian Harris as Treasurer and conference organiser, myself as Secretary and website maintainer, and David Ruegg and Koko Kawanami as committee members. Lance ensured that the Association had a proper constitution, to ensure the health of its development. The programme of the inaugural conference was:

## **UKBSA inaugural meeting July 8th 1996**

The Assembly Hall, ground floor,  
School of Oriental and African Studies, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London

### **Programme**

- 10.30 Registration and coffee  
10.45 Paper by Professor Gombrich, 'The Buddhist attitude to Thaumaturgical Healing Rituals',  
response from Sue Hamilton, and discussion  
12.15 Lunch: not included in conference fee. SOAS refectory.  
1.30: Discussion of the activities of the Association: see below  
3.00 Paper by Professor Ruegg, 'The Inner Asian yon mchod relation and its Indian Precedents: the  
Socio-religious and Politico-religious link between a Spiritual Counsellor and his Royal or  
Princely Donor',  
response from Paul Williams, and discussion  
4.30 Finish

### **The Activities of the Association**

#### **It is proposed that the Association should:**

1. Continue to maintain and develop its internet web-site  
(<http://www.sunderland.ac.uk/~os0dwe/bsa.html>), which currently gives:
  - members' institutional addresses and tel./fax/E-mail numbers (or home details where there are no institutional ones) and research interests
  - members publications
  - details of UK course components relating to Buddhism
  - details of related organisations and useful internet links.
2. Continue to keep members on E-mail up-dated on new members, new items to access on the web-site, and news and queries to the membership.
3. To periodically post to members not on E-mail, up-dates on membership and copies of new entries on the web-site.
4. To produce, once a year, an updated version of the Members' Handbook
5. For the first year, the jobs of secretary/web-site maintainer and treasurer/conference organiser to be done by Peter Harvey and Ian Harris, respectively, co-founders of the association.

#### **To decide:**

1. For those on E-mail, should there be a UKBSA discussion forum, which goes beyond the exchange of information etc.? Such a discussion list would need to be moderated, and if it was set up via mailbase, could be indexed.  
The alternative would be to use Buddha-L (The Buddhist Academic Discussion Forum) based in the USA, for such discussions (details on how to subscribe to Buddha-L are in the Members' Handbook)
2. Newsletter/Bulletin:
  - would this be needed for all members, or only those not on E-mail?
  - if only for those not on E-mail, should it just reproduce items previously circulated by E-mail?
  - how often should it come out?
3. Next meeting of the Association:
  - when- is early July a relatively good time?
  - how long for- day, or longer?
  - where?
  - on a theme??
  - should there definitely be an conference annually?
  - if there is no annual conference, should there be an annual general meeting?
4. President of the Association and two other people to serve on the committee: names to be put proposed and seconded, to be later voted on by E-mail or post.
5. Level of membership fee.
6. Any other issues relating to the constitution.
7. Ideas for things to add to the web-site.
8. Ideas for things to co-operate on.

The UKABS constitution that was approved after amendments to a draft constitution submitted for the inaugural meeting was:

## **UNITED KINGDOM ASSOCIATION FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES**

### **Constitution**

#### **1. NAME**

The name of the Association shall be the United Kingdom Association for Buddhist Studies (UKABS).

#### **2. OBJECT**

The object of the Association shall be to promote the academic study of Buddhism through the national and international collaboration of all scholars whose research has a bearing on the subject.

The means whereby the object is pursued may include the arrangement of conferences, symposia and colloquia, the development and maintenance of an Internet Web Site, the publication of an occasional newsletter, and such other activities as the Association shall from time to time determine.

#### **3. MEMBERSHIP**

Membership of the Association shall be open to individuals who are interested in furthering the work of the Association and who have paid the annual subscription as laid down from time to time by a General Meeting.

The Committee shall have the right to approve or reject applications for membership.

The Association may by a two-thirds majority, for good and sufficient reason, terminate the membership of any individual PROVIDED THAT the individual member concerned shall have the right to be heard before a final decision is made.



## **GENERAL MEETING**

The governing body of the Association is the General Meeting of members. A General Meeting shall be convened at least once annually. Not less than 28 days notice of a General Meeting shall be given in writing to all members.

The proceedings of a General Meeting shall not be invalidated by the non-receipt by one or more members of notification.

Ten members shall constitute a quorum.

## **5. SUBSCRIPTIONS**

All members shall pay an annual subscription determined by the General Meeting, save that a General Meeting shall have the power in exceptional cases to confer Honorary Membership of the Association.

## **6. OFFICERS**

A President, who shall be elected for four years. The President will act as the chair of the Committee.

A Secretary, who shall serve for three years and shall be eligible for re-election for one further consecutive term. The Secretary may, if appropriate, also administer and maintain the Web Site.

A Treasurer who shall serve for three years and shall be eligible for re-election for one further consecutive term. The Treasurer shall present annually to a General Meeting an audited statement of the accounts of the Association.

## **7. COMMITTEE**

The general conduct of the affairs of the Association shall be in the hands of a committee consisting of the officers and two other members elected at a General Meeting for a term of three years and who shall be eligible for re-election for one further consecutive term.

The notification of any General Meeting shall include intimation of any vacancies among the officers or members of the Committee occurring through expiry of their term of office, and shall call for nominations of members to fill those vacancies.

Nominations, which shall be in writing, signed by two members of the Association and accompanied by the assent of the members proposed, shall be in the hands of the Secretary before the General Meeting at which the vacancy falls to be considered. In the event of there being more valid nominations than places to be filled, a ballot shall be held of members present at the meeting.

In the event of a casual vacancy, the Committee shall be empowered, at their discretion, to co-opt a member to hold office until the next General Meeting.

## **8. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to this Constitution shall require a majority of not less than two-thirds of those present and voting at a General Meeting, not

less than 28 days notice of the amendment having been given in writing to all members.

## **9. DISSOLUTION**

If the Committee by a simple majority decide at any time that on the ground of expense or otherwise it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Association, it shall call a meeting of all the members of the Association who have the power to vote, of which meeting not less than 21 days' notice (stating the terms of the Resolution to be proposed thereat) shall be given. If such decision shall be confirmed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at such meeting the Committee shall have power to dispose of any assets held by or on behalf of the Association. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be distributed in accordance with English law.

The UKABS committee first met on September 6, 1996, at SOAS. This discussed: planning of the 1997 conference; the possible relationship of UKABS to the Buddhist Forum and *Buddhist Studies Review*; uses for the email list, newsletter and website; annual subscription rate (£5); opening a UKABS bank account; a proposal to expand the committee by adding two co-opted members.

### **Committee work and members**

The committee has met nearly every year in the Autumn and Spring to discuss and decide on various matters:

- to plan and organize conferences,
- matters relating to its journal, such as its content, editorial board, and its position in journal rating lists,
- as of 2006, to UKABS' relation to the journal's publisher, Equinox
- the content of such things as its website, Handbook, Newsletter,
- proposals to adjust the Association's constitution and other matters to put to the AGM
- people to co-opt to the committee,
- the representation of Buddhist Studies in UK Research Assessment Exercises
- defending Buddhist Studies within the wider academic world, such as responding to the British Academy when it asked for our views on endangered and newly developing subject areas.
- oversee the Association's finances, dealing with its bank account
- changes to UKABS subscription rates

Over the years, the officers of UKABS have been as follows:

#### Presidents (elected for 4 years):

Lance Cousins 1996–2000

Paul Williams 2000–2002

Peter Harvey 2002–2006

Richard Gombrich 2006–2010 and 2010–2013

Ian Harris: 2013–2014

Cathy Cantwell 2014–.

Secretaries (elected for 3 years, and can be re-elected for another 3 years):

Peter Harvey 1996–1999 and 1999–2002

Damien Keown 2002–2005

Ian Harris 2005–2008

Cathy Cantwell 2008–2011 and 2011–2014

Koko Kawanami 2014–2017, 2017–2021

Treasurers (elected for 3 years, and can be re-elected for another 3 years):

Ian Harris 1996–1999 and 1999–2002

Elizabeth Harris 2002–2005 and 2005–2008

Naomi Appleton 2008–2011 and 2011–2014

Caroline Starkey 2014–2017, 2017–2021

Two elected members (elected for 3 years, and can be re-elected for another 3 years):

David Ruegg 1996–1999 and 1999–2002

Koko Kawanami 1996–1999 and 1999–2002

Rupert Gethin 2002–2005

Mahinda Deegalle 2002–2005 and 2005–2008

Cathy Cantwell 2005–2008

Elizabeth Harris 2008–11

Alice Collett 2008–2011

Geoffrey Samuel 2011–2014

Ann Heirman 2011–2014 and 2014–2017

Roger Wright /Rhonwen Sayer 2014–2017 and 2017–2020

Christian Luczanits 2017–2020

Two members co-opted by the committee (for 3 years, can be extended for 2 years, then eligible for election to committee):

a) Tim Barrett 1997–2001

Ulrich Pagel 2001–2004 and 2004–2006

John Kieschnick 2006–2009 and 2009–2012

Alice Collett 2011–2014 and 2014–2016

b) Paul Williams 1997–2000

Jamie Cresswell 2000–2003

Tadeusz Skorupski 2002–2005 and 2005–2007

Martin Seeger 2007–2010 and 2010–12

Peter Sharrock 2012–2015 and 2015–2017

Co-opted Postgraduate (co-opted, 2 year terms)

Phil Henry 2004–2006

Naomi Appleton 2006–2008

Charles Manson 2009–2011

Max Rondolino 2011–2012

Caroline Starkey 2012–2014

Elsa Ngar Lau 2014–2016

Emanuela Sala 2017–2020

Newsletter editor

Pema Clark 2014–2016

IT /website manager (co-opted)

(Andrew Kowalik set up the new website in 2007)

David Webster 2010–2013

Matthew Coward 2013–2014

Pema Clark 2014–2017

Janine Nicol 2018–21

Editor of the journal (3 years, renewable without limit to number of terms)

Russell Webb: 1997–2000 and 2000–2003

Rupert Gethin 2004–2005

Peter Harvey 2006–2010, 2010–2014 and 2014–2018

BSR Review editor

Mahinda Deegalle 2002–2009

Alice Collett 2010–2012

Alice Collett and Sarah Shaw 2012–2013

Sarah Shaw 2014–2015

Christopher Jones 2016–

Assistant BSR editor

Alice Collett 2014–

**Conferences**

We have had conferences nearly every year since 1996. Most often these have been day conferences at SOAS, but increasingly they have been longer ones at various Universities around the country, organised by them but with some financial support from UKABS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Theme</i>
1996	Monday July 8	SOAS	
1997	Monday June 30	SOAS	
1998	Monday July 6	SOAS	
1999	Monday June 28	SOAS	
2000	Friday June 30 – Sunday July 2	Bristol’s Burwalls Conference Centre	Millennial conference
2001	Tuesday July 3	SOAS	
2002	Wednesday July 3	SOAS	
2002	Friday 28– Sunday 30 June	Bath Spa University College	‘Buddhism and conflict in Sri Lanka’, with £50,000 funding from the Buddhist Federation of Norway, provided by the government of Norway
2003	Wednesday July 2	SOAS	
2004	Monday July 5	SOAS	
2005	No conference this year as IABS conference was being held in September at SOAS		
2006	Thursday 14– Friday 16 July	Lancaster University	‘Buddhism and Popular Culture’
2007	Friday 6– Sunday 8 July	St Anne’s College, Oxford	‘The Teaching of Buddhism in Higher Education’

2008	Tuesday 2 September	York St John University	part of the Sept 1–3 BASR Conference on ‘Religion, Memory and Remembrance’
2009	Friday July 3	SOAS	
2010	Tuesday 6– Wednesday 7 July	University of Leeds	‘Historiography, adaptation and contemporary practice’
2011	Thursday September 8	SOAS	
2012	Saturday 7– Sunday 8 July	Cardiff University	‘Early Mahāyāna Buddhism, in memory of Sara Boin-Webb’, and supported by a £5000 bequest from Sara and Russell Webb.
2013	Friday July 12	SOAS	
2014	Tuesday 1 – Wednesday 2 July	Leeds University	‘Buddhism and Healing’
2015	Wednesday 15– Thursday 16 July	The Storey at Lancaster	With focus on Buddhism, Gender and Monastic Regulation, plus Buddhism and the Political Process
2016	Thursday June 30–Saturday July 2	York St John University	‘Translating Buddhism’, (originally to have been a UKABS conference at Liverpool Hope University) – with financial aid from the Spalding Trust, UKABS and York St John Centre for Religion in Society
2016	Monday September 19	SOAS	
2017	Saturday May 20,	Samatha Trust’s Manchester Centre for Buddhist Meditation,	Scholar- practitioner workshop on ‘Buddhist practice and liturgy in the UK: challenges and opportunities’
2017	Saturday July 1	SOAS	
2018	Thursday 21 to Friday 22 June	University of Bristol	‘Buddhism and Material Culture’
2018	Saturday September 22	London Fo Guang Shan Temple, London	Scholar- practitioner workshop on ‘Buddhist Mindfulness and Secular Mindfulness ‘
2019	Saturday July 6	SOAS	

Spin-off publications arising from UKABS and IABS conferences have included:

- The 2000 Bristol conference led to several papers in BSR vol.22, 2005, edited by Rupert Gethin.
- The 2002 Sri Lanka conference led books, edited by Mahinda Deegalle, published in English by RoutledgeCurzon, and in Sinhala and in Tamil in Sri Lanka.
- The 2012 Cardiff conference (‘Early Mahāyāna Buddhism, in memory of Sara Boin-Webb’ ) papers were edited by Paul Harrison and were published by Equinox in 2018 as *Setting Out on the Great Way: Essays on Early Mahāyāna Buddhism* (310 pages)
- 3 papers from the 2014 Leeds conference on healing were published together in BSR (Vol.32 No.1, 2015)
- Papers from panels in IABS conferences have appeared in BSR: ‘Women’s Leadership Roles in Theravāda Buddhist Traditions’ (vol.27, no.1, 2010); *Jātakas*

and related stories' (vol.29 no.1, 2012); Reuse and Intertextuality in the Context of Buddhist Texts (vol.33 nos1–2, 2016).

- Not from the conferences as such, but I and Naomi Appleton edited a volume in memory of Lance Cousins, our first President, which will appear around September 2019 as *Buddhist Path, Buddhist Teachings: Studies in Memory of L.S. Cousins*, and most of its content also made up vol.35 nos 1-2, 2018.

### **Handbooks, Newsletter, website and e-list**

In addition to the 1996 Handbook, there have been Handbooks circulated in 1997 (88 pages, including a bibliography on Buddhism in Europe, as also put on website (ditto other bibliographies mentioned below)), 1999 (58 pages, including a bibliography on Buddhist ethics), 2000 (34 pages, including contents of *Buddhist Studies Review*, Vol 1 (1983–84) to Vol.16 (1999)), 2001 (30 pages), and 2002–03 (37 pages)

In addition to the 1996 Newsletters, these were circulated in 2014 and 2015–16. The website was revamped in 2008 and then 2016.

We have produced, for the website, a list of UK University Departments and what they offer in Buddhist Studies, and information on Pali literature, but we still need to provide information on good RE resources on Buddhism.

The e-list, which started as a discussion list, is now mainly used for circulating information

### **Number of paid-up members**

1996: 121  
1997: 122  
1998: 92  
1999: 81  
2000: 95  
2001: ?  
2002: 50 by March  
2003: ?  
2004: 80  
2005: 46 by September  
2006: 55?  
2007: ?  
2008: 120  
2009: 98  
2010: 69  
2011: 88  
2012: 94  
2013: 108  
2014: 110  
2015: 94  
2016: 100  
2017: 66 by March  
2018: 102 by September

### **Finance**

By September UKABS had £10,347 in its current account and £3,272 in its reserve account, a total of £13,619. In terms of big profits and losses, the 2002 conference on Buddhism and conflict in Sri Lanka', with funding from the Buddhist Federation of Norway, left us ~ £5000 better off, while the 2007 conference in Oxford lost us £2268.

### ***Buddhist Studies Review***

This journal – the 'journal of the Institut de recherche bouddhique Linh-So'n and the Pali Buddhist Union' – has been published since 1983–84, with Russell Webb as editor and Bhikkhu Pāsādika as Assistant Editor, plus, from 1987, Sara Boin-Webb. Its original Advisory Committee was: Ven. Thích Huyền-Vi (Spiritual Advisor), André Bareau, Eric Cheetam, Lance Cousins, Hubert Durt, Eddy Moerloose, Peter Skilling and Paul Williams. Charles Prebish added in 1994.

In 1998, BSR was adopted by the UKABS, and Cathy Cantwell and Rupert Gethin were added to Editorial Board as UKABS links in 1999. Rupert Gethin was joint editor for the 2001 issues.

For the 2005 edition, Rupert Gethin became the editor with Mahinda Deegalle as book reviews editor). Its Editorial Board was: T.H. Barrett, Cathy Cantwell, Elizabeth Harris, Peter Harvey, Ulrich Pagel, Charles S. Prebish, and Andrew Skilton.

From 2006 (Vol.23) *Buddhist Studies Review* has been published by Equinox Publishing, Ltd.: with Peter Harvey as General Editor and, as book-reviews editors: Mahinda Deegalle 2006–09; Alice Collett 2010–2012; Alice Collett and Sarah Shaw 2012–2013; Sarah Shaw 2014–2015; and Christopher Jones 2016–. From 2014, Alice Collett became assistant editor.

In 2010, copies of *Buddhist Studies Review* up to vol.22, and its predecessor *Pali Buddhist Review*, were scanned and put on open access on the UKABS website.

At first, Equinox dealt with UKABS membership payments, but this arrangement proved unsatisfactory, so UKABS took back control of this in 2011.

The current editorial board of BSR, until 2018, is:  
Naomi Appleton (Edinburgh University), Stephen Berkwitz (University of Missouri State), Marcus Bingenheimer (Temple University), Cathy Cantwell (Oriental Institute, Oxford University), Lewis Doney (Free University Berlin), Petra Kieffer-Puelz (Academy of Sciences and Literature, Mainz), Rita Langer (Bristol University), Ven. Rongdao Lai (University of California), Lori Meeks (University of Southern California), Antonella Palumbo (School of Oriental and African Studies).

### **The Constitution of UKABS**

*(as amended at the AGM 12th July 2013)*

**1. NAME** The name of the Association shall be the United Kingdom Association for Buddhist Studies (UKABS).

**2. OBJECT** The object of the Association shall be to promote the academic study of Buddhism through the national and international collaboration of all scholars whose research has a bearing on the subject. The means whereby the object is pursued may include the arrangement of conferences, symposia and colloquia, the development and maintenance of an Internet Web Site, the publication of an occasional newsletter, and such other activities as the Association shall from time to time determine.

**3. MEMBERSHIP** Membership of the Association shall be open to individuals who are interested in furthering the work of the Association and who have paid the annual subscription

as laid down from time to time by a General Meeting. The Committee shall have the right to approve or reject applications for membership.

The Association may by a two-thirds majority, for good and sufficient reason, terminate the membership of any individual PROVIDED THAT the individual member concerned shall have the right to be heard before a final decision is made.

**4. GENERAL MEETING** The governing body of the Association is the General Meeting of members. A General Meeting shall be convened at least once annually. Not less than 28 days notice of a General Meeting shall be given in writing to all members. The proceedings of a General Meeting shall not be invalidated by the non-receipt by one or more members of notification. Ten members shall constitute a quorum.

**5. SUBSCRIPTIONS** All members shall pay an annual subscription determined by the General Meeting, save that a General Meeting shall have the power in exceptional cases to confer Honorary Membership of the Association.

**6. OFFICERS** A President, who shall be elected for four years and shall be eligible for one further consecutive term of 3 years. The President will act as the chair of the Committee. A Secretary, who shall serve for three years and shall be eligible for re-election for one further consecutive term. A Treasurer who shall serve for three years and shall be eligible for re-election for one further consecutive term. The Treasurer shall present annually to a General Meeting an audited statement of the accounts of the Association.

**7. COMMITTEE** The general conduct of the affairs of the Association shall be in the hands of a committee consisting of:

- i) the officers,
- ii) two other members elected at a General Meeting for a term of three years and who shall be eligible for re-election for one further consecutive term,
- iii) the editor of the Association's journal, who shall be eligible for re-election without limit to the number of terms,
- iv) two members co-opted by the committee to serve for a term of three years. Thereafter, their co-option may be extended for a further two years, and they may at any time stand for election to the committee.
- v) a postgraduate representative co-opted by the committee to serve for a term of two years.
- vi) a website manager may be appointed and will be co-opted by the committee. The position will be annually renewable at the discretion of the committee but without limit to term.

The notification of any General Meeting shall include intimation of any vacancies among the officers or members of the Committee occurring through expiry of their term of office, and shall call for nominations of members to fill those vacancies.

Nominations, which shall be in writing, signed by two members of the Association and accompanied by the assent of the members proposed, shall be in the hands of the Secretary before the General Meeting at which the vacancy falls to be considered. In the event of there being more valid nominations than places to be filled, a ballot shall be held of members present at the meeting. Where there are more than two candidates for any post, the voting shall be by the system of the Single transferable vote (STV). In the event of a casual vacancy, the Committee shall be empowered, at their discretion, to co-opt a member to hold office until the next General Meeting.



**8. THE ASSOCIATION'S JOURNAL** The Association's journal is *Buddhist Studies Review*, which has an Editorial Board consisting of:

- i) a General Editor, as chairman, who shall be elected for a period of four years, and shall be eligible for re-election without limit to the number of terms (to be appointed by the same mechanism as Committee members, as outlined in 7).
- ii) An Assistant Editor may be co-opted by the UKABS Committee, to assist the General Editor.
- iii) a Review Editor, who shall be elected for a period of three years, and shall be eligible for re-election for one further consecutive term in this role (to be appointed by the same mechanism as Committee members, as outlined in 7), and may be eligible for election as General Editor.
- iv) around ten others, to be co-opted by the UKABS committee, to serve for three years, with the possibility of being co-opted for another three years.

In addition, the journal will have an Editorial Advisory Board of around ten people, to be co-opted by the Editorial committee for periods of four years, that may be repeated without limit.

**9. AMENDMENTS** Amendments to this Constitution shall require a majority of not less than two-thirds of those present and voting at a General Meeting, not less than 28 days notice of the amendment having been given in writing to all members.

**10. DISSOLUTION** If the Committee by a simple majority decide at any time that on the ground of expense or otherwise it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Association, it shall call a meeting of all the members of the Association who have the power to vote, of which meeting not less than 21 days' notice (stating the terms of the Resolution to be proposed thereat) shall be given. If such decision shall be confirmed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at the meeting, the Committee shall have power to dispose of any assets held by or on behalf of the Association. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be distributed in accordance with English law.