

**Report Form Type A (Organizational Project or Publication)
of IABC Grant Aid from June 2018 thru May 2019**

Date of Report: 31st / January / 2019
day / month / year

Please type or print the following information in the blank below.

* Name of Organization i) Chomon House ii) The Shin Buddhist Fellowship UK & iii) *Pure Land Notes*.

* Name of Representative Rev Daichi Gary Robinson.

* Name of Contact Person	Rev Daichi Gary Robinson.
* Contact Address	6 Southcliff Road, Southampton, Hampshire. Post Code SO14 6FH Country UK
* Contact Telephone Number	[44] (0)23 80 837 145
* Contact E-mail Address	dgr@chomonhouse.org and gary@purelandnotes.com

* Title of Project or Publication i) Chomon House ii) The Shin Buddhist Fellowship UK & iii) Quarterly journal *Pure Land Notes*.

<p>* Aim of Project or Publication</p> <p>PROJECT: ● Maintain Chomon House as a Shin Buddhist Centre in the UK, responding to general enquiries into Buddhism and to direct enquiries to their nearest Buddhist group – of any tradition. ● Spreading the appreciation of Japanese Buddhism and the better understanding of Japanese art and culture and, to a degree, the Japanese language through our journal, well-advertised meetings at Chomon House and our websites. ● Function as UK Headquarters for the Shin Buddhist Fellowship UK, including meeting/study room, a Buddha room, overnight accommodation for up to 5 people and office space ● Continued weekly scriptural and ritual study sessions and other more general workshops and talks. ● To engage at a local, national and international level with other Buddhist organization and individuals.</p> <p>PUBLICATION: Quarterly journal, <i>Pure Land Notes</i>. Journal of the Shin Buddhist Fellowship UK: Primarily, to assist in the promotion and understanding of authentic Shin Buddhism throughout the UK. ● With the assistance and support of bonne fide educational and religious bodies and individuals, to provide a sounding board for the thoughts and comments of readers, and to report on the activities of the Shin Buddhist Fellowship UK to interested parties. ● PLN encourages participation through text contribution, and voluntary subscription to the hard-copy edition of it signifies ‘membership’ of the SBFUK.</p>
<p>* Summary of Project or Publication (description of contents and procedures)</p> <p>● Chomon House has an open-door policy and advertises this through 9 libraries in the vicinity. ● We are aware that locally, we rely most on word of mouth to raise awareness in our presence and function. We therefore maintain high standards of behavior and good relationships with our neighbors. ● Our advertised open-door policy also applies to our weekly study, practice and discussion meetings of the SBFUK and the 3 Buddha Services performed daily. ● All events offered by Chomon House are</p>

free of charge, but small voluntary contributions or donations are not discouraged.

● Subscription to PLN is made through the website www.purelandnotes.com. ● The journal encourages participation through text contribution; reinforcing the notion of ‘belonging’.

* Current State of Progress

In Feb 2019 we commence the presentation of two new runs of our Shoshinge Distance Learning Program. In the first run, the course is condensed into 17 consecutive weeks. This format has been devised to permit completion before July 2019 - when up to 5 candidates from the UK go to Kyoto to undertake Tokudo with Nishi Hongwanji.

The second run of the course commences 1st April and runs through to December.

● Membership of the SBFUK including subscribers to our quarterly journal *Pure Land Notes* and the Chomon House home/core group of 6 or so remains steady at about 60.

● Up to 50% of each issue print run of PLN is sent out free of charge to individuals, and another 15% is sent to public library's and religious/ academic establishments such as the Buddhist Society and others in Japan, America, Australia and mainland Europe. This increases our costs substantially, but we do believe that in the interests of clear and open communication (good PR!) the practice must continue.

* Results

● Our management of the 19th European Shin Conference which took place at the Southampton Solent University in August 2018 brought about further improvements in Chomon House's good relationship with the Buddhist Churches of America and helped cement our reputation on a world-wide level.

Furthermore, at that conference Chomon House made it clear that we were willing to take a central role in working towards unifying the various Shin Sangha's across Europe into a single cohesive group.

This important work continues, and it is my hope that a second meeting of interested parties will take place at the 2019 Ho-onko fest at Eko House in Dusseldorf, Germany. The first took place at the 2018 Ho-onko fest at Eko House, just a couple of months after ESC19.

● The consistency and regularity of publication our journal PLN has been instrumental in helping us assemble a stable, serious and sincere group of individuals who do now feel a sense of belonging, and our various courses, classes and workshops now provides suitable guidance and support to all of those with genuine desire to learn more.

● The standard of both the content and the presentation of PLN have improved considerably over the last four years and it is now recognized nationally as a reliable and informative publication.

● We are particularly delighted by the number of people who have consecutively renewed their annual subscription/membership six or seven times.

* Future Prospects

● Having spent the last few years working to establish Chomon House as the UK headquarters of the SFBUK and helping to get PLN recognized on a nation level, we should now consolidate our position by improving upon and repeating the initiatives that our existing members have already endorsed and supported. ● Positive reaction to our *Shoshinge* study course confirms a small but genuine desire information and education in this specialist field and we will work hard to satisfy this with systematic and specific study courses, predominantly online.

● We have a good and dedicated team here in Southampton and our organizing and administration of the very successful 17th and 19th European Shin Buddhist Conferences proved our commitment, reliability and longevity.

● The Nishi Hongwanji ordination of up to five gifted and talented members of the SBFUK in July will mark the day when a new team begins their work. We are looking forwards to working as individuals and as a team, with Chomon House as our UK headquarters. Because we have no authentic temple here in the UK, it is likely that we will travel as a group to Eko House in Germany more frequently for formal services – and to carry the ‘Assembly’ of European Shin Buddhists project forward.

● Between the ordination by Nishi Hongwanji of Jack Austin as the first Shin Buddhist minister in the UK and then myself as the second, there was an interval of 35 years. The interval between my ordination and the ordination of up to 5 additional people in 2019 will be just 7 years. I strongly believe that this significant acceleration in the appreciation and practice of Japanese Buddhism in the UK is due in part to the reliable presence of Chomon House and the ability of Pure Land Notes to bring people together – and inspire participation.

* Report of Expenditure			
Description	Amount Paid	Description	Amount Paid
Hondo/dojo in at Chomon House put aside for aside for exclusive usage.	£2,000.00	Contracted out printing of journal	£570.00
Fully equipped office at Chomon House.	£2,000.00	Postage and Stationary	£500.00
Production of information leaflets and flyers etc. for distribution to the general public.	£300.00	Websites x2 – including payments to server and general admin.	£180.00
Production of ‘hard copy’ of study reference material and Service Sheets etc.	£200.00	Internet and journal editing software	£500.00
Admin and labor in the production, editing, publication and distribution of <i>Pure Land Notes</i> .	£100.00	Subscriptions and listing in other publications	£50.00
Public Liability Insurance	£130.00	Essential Mainland Europe travel	£1,000.00

We hereby certify that all the above information is correct. We agree that any of this information is released to the committee members of IABC and the third-party committee for the IABC Grant Aid, and disclosed on the IABC website. We will provide additional information if requested.

Signature of Organization Member One: Gordon Backhouse. General Secretary, Chomon House.

Date: 13th / February/ 2018
 day / month / year

Signature of Organization Member Two: Matthew Backhouse. Treasurer, Chomon House.

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