

Zen in the UK - Historical Highlights

Manchester Group Formed

- The Manchester Zen group is founded after a Zen Day in Didsbury, Manchester with Jean and Nancy and begins meeting at a variety of venues.

Oxford Group Founded N. London Group Formed First UK Ordinations

- The First ordinations in the UK are performed by Nancy Amphoux
- The Oxford Zen Group is founded by Corinne Acala. It continued for many years, led by Rosemary Cottis, and continues today, led by Ged Welford.
- The North London Zen Group begins at Highbury where it continues until moving to a dedicated space in 2012.

Nancy Amphoux Dies



Taihaku Nanshin Nancy Amphoux (1935-1992) passes away

Manchester Dojo Opens W. London Group Formed

- Manchester group moves to a dedicated space in the Mill Street Venture Centre where it continues to this day led by Alan Smith.
- The West London Zen group is founded by Jeremy Cole and Dianne Hepple. It continued, led by Jim Elliott, until 2005.

Mokuho Guy Mercier Leads Zen Day in Bristol

- After Jean Baby's departure, sesshins and zen days in the UK were led by some of the more experienced British disciples. 1999 marks the beginning of IZAUK's tradition of inviting godos from France.

Brighton Group Founded

- The Brighton Zen Group is founded by Heather Smith and Jay Clifton and begins meeting at the Bodhi Garden Centre. The group continues to this day at Studio iO.

Wells group becomes Hokkai Dojo

- The Wells-Next-The-Sea Zen group becomes the Hokkai Dojo when it moves to a dedicated space in the downstairs of the Quaker house.

Bradford Group Formed

- The Bradford Zen Group is founded by Kate Thompson. It has close links to the Leeds Group.
- This year, senior monks and nuns from the British sangha begin leading regular sesshins in the UK.

Nottingham Group Formed London Old St. Group Formed

- The Nottingham Zen Group is formed in Arnold, Nottingham by Claire Ruddick.
- A few months later, Edgar Koeb starts the Central London / Old St. Zen Group.

1986

Jean and Nancy Form Bristol Zen Dojo

- Nancy Nanshin Amphoux and Jean Shogen Baby, two disciples of Master Deshimaru, arrive in Bristol, UK and set up Bristol Zen Dojo, initially in the basement of a Martial Arts Centre.

1987

1988

1st UK Sesshin

- Organised on Denny's Barge, a boat in Bristol Harbour - the first UK Sesshin with Jean and Nancy is held.



1989

1991

Wells-Next-The-Sea Group Formed

- Mokurei Jan Pearse founds the Wells-Next-The-Sea Zen Group at the local Quaker house, and Bristol Zen Dojo moves to it's new permanent location on Gloucester Road.

1992

1993

Leeds Group Founded S. London Group Formed

- The Leeds Zen Group is founded by Carol Young and John Livingstone. - the group continues to this day led by John Callaghan.
- Alex Lefevre founds the South London (London Bridge) Group, which continues to this day.

1994

1996

Norwich Group Founded

- The Norwich Zen Group is founded by Maddie Parisio, first in a private home, then at various central locations. The group ran for 19 years until 2015!

1999

2000

1st IZAUK AGM Taiun Jean-Pierre Faure Leads Sesshin

- The first IZAUK Annual General Meeting is held and the trustees document is created for registration as a charitable trust
- Taiun Jean-Pierre Faure is invited to lead the October sesshin.

2003

2006

Week-long sesshin at Crosby Hall

- The first of many annual week-long sesshins, with ordinations, are held near Liverpool at Crosby Hall. This one is lead by Mokuho Guy Mercier and we alternate yearly with Taiun Jean-Pierre Faure.

2009

2010

London - Warren Street Group Formed

- The Central London / Warren Street Zen Group is founded by Lana Berrington and continues for 5 years.

2011

2012

N.London Group becomes Caledonian Rd. Dojo SE London Group Formed

- In February, after many years of meeting at the Highbury Community Centre, The North London Group moves to a dedicated space in Islington becoming the North London / Caledonian Road Zen Dojo - led by Lana Berrington.
- In September of this year, Anette Fajardo forms the SE London Zen Group - in Brockley, at first, sitting twice weekly, and later three times a week.

2017