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SECRETARY'S REPORT 2026

It is with great pleasure that I present the Secretary's report for the Oshwal Association of the UK's 55th Annual General Meeting which include the portfolio reports received from the portfolio holders. This year has been one of growth, resilience, and community spirit, as we continue to build upon the strong foundation laid by our predecessors. Despite the challenges we remain focussed to promote cultural preservation and contribute to the welfare of the wider community. In this report, I highlight the key achievements, activities, and developments over the past year, as well as the ongoing initiatives that are shaping the future of the Oshwal community in the UK.

Portfolio Reports:

Audit Committee Report – Summary of Activities for 2025/26

Chair: Nirmal C Shah

The Audit Committee convened on five occasions during the 2025/26 financial year in order to discharge its responsibilities for oversight of financial governance, internal controls, risk management, regulatory compliance, and the integrity of financial reporting.

The principal matters reviewed by the Committee were as follows:

1. Review of Historic Capital Project Cost Overruns

The Committee examined legacy capital expenditure projects undertaken prior to 2022, with specific focus on budget variances, cost overruns, and expenditure control weaknesses identified within the report previously shared with members. Consideration was given to historic project approval processes, procurement governance, supporting records, and the financial effect of overspends on reserves, liquidity, and long-term financial planning.

2. Review of Expense Management and Procurement Controls

A detailed review was undertaken of the expenses reimbursement process. The Committee considered measures to strengthen internal control systems by reducing reliance on personal reimbursement claims and increasing the use of direct supplier payments, approved procurement channels, and account-based purchasing arrangements. The intended outcome is improved transparency, stronger audit trails, enhanced segregation of duties, and reduced control risk.





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3. Review of Anti-Money Laundering Concerns – £6,500 Payment

The Committee reviewed allegations concerning potential anti-money laundering compliance issues relating to a £6,500 expense claim connected with a payment to Macchu Beraja School. In view of the seriousness of the matter, the Committee recommended the appointment of a suitably qualified and fully independent forensic accountant, with no historical association to OAUUK, to conduct an objective review of the transaction, source documentation, approval processes, and relevant regulatory considerations.

4. Consideration of Forensic Accountant’s Findings

The Committee reviewed the summary findings and recommendations arising from the forensic accountant’s report. Discussions focused on identified control weaknesses, governance improvements, evidential conclusions, and remedial actions required to strengthen financial oversight and reduce future risk exposure.

5. Balance Sheet Integrity and Financial Statement Accuracy

The Committee reviewed the Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) to ensure it presents a true and fair view of OAUUK’s financial position. Particular attention was given to asset recognition, classification, capitalisation treatment, reconciliations, completeness of records, and correction of any historical misstatements where necessary.

6. Introduction of “Know Your Donor” Compliance Framework

The Committee considered the implementation of a formal “Know Your Donor” (KYD) compliance process across OAUUK fundraising activities. This initiative is intended to strengthen due diligence procedures relating to significant donations, donor identity verification, source of funds considerations, sanctions screening where appropriate, reputational risk assessment, and compliance with anti-money laundering and counter-fraud expectations. The framework will support responsible fundraising practices, enhance transparency, and safeguard the reputation and integrity of OAUUK.

Governance, Growth and Regulatory Alignment

The Committee also recognised that OAUUK has evolved into a medium to large-sized UK charity, with an increasingly complex operational and financial profile. As the organisation continues to grow, it is essential that governance frameworks, financial procedures, delegated authorities, and control environments evolve accordingly.

In this context, the Committee emphasised the importance of aligning operational processes with current legal obligations, best practice governance standards, and applicable guidance issued by





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the Charity Commission for England and Wales. Particular consideration was given to the need for modernised procedures that support digital innovation, improved record management, secure systems, data governance, and efficient decision-making, whilst maintaining strong accountability and regulatory compliance.

Overall Governance Focus

Throughout the year, the Committee remained committed to promoting prudent financial stewardship, accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement in governance standards across OAUk. Continued emphasis has been placed on strengthening internal controls, ensuring accurate financial reporting, safeguarding charitable assets, and supporting the organisation's future development on a sustainable and compliant basis.

All Area Co-Ordinator Update by Nirmal C Shah and Avni J Shah, Joint Lead for All Area Co-Ordinator

The role of the All Area Co-Ordinator has centred on strengthening engagement across all OAUk areas and ensuring that every area's voice is heard and their concerns acknowledged.

Thanks to improved communication channels such as WhatsApp and Microsoft Teams, we've been able to collaborate more effectively, streamline updates, and create a more connected and responsive environment for area committees.

Fund Raising Report for OAUk – 2025/26

Chair: Nirmal C Shah

Fund raising during 2025/26 has been undertaken in a challenging economic environment, with many member households continuing to experience pressures arising from the ongoing cost of living crisis. Despite these constraints, the generosity and continued support of members has remained commendable and reflects the strong philanthropic spirit within the OAUk community.

During the year, OAUk progressed a number of significant capital development projects, including:

1. Oshwal Association of the UK Wallington Sports and Social Club
2. Oshwal Shakti Centre Refurbishment Project
3. Derasar 20th Anniversary





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4. Oshwal House Rendering Completion Works

To support these developments, a number of targeted fund raising appeals and donor sponsorship schemes were launched during the financial year.

Key Appeals and Sponsorship Schemes

Derasar 20th Anniversary (D20)

- Murti Restoration Scheme
- Deri Dhaja Sponsorship Scheme

Oshwal Shakti Centre Project

- Tree Sponsorship Scheme (Leaf, Fruit, Branch, Trunk)
- Lift Sponsorship
- Lobby / Foyer Sponsorship
- Kitchen Sponsorship
- First Floor Rooms (3 rooms)
- Ghar Derasar Sponsorship, including:
 - Derasar
 - Pratimas
 - Samagri
 - Derasar Rooms

Other Appeals

- Oshwal Property Maintenance Fund

Oshwal Association of the UK was also pleased to unveil the **Oshwal 50 Year Plaque** during 2025, recognising donors who had generously supported the milestone appeal originally launched in 2018.

Charitable Distributions and Community Giving

In keeping with Oshwal Association of the UK's charitable objectives, the Jiv Daya and Anukampa funds were fully distributed during the year. Each area was requested to donate £5,000 towards Jiv Daya and £5,000 towards Anukampa causes within their respective local communities.

In addition, the Centre approved the following restricted fund distributions:

1. £5,000 towards a specialist medical chair for the Paul Strickland Scanner Centre





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2. £6,500 to Macchu Beraja School for sports ground levelling works, outbuilding support and classroom AV equipment
3. £10,000 to Life Global to support women's empowerment, assisting 40 disadvantaged women in Gujarat to become financially independent

Governance, Compliance and Donor Controls

During the year, significant attention was given to strengthening governance procedures in relation to donations, particularly as OAUK has now evolved into a medium to large UK charity operating with increasing regulatory expectations.

Donor Privacy Controls

To enhance GDPR compliance and protect donor confidentiality, donor registers will now be centrally maintained only by the OAUK office. No donor data should be retained locally at centres or area branches.

Know Your Donor (KYD) Process

Following recommendations from the Audit Committee, OAUK has introduced a proportionate donor due diligence framework under a **Know Your Donor (KYD)** policy. This will apply as follows:

- **Cash donations of £1,000 or more** – KYD form plus Source of Funds declaration
- **Non-cash donations of £2,500 or more** – KYD form required
- **Non-cash donations of £5,000 or more** – KYD form plus Source of Funds declaration

These measures are intended to strengthen compliance with Charity Commission guidance, anti-money laundering awareness, and broader governance expectations applicable to larger charities.

OAUK continues to operate on a good-faith basis and relies on the honesty and integrity of donors in providing accurate information, recognising that the charity does not possess unlimited investigative resources.

The revised Fund Raising Policy will continue to guide the fund raising team in maintaining lawful, transparent and ethical practices.

Major Donations and Schemes Supported in 2025/26

The following headline achievements were recorded during the year:

1. £35,000 raised for the Derasar Disabled Lift





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2. £48,032 raised for the Murti Restoration Project
3. £36,024 raised for the Deri Dhaja Scheme
4. £24,000 raised for the Kesar Room Refurbishment
5. £21,000 raised for the OSC Ghar Derasar Opening
6. £56,000 for both Aymbels – Oct 25 and March 26

Aymbel Festival fund raising initiatives were strongly supported, with approximately 75–80 families participating in the £251 Nakro scheme.

Challenges Faced During the Year

Whilst community support has remained positive overall, the fund raising campaign for the Oshwal Shakti Centre has encountered avoidable challenges. Inaccurate commentary and misinformation circulated by certain individuals adversely impacted donor sentiment and slowed momentum.

Members who have visited the centre will have seen the substantial improvements delivered, including:

- Modernised hall presentation
- Enhanced functionality and layout
- Improved washroom facilities
- Disabled access lift
- Upgraded AV systems
- Refurbished kitchen facilities
- Ghar Derasar development

It is hoped that members will assess the project based on its completed merits and continue to support the remaining sponsorship opportunities.

Oshwal Ekta Car Park

Rumit, Nirmal and Shital have spent a lot of time negotiating with Kingsbury High School for the purchase of land directly behind Oshwal Ekta Centre. We are pleased to advise that we are now at a point where the proposal to buy land directly behind Oshwal Ekta Centre is with the school governors for approval and we will also be asking members on 17th May 2026 to approve the purchase of this land. We hope that members will generously help with the fund raising for this project.





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Closing Remarks

The last few years have been particularly demanding for the fund raising team. Economic pressures alone would have presented sufficient challenge, yet additional obstacles caused by misinformation and unnecessary negativity created further barriers.

Nevertheless, substantial progress has still been achieved through dedication, resilience and the generosity of sincere supporters.





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Derasar's 20th Anniversary Report

Chair: Nirmal C Shah

The Derasar at the Oshwal Centre, the first Shikharbandh Temple of its kind in Western Europe, proudly celebrated its 20th Anniversary in 2025. Over the past two decades, the Derasar has stood as a beacon of faith, devotion, culture, and unity for the community. It has become not only a place of worship, but also a spiritual home for generations.

The chosen theme for this milestone celebration was **Unity** — reflecting the values upon which the Derasar was founded and the collective spirit that continues to sustain it.

Key Activities and Events for the 20th Anniversary

A number of significant religious, cultural, and community initiatives were organised as part of the anniversary year with the focus on our derasar:

1. **Murti Restoration Programme** – Restoration and enhancement of all sacred idols within the Derasar, including the Deris across the temple complex.
2. **Installation of Dhaja Poles** – Dedicated Dhaja poles installed for each of the Deris in the Derasar complex.
3. **International Yoga Day Celebration** – A community yoga event held in the peaceful surroundings of the Derasar grounds.
4. **Festival of Unity Concert** – A landmark outdoor devotional music concert with the Derasar as its majestic backdrop.
5. **21st Dhaja Divas Celebration** – Annual Dhaja changing ceremony on a historic scale.
6. **Diwali Chopda Pujan & Bestu Varas Dwar Opening** – A vibrant celebration marking the New Year.
7. **Kartaki Poonam – Closing D20 Celebration** – The final commemorative event of the anniversary year.

Volunteer-Led Preparations

To prepare the Derasar and wider Oshwal Centre for this historic occasion, a major volunteer-led clean-up initiative was organised, attracting over **100 volunteers of all ages**. This outstanding seva effort included:

- Cleaning and preparing all Deris within the complex
- Jet washing the Derasar exterior and surrounding grounds
- Deep cleaning of the temple interior





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- Organising and clearing storage facilities across the Oshwal Centre

This collective effort demonstrated the strength of community spirit and dedication to preserving the sanctity and beauty of the Derasar.

Festival of Unity – A Historic Celebration

The **Festival of Unity** was a truly landmark occasion and the first event of its kind held at the Oshwal Centre.

A grand marquee accommodating approximately **1,000 attendees** was erected in the grounds facing the Derasar. Renowned and talented Oshwal singers, many of them household names, performed devotional stavans in an uplifting spiritual atmosphere.

The media team delivered a professional production with a large LED wall and stage setup, while the catering team prepared an exceptional in-house Jain menu for all guests.

Following dinner, volunteers efficiently guided attendees into the marquee for the main programme. The evening was further honoured by the presence of distinguished dignitaries, many of whom expressed admiration at both the scale and organisation of the event.

The celebrations culminated in a deeply spiritual **Aarti and Mangal Divo**, held in the Derasar grounds and continued inside the main temple.

A commemorative **souvenir booklet** was also produced to mark the anniversary, featuring articles on the Derasar's history, its significance, and tributes from individuals involved in its original construction twenty years ago.

21st Dhaja Divas

Following the Festival of Unity, the community gathered once again for the **21st Dhaja Divas**, which included the first-ever Dhaja hoisting for the **24 Deris** within the temple complex.

This highly auspicious occasion attracted approximately **4,000 devotees**, making it one of the most attended religious gatherings in the Derasar's history.

Diwali Chopda Pujan & Bestu Varas Dwar Opening

The Diwali celebrations formed another major highlight of the anniversary year. The sacred **Chopda Pujan** was observed with devotion, followed by the ceremonial **Dwar Opening on Bestu Varas**, welcoming the New Year with blessings and positivity.





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This joyous occasion was attended by over **700 devotees**, with **Aarti and Mangal Divo performed every hour**, creating a continuous atmosphere of devotion throughout the day.

Attendees were also served freshly prepared traditional favourites including **Jalebi, Ganthia, Sambharo and masala tea** adding warmth and festive spirit to the celebrations.

Kartaki Poonam – Final D20 Celebration

The concluding event of the Derasar's 20th Anniversary programme took place in **November 2025** on the auspicious occasion of **Kartaki Poonam**.

This final D20 celebration was marked with devotion and gratitude, bringing the anniversary year to a fitting close. The event concluded with a heartfelt **Aarti and Mangal Divo** in the Derasar, attended by the dedicated **D20 Core Team**, whose vision, commitment, and service helped deliver a memorable year of celebrations.

Conclusion

The 20th Anniversary celebrations of the Derasar were a resounding success, honouring the vision of those who built it, celebrating the devotion of the present generation, and inspiring future generations to continue this legacy of faith, service, and unity. The Derasar remains a shining symbol of Jain values and community excellence in the United Kingdom and across Europe.

If the community remains united, focused on facts, and committed to collective progress, OAUUK can continue to make significant strides in building an organisation that is modern, compliant, and fit to serve future generations.

Census 2024 Report

Chair – Nirmal C Shah

The Census Project Team is pleased to share the updated outcomes of the Oshwal Association of the UK Community Census 2024 and to sincerely thank every household that participated.

The census was undertaken to better understand our growing and changing community, improve future planning, and ensure OAUUK continues to serve members of all generations across the UK. Following completion of the review process, we are pleased to confirm that 2,347 households out of 5,834 total households completed the census.

This represents an overall participation rate of 40.2% of all households.





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For a voluntary community census, this is a strong response and provides Oshwal with one of the most valuable member insight exercises ever undertaken.

What the Census Told Us

1. A Strong and Connected Community

Responses confirmed that members remain actively engaged through:

- Religious functions
- Derasar attendance
- Social gatherings
- Sports and wellbeing programmes
- Volunteering
- Family and cultural celebrations

Oshwal continues to play an important role in community life.

The census reflected participation across senior members, families, professionals and younger generations.

This supports continued focus on:

- Senior wellbeing initiatives
- Family activities
- Youth engagement programmes
- Career and networking opportunities
- Community care and support services

While North West London remains a major membership centre, meaningful responses were also received from:

- North, East, South and West London
- Leicester
- Northampton
- Luton
- Other UK regions

This provides a stronger basis for national planning and regional outreach.

Household Size and Distribution

- 29.9% of households are single-person households
- 36.2% are two-person households





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- 13.5% are three-person households
- 13.9% are four-person households
- 4.9% are five-person households
- 1.5% are six or more person households

Key Insight:

- Nearly 66% of households contain one or two people, indicating a significant mature and smaller-household demographic.

Mobility & Accessibility

- The census highlighted:
 - 1 in 11 households are affected by a non-age-related disability
 - 9% of households have a Blue Badge holder
 - 15% of households have some accessibility need

Key Insight:

- Accessibility should now be a core part of future centre design, events planning and transport policy.

Transport

- 54.6% do not prefer using public transport to attend centres
- 19.7% are willing to use public transport
- 16.5% would consider car share
- 9.2% did not answer
- Only 18% stated they would use public transport to the Oshwal Centre if available.

Key Insight:

- Private vehicle access and parking remain critical for major venues.

Environmental Focus

- 8.8% of households own an Electric Vehicle
- 7.5% have solar panels installed

Key Insight:





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- Demand for sustainable infrastructure such as EV charging will increase over time.

Education & Professions

- 32.4% completed High School / Secondary Education
- 27.1% hold a Bachelor's Degree
- 9.1% hold a Postgraduate Degree (Masters / PhD)
- 5.5% hold a Diploma
- 26.0% are currently studying / undergraduates

Of the above:

- 34% hold professional qualifications (ACCA / ACA / CIMA / Tax / Law)
- 18% work in healthcare professions (Dentist / Optometrist / Pharmacist / Doctor / Nursing)

Key Insight:

- OAUk has a highly skilled internal talent base that can support governance, mentoring, health programmes and strategic planning.

How the Community Should Prepare Based on Census Data

OAUk Strategic Readiness Plan (Next 10–20 Years)

The census data provides a clear picture: OAUk is a strong, established, family-based community, but demographic, technological and social changes mean preparation is essential for the next generation.

1. Prepare for an Ageing Membership

Average respondent age trends suggest a mature membership profile with increasing accessibility needs.

Actions:

Services

- Senior wellbeing clubs
- Regular health talks
- Social connection programmes
- Home visit / support networks





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Infrastructure

- Step-free access
- More seating areas
- Accessible toilets
- Easier parking / drop-off zones

Strategic Goal:

Move from event-based support to a whole-life community care model.

2. Prepare the Next Generation

Long-term sustainability depends on younger households remaining actively engaged.

Actions

- Leadership academy
- Internship / mentoring networks
- Sports leagues
- Social mixers
- Career development forums
- Younger trustees and committee pathways

Strategic Goal:

Create a visible future leadership pipeline.

3. Prepare Facilities for Future Demand

Membership remains concentrated in core regions and car travel dominates attendance patterns.

Actions

- Sufficient parking capacity
- EV charging points
- Better traffic flow systems
- Regional satellite hubs

Strategic Goal:

Use data-led capital planning rather than historic assumptions.

4. Prepare for Digital Expectations





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Younger generations increasingly expect modern digital services.

Actions

- Modern member database
- Online bookings
- Digital memberships
- Automated communications
- Live-streamed events
- Podcasts and short-form content
- Online classes and learning

Strategic Goal:

Become a hybrid community: physical + digital.

5. Prepare Financially & Organisationally

Future donor patterns may change as demographics evolve.

Actions

- Diversified fundraising models
- Legacy giving programmes
- Monthly donation schemes
- Youth donor culture
- Succession planning
- Skills-based volunteering
- Professional advisory panels

Strategic Goal:

Build resilience beyond a few key donors or volunteers.

6. Prepare for Health & Wellbeing Needs

The census identified both a mature demographic and strong healthcare expertise within the community.

Actions

- Annual health fairs
- Diabetes / heart health awareness
- Mental wellbeing sessions





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- Exercise programmes
- Active ageing initiatives

Use doctors, pharmacists, dentists and other professionals already within OAUk.

Strategic Goal:

Turn community expertise into community wellbeing.

Final Census Team Message

The Census 2024 confirms that OAUk is a strong, generous and capable community with deep roots and significant future potential.

The challenge now is not simply to celebrate who we are today, but to prepare wisely for who we will become tomorrow.

External Relations Report

Chair: Rumit D Shah

The Association has built up very successful external relations and is continuing to do so. The Association is now recognised as important community organisation by other external organisations and institutions and is invited to many external events.

It was a very busy year especially as this was the year of the 20th anniversary of our beautiful derasar.

In April 2025, I and several trustees had the immense privilege of representing Oshwal Association of the UK at the Mahavir Janma Kalyanak celebrations at 10 Downing Street and at the One Jain Awards at the House of Parliament in May 2025 in the presence of Lord Khan, the Minister for Faith. A special One Jain award was presented to the Jain members of the England Kho Kho team. I also had the privilege of meeting the former Prime Minister, David Cameron at an event organised by the Conservative Friends of India.

On Easter Monday we had the very sad news of the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis. I had the privilege of representing Oshwal Association of the UK as part of the International Jain delegation to the Vatican and was deeply honoured and humbled to have met His Holiness Pope Francis.





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Throughout this period, we've been fortunate to welcome many dignitaries to our beautiful Derasar at Oshwal Centre, including Baroness Shah of Wembley, Lord Katz, Lord Raval, Matt Turmaine MP for Watford, Andrew Lewin MP for Welwyn Hatfield, the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire Jonathan Ash-Edwards, Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Hertfordshire, Councillor Pankit Shah, Councillor Parveen Rani, Councillor Anjana Patel, Mayor of Harrow, Harjit Singh, Deputy Lieutenant for Hertfordshire, Enoch Kanaraj Deputy Lieutenant for Hertfordshire and Chairman of OneVision, along with many other councillors and important guests.

We are deeply honoured and proud that Baroness Shah of Wembley, an Oshwal, is the first parliamentarian in the UK

We were heavily involved with the Ancient India: living traditions exhibition at the British Museum which focussed on Jainism, Hinduism and Buddhism. At the opening reception Jayeshbhai was able to perform such a moving Jain blessing alongside a Hindu priest and Buddhist monks. Our derasar featured in the exhibition where Shandip was an advisor.

We have also been involved with the Faith in the City Focus Group which is a Lord Mayor of London led initiative. Shandip, Nirmal and I attended the first meeting of this group at Mansion House, and continue to remain engaged with this group to ensure we can represent the needs to Jains working in the City of London

Jayeshbhai participated in a Jain delegation to the Vatican where he met His Holiness Pope Leo, and was also part of a delegation of Jain scholars visiting 10 Downing Street, where they met the Prime Minister, Keir Starmer.

We are a OneJain panel member and have built many relationships with OneJain other OneJain organisations and other communities.

In Hertfordshire we are part of the Inter Faith dialogue culminating in Oshwal being a signatory to the Inter Faith covenant. In Sutton we have developed a relationship with Bobby Dean MP and Councillor Ed Joyce.





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Cultivating these relationships with external communities, organisations, parliamentarians, local councillors, etc do take a lot of time, but it is very fulfilling to see that Oshwal Association of the UK is seen as a very important partner/community.

Religious Activities and Derasar Report

Chair: Shandip N Shah

2025 has been a momentous year celebrating the 20th anniversary of our wonderful derasar. Several key events held to celebrate this including:

1. Festival of unity concert in front of the derasar watched by over 1000 people, featuring the very best of Oshwal performers in the UK.
2. International Yoga Day in front of the derasar.
3. Raising for the first time at any derasar outside of India (not fact checked) – 24 new dhajas surrounding the derasar where the 24 tirthankars are situated.
4. Repainting of all murtis inside and outside of the derasar by professional skilled artists using non harmful paints.

Continuing initiatives:

1. Sunday satsangs delivered by Jayeshbhai – more and more people setting their alarms for 11am on Sundays to stop everything and watch the satsangs. New initiative was to have a bhakti performance once a month by one singer from our pool of talent who took part in the festival of unity. Huge success. Numbers watching or catching up on You Tube is now sizeable.
2. Tuesday Jainism classes – now approaching 150 sessions led by Dr Ajitbhai and our team of volunteers.
3. Thursday beginners' classes – have held couple of excellent series this year including power of meditation and mindfulness. More series planned for 2026.
4. New class 'The Essence of Utradhayan Sutra' – Adhyayan by Adhyayan, our wonderful teachers and helpers explain the meaning and relevance of this most auspicious text – summarising the final sermon of Lord Mahavir.
5. Last Rites initiative – used more and more by families at an emotionally sensitive time for them. Has brought peace of mind to many in their last stages on this earth and to their families. Wonderful volunteers in all areas.





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6. Samuh Bhakti – completed 4 years recently of the monthly samuh bhakti in the derasar. More and more traction and a wonderful occasion to participate without judgment inside the derasar. Again, a big thank you to the volunteers for their commitment.
7. The community choir – taken a different shape and going now from strength to strength. Focus on songs and voice technique. This is now a NW area initiative as its only NW attendees.

Regular events:

1. Paryushan – a real highlight to see numbers at all area venues going from strength to strength. Those who cannot get to a venue due to health reasons, had the opportunity to take part from home via on-line live transmission.
2. English pratikraman – in conjunction with the SCVP Jain school we were delighted to see numbers up this year both online and in person. Couple of sessions were also held at Oshwal centre as well.
3. Ayambil – more people participating in person each Ayambil. Jayaeshbhai's sermons viewed globally now. More participation at all the poojas due to many more families sponsoring Ayambil. An incredible spectacle for all. Huge thank you to all the sponsors, catering team volunteers, the religious / derasar team volunteers and the zoom team. Last Ayamil festival in March 2026, attracted more people than ever.
4. Dhaja din pooja – huge participation this year celebrating the 20 years of the derasar and on Jayeshbhai's 60th birthday !!!!

External participation

1. In January we ran a course on mindfulness and Chakra Meditation with the experiences Vishal Shah.
2. Inter-faith participation at several events in London including the City Belonging Project and the Compassionate Care in Bereavement conference.
3. Inter-faith conference organised by the Dicastry of Inter Religious Dialogue to discuss the Nostra Aetate, the declaration for interfaith respect on its 60th Anniversary. Several OAUK members were invited including Jayeshbhai, Dr Ajitbhai and Shandipbhai as part of the Institute of Jainology delegation.
4. We are present at the 60th Anniversary celebrations in presence of Pope Leo. A truly humbling experience was also had when the Pope addressed over 30,000 people in St Peters square with leaders from many different faiths sitting only a few metres away from him.





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5. In February 2026, I was asked by the Vatican Dicastery of Inter religious dialogue to be a moderator at the youth conference on peace held in Turin with participants from many parts of the world including three Jains from the UK.
6. In June 2026, I will be speaking at the Inter Faith conference in Rome organised by the Vatican Dicastery for Inter religious dialogue.
7. Celebration of Mahavir Jayanti at 10 Downing Street.
8. Celebration of the Ahimsa Award by IOJ and One Jain at the Houses of Parliament.
9. We have had lectures from eminent Jain spiritual leaders including Sadhviji Shilapaji from Veerayatan, Minalben from Raj Soubhag, Sailla and Sureshji from Koba. Oshwal is now a must stop for all who come to the UK.

British Museum

A huge project this year was the 'Ancient India, Living Traditions' exhibition at the British Museum. Our religious chair was the Community Partner who had been part of the advisory panel over the last two years on this project along with the representatives of Hindu and Buddhist faiths. OAUK was an integral partner of this exhibition which was launched in May 2025 for 6 months and has attracted many thousand visitors from all over the world. Jayeshbhai represented the entire Jain community in reciting the opening Jain prayers at the opening of the exhibition. Our key volunteer in the derasar Manjuben was featured in the main Jain video playing every couple of minutes for 6 months which showcased the derasar. So apt that this was featured during the 20-year celebrations of the derasar. This exhibition has truly put the derasar on the map in the UK and has attracted many non-Jain visitors to it since the opening of the exhibition. A real milestone for the community. We have built very close relationship with the museum now and this will bode well for the future.

The religious portfolio has been an incredible source of pride and huge thanks to all volunteers on getting momentum on attracting more and more people to come to the derasar, join classes and much more.

Education Report

Chair: Rajvee Punater

OAUK has four Gujarati schools which are located in Finchley (North Area), Kenton (Northwest Area), Croydon (South area) and Hounslow (West area). They operate during term times on Saturday mornings with the exception of West Area school, which runs on Friday





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evenings. Enrolment is open to children aged 3 to 16. For further details and to register, please go to <https://oshwal.org.uk/education>.

All schools provide extra-curricular and/or cultural activities, that run alongside the Gujarati lessons.

These include Bollywood dancing, tabla and singing lessons (North Area school), yoga and games (West Area school), kathak and sports (South area school) and finally Jainism classes, adult Pilates & adult Gujarati classes (NW area school).

Since 2022 Education leads have completed an annual education questionnaire which allows us to monitor changes and track progress over time. Data from our most recent 2025-2026 education questionnaire shows that registrations have fallen slightly (7%) from last year, with 185 students enrolled at our schools.

After remarkable growth last year, NW area school has maintained good recruitment with 75 students currently registered. Strong leadership, good quality teaching and use of modern teaching methods have all played a role. The school relocated from Stanmore to Kenton in September 2025 and although this resulted in a small loss of students, a successful marketing drive in the local area, led to additional baal mandir and reception classes being required to accommodate a swell in student numbers. This shows that there is a demand for the teaching of Gujarati in the area and bodes well for future growth.

South Area school has also continued to perform well, with 61 students currently enrolled. Again, strong leadership, good quality teaching and the creative use of modern teaching aids have all played a part in maintaining student numbers as well as reducing staff turnover.

North area school, which was at one time the flagship school for OAUUK, has experienced frequent turnover of leadership (4 education leads in 4 years). This has affected teaching standards and staff morale and led to a significant fall in student numbers, with a drop of 30% since 2022. I am hopeful that with an experienced education lead now in place and the full backing of the new North area committee, this trend will reverse and stability will return.

Student numbers at West area school have also been falling in recent years, with a 15% drop last year.





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This is partly due to changes in the area's demographics, where Oshwal families with young children are moving away from Hounslow. Also, unlike other schools, West area school runs on a Friday evenings which may put off working parents and families that live further away.

EC Oversight

As well as the completing the annual education questionnaire, Education leads give school updates at quarterly Education Sub Committee Meetings, which I chair. The aim of these meetings is to trouble shoot problems, share best practice. discuss ways to improve our education programme and develop new initiatives. I also make regular school visits, where I see first-hand how classes are delivered, and schools are being administered.

Challenges

As outlined above, some schools are experiencing significant falls in student numbers – this is an issue experienced by many community schools - not just Oshwal ones, and there are no easy solutions. Competition with other activities at weekends that children prefer to do and parents not prioritising the learning of Gujarati (or seeing its value) are all factors.

Recruitment of experienced teachers, especially at GCSE level, continues to be a challenge for our schools, as is retaining children as they approach yrs 10 & 11 and their GCSE's.

The costs of running a school have also risen sharply largely due to rocketing school hire fees and higher staff salaries. This is difficult to cover with income from schools' fees and therefore most schools run with a budget deficit. My view, and that of the EC as a whole, is that activities such as education are an investment in our youth and culture, and in shaping our future leaders and so are worth the time, money and energy, even if this means incurring a loss.

Some schools have mitigated this by reducing costs, raising standards, increasing student numbers and looking other sources of income. However, this requires the concerted involvement of the whole area committee - not just the education lead. Examples where this approach have been successful are South area and NW area schools. Going forward, I urge schools in other areas to try and adopt some of these practices.

Acknowledgment

I would like to say a huge thank you to our education leads: Kalpna Shah (South area) Jiten Shah (NW area), Rekha Shah (North area) and Mahesh Shah (West area) for their hard work and





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selfless dedication in managing the day to day running of our Gujarati schools. I would also like to acknowledge our teaching staff and volunteers, for their support, dedication, and passion for teaching of the Gujarati language.

Catering & Culture & Social Activities

Chair: Arvind Shah

Over the past 4 years a huge number of volunteers have been brought together to ensure that majority of our central events have in-house catering. These have included, Aymbel, Dhaja Divas, Derasar's 20th Anniversary Celebrations, Anand Yatra, Yoga in the Derasar and many other events. Managing the logistics for these events has been a mammoth task, right from procurement to the actual event day preparations. The Catering team lead by Arvindbhai have been very early risers and amongst the last to leave on all of these events.

The EC has taken a view that Cultural and Social activities should be done at area level and only major festivals such as Diwali, Bestu Varas meet and greet and other similar events should be done at the centre to allow the community to meet and celebrate these events at Oshwal Centre. The team has worked closely with all portfolios to ensure that there is catering support available when needed.

Elders Welfare (Anand Yatra) Report

Chair:Hitesh Shah & Arvind Shah

Anand Yatra continued to be an important and well-attended weekly programme for our community throughout 2025. Sessions were held every Friday, excluding the periods of festival days, functions, and the winter months. In total, fourteen sessions took place between 14 March 2025 and 7 November 2025, each contributing to the spiritual, social, and cultural enrichment of our members.

Participation and Activities

Attendance remained consistently strong, with an average weekly participation of more than 180 members. Attendees from the East, North, North East, North West, and West Areas engaged in a





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range of activities designed to promote wellbeing, community bonding, and spiritual reflection. These activities included:

- Puja in the Derasar, fostering devotion and collective prayer
- Yoga sessions, supporting physical and mental wellbeing
- Card games and social interaction, strengthening community ties

Each session concluded with freshly prepared hot Jain meals, which were greatly appreciated by all participants and contributed to the welcoming and inclusive atmosphere of the programme.

Special Guests and Visitors

Throughout the year, Anand Yatra was honoured by the presence of numerous VIPs and overseas visitors. Their participation added further significance to the programme and demonstrated the continued recognition, and respect Anand Yatra holds within the wider community.

Acknowledgements

The success of Anand Yatra is made possible through the dedication, generosity, and commitment of many individuals. Sincere appreciation is extended to:

- All volunteers, whose time, effort, and organisation ensured the smooth running of every session
- All donors, whose contributions supported the meals, activities, and overall sustainability of the programme

Their collective support has been instrumental in maintaining the high standard and continued success of Anand Yatra throughout the year.

Enabling Network & Health and Well-being Portfolio Report

Chair: Shilpa Shah

Summary of Activities (Jan–Dec 2025)

Throughout 2025, the EN, H&W portfolio delivered a wide range of programmes across OAUK, strengthening inclusion, wellbeing, community support and health awareness.

1. ENABLING NETWORK (Disability & Inclusion)





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Disability Inclusion, Events & Stakeholder Engagement

The Enabling Network continued to prioritise accessibility, empowerment and meaningful participation for members with disabilities.

Key Achievements in 2025

- We are proud to share that the dedication of our Enabling Network committee over the past 15 years has been recognised, with OAUk receiving *Most Inclusive Community Charity 2026 – Hertfordshire* and the *Welfare Excellence Award 2026* from AI Global Media Ltd as part of the UK Enterprise Awards 2026.
- International Day of Persons with Disabilities – 29 November A highly successful celebration recognised for its genuine inclusivity, warm atmosphere and strong community spirit. Attendees praised the event as an example of “true inclusion.”
- Stakeholder-Led Social (6 September) A bowling and dinner outing attended by 24 members, representing an important step in enabling stakeholders to lead their own activities.
- Rotary Disability Games (12 October) OAUk participants achieved 11 medals, demonstrating commitment, teamwork and perseverance.
- Inclusive Pantomime Visit An outing to a mixed-ability pantomime was organised, attended by 30 members and families.
- SEN Support for Gujarati Schools Ongoing collaboration to help teachers better support pupils with special educational needs, pending further coordination with the Education portfolio.

ENABLING NETWORK & HEALTH AND WELLBEING (EN, H&W) PORTFOLIO

Summary of Activities (Jan–Dec 2025)

Throughout 2025, the EN, H&W portfolio delivered a wide range of programmes across OAUk, strengthening inclusion, wellbeing, community support and health awareness.

Overall Summary

In 2025, the Enabling Network and Health & Wellbeing portfolio delivered strong outcomes across disability inclusion, community wellbeing, stakeholder empowerment and health education.





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Through impactful events, widely attended webinars, expanding accessibility resources and effective health partnerships, the portfolio continues to play a key role in promoting an inclusive, healthy and connected OAUk community.

Chief Technical Officer (CTO) Report

Chair: Khilit Shah

Most systems across the organisation were set up and maintained as expected. However, several systems that required regular servicing had lapsed over time. The IT team undertook a full review, root cause analysis, and remediation plan.

The purpose of the Information Technology (IT) Portfolio and its sub-committee is to oversee and manage the technological infrastructure and digital tools essential for the functioning of OAUk.

A dedicated team of IT volunteers carried out all the work listed below.

Technology Procurement:

- Identifying technological needs and requirements across different areas within OAUk.
- Evaluating and recommending appropriate technology solutions and vendors.
- Overseeing the procurement process, including negotiation of contracts & agreements.

Management of Software Services:

- Oversight of Office 365 subscription, ensuring proper licensing and utilisation.
- Administration and management of WordPress, Formidable Forms, Zoom and YouTube accounts.
- Maintenance and management of domain registrations, hosting providers and WordPress premium plugins to ensure online presence.
- Management of server and network infrastructure to support OAUk's digital operations.
- Identity and Access Management (IAM) for systems used by OAUk. This includes Access and Authorisation management functions of the Website, TicketTailor, Canva, Social Media, Membership Database, Payment Systems
- Website events and communications,
- Property peripherals (not limited but also Inc. CCTV, Internet, TVs etc, Fire and Theft Alarm)





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I wanted to share a brief summary of the activities conducted within the IT Portfolio. While this overview highlights some of the key initiatives, it only scratches the surface of the remarkable work accomplished by our devoted volunteers on the IT and Media and Communications committees.

It's important to acknowledge the unwavering commitment and enthusiasm demonstrated by everyone involved. I would also like to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to my sub-committee, my fellow Office Bearers and Trustees, our office admin team and M&C area committees for their steadfast dedication, support, and tireless efforts. Their contributions have been invaluable, and I truly appreciate all the hard work they have put in.

1. Website & Hosting

IONOS VPS Server

- Full configuration and setup of new VPS server
- Migration of existing websites to the new server

Website Optimisation & Development

- Reduced page load times from 20 seconds to a few seconds through plugin testing and server tuning
- Setup of development sites across all sites for safe testing
- Added new features and plugins (e.g. improved links sharing, Oshwal News online)
- Implemented and repaired backup strategy
- Pruned and repaired database to prevent site crashes
- Fixed issues causing emails to land in spam
- Implemented website address lookup system
- Upgraded website security

2. Office 365 Administration & Software Management

- Implemented policies to prevent unauthorised data access
- Enabled remote desktop management across all hardware
- Created custom reports for security audits and compliance





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- Improved account security (2FA, password policies, user account processes)

3. Oshwal Centre – IT Infrastructure

Systems Access & Storage

- Reset admin access to server and desktop PCs
- Maintain Windows server configuration and virtual machines
- Upgraded NAS storage
- Performed data recovery on failed drives
- Setup regular PC backups to NAS

Network Infrastructure

- Full upgrade of Wi-Fi access points
 - Repaired and upgraded network infrastructure:
 - Network switch upgrade
 - Network rack tidy up
 - Re-termination of patch panels (ongoing)
 - Fault finding and resolution
 - Full network mapping
 - Upgraded broadband to a faster provider

Hardware & Software

- Procured and configured new office PCs
- Software - Installed/upgraded payroll software; accounting software (Tally/Sage) ; Office Applications
- Hardware – Membership card printer repairs,
- Software Solutions - Fixed software errors in Membership Database software; printer mapping and configuration; telephony system

Operational Support

- Renewal of Office 365 Licenses
- Liaised with potential IT support companies
- Set up outdoor Wi-Fi networks for large-scale events
- Maintained, repaired and replacement of CCTV equipment





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Facilities Integration

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Facilities Integration

Worked with suppliers to resolve issues affecting:

- Lighting
- Fire alarm system
- Security alarm system

User Support & Strategy

- Provided IT support to office staff
- Troubleshoot audio/video issues in halls and implemented redundancy solutions
- Strategic planning for upgrades, capacity, and security

4. Shakti Centre – IT

- Installed new network infrastructure during refurbishment
- Installed new broadband
- Migrated phone line to VOIP

5. Ekta Centre – IT

- Worked with suppliers on IT requirements
- Provided general IT support (laptop setup, configuration, remote management)
- Configured scanning from printer to network folders

6. Live Streaming

- Delivered just under 400 (year to date) live streams over the past year (including area events)
- Coordinated a dedicated volunteer team for streaming services across all portfolios where required e.g. Religion, H&W, OBPN, EN etc.
- Configured YouTube for parallel livestreams
- Filming and streaming large-scale events using drone technology

7. Media & Communications

- Continued use of Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp and YouTube for community engagement





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- all official information is always published on our website: www.oshwal.org.uk.
- Working collaboratively with areas to encourage the use of Social media responsibly and thoughtfully thereby helping build a more connected and include community.
- Working across many different platforms to provide a rich and vibrant user experience

However, we continue to face the circulation of factually incorrect, and at times, malicious messages via unofficial social media channels. These messages can cause confusion and risk creating division within our community. We continue to urge all members to remain vigilant. Please question the validity and intentions behind such communications and always rely on our official channels for accurate and verified information.

PMC Report

Chair: Minesh Shah & Bijal Shah

Oshwal Centre

Facilities, Maintenance, and Capital Works Report

Over the past year, a significant programme of works has been undertaken across the Oshwal Centre estate. These works have focused on addressing historic maintenance issues, improving safety and accessibility, upgrading infrastructure, and completing previously unfinished projects.

1. Drainage Infrastructure Works

Extensive issues were identified with the site's drainage systems. Investigations found that the drains had not been cleaned or maintained for several years, placing the Centre at serious risk. At one stage, we were approximately three days away from a sewage overflow near Oshwal House.

A specialist drainage contractor was urgently appointed to:

- Clear and clean all affected drains
- Prepare the drainage system prior to further works

During the process, a number of cracked drainage pipes were discovered and repaired. All works were completed successfully and with minimal disruption, preventing a major health and safety incident.





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2. Derasar – Safety and Access Improvements

The scaffold previously installed at the rear of the Derasar has been removed. Building Control regulations require scaffolding to be inspected weekly to ensure it remains safe, and it is believed this had never taken place.

A decision was therefore taken to install a CAT ladder, which provides:

- A significantly safer access solution
- Reduced ongoing maintenance requirements
- Full compliance with safety standards

3. Oshwal Cottage – Refurbishment Works

Refurbishment works at Oshwal Cottage have been fully completed. These included a complete overhaul of:

- The main room
- Living room
- Kitchen
- Bathroom

The property has now been modernised and brought up to an appropriate standard.

4. Derasar Grounds and External Cleaning

In preparation for the Festival of Unity programme:

- The Derasar and its surrounding grounds were thoroughly cleaned
- A specialist external cleaning company was engaged to remove years of built-up dirt, grime, and algae from the main Derasar walls

In addition:

- All 24 Deries were jet-washed and restored
- A Derasar clean-up weekend was organised
- Over 100 volunteers, young and old, participated





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Hon Vice President: Nirmal C Shah

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Their tireless efforts delivered outstanding results and revitalised the Derasar surroundings.

5. Oshwal House Extension – Completion Works

It was discovered that the extension to Oshwal House had never been completed by the original construction company. Outstanding works included:

- Installation of three missing windows
- Completion of external rendering

These works have now been completed, with the rendering matched to the existing building.

6. Boiler Rooms and Flood Mitigation

The boiler rooms, located in the basement of Oshwal House, were flooded following periods of heavy rainfall. This resulted in several pumps failing and needing replacement.

To prevent future flooding:

- Failed pumps were replaced
- A protective roof was constructed over the stairwell leading to the boiler rooms

This measure significantly reduces the risk of future damage to critical plant equipment.

7. Oshwal House – Listed Building Compliance

Oshwal House is a listed building. We are currently working with the council to secure approval for a change of materials to allow:

- Replacement of wooden windows with uPVC windows

Due to the listed status of the building, this remains a lengthy and ongoing approval process. Progress continues, and we hope to have a solution in place in the near future.

8. Oshwal Centre Halls – Upgrades and Refurbishment

8.1 Sound System Upgrade

Both halls at the Oshwal Centre have had their sound systems upgraded. The previous systems:





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- Were long overdue for replacement
- Had begun to fail due to constant use

The upgraded sound systems now provide improved reliability and performance.

8.2 Repainting of LV Halls

It had been approximately 15 years since the LV Halls were last refurbished. Following many years of continuous use for weddings, receptions, and internal community events, the halls required repainting throughout.

A full top-to-bottom repaint of the halls was carried out. These works were intentionally scheduled during December, when external hall hire is typically quieter, to minimise disruption to Centre activities. The refurbishment has significantly refreshed the appearance of the halls and enhanced their suitability for both community and commercial use.

9. Kesar Room – Changing Room Refurbishment

The Kesar Room changing rooms required a complete overhaul. Although this project took longer than expected and caused some inconvenience, the outcomes have been significant.

The area has been redesigned to:

- Improve functionality
- Ensure full wheelchair accessibility
- Provide a fully compliant and inclusive facility

10. Derasar Lift Installation

A new Derasar lift has been installed and is now fully operational, greatly improving accessibility for all members and visitors.

11. Children’s Play Area – Safety Review

An independent safety inspection of the children’s play equipment was carried out. Several items were identified as requiring remedial work. Due to the lack of prior documentation it has been difficult to ascertain when the last safety review was done.





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Actions taken:

- The original installation company has been engaged
- Remedial works are completed and the play area is now a safer place for the children to enjoy.

12. IT Systems Upgrade

The IT Team has been instrumental in upgrading the Centre's IT infrastructure. Much of the existing equipment was outdated, and ongoing improvements are being made to ensure:

- Greater reliability
- Improved operational efficiency
- Modernised systems suitable for current and future needs

13. Oshwal Ekta Centre

Minor repairs and maintenance works have been carried out throughout the year, largely completed by dedicated volunteers. The Centre is functioning well, and their continued support has been invaluable.

14. Shakti Centre – Project Completion

The Shakti Centre is now complete and fully operational. The project experienced several delays due to complex challenges, including:

- Party wall agreements not being in place
- Lack of clarity over ownership of the wall adjoining the council car park
- Council refusal to approve the originally planned fire escape route
- HVAC System redesign
- Obtaining access to neighbour's property to install the scaffolding

As a result of the party wall agreement not being in place

- The building layout had to be redesigned
- A legally required fire-escape corridor was installed

Further delays and additional costs were incurred when:





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- The council determined the installed HVAC system did not meet required standards the system had to be expanded to comply.
- Additional challenges arose due to a neighbouring property owner being unresponsive to repeated access requests. After exhausting attempts via telephone, letters, and visits, a decision was made to proceed with scaffolding installation to enable roof work to continue.

15. Acknowledgements

A substantial amount of work has been completed over the past year. This would not have been possible without the support and cooperation of:

- Office bearers
- The IT team
- Office staff
- Volunteers

Oshwal Centre is a demanding site requiring continuous attention, and the dedication shown by all involved is greatly appreciated.

Membership & Governance Report

Chair: Hiten Savla

Membership and governance update

Membership:

Currently we have 13,553 members with 195 new members joining in year and 137 members who sadly passed away. There are also a further 64 associate members who are not defined by the areas.

The membership of the association has remained over the 13,300 over the last ten years, with the highest number at 13,686 and lowest at 13,385.

The review of membership for younger members over the age of 11 was not approved at the SGM in 2025 by the members but it is heartening to see the number of young people under the age of 16 regularly attending the Gujarati schools and the youth clubs across the various areas.





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Engagement from new members brings in new ideas and this in turn brings in more new members. The way our community evolves is important with activities evolving to engage with these members. It is pleasing to see majority of the areas seeing more footfall across the events organised locally and increase in the numbers attending the Derasar at Oshwal Centre or events organised centrally.

The community remains vibrant, despite attempts by certain few members within social media groups constantly looking to undermine and create division within the community.

Membership numbers by area

Area	2025	2024	2023	2022
East	409	416	417	426
Leicester	449	452	452	450
Luton	362	370	377	381
North	1,476	1,487	1,482	1,466
North East	1,168	1,177	1,198	1,206
North West	7,567	7,474	7,403	7,333
Northants	266	275	278	285
South	1,041	1,023	1,009	1,010
West	815	821	822	828
Total	13,553	13,495	13,438	13,385

Good governance:

Governance of the Association is managed through the constitution, the regulations and the skill set of the trustees to drive the charity forward. Having a regular renewal of trustees is beneficial to





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any entity, with overall eight years being the norm. With our Association, the office bearers can serve a maximum of two terms or four years before they step down, reducing the opportunity of succession planning. These office bearers can be re-elected after being away for one term, standing for re-election for any post, this reduces opportunity for others to step up and renew the committee.

Several changes to the constitution were suggested at the SGM in 2025, which would have ensured a regular reinvigoration of the trustees, however this had not been approved by the members. Change is important and it allows young members to carry the baton forward; unfortunately, current constitution creates a barrier for this to happen.

Currently our regulations are quite onerous and clear schemes of delegation can help improve efficiency and strengthen the governance. I would recommend the new executive committee to review this process.

Often charities fail due to good governance not being in place. It is healthy for trustees to have debates at their meetings, as well as ensuring they understand where the committee have any skills gap where they can call upon external advice.

The key criteria of a good trustee is one who is independent, inquisitive, has good communication skills, has no personal agendas, good organisational skills and is expecting to be criticised for their role. If you feel you can contribute to Oshwal, do not hesitate to stand at future AGM's, as change is good. When things remain stagnant, the rot sets in.

Oshwal Business and Professional Network (OBPN) Report

Chair: Smita Shah

1. Summary

Through a hybrid delivery model of digital webinars and in-person workshops, we have provided targeted career guidance to our community, ranging from vocational entry points to core soft-skill development.

2. Achievements





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Webinars

We successfully delivered seven specialized webinars designed to navigate the modern job market:

- **Careers in STEM (Series of 3):** Provided deep dives into Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics sectors, highlighting emerging trends and entry requirements.
- **Apprenticeships & T-Levels:** Demystified vocational pathways, offering a comprehensive look at alternative routes to higher education and industry placement.
- **Employability Skills:** Focused on practical tools for job seekers, including CV optimization, interview techniques, and professional branding.
- **Careers in Psychology:** insight and real talk about career pathways after a psychology degree
- **Careers guidance for post 18+:** to help make choices and tips for UCAS applications

In-Person Coaching & Workshops

To complement our digital offering, we delivered two face-to-face coaching workshops. These sessions allowed for personalized feedback and peer-to-peer networking.

Community Outreach

- **Oshwal News Magazine:** Published a featured article to increase visibility of our services to the wider community resulting in members reaching out to offer services and requesting help.
- **Future planned initiatives:**
- **Networking events for businesses, professionals and entrepreneurs**
- **Creating a platform via OAUK website for connecting businesses to potential work experience candidates**
- **Creating a platform via OAUK website for connecting mentors to mentees**
- **Creating a platform via OAUK website for a vacancy board**
- **Collaboration with Enabling Network (EN) to offer a hospitality course to support employability skills and independent living to people with learning disabilities.** There has been positive interest and will be taking next steps once discussion with a provider takes place.





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Women's Empowerment Report

Chair: Avni Shah

The Oshwal Association of the UK remains deeply committed to fostering an environment of inclusivity, growth, and empowerment for all members of our community.

As part of Women's Empowerment, a very successful event celebrating the International Women's Day was held at Oshwal Centre with some 250 women attending. This year we spoke about our very own Oshwal Treasurer, Meena Shah and her journey. We also had Baroness Shama Tatler attend.

Few other achievements by our members are as follows:

- Arti Shah for winning best actor in a Paddington the Musical at the 2026 Olivier Awards.
- Milli Abrams for completing the world's toughest Row in 46 days solo across the Atlantic.
- Puja and Roshni Shah for participating in BBC One series Race across the world.
- Baroness Shama Tatler who has gone into the House of Lords as Baroness.

As you can see from all these reports all portfolios have been busy throughout 2025. Despite the negativity being spread by a few keyboard warriors out there, the Executive Committee, the OAUK Area Committees, our sub-committees and our army of volunteers have surpassed all expectations the executive committee had. We would like to express our deep gratitude to all our teams and our members who have always supported us at each and every event.

I would like to express my personal gratitude to my fellow office bearers who have always supported me and provided their valuable guidance. Our achievements are only accomplished when we work as a team.

If I or any member of the executive committee has caused hurt through our words, deeds knowingly or unknowingly, I seek your forgiveness - Micchami Dukhdum.

Jai Mahavir

Jai Oshwal.

