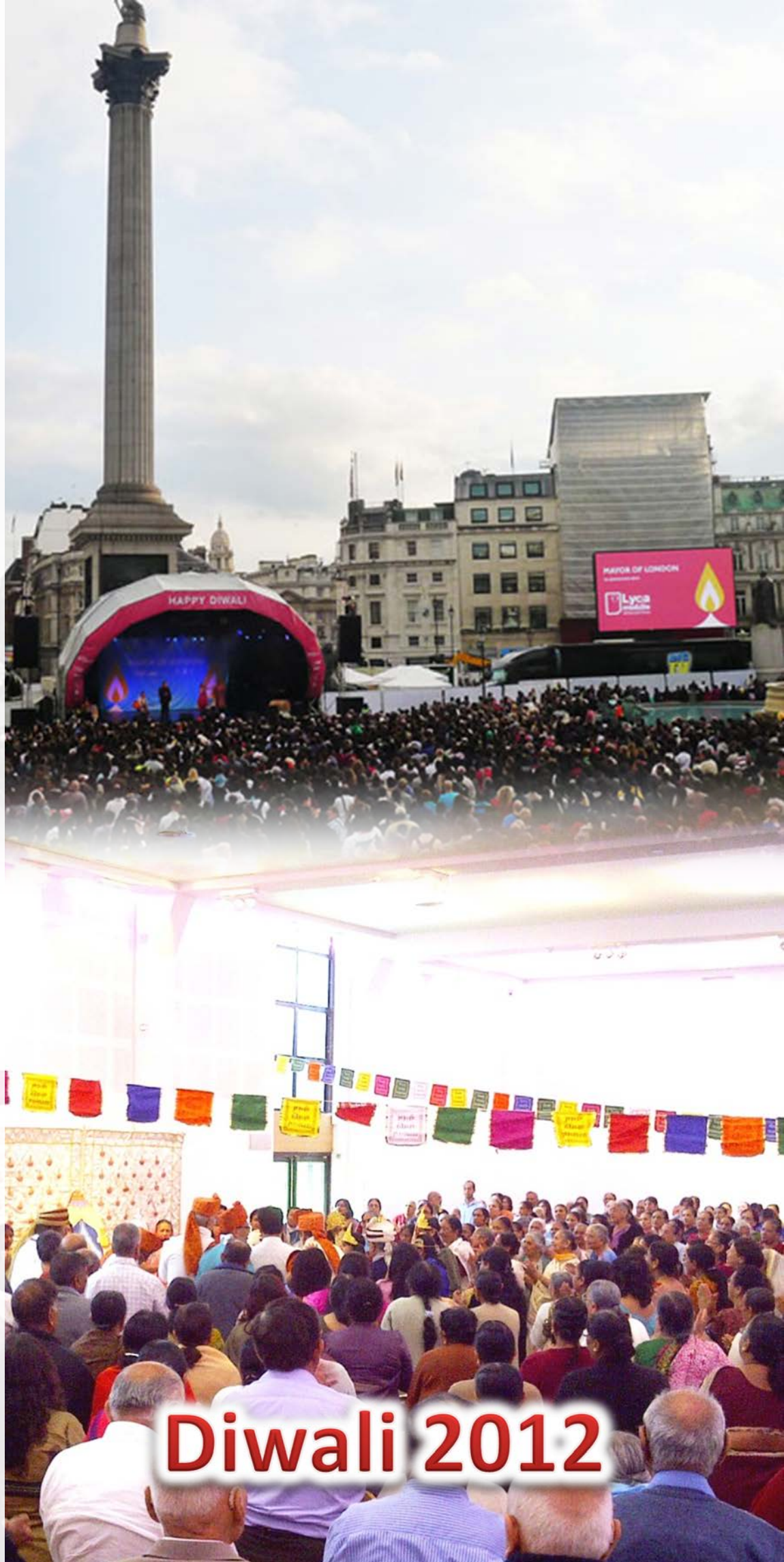


ઓશવાળ  
સમાચાર

# OSHVAL news

October 2012 Edition

[www.oshwal.org](http://www.oshwal.org)



## Diwali 2012

## Editor's Note

Jai Jinendra!

Welcome to the **October 2012** Diwali Edition of Oshwal News.

We are contact trying to improve Oshwal News magazine and would like to hear your feedback Please email: [oshwalnews@oshwal.org](mailto:oshwalnews@oshwal.org).

We would like to thank all advertisers and contributors for their continued generous support of Oshwal News magazine. With your input this magazine is not possible. Sometimes it is not possible to include everything sent in and for this please accept our apologies.

If submitting material for Oshwal News, please submit material in Word format wherever possible with any pictures in JPEG or BMP format. Any articles in Gujarati should be submitted in Word and PDF format. Submit your material by emailing: [oshwalnews@oshwal.org](mailto:oshwalnews@oshwal.org) but please note submitting an article does not guarantee publication and articles which do get published will be edited and Editor's decision is final. For more details, please visit [www.oshwal.co.uk/media](http://www.oshwal.co.uk/media)

Advertisers should contact the Office via email: [admin@oshwal.org](mailto:admin@oshwal.org) for any advertising related queries.

In the spirit of Diwali, the Oshwal Media & Communication Team, would like to wish you and your family a very Happy Diwali and Peaceful New Year.

**Ashish Jayantilal Patani**

**Important Notice**  
**Deadline for filling in the Directory Form is**  
**31 December 2012**  
 Fill in the form now by going to:  
[www.oshwal.co.uk/directory](http://www.oshwal.co.uk/directory)

President's message (પામકા સહિસાગ)	4
Editorial (સાપ્તાહ>લા)	10

### Executive Committee News, Reports & Articles:

Community News	16
All Area Forum	20
Diwali	26
Directory / Enabling Network Diwali	31
Oshwal Enabling Education Report	33
Enterprise Programme	39
Education Report	42
Fundraising	43
Transport Services	44

### Area News (Airyaa samaacaar):

East (સT)	50
Leicester (લસTr)	56
Luton (લટના)	60
North (નાગા)	63
Northampton (નાગામપTનાસાયા)	70
North East (નાગા-સT)	75
North West (નાગા-વસT)	80
South (સાગ) ગા	91
West (વસT)	95

### Other Feature Articles:

What does equality mean?	98
Foreign Language Learning as an Adult	105
Dealing with loss	109

<u>Obituaries</u>	112
-------------------	-----



Also, check out the latest edition of **Oshwal Youth** magazine – a magazine for Young Oshwals!!

### Disclaimer Notice:

The Editor nor Oshwal Association of the U.K. is not in anyway responsible for the goods and services rendered by its Advertisers. The Oshwal Association of the U.K. accepts all advertisements in good faith and it is entirely up to readers to verify Advertisers products and services should they feel the need to do so. OSHWAL NEWS is the magazine of the OSHWAL ASSOCIATION OF THE U.K.  
 © : Oshwal Association of the U.K. | Reg. Office: Coopers Lane Road, Northaw, Herts. EN6 4DG | Registered in accordance with the Charities Act 1960 | Charity Reg. No. 267037





# General Information

As an Oshwal Member always first consider hiring facilities at Oshwal Centre (Potters Bars), Oshwal Mahajanwadi (Croydon) or Oshwal Ekta Centre (Kingsbury) for your functions. By hiring these Oshwal venues you will be supporting your community.

## *Weddings – Parties – Functions – Dances – Meetings – Conferences – etc.*

Phone the Administrators at any of the offices regarding hall availability and charges.

### OSHWAL CENTRE

Coopers Lane Road, Northaw  
Hertfordshire, EN6 4DG

Tel: 01707 643 838

Fax: 01707 644 562

Info Line: 01707 661 066 (Recorded  
Messages)

Email: [admin@oshwal.org](mailto:admin@oshwal.org)

Website: [www.oshwal.org](http://www.oshwal.org)

Office open 7 days a week 9am to 5pm

### OSHWAL MAHAJANWADI (Croydon)

Oshwal house, 1 Campbell Road  
Croydon, Surrey, CR0 2SQ

Tel: 020 8683 0258

(2pm to 5pm weekdays only)

Gujarati School Office

Tel: 020 8664 9807

(9.30am to 12.15pm Saturdays only)

### OSHWAL EKTA CENTRE

366A Stag Lane, Kingsbury,  
NW9 9AA

Tel: 07949 459 090

Email: [ektacentre@oshwal.org](mailto:ektacentre@oshwal.org)

## Marriage Registration

*Oshwal Centre, Oshwal Mahajanwadi and Oshwal Ekta Centre are registered buildings for the solemnisation of marriage. Registration of a marriage at both venues will be part of a religious ceremony, i.e. it will take place during and within the Jain / Hindu religious marriage ceremony. For further information, please phone the administrators.*

### Sadadi

If you would like to find out whether a Sadadi is being held at Oshwal Centre, Oshwal Mahajanwadi or Oshwal Ekta Centre, in respect of any deceased Oshwal, you may ring the Information Line at the Oshwal Centre and a Recorded Message will advise of the time of the Sadadi and the name of the person in whose memory the Sadadi is being held.

**Information Line Tel: 01707 661 066 (Recorded Message)**

### Obituary / Shraddhanjali Messages

**The rate for inserting an Obituary / Shraddhanjali message in Oshwal News is £150.00 per page per issue.**

Please ensure that wherever possible a passport sized photograph (preferably in black and white) is enclosed with the message which also should be **written out very clearly and neatly**. Please enclose your cheque and SAE for the return of any photos. Please note that it will not be possible to entertain any requests for proofs of these messages prior to printing.





# President's Message

## paimKa salaGaao

**Pranam and Jai Jinendra,**

### Inspiration

As summer draws to a close and the days get shorter, looking back on the months past, so much has happened. The Olympic Games inspired everyone. Those of us who were lucky to attend the games were all impressed with the organisation, the facilities and above all, the spirit of the athletes' who competed in the games. This was even more evident in the Paralympics. To see people who are physically challenged take on sport and compete to the highest level, is perhaps something that touched every one of us.

Many of our Oshwals participated in the Olympics and Paralympics as volunteers; some were even involved in the opening and closing ceremonies. Some of their stories are on the Oshwal website. I congratulate all those that took time out to help deliver such an amazing event. We are very proud of you all.

### Embracing All Abilities

In August, we held the Oshwal Enabling Education Fair at Oshwal Centre. This was a landmark event for our Association as it brought together, education and disability. It clearly highlighted how as a society we can include everyone in everything we do. I was certainly deeply moved by some of the young Oshwals who despite their personal challenges, have achieved so much and have such positive energy. Let us as Oshwal ensure that going forward everything our Community does is fully inclusive of all abilities.

### Momentous Achievement

On Friday 31st August 2012 we completed the purchase of our new community centre in Kingsbury – Oshwal Ekta Centre. The third property to be acquired by our Association is indeed a momentous achievement for all Oshwals. In accordance with our cultural traditions, a Snatra and Vastu Pooja was conducted on Sunday 2nd September 2012, before we could start making full use of the centre.

### Oshwal Unity

The Snatra and Vastu Pooja were very well attended by Oshwals from all over the UK, and this was a jubilant example of the great Unity of our Community. With the positive energies that followed from these Poojas, an All Areas Forum was held on 9th September. The purpose of this joint Executive Committee and the Area Committee Members forum was to give all Committee Members a clear idea of our vision for the next two years, to discuss current issues and to share ideas. The forum was reasonably well attended; sadly two areas were very poorly represented. Overall the participants found the forum very useful and a number of positive decisions were made. A summary report is included in this issue of Oshwal News.

### Integral Part of our Association

In such a short time, Oshwal Ekta Centre has become an integral part of our Association, and is available to all Oshwals. If you have not yet been to our new Centre, I encourage you to go see it and make full use of all the facilities for family and social events. Oshwal Ekta Centre is for all Oshwal Members not just for North West Members.

Membership is something that should be at the heart of every Oshwal. It is your community, your identity and your heritage. Without question, every Oshwal should join. In joining you endorse your support to our community. If you or your family member(s) have not already joined; I urge you, make this the year you join and become a part of a strong and vibrant community.

### Fundraising

Whilst we have received good pledges for Oshwal Ekta Centre and gratefully acknowledge the donations received up to the completion, we still need to raise more funds to reach our target of £3M. We request all members to come forward and contribute towards the funding of our new Centre, whatever you can afford is a welcome donation.

You are all aware of the £120 Donation Scheme. Giving £120 per year to the Community is something that every adult Oshwal must sign up to. Why? For the benefit of all our members, locally, centrally and nationally. This has been explained many times and I am sure you all



understand the need. My personal request is, please sign up if you have not already done so. It is your community, your association, and with your support we can go further forward. Collectively we are strong.

## Paryushan Parva

Our Paryushan celebrations started on Wednesday 12th September, and culminated with the Savansari Bhojans in all the areas. I hope that those of you who participated enjoyed the programmes arranged in your area. North West, North East & South areas had visiting guests from Tapovan. A mixture of Bakhti, Vanchaan & Religious discourse was presented in all the areas.

Accompanied by my Office Bearers and a number of Executive Committee members, I am pleased that we were able to visit all of the areas and I thank you all for the warm and friendly welcome that we received everywhere. I believe our EC representation was the highest for many years with some of our newer EC members also joining us for the first time.

## Oshwal Directory Project

I am pleased to inform members that we have launched a new Oshwal Directory Project. The directory was last printed in 2004 and it is time we have a new and updated version. In order to ensure we complete the directory and that it contains current information, we have set a very short deadline to receive entries not later than Monday 31st December 2012.

A simple form has been created on line and can be accessed from our website – [www.oshwal.co.uk/directory](http://www.oshwal.co.uk/directory). We urge all households to fill in the form on line with full details in order that a comprehensive directory of all Oshwals in the UK can be created. Please be aware, we will NOT extend deadlines so do find 5 minutes in the next few weeks to complete the form. I also kindly request all Oshwals to help each other to complete the form online. If you do not have access to the internet, there will be a small supply of forms available from your local area committee. However we would encourage everyone who can, to complete the online version to prevent errors and also to save time, as every manual form has to be retyped onto the database.

## Diwali Celebrations

Diwali is fast approaching and I am delighted to inform members that this year, Oshwal Association of the UK are the lead organisation for “Diwali in London”. Chaired by Chimanbhai Samji Shah (West Area & Ex Officio) he and his team have worked with other community organisations to present what promises to be a fantastic celebration of Diwali in Trafalgar Square on Sunday 28th October. Over 40,000 people attend Diwali in the Square each year. With stage shows, food, stalls and a party atmosphere this is a very exciting event and we should be proud to attend and represent our great Association.

Diwali events will continue at Oshwal Centre with Chopada Pujan on Tuesday 13th November and New

Year Celebrations on Sunday 18th November. We look forward to seeing many of you on the day.

## Celebrating Success

In the 40 years and more that our Community has been established in the UK, we have had many causes to celebrate, such as the Formation of our Association in 1968; the purchase of 80 acres of land at Potters Bar in 1980; the purchase of Oshwal Mahajanwadi in South London in 1982; the construction of the Oshwal Halls in 1990; the construction of the first traditional Jain Derasar in Europe in 2005; the purchase of Oshwal Ekta Centre in 2012, and so on.

We have always celebrated and will always continue to celebrate the achievements of our Community. It is my wish that we also celebrate academic success by the next generation of Oshwals. For our Oshwal students, we are launching an Achievement Award, this is to initially recognise outstanding success at GCSE and A-Levels as well as Music and Sporting achievements. We are also looking to recognise success in the wider community too, acknowledging members who have served as school governors, received civic awards, awards for charitable work, etc. The criteria for GCSE and A-Level awards will be on our website shortly, please be sure to look out for it. To propose members for recognition of their work in the wider community, please first contact your local area committee, they will note the details and prepare a shortlist.

## One United Community

There are exciting times for our Association, and working together with a close sense of unity, sharing ideas and encouraging our younger generation will strengthen our bond and lead this community to greater prosperity.

On behalf of the Executive Committee and all the Area Committees; I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Diwali and a prosperous New Year.

Jai Oshwal,

**Raaxeet Harakhchand Shah**  
**OAUK President**



## પ્રમુખ શ્રી નો સંદેશો - ઓક્ટોબર ૨૦૧૨

### ઓશવાલ ન્યુઝ

પ્રણામ અને જય જિનેન્દ્ર,

દિવ્ય સંદેશ

ઉનાળો પૂરો થવા આવ્યો છે, દિવસો ટુકા થવા લાગ્યા છે, પસાર થયેલા મહિના પર દ્રષ્ટિ કરીએ. ઓલિમ્પિક ની રમતો એક દિવ્ય સંદેશ સૌને આપી ગયો છે.

આપણા માંથી જેમણે આ રમતો જોઈ તેની વ્યવસ્થા અને સગવડ જોઈ તેઓ અચંબો પામ્યા. આ રમતો માં જેમણે સિદ્ધિ મેળવી છે તેમના જીવનની અણમોલ યાદી મૂડી બની રહેશે. તેના કરતાં પણ સ્પષ્ટ પેરાલિમ્પિક કે જેઓ ને વિકલાંગ, શારીરિક ખામી છે, છતાં ખંતથી રમતમાં રમી વિજેતા બન્યા. અને લોકો ના દિલ જીતી ગયા.

આપણાં ઘણા ઓશવાળો ઓલિમ્પિક અને પેરાલિમ્પિક માં સ્વયંસેવક બનેલ હતા. તેઓ માથી અમુક વ્યક્તિ ઉદઘાટન ની શુભ શરૂઆત અને અંત ની ઉજવણી માં સામેલ હતા. જગતને આશ્ચર્ય પમાડે તેવી ઓલિમ્પિક રમતો માં પોતાનો સમય આપી મદદ કરેલ તે બધા સ્વયં સેવકો ને હું અભિનંદન આપુ છું

#### દરેક વ્યક્તિ ને સામેલ કરવા

ઓગસ્ટ મહિના માં ઓશવાલ અનેબલિંગ એજ્યુકેશન ફેર ઓસવાલ સેન્ટરે રાખેલ.

આ એક સીમાચિન્હ પ્રસંગ આપણી સંસ્થા માટે છે કે જે અભ્યાસ અને શારીરિક અયોગ્યતા હોય તે બન્ને નો સંયોગ કરાવેલ. સમાજ તરીકે બધાને સાથે રાખવા નો આ એક સરળ માર્ગ બતાવ્યો. યુવાન ઓશવાલ ના આ પડકાર ની સિદ્ધિ એ સ્પષ્ટ ઉત્સાહ જગાડેલ છે. ચાલો સૌ ઓશવાલ તરીકે એક થઈ સારા કાર્યમાં દરેક વ્યક્તિને સામેલ કરવામાં આગેકદમ માંડીએ.

#### મહત્વની પ્રાપ્તિ

તા ૩૧ ઓગસ્ટ ૨૦૧૨ ના કિંગડમબરી માં નવી જ્ઞાતીની ત્રીજી જગ્યા ઓશવાલ એકતા સેન્ટર ની ખરીદી નું કાર્ય પૂરું થયું છે. ઓશવાલ માટે એક મહત્વની પ્રાપ્તિ છે. સમાજ ની પ્રણાલિકા પ્રમાણે બીજા વપરાશ કરતાં પહેલા બે સપ્ટેમ્બર ૨૦૧૨ નાં

સ્નાત્ર અને વાસ્તુ પુજા રાખેલ હતી. આ પ્રસંગે દરેક પરા માથી ભાવિક આવેલ હતા. નવ સપ્ટેમ્બર ના બધી એરિયા ની કમિટી નું સંમેલન હતું. આવતા બે વર્ષ માટે કાર્યની ભાવિક દ્રષ્ટી ના વિચારો ની જાણ માટે તેમજ અત્યારની તકલીફ ના મુદ્દાની ચર્ચા અને વિચારોની આપલે કરેલ. ઘણા બધાની હાજરી હતી. આવેલા સભ્યો સાથે અમુક નિર્ણય પણ લેવાયેલા.

ટુકો અહેવાલ ઓશવાલ ન્યુઝ માં આપેલ છે.

#### એકતા સેન્ટર આખા સમાજ નું છે.

ટુક સમય માં દરેક ઓશવાલ માટેનું એ સ્થાન બની ગયું. આ સેન્ટર ફક્ત નોર્થ વેસ્ટનું નથી. આપણાં બધાય ની નાની જરૂરિયાત માટે ઉપયોગ માં લેવાનું આ સ્થાન છે. આવી ને હોલ ને નિહાળો. તમારી અનુકૂળતા સંખ્યાય તેવી જગ્યા છે.

ઓશવાલ નાં મેમ્બર થવું તે તમારા દિલમાં હોવું જોઈએ. આ તમારી જ જ્ઞાતી છે. તેનાથી તમારી ઓળખાણ છે. વ્યક્તિગત ઓળખાણ નાં સંબંધ ફક્ત જ્ઞાતિ છે, તે એક જીવન નો વારસો છે. માટે દરેક ઓસવાલ ને વિનંતી કરું છું સમાજ નાં સભ્ય બની જાઓ, ને જ્ઞાતી ની સધ્ધરતા ને મજબૂત કરો.

#### ફંડરેઇઝીંગ

એકતા સેન્ટર નો કબ્જો મળ્યો ત્યા સુધીમાં ઘણુ બધુ ડોનેશન અને પ્લેજ મળેલ છે. હજુ ત્રણ મિલ્કત લેગા કરવા માટે ફંડની જરૂરિયાત છે. તમારી શક્તિ પ્રમાણે દાન આપી એકતા સેન્ટરનું ફંડ પૂરું કરવામાં સહાય કરો.

જ્ઞાતિ ને દાન આપવાની ૧૯૨૦ ની સ્કીમ માં દરેક વ્યક્તિ ને જોડાવ્યુજ જોઈએ. આ રકમ આપણા સભ્યો ને, સ્થાનિક કાર્યમાં, મધ્ય કેન્દ્ર કાર્યમાં, તેમજ રાષ્ટ્રીય કાર્યમાં ઉપયોગમાં આવે છે. ઘણી વખત આ સ્કીમ ની જાહેરાત કરેલ છે. આ જ્ઞાતી આપણી છે. તમારા સાથ થી આપણે ઘણું કરી શકશું.

#### પર્યુષણ પર્વ

પર્વ પર્યુષણ બાર સપ્ટેમ્બર ના શરૂ થયા. ૧૯ ના પૂરા થયા. ત્યાંર બાદ સંવત્સરી ભોજન બધી એરિયામાં ચાલુ છે. સાઉથ, નોર્થ ઈસ્ટ અને નોર્થ વેસ્ટ એરિયા માં તપોવન થી સાધર્મિક વીર સૈનીકો ભક્તિ કરાવવા આવેલ હતા. હું અને મારા સાથીદારો બધી એરિયામાં માં ગયા હતા. આપ સૌએ માન બહુ આપ્યું તે બદલ હું ને મારી કમિટી આપનો આભાર માનીએ છીએ.



## ઓશવાલ ડિરેક્ટરી પ્રોજેક્ટ

મને જાણ કરતાં ખુશી થાય છે કે ડિરેક્ટરી ફરીથી કરવાનો પ્રોજેક્ટ શરૂ કરેલ છે. છેલ્લી ૨૦૦૪ માં છાપેલ હતી. નવી ડિરેક્ટરી માટે ૩૧ ડીસેમ્બર ૨૦૧૨ સુધીમાં આપની અત્યારની બધી માહિતી ઓફીસ માં પહોંચાડશો. સમય થોડો ઓછો આપેલ છે, સમય મર્યાદા વધારવા માં નહીં આવે. આપના સાથ થી આ કાર્ય સમય સર પૂરું કરવાની કોશિશ કરશું.

ડિરેક્ટરી ના સરળ ફોર્મ વેબસાઇડ માંથી છાપી શકશો, અથવા કોઈકની મદદથી ઓન લાઇન પર ભરી શકશો. [www.oshwal.co.uk/directory](http://www.oshwal.co.uk/directory). યુ.કે માં વસતા દરેક ઓશવાલ ની માહિતી પૂરી કરી શકાય તેવી ડિરેક્ટરી ની ખાસ જરૂર છે. થોડા ફોર્મ તમારી એરિયા ની કમિટી પાસેથી મળી શકશે. માટે ફક્ત પાંચ મિનિટ નો સમય કાઢી વહેલી તકે આ ફોર્મ ભરી ને કાર્ય પૂરું કરો. હાથે થી ભરેલા ફોર્મ ને પાછા ડેટાબેઝ માં નાખવા નું કાર્ય બહુ વધી જશે. માટે કોશિશ કરો ફોર્મ ને ઓન લાઇન પર મોકલવાનું.

## દિવાળી ની ઉજવણી.

દિવાળી નો તહેવાર નજીક આવી રહ્યો છે. ખુશી સાથે જણાવવાનું કે આ વર્ષે ઓશવાલ અસોસીએશન એ ચીમનભાઈ સમજી ની નેતાગીરી નીચે લંડન માં દિવાળી ની ઉજવણી માં આગેવાની લીધી છે, ચીમનભાઈ અને તેમના સાથીઓ બીજી સંસ્થા સાથે મળીને દિવાળીનો તહેવાર ભવ્ય રીતે ટ્રફાલ્ગાર સ્ક્વેર માં રવિવાર તા-૨૮ ઓક્ટોબર ઉજવાય તેની તૈયારી માં છે. લગભગ ૪૦,૦૦૦ હજારની વસ્તી દર વર્ષે થાય છે. અવનવા સ્ટેજ શો, નતનવિન વાનગીની રેકળી, અને અચંબો પમાડે તેવું વાતાવરણ સર્જેલું હોય છે. આપણને ગર્વ થવો જોઈએ આવા ભવ્ય કાર્યક્રમ ની ઉજવણી આપણાં ઓશવાલ સમાજની આગેવાની નીચે થશે.

ઓશવાલ સેન્ટરે તા-૧૩ નવેમ્બરે ચોપડા પૂજન, અને ૧૮ નવેમ્બરે નુતનવર્ષ ની ઉજવણી કરશું. આપ સૌ મોટી સંખ્યમાં હાજર રહેશો તેવી આશા રાખીએ છીએ.

## સ્મરણોત્સવ ની સફળતા

૪૦ થી વધારે વર્ષ થયા આપણી જ્ઞાતીએ આ દેશમાં વસવાટ કરેલ છે. આ સમય દરમિયાન ઘણી સફળતા ની યાદી નિશાની રૂપે જીવનમાં રહેશે. ૧૯૬૮ માં સમાજની રચના. ૧૯૮૦ માં ૮૦

એકરની પોર્ટસબારમાં જમીન ની ખરીદી, ૧૯૮૨ સાઉથ લંડનમાં માં ઓશવાલ મહાજનવાડી. ૧૯૯૦માં ઓશવાલ હોલ્સ નું બાંધકામ, ૨૦૦૫ માં યુરોપમાં સૌથી પ્રથમ શિખરબંધ દેરાસરનું બાંધકામ. ૨૦૧૨માં કિંગઝબરીમાં એકતા સેન્ટર ની ખરીદી. સમાજ ની સફળતા કાયમ એક ઉજવણી સમાન છે. શિક્ષણક્ષેત્રે નવી પેઢીની પ્રગતિ ને સનમાનવુ જોઈએ. જી સી એ સી , એ લેવલ્સ, સંગીત અને રમત ગમત ક્ષેત્રે તેમજ સમાજમાં નિશાળ ના અધ્યાપક, સ્વયંસેવક, નાગરિક શાસ્ત્રે સેવા આપેલ વ્યક્તિઓને.

જી સી એ સી , એ લેવલ્સ, ના પ્રમાણ પત્રો નજીક માં વેબ ઉપર આવશે. સેવાક્ષેત્રે મદદ કરતાં કાર્યકરો ને આપ કોઈ પણ જાણતા હોવ, તો તમારી સ્થાનિક જ્ઞાતી નો સંપર્ક સાધી તેની નોંધ કરવો.

## એક સંબંધ જાળવી રાખેલ જ્ઞાતિ.

સમાજ ના કાર્ય એક મતે ખંત અને એકતા થી કરી, નવા વિચારો ને અપનાવી, નાની પ્રજાને કાર્ય માં પ્રોત્સાહન આપશો તો ઓશવાલ જ્ઞાતિ ના પાયા મજબૂત બનશે, તેઓજ આપણા ભાવિ કાર્યકરો છે. આજ કાર્યકરો જ્ઞાતિ ને આબાદી ના શિખરે લઈ જશે.

મધ્ય કમિટી તેમજ એરિયા કમિટી વતી હું આપ સર્વે ને

દિવાળી ના અભિનંદન પઠવું છું, તેમજ નુતન વર્ષની શુભ કામના ઇચ્છુ છું.

જય ઓશવાલ,

રક્ષિત હરખચંદ શાહ

માનનીય પ્રમુખ શ્રી

ઓશવાલ અસોસીએશન ઓફ ધ યુ કે.



# Guest Editorial

*by Priya Dipak Shah*

Jai Jinendra,

As the New Year approaches, I thought it timely to address what being a Jain in our thriving Oshwal community means to each of us.

## How would you describe our Oshwal community?

This is a question I come across on almost a daily basis. At first, I used to answer with a simple reply along the lines of 'a Jain community in the UK, with sister organisations in countries all over the world'. However, since my time working in various committees I now realise it is much more than that.

I was lucky to be involved in the Enabling Education Fair on August 19th 2012. It was the preparation and execution of this fantastic programme that highlighted the beauty of our community to me. In our busy, selfish lifestyles of the present day, it can be easy to become self-absorbed within our own lives and families. The fair brought out skills, devotion, ideas and expertise in men and women; young and old; able bodied and disabled. To see our community working as one, uniting to share knowledge and showing the world what we are capable of, was uplifting. To highlight this further, I would like to quote Tom Pearson of Imperial College London who was a stall holder at the fair, "I have never seen such community spirit. I've decided in my next life, I'd like to be an Oshwal".

## Jainism – an Individual Perspective

Aside from education and social aspects to our community, an integral part of our organisation, are the celebration of religious festivals and increasing awareness about Jain philosophy. The Oxford dictionary describes religion as "the belief in and worship of a superhuman controlling power, especially a personal God or gods". It goes on to

describe Jainism as "a non-theistic religion founded in India in the 6th century BC by the Jina Vardhamana Mahavira as a reaction against the teachings of orthodox Brahmanism, and still practised there. The Jain religion teaches salvation by perfection through successive lives, and non-injury to living creatures, and is noted for its ascetics". As a medic, I am a great fan of definitions. We are told throughout medical school to be able to define each disease in one sentence. Without wishing to criticise the Oxford English dictionary, in my opinion it is impossible to define what Jainism means in one sentence. In my opinion, it is based entirely on an individual interpretation.

## So, what does Jainism mean to you?

1. To me it boils down very simply to three things.
2. To as far as possible, not hurt any other human or animal
3. To be a good person, by thinking of others before yourself.
4. We are all equal – men/women; young/old; homosexual/heterosexual.

No, these aren't actually the defined 'three jewels' of Jainism. Those are - right belief, right knowledge and right conduct. One could say that these are my own personalised three jewels of Jainism. For me, it all boils down to being a good, honest person at heart. Unfortunately, I do not regularly do pratikaman, nor do I fast, nor do I pray every day. But nor do I think this makes me a bad Jain. What is the point of going to every pratikaman, or doing arti, or fasting, if you ultimately don't have a pure heart and mind?

Surely we should master the above three qualities before trying to purify the mind and soul further with fasting and pratikaman?



*"What our hands do, must be in our heads and  
What is in our heads, must shine from our hearts"*

~ Chitrabhanuji

One of my hopes for the Oshwal community includes a strong focus on equality. It won't surprise you that for me, impartiality between men and women lies close to my heart. Did you know that the Digambara Jain sect believes that women cannot achieve liberation without being reborn as men first? The Svetambara sect disagrees.

Although we (Svetambara's) consider men and women as equals, this sometimes does not translate in reality. This is due to years of a patriarchal society and inherent biological differences between men and women, so the roles prescribed for each gender are different in a social and cultural set up. I believe that our forward thinking Oshwal community could be leaders amongst Indian communities in questioning these deep seated beliefs or habits. Our community will in the future take this one step further, with no differentiation at all between men and women.

## Diwali & Jainism

Sticking to our theme of definitions, Deepavali/Diwali originates from Sanskrit and Hindi respectively. Translated it means a row of lights.

For Jains, Diwali marks the anniversary of the attainment of Moksha by Mahavir-swami in 527 BC. During Mahavir's last sermon, there were eighteen kings present. It was they who decided that the light of their master's knowledge should be kept alive symbolically by lighting of lamps. However, as stated above, this is just symbolic. Ideally we should be lighting up our internal lamps and revising what Jainism and Mahavir's teachings means to us. The external lamp needs oxygen while our individual internal lamp needs self-effort.

*"The night may be dark,  
The path may be difficult,  
Light lamps of love and affection  
Then it will be Diwali of heart."*

In brief, Diwali is for enhancing the spiritual wealth.

## Take Home Message

Let us show the generation of tomorrow what Oshwal can be, and that Jainism is a faith that is based on sheer morality. Especially during these auspicious festivals, the importance of having a pure heart is paramount.

We should truly define what Jainism and an Oshwal, means to each of us. Yes, sometimes things may happen that may not be in our agreement, but we have to let go of what EACH of us wants, and to start thinking about US. Maybe we should stop thinking about what 'I' will benefit, and instead think of what 'WE' will benefit.

We are truly blessed and should be proud to be a part of such a thriving community.

*"Jealousy-hate!*

*I let go of hate, people consumed by it  
often become exactly what they once  
Hated.*

*Uncertainty is the only certainty there is,  
And knowing the truth and how to live  
with insecurity  
Is the only security."*

~ Chitrabhanuji

જય જીનેશ્વર,

જેમ નવું વર્ષ નજીક આવી રહ્યું છે, તેમ મને એમ કહેવું  
ઉચીત લાગ્યું કે આપણા આ વિકસતા ઓશવાલ

સમાજમાં જૈન હોવાનો અર્થ શું.

તમે આપણા ઓશવાલ સમાજને કેવી રીતે વર્ણવશો?

આ સવાલ મને લગભગ દરરોજ થતો હોઈ છે. શરૂઆતમાં  
મારો જવાબ હતો, "યુ.કે. માં એક જૈન સમાજ જેની બીજી  
સંસ્થાઓ દુનિયાના બીજા દેશોમાં પણ ફેલાયેલી છે." પણ  
જુદીજુદી કમિટીઓમાં કામ કર્યા પછી મને ખ્યાલ આવ્યો કે  
આપણો આ સમાજ તો આનાથી પણ ઘણું વિશેષ છે.

હું નશીબદાર હતી કે મેં ૧૯મી ઓગસ્ટ ૨૦૧૨ના એનાબલીંગ  
એજુકેસન ફેઈર (મેલા)માં ભાગ લીધો હતો. આ અદ્ભુત  
કાર્યક્રમ અને તેની તૈયારીઓએ આપણા સમાજની સુંદરતાનો  
પ્રકાશ પાડ્યો. આજની આ પ્રવૃત્તિશીલ અને સ્વાર્થી

રહેણીકરણીથી આપણે સહેલાઈથી આપણા પરિવાર અને જીવનમાં ઓતપ્રોત થઈ જઈએ છીએ. આ મેળાવડાથી દરેક સ્ત્રી, પુરુષ, જુવાન, વૃદ્ધ, શક્તિ, અશક્ત વ્યક્તિની આવડત, લગન, વિચારો અને બહોશીના દર્શન થયા. મને ગર્વ થાય છે કે આપણો સમાજ એક બનીને જ્ઞાનની વહેંચણી કરી દુનિયાને આપણી કાબિલિયતનો પરચો બતાવે છે. એમ્પીરેઅલ કોલેજના વડા ટોમ પીઅરસનકે જેમણે આ મેળામાં એક સ્ટોલ રાખેલ હતો, તેઓ કહે છે, "મેં કદી આવો સમાજ સેવાનો ઉત્સાહ નથી જોયો. મેં મારા આવતા ભવમાં ઓશવાળ બનવાનું નક્કી કર્યું છે."

### જૈનીઝમ - એક વ્યક્તિગત દ્રષ્ટિકોણ

મતલબ કે એક આદર્શ વ્યક્તિ થવું. આપણા સમાજના ભણતર અને સામાજિક દ્રષ્ટિકોણ સાથે સાથે આપણી સંસ્થાનું મહત્વ ધાર્મિક તહેવારો ઉજવવાના અને લોકોમાં જૈન તત્ત્વજ્ઞાન વધારવાનું છે. ઓક્સફોર્ડની શબ્દકોશમાં ધર્મની વ્યાખ્યા એટલે "કોઈ ઓલોગિક વ્યક્તિ જેની પાસે કોઈ દિવ્ય શક્તિ છે." તે ઉપરાંત ભારતમાં ઇસુ ખ્રીસ્થ પહેલાની છઠ્ઠી સદીમાં વર્તમાન મહાવીરે રૂઢીચુસ્ત બ્રાહ્મણોના બોધની વિરુદ્ધમાં જૈન ધર્મની સ્થાપના કરી. જૈન ધર્મ આપણા સફળ જીવન માટેની પરિપૂર્ણતાનું અભિવાદન શીખવે છે, કોઈ પણ જીવને હિંસા ન કરવી, અને સાધુ જેવું જીવન જીવવા માટે જાણીતું છે. હું એક તબીબી વિદ્યાર્થી હોવાથી મારા માટે આ બધું મુશ્કેલ છે. છતાં પણ જૈન ધર્મની વ્યાખ્યા એક વાક્યમાં ન થઈ શકે. મારા મત પ્રમાણે એ દરેક વ્યક્તિની સમજણ ઉપર છે.

### તો આપણા માટે જૈનીઝમનો અર્થ શું ?

મારા માટે તો ત્રણ સાદી વાતો છે -

- ૧) જેટલું બને તેટલું કોઈ પણ મનુષ્ય અથવા પ્રાણીમાત્રને હાની ન કરવી.
- ૨) એક આદર્શ વ્યક્તિ થવું જે પોતાના કરતા બીજાનો વિચાર પહેલા કરે.
- ૩) આપણે બધા સરખા છીએ - સ્ત્રી, પુરુષ, જુવાન, વૃદ્ધ.

પરંતુ જૈનીઝમના ત્રણ ગુણો એટલે

- ૧) સાચું માનવું
- ૨) સાચી વિદ્યા
- ૩) સાચો વ્યવહાર

હું દરરોજ પ્રાથના, ઉપવાસ કે પ્રતિક્રમણ નથી કરતી પણ તેથી હું જૈન નથી એવું નથી. આ બધું કરવાનો અર્થ શું જો તમે મનથી અને દિલથી શુદ્ધ ન હો. ઉપરના ત્રણ ગુણોની ઉપર જો આપણે વિજય પામીને પછી મન અને દિલની વધારે શુદ્ધિ માટે પ્રતિક્રમણ અને ઉપવાસ કરવા જોઈએ.

"આપણા હાથ શું કરે છે તે આપણા મગજમાં હોવું જોઈએ અને જો આપણા મગજમાં હોઈ તે આપણા હૃદયમાંથી પ્રકાશવું જોઈએ"

### ચિત્રભાનુંજી

હું આશા રાખું છું કે ઓશવાળ સમાજ સમાનતા ઉપર તેમનું ધ્યાન વધારે કેન્દ્રિત રાખશે. સ્ત્રી અને પુરુષ વચ્ચેની નિષ્પક્ષતા માટે મને દિલમાં દુઃખ થાય છે. દીગમ્બર જૈનો માને છે કે સ્ત્રીઓને મોક્ષ મેળવવા માટે પુરુષ તરીકે જન્મ લેવો પડે છે. સ્વેતામ્બેર જૈનો આની વિરુદ્ધમાં છે.

સ્વેતામ્બેર જૈન સ્ત્રી- પુરુષને સમાન લેખે છે, પણ હકીકતમાં ઘણી વખત આવું નથી થતું. આનું કારણ છે વર્ષોથી ચાલી આવેલો રૂઢીચુસ્ત સમાજ, અને સ્ત્રી-પુરુષોને વારસાગત મળેલ જૈવિક મતભેદો. આથી દરેક જાતિ સામાજિક અને સંસ્કૃતિક રીતે જુદા હોય. હું માનું છું કે આ ઘર કરી ગયેલી માન્યતાઓ અને મતભેદો અને આદતોની સામે પડકાર કરવામાં આપણો ઓશવાળ સમાજ બીજા ભારતીય સમજો સાથે આગેવાની કરશે.

### દિવાળી અને જૈનીઝમ

દિવાળી સંસ્કૃત અને હિન્દી ભાષામાંથી આવેલો શબ્દ હોય, તેનો અર્થ છે દીવાઓની કતાર. મહાવીર સ્વામીએ ૫૨૭ બી



સી (ઇસુ ખ્રિસ્ત પહેલા)માં મોક્ષ મેળવ્યું તેની ઉજવણી નિમિત્તે જૈનો દિવાળી ઉજવે છે.મહાવીર પ્રભુના છેલ્લા ધર્મોપદેશ વખતે ૧૮ રજાઓ હાજર હતા. તેમણે નક્કી કર્યું કે તેમના ગુરુના જ્ઞાનની બત્તી જલાવી રાખવાના પ્રતીકરૂપે દીવાઓ પ્રગટાવવા. છતાં આ તો એક સૂચક હતું. ખરી રીતે તો આપણે મહાવીર પ્રભુના જ્ઞાન અને બોધ પ્રમાણે અંદરની જ્યોત જલાવવાની છે.બહારની બત્તીને પ્રાણવાયું જોઈએ , જ્યારે આપણી અંદરના પ્રકાશ માટે આપણી પોતાની મહેનત જોઈએ.

“રાત અંધારી હશે,

રાહ અધરી હશે,

પ્રેમ અને મમતાની બત્તી જલાવો

તો પછી થશે દિલની દિવાળી”.

ટૂંકમાં દિવાળી અધ્યાત્મિક સંપત્તિ વધારવા માટે છે.

આ સંદેશો લેજો

આવતીકાલની પીઢીને બતાવોકે ઓશવાળ શું છે અને જૈનીઝમમાં વિશ્વાસ એટલે એક નૈતિક આચરણ છે. આવા પવિત્ર તહેવારોના દિવસોમાં તો ખાસ શુદ્ધ હૃદય હોવું તે ઉચ્ચ કોટિનું છે.

આપણા માટે જૈનીઝમ અને ઓશવાળ શું છે તે જાણવું જોઈએ .ક્યારેક એવું બને જે આપણી મરજી પ્રમાણે ન હોઈ ,પરંતુ આપણે "મને"શું જોઈએ છે તેની બદલે "આપણને" શું જોઈએ છે તેનો વિચાર કરવો જોઈએ. "મને" શું ફાયદો થશે તેની બદલે "આપણને" શું ફાયદો થશે તે વિચારવું જોઈએ.

આ સફળ અને વિકસતા સમાજનો આપણે એક હિસ્સો છીએ એ માટે આપણને ગર્વ હોવું જોઈએ ,તે આપણને આશીર્વાદરૂપે મળેલ છે.

“અદેખાઈ -નફરત!

હું નફરતને જવા દઉં છું ,જે લોકોને નફરત પચાવી તેઓ ઘણી વખત જેને નફરત કરતા હતા તેવાજ બની જાય છે.

અચોક્કસતા જ ચોક્કસતા છે,સત્ય જાણવું અને અસલામતી સાથે કેવી રીતે રહેવું એજ માત્ર સલામતી છે”.

ચિત્રભાનુંજી

આ અનુવાદનમાં મારાથી કઈ પણ અજુગતું લખાયું હોય તો ક્ષમા માંગું છું.



# What's been happening in our Community?

## Oshwal Ekta Centre

Dream becomes a reality. After 40 years of waiting, and many months of hard work, our Association took possession of Oshwal EKTA Centre on Friday 31 August 2012. In doing so, our Association has reached yet another milestone in its history with the acquisition of our third property.

In accordance with our cultural traditions, a Snatra and Vastu Pooja was conducted on Sunday 2 September 2012, before we start making full use of the centre.

The Snatra Pooja is a symbolic re-enactment of the bathing of a newborn Tirthankara by celestial gods and goddesses (Dev and Devis). The pooja's spiritual significant is essentially to remind us to receive the virtues of a Tirthankar. This is because through our cycle of births and deaths, we have collected endless particles of filthy thoughts and vies due to passion, snare of world and spite. We want to abolish these passions and spites by continuous shower of virtues of Tirthankar and thereby purifying the soul leading to emancipation.

The Vastu Pooja is a ritualistic act to remedy whatever negative influences are present in a house or property before entering and using the property.

## Oshwal Enabling Education Fair 2012

On Sunday 19 August 2012 our Association hosted the Oshwal Enabling Education Fair at Oshwal Centre. The Fair covered a range of Educational and Disability issues, with several speakers and a hugely popular debate about State vs. Private School education.

With many stalls and zones from experience schools and universities and organisations, this was a great opportunity for Oshwals to network and share knowledge and experience.

Read the full article on page 33.

## London 2012 Volunteer Stories



Hinal Shah volunteered at the recent London 2012 Olympic Games. In writing about her experience, Hinal says, "The training and sportsmen spirit of all the athletes and their team members reflected that as a team and family we can boost each other to reach and achieve higher goals. I think this is a very valuable lesson to all Oshwals as a community to continue to achieve higher goals as we have already started doing so. I have also been

inspired to pick up the badminton racket and start playing again as well as volunteer for other such events"

**Read the full article by Hinal about her experience as well as many other stories of Oshwals volunteering at the London 2012 Olympic games on the Oshwal Website. Just go to:**

[www.oshwal.co.uk/articles/london-2012-olympic-stories](http://www.oshwal.co.uk/articles/london-2012-olympic-stories)

## Congratulations!!

Sandeep Shah, son of Hasmukh and Geeta on achieved a First Class Honours Degree in BSc Accounting and Finance at the London School of Economics and Political



Science. After successfully completing his education at Wallington County Grammar School with straight A's at A-Level and attaining an academic distinction award, he secured a place to study at the LSE. He has worked hard and has done his parents very proud. During university, he was an active member in extra-curricular activities, acting as student mentor successfully guiding and advising younger students through their education, an excellent tutor, volunteering to teach accounting to first year students at university regularly and participated in many societies. As a keen sportsperson he enjoys playing football and cricket. Having secured a job at one of the world's top accounting firms, he is now studying for his CA qualification, and aspires to become a CEO in a multinational corporation. Shah Parivar wishes Sandeep success to accomplish his dream and hope he will prove to be a shining star of the Oshwal community.



## Paryushan Festivities

Paryushan festivities were held from Wednesday 12 September to Wednesday 19 September 2012 at various local Area venues. This was followed by the Dhaja Din held on Sunday 23 September 2012 at Oshwal Centre.

## Oshwal All Area Forum

At the request of our President, Raaxeet Harakhchand Shah ("Rex"), on Sunday 9 September 2012 members of the Executive Committee and Area Committee got together at Oshwal Ekta Centre to brainstorm and strategies about the key activities and undertaking our Association should pursue over the next decade.

Read the full report on page 20.

## Congratulations go to...

### Marriages

#### FROM EAST AREA:

Newlyweds Nilma and Rupen Dhirajlal Shah who got married on 20th June 2012.

Newlyweds Urvi and Nikki Chandrakant Nathu Shah who got married on 15th July 2012.

### Births

#### FROM EAST AREA:

Rakhi and Dipesh Chandrakant Shah for the birth of their baby boy on 24th August 2012.

### Achievements

#### FROM LUTON AREA:

Dillan Jayesh Shah	10 GCSE's
Hurshel Milan Shah	9 GCSE's
Neekita Pankaj Shah	4 'A' Levels
Ricky Dilesh Shah	Graduated with a degree in Accounting and finance

#### FROM NORTHAMPTON AREA:

Neil Shah of Wellingborough for obtaining an award for the highest average mark for all undergraduates for the past 3 years at LSE. He was also awarded a prize in achieving the highest overall mark in Economics in each of the 3 years.

#### FROM SOUTH AREA:

#### Gujarati GCSEs

Bansari MayurRana	A*
Sona Kiran Shah	A*
Anjlee Manish Bathia	A
Bijal Rajendraprasad Mistry	A
Jaanki Vanitchand Shah	A
Krishan Jyotindra Patel	A
Pooja Kirit Vara	A
Shammi Neetin Shah	A
Vaishali Shirish Shah	A
Veer Paresh Rajani	A
Bhakti Milan Shah	B
Jaimin Vinay Dattani	C

#### Gujarati AS Levels

Aakash Ashish Desai	A
Kavish Bharatkumar Shah	A
Neel MayurRana (Re-Take)	A
Priyanka Pratik Shah	A
Heer Vinay Shah	B
Amiy Jayesh Doshi	C
Bhavisha Shantilal Shah	C
Kinari Nilesh Shah	C
Nikul Chetan Bhadasia	C

#### Gujarati A-Level

Bijal Jagdish Trivedi	A*
Neel MayurRana	A*
Jigna Jayesh Shah	A
Kavit Anil Shah	B
Karishma Paresh Patel	C



## Enterprise Students!

Earlier this year a group of 10 Oshwal students took part in the Enterprise Programme.

The Programme was the results of collaboration between our Association and the Oshwal Education & Relief Board, Kenya. Over a 10 day period, the student visited many industries in Kenya and gained valuable insights into running businesses.

Read their full report on page 39.



## Oshwal Youth Camp 2012

A total of 48 children from: Luton, North, North East, North West, South Areas took part in this year's Youth Camp to Dorset. Over the weekend, the children took part in many activities like: raft building, aeroball, archery, zip wire, mountain biking, quad biking, giant swing, rifle shooting, abseiling and wall climbing.

The organisers are hoping to make the Youth Camp an annual experience for children.

Read the full report in the Oshwal Youth Magazine.

## Diwali on Trafalgar Square

**Sunday 28 October 2012 at 2pm**

Don't forget this year Diwali in London is being celebrated on Sunday 28 October 2012 from 2pm to 7pm at Trafalgar Square, London, and OAUK are the lead organisers. Come down to Trafalgar Square with your family and friends and be part of this unique Diwali celebrations.



## Oshwal First in The Comrades – the Ultimate Human Race

The world famous and, arguably, the toughest ultra marathon in the world, the **Comrades Marathon**, attracts athletes from all over the world to combine muscle, sinew and mental strength to conquer 89kms of the highly challenging terrain between the South African cities of Pietermaritzburg and Durban. Indeed, the event, billed as The Ultimate Human Race, is endorsed by the Guinness World Records as the biggest ultra-marathon on the planet!

On a cold 3 June 2012 at 5:30am, in Pietermaritzburg, two Oshwals lined up for this gruelling event: Piyush Zaverchand Gudka (originally from Mombasa, Kenya) and Neeraj Hirji Shah (originally from Nairobi, Kenya). By early/mid afternoon in a contrasting warm and humid Durban they had successfully completed the brutal course in 8hrs 54 min and 10 hrs 11 min respectively.

For most people this would typically be their greatest challenge; running the premier ultra road race in the world! What with its undulating course, 5 torturous climbs, a ruthless clock (strict 12 hours cut-off) and 56 brutal miles! This year 14,000+ runners from over 50 countries started the race and 11,896 finished within the time limit.

Piyush, 56, from Stanmore, UK, is a veteran of 35 marathons on all six continents and been dubbed in UK as 'the Oshwal Marathon Man'. He has been training, motivating and inspiring people for healthy living through his charity, Fit 4 Nothing, and over the last 10 years has trained 107 people for London, Berlin, Dublin and Brighton marathons. Asked where he gets his inspiration from, Piyush replies with one of Gandhi's famous quotes:

"I claim to be no more than an average man with less than average abilities. I have not the shadow of a doubt that any man or woman can achieve what I have, if he or she would make the same effort and cultivate the same hope and faith."

Piyush undertook this ultimate challenge to help raise money and awareness for two charities:

- Fit 4 Nothing, a charity that help individuals improve their mind and body through exercise ([www.fit4nothing.org](http://www.fit4nothing.org)), and
- One Cause, a charity that help under-privileged communities in the third world through the provision of Education ([www.onecauseuk.org](http://www.onecauseuk.org)).

Neeraj, 42, settled in Johannesburg, South Africa for the last 12 years, only commenced running late last year. "Since turning 40, I have been looking for a bold, inspiring personal challenge and, in October last year, I set my sights on completing The Ultimate Human Race. It has been an incredible 5 months since 8 January 2012 of tough discipline, intense training and mental conditioning for the big day. But, ultimately, for me, this pursuit became a magical voyage of self discovery" he said. "Completing the Comrades from a zero base has made me realize that anything is possible if you put your heart and mind into it".

Neeraj covered 1,100kms of training over the 5 months leading up to the Comrades event and along the way, in a demanding 9 week period, ran two marathons and two ultra marathons including the famous 56km Two Oceans Ultra Marathon in Cape Town. "I have caught the running bug and will certainly be doing the Comrades again next year" he added.



*Piyush and Neeraj at the finish of the Comrades Marathon  
at Kingsmead Stadium, Durban*

## Congratulations to...

**Keval Shailesh Shah** has achieved total of 17 GCSE's, 11 A\* and 6 A's (including Gujarati). He has also achieved Gold award in UK Maths Challenge.



We would like to congratulate him on his excellent achievement and wish him all the best for the future.

### **Shailesh Shah & Family**

## Olympic Torch Passes Oshwal South Mahajanwadi

**Report by, Meera Rajesh Shah (Aged 13)**

"As soon as I heard that the Olympic Torch was going to be passing through the Mahajanwadi, I was amazed; I couldn't wait until the day. When the day finally came, Monday 23rd July 2012, we left early so we could get a good viewing spot.

When we arrived, there were a few people there, more and more people arrived the closer it got to the timing of the Olympic Torch, which was meant to come at 12 o'clock but it came 15 minutes later. There was so much to see before the Torch actually came through, there was a lot of security and policemen to ensure there was no disruption. Before the Torch came, there were other things to see like a tour bus, someone singing, cheerleaders, a coca cola bus with people giving out bottles of coke.



Then finally the moment arrived, there was a lady carrying and running with the Olympic Torch. There was security surrounding her, to make sure no one tried to do anything to her or the Torch. When she passed she stopped so everyone could take pictures of the Torch.

Seeing the Torch was very special to me because I have never ever seen the torch before and this might have been the only time I will get to see it. I loved the moment when it was all happening!"



## Oshwal All Area Forum 2012

Sunday 9 September 2012 — Oshwal Ekta Centre

# Special Report

All Area Forum held at  
Oshwal Ekta Centre on  
Sunday 9 September 2012

## State of our Oshwal Community in the UK

At a very conservative estimate, the wealth of our Oshwal Members can be put at £2.5 billion. Some have said it could be much higher, around £10 billion, and some have suggested it to be even higher.

Whatever the exact figure, this is a very impressive number given that of the 13,000 Oshwal Members, those of a working age number less than 10,000 based on our current membership data.

Some estimates of the Oshwal population in the UK suggest over 25,000 Oshwals, yet our membership is around 13,000, meaning that even when taking in account under 16's, our membership is less than half of the Oshwal presence in the UK. Despite this, in the last 40 years that our Community has been established in the UK, we have had many monumental achievements, such as the formation of our Association in 1968; the purchase of 80 acres of land at Potters Bar in 1980; the purchase of Oshwal Mahajanwadi in South London in 1982; the construction of the Oshwal Halls in 1990; the construction of the first traditional Jain Derasar in Europe in 2005; the purchase of Oshwal Ekta Centre in 2012.

Imagine what we can achieve if we have 75% membership, or 90% or even 100%? If all Oshwals in the UK were actively engaged within our community we can achieve the impossible. The key issues facing our community are the long-term continued encouragement of the next generation of young Oshwals to engage with the Oshwal community.

## The Forum

Like any well run organisation, it is important for those entrusted with the oversight of the organisation, to meet and discuss a way forward to ensure continued strength and prosperity for the organisation. Our Association is no different, we have in excess of 100 committee members across 9 Areas, and 25 EC Members. There are many more serving within various sub-committees. We are all volunteers looking to give back to our Oshwal community and to work for the benefit of our community. Therefore it is vital that all Committee members meet together to develop new initiatives, discuss issues, share knowledge and agree a way forward.

With this in mind, Raaxeet Harakhchand Shah our newly elected President; called the first All Area Forum of the current Executive Committee (EC) and Area Committee Members. The Forum, held on Sunday 9th September at the Oshwal Ekta Centre

was an opportunity for Raaxeetbhai and his fellow Office Bearers to share their vision with the EC and Area Committees.

### Key Themes

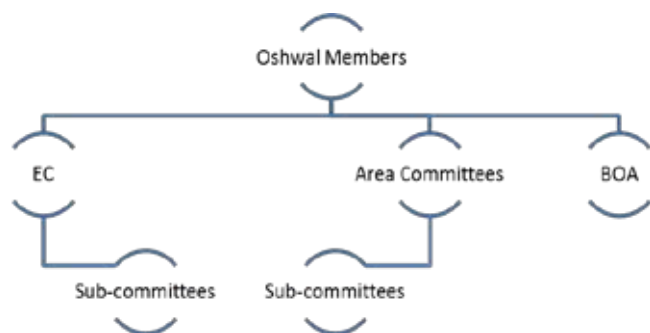
The meeting was opened with prayers and introductions. Thereafter Raaxeetbhai presenting the structure, vision and changes that he would like to see happen. The key message was to work "united and as one", not "individually or territorially". For too long, there has been a mythical division; "them & us," between the EC and the Areas. This myth was dispelled and Raaxeetbhai pressed the point of working together.

### Understanding that OAUK is a single structure

Raaxeetbhai explained the very simple structure of the OAUK, which has served our community well over the years. Our Oshwal Members are the ultimate determinants of the course and destiny of



our Association, and they elect EC Members, Area Committee Members and Board of Advisor (BOA) Members. Under these, are the sub-committees determined by the EC and Area Committee of Oshwal volunteers.



Raaxeetbhai explained that as elected members, the EC, Area Committee and BOA Members all have a duty of care to Oshwal Members and various rules and statutory regulations apply such as the Charities Act and Trustees Act to name a few.

Raaxeetbhai further explained the importance of how all these elected members perceive themselves as either as; an individual; as an Area committee member; one of many: a portfolio holder – or a team member. By fostering this latter perception that all elected members, irrespective of their portfolio or position (within Area or EC) are simply a team member working for the good of the Oshwal community, that will ultimate lead to continued prosperity for our Association.

## Portfolios within OAUk

Raaxeetbhai outlined the various portfolios, highlight the five core portfolios which are the engine of our Community: Culture & Heritage, Education, Health & Welfare & Enabling Network, Religion & Interfaith, Youth; and these are supported by portfolios such as: Audit & Finance and Administration, M&C, IT, Property, Large Project Co-ordinator, Fundraising and Constitution.

Through the understanding of the Structure of OAUk and its Portfolios and respecting the due process inherently outlined within the Constitution, Raaxeetbhai stressed importance of all 9 Areas and the EC all working together and not in competition with one another.

## Ideas relating to Specific Portfolios

At the All Area Forum all of the above matters were discussed in some detail and thereafter the

Committee Members were divided into groups under respective headings of Culture & Heritage, Education, Health & Welfare including Enabling Network, Religion, Youth, Media, Area Chairs, Treasurers, with respective portfolio holders from each Area present to join the group. Each group was asked to engage in a round table discussion and to come up with key ideas to implement in order of importance.



Many ideas were brought to the table and the following is a summary of three key ideas from each portfolio.

### Culture & Heritage

- Encouraging playing of Indian traditional games and talent show
- Consider hosting a cottage industry fair
- Preserving our history through Family Tree project and cultural programmes

### Education

- Encourage younger parents to learn Gujarati – Adult classes
- Encourage past GCSE students to support and volunteer at schools
- Organise children trips to Oshwal centre and to other schools to meet other Gujarati school students and encourage networking

## Health & Welfare & Enabling Network

- Increase awareness of health and welfare issues through articles in Oshwal news, the website and talks.
- To develop A-Z of health topics/issues with useful links for information and free services available on the Oshwal Website eg, blood pressure testing.
- Enabling Network to develop checklist for Areas to use when holding events to determine accessibility, help available if needed, appropriate resources such as toilets, changing facilities, hearing loops etc.

## Religion & Interfaith

- Areas working together on major religious festivals, such as Paryushan, Satsang, Swamivatsalya Bhojan, Diwali
- Encouraging Gujarati Schools to teach religion
- Developing a list of learned Jain scholars to help arrange a Discourse at Areas.

## Youth

- To develop youth activities outside of sports
- To develop initiatives like the Enterprise Programme
- To create a network of Oshwal University Ambassadors

## Media & Communication

- Looking at Oshwal News and how to improve the content along with other media routes, such as social media
- Developing regulations and guidance around social media and OAUk data policy
- Launch of the new Oshwal Directory Project

## Treasurers

- Develop standardised accounts, issuing e-receipts, with online payment and BACS facility as well as online donation facility.
- Developing a single OAUk account rather than multiple Area accounts.
- Striving towards a paperless environment, with online facilities for Treasurers to maintain accounts and records.

## Changing the way we work

---

Raaxeetbhai outlined a focus on changing the way we work, with some immediate changes being implemented and some longer term changes for the future. No more short term fixes but changes that will make the work of the Association smoother and more efficient and also increasing transparency.

Raaxeetbhai lead a table discussion with all the Area Chairpersons, and some of the key ideas discussed included the following:

**Area Chairperson Meeting** – The Area Chairpersons agreed to meet once every quarter, to discuss any common themes/problems and work towards holding new joint programmes.

**Areas working together** – A suggestion of joint area events starting from January with a suggested time table was presented. Each area will work in conjunction with another area to deliver these events.

**Attendance Register** – Suggestion that EC meeting attendance record will be made available to Oshwal Members. This will subsequently be rolled out for Area Committee meeting attendance, with a view to increase transparency to Oshwal Members.

**Accounting** – to consider OAUk account as a single account rather than separate Area funds. This would promote OAUk as a united single organisation to Members and increase efficiency of the Accounting process.

**Budgeting** – to change current OAUk Areas either by combining smaller areas and/or divide larger areas to make them into units of equal population. At the EC level to make a proportional representation of budgets and number of trustees for these Areas.

**Election process** – The EC Annual General Meeting (AGM) should take place before the Area AGMs. This will encourage people from Area Committees to join EC, if they wish. Furthermore, all committee member roles to require nominations in a matter similar to that required for the President and Office Bearer roles.

**Annual Dhaja Din** – to organise an all Areas programme with Savansari Bhojan as a one day event for the whole community on an annual basis. To encourage everyone to participate and in a spirit of fairness, Areas to sell tickets for a draw for Dhaja,

Arti and Mangal Divo during Paryushan days and return the sold tickets to the centre before the Dhaja Din, A draw would be conducted by the EC and the families would be told in advance of which ceremonies their tickets match so they can come prepared for the occasion on the day. There were views against the practicality of getting people from all areas to the savantsari bhojan in one place but there was general consensus of having the ticket draw for Dhaja ceremony, Arti and Mangal Divo.

## Major Ideas and Initiatives

Some of the major ideas and initiatives suggested and discussed during the All Area Form included the following:

**Oshwal Business & Professional Network** – focusing on professionals, academics and entrepreneurs within our community.

**Oshwal Student Scholarships** – focusing on recognising and celebrating high achievements within our community.

**Oshwal Sewa & Environment Committee** – focusing on charitable work with our community can engage with other organisations and in other countries, such as Kenya and India.

**Oshwal Central London establishment** – focusing on engaging with young Oshwals living and working in Central London.

**Oshwal Achievement Day & AGM** – focusing on revamping the AGM format and also hosting an annual Awards day for Oshwal Members.

**Large scale events** – focusing on preparing and planning community wide events which explore different themes, like the Career & Development Fair, the Health Awareness Day, the Mela, and the Enabling Education Fair.

## Summary

With the aim of developing new initiatives, discussing issues and sharing knowledge and agreeing a way forward together as one united team, the first All Area Forum of the current EN and Area Committees was a great success, as outlined above with the various ideas and thoughts which were discussed.

The forum was reasonably well attended; however sadly two areas were very poorly represented. Overall the participants found the forum very useful and a number of positive messages came out of it, as follows:

- Areas and EC all working together and not in competition with one another
- Understanding obligations as Charity Trustees and as elected Area Committee Members
- Respecting OAUk structure and due process and working within the framework of OAUk and not independently
- Celebrating when Areas are doing well not criticising
- The core portfolios and Area working together to meet the objects of our Association as per the Constitution

Raaxeetbhai concluded by saying, *“Today has been a huge step forward in working together as a united community, and over the next few months the EC and Area Committees will continue to work on developing the many ideas which have been generated and provide more details to our Members, as well as gauge feedback from them on the direction our Association is taking. United we are stronger, the Community is one; and we, as in the elected members, are all merely guardians of the assets for the Members of the Oshwal Community. Jai Oshwal.”*







# દિવાળી

## Diwali

સાધર્મિક વ્હાલા ભાઈઓ તથા બહેનો,

આપ સર્વેને પ્રણામ. જોત જોતામાં વર્ષમાં આવતા તહેવારો આવે છે ને પુરા થઇ જાય છે. એજ રીતે જીવન પણ આમજ પુરુ થઇ જાય છે. વર્ષમાં બે વાર આવતું શાશ્વતું પર્વ એટલે આયંબીલની ઓળી - ઓશવાળ સેન્ટરમાં નિર્વિઘ્ને આપણી આ બાવનમી ઓળી આવી રહી છે. અને આ વખતના દાતા છે -

માતુશ્રી મણીબેન જેઠાલાલ ખીમજીભાઈ પરિવાર  
હ. શ્રીમતી મીનાબેન નરેન્દ્ર શાહ

શરુ થશે તા-૨૧-૧૦-૨૦૧૨ રવિવારે અને પૂર્ણ થશે તા- ૩૦-૧૦-૨૦૧૨ ને મંગળવારે

સર્વ ભાવિકોને આયંબીલની ઓળી અથવા છુટી આયંબીલ કરવા આવવાનું તેમ જ કામકાજમાં મદદ કરવા અને પારણાને દિવસે પારણાં કરવા આવવાનું દાતા પરિવાર તરફથી ભાવભીનું આમંત્રણ છે, જરૂરથી બહોળી સંખ્યામાં પધારશોજી.

### દિવાળી

જૈન ધર્મમાં દિવાળીનું મહત્વ અનેરું છે, કારણકે ચાલુ ચોવીસીમાં છેલ્લા તીર્થંકર પ્રભુ મહાવીર સ્વામીનો નિર્વાણ દિન અને ૧૪૫૨ ગણધરોના વડા અને પ્રભુ મહાવીરના વિનય, વિવેક અને વિદ્વાન એવા લાડીલા શિષ્ય ગુરુ ગૌતમને કેવળ જ્ઞાન પ્રાપ્ત થયું તે દિવસ નવું વર્ષ. આ બંને દિવસ શ્રાવક શ્રાવિકાઓ આરાધના કરીને આ મહાન વિભૂતિઓને યાદ કરી તેમના ગુણલા ગાય છે તો આપણે બધા પણ ચાલો ભેળા થઈએ ઓશવાળ સેન્ટરમાં જ્યાં ભવ્ય જીનાલય છે ત્યાં તા-૧૨-૧૧ને સોમવાર સવારે દર્શન, પૂજા અને સ્નાત્ર પૂજા ભણાવશું અને પ્રભુને સુંદર આંગી ચડાવશું. જેનો નકરો છે રૂ.૧૫૧. એ જ રીતે તા-૧૩-૧૧ મંગળવાર સવારે દર્શન પૂજા અને આંગી તેમ જ સાંજે ૭:૩૦ વાગ્યે ચોપડા પૂજન ઉપરના હોલમાં થશે. નોંધ: ત્રણ દિવસ આંગીનો લાભ જેમને લેવો હોય તે ઓફિસમાં નામ લખાવવા વિનંતી. નકરો એક દિવસનો રૂ.૧૫૧ છે.

ત્યાર બાદ તા-૧૪-૧૧ને બુધવાર સવારે ૬:૩૦ જિનાલયનું ધ્વાર ઉદઘાટન, જેનો નકરો રૂ.૨૫૧ રાખેલ છે તો જે ભાવિકોને લાભ લેવાની ભાવના હોય તે સમયસર નામ ઓફિસમાં લખાવશોજી.

દિવાળી અને નવું વર્ષ વિક ડેઝમાં હોઈને બધા ન આવી શકે એટલે કાર્યકરોએ ઉજવણીનો કાર્યક્રમ તા- ૧૭-૧૮ ના ગોઠવ્યો છે તો જરૂર બધા બહોળી સંખ્યામાં પધારશોજી અને ભાગ લેશોજી એવી નમ્ર વિનંતી છે.

### કાર્તિકી પૂનમ

ત્યાર બાદ તા-૨૮-૧૧ ને બુધવારે આવે છે કાર્તિકી પૂનમ, શ્રી સીદ્ધાચલજીની ભાવ યાત્રા, પદ્મના દર્શન, આ દિવસ જેનો માટે મહત્વનો છે. ગુરુ ભગવંતો ભારતમાં જે જગ્યાએ ચાતુર્માસની આરાધના કરતા હોય તે હવે વિહાર કરીને બીજા સ્થળે જાય છે અને લગભગ લોકો સિદ્ધાચલની જાત્રા કરવા પહાડ ઉપર પણ આ દિવસથી જવાનું શરુ કરે છે. આ કાર્તિકી પૂનમને દિવસે ભગવાન શ્રી ઋષભદેવના પૌત્રો દ્રાવિડ અને વારિખીલજી ૧૦ કરોડ મુનીઓ સાથે મોક્ષે ગયા છે.

ચાલો આપણે બધા ભેળા મળી ભાવ યાત્રા કરીએ. આ દિવસની સાધર્મિક ભક્તિનો લાભ લેનાર દાતા છે, શ્રીમતી ઇન્દિરાબેન રમેશભાઈ પરિવાર, તો બધા ભાવિકો બહોળી સંખ્યામાં પધારશોજી એવી દાતા પરિવારની હૃદયની ભાવના છે. સ્થળ: ઓશવાલ સેન્ટર.

લિ. સુશીલાબેન લક્ષ્મણભાઈના પ્રણામ સ્વીકારજોજી

# અંગુઠે અમૃત વસે, લબ્ધી તણા ભંડાર, શ્રી ગુરુ ગૌતમ સમરીએ મન વાંછિત ફળ દાતાર.

સારોએ જૈન સમાજ દિવાળી પર્વ શા માટે ઉજવે છે? આપણાં પરમ કૃપાળુ પરમાત્મા પ્રભુ મહાવીર સ્વામી દિવાળીના દિવસે નિર્વાણ પામ્યા અને બીજે દિવસે શરૂ થતું નવું વર્ષ કારતક સુદ એકમના શ્રી ગુરુ ગૌતમ સ્વામીને કેવળ જ્ઞાન થયું. તો ચાલો આપણે બધા આજે ગુરુ ગૌતમસ્વામીના ગુણોની ગરિમા વાંચીએ.

પ્રભુ મહાવીરની સાથે તેમનું પ્રથમ મિલન થયું ત્યારે તેઓ બાવન વર્ષના હતા. આવ્યા હતા પ્રભુ મહાવીરને હરાવવા પરંતુ પ્રભુ મહાવીરની વાણી, તેમનું તેજ, ઓજસ અને કરુણા તેમ જ વાત્સલ્યના વારિમાં તેઓ ત્રણે મહાન વિદ્વાન ભાઈઓ ઇન્દ્રભૂતિ (ગૌતમસ્વામી), અઙ્ગીભૂતિ અને વાયુભૂતિ, બીજા ૮ ગણધર અને આ બધાના શિષ્યો આમ ટોટલ ૪૪૧૧ જેટલા પુણ્યાત્માઓ મહાવીરમય બન્યા, આ ઘટના જાણે ચમત્કારરૂપ ગણાય. અને ખાસ કરીને ગૌતમસ્વામી તો નાના બાળક હોય તેમ શરણે રહીને ચાલુ ચોવીશીના ૧૪૫૨ ગણધરોમા મુખ્ય ગણધરનું માન ખાટી ગયા. તેમનામાં રહેલા ગુણો અને લબ્ધીને જૈન સમાજ ભાવથી નત-મસ્તકે વંદન કરે છે.

કામધેનું, કલ્પતરુ અને ચિંતામણી આ ત્રણે દીવ્યતાઓ તેમના નામ સાથે વણાયેલી છે. વિનય, વિવેક અને વૈયાવચ્ચની મૂર્તિ એટલે શ્રી ગૌતમસ્વામી. પરમાત્માના પ્રથમ ગણધર હતા, સંપૂર્ણ ધ્વાદશાંગીના પ્રણેતા હતા, વિનીત બાળકની જેમ પ્રભુની આજ્ઞામાં રહેતા. આવો પ્રકૃષ્ટ વિનય, આવી અનન્ય સમર્પિતતાનો સુભગ યોગ જેમનામાં સધાયો હોય તેમની ગુણ ગરીમાને કોણ આંબી શકે? હજુ વિશેષમાં તેઓ અજોડ લબ્ધીધારી હતા. તેઓ જેને રજોહરણ (દીક્ષા) આપે તેને અવશ્ય કેવળજ્ઞાન થાય. અન્ય કોઈ તીર્થંકર કે ગણધરોને આવી મહા લબ્ધિ મળી હોય તેમ બન્યું નથી. તેઓએ ૫૦,૦૦૦ વ્યક્તિને દીક્ષા આપી અને દરેકને કેવળજ્ઞાન થયું હતું. "ગુરુ કરતા શિષ્ય સવાયા" હોવા છતાં અત્યંત વિનયશીલ અને વિવેકી હતા અને કાયમ ભગવાન પાસે નાના બાળક બની ભગવાનની આજ્ઞામાં જ રહ્યા.

ગૌતમસ્વામીમાં જેવી લબ્ધીઓ હતી તેવા જ અદ્ભુત ગુણો હતા. ભગવાન મહાવીર પ્રત્યે તેમને અનન્ય ભક્તિ, તેમની આજ્ઞાનું અપૂર્વ આરાધન. પોતે મહા વિદ્વાન પંડિત હતા, જ્ઞાનના ભંડાર હોવા છતાં પ્રભુ મહાવીરને બધાની વચ્ચે અનેક પ્રશ્નો પૂછતા કે ભદંત આ વાત આમ છે તો એનો અર્થ મને કહો. કારણકે જો ભગવાન સભાની અંદર (સમવસરણમાં) બેસીને જવાબ આપે તો આમ જનતા પણ જાણી શકે અને પ્રભુ મહાવીર પણ ખુબ જ લાડથી ગોચમ કહીને સંબોધી સવાલ જવાબ આપતા કે ગોચમ આમ હોય. ખરેખર આવી લાગણી, આવા પ્રેમ વિષે વાંચી હૈયું આનંદિત બને છે અને અચાનક આવા મહાપુરુષોને વંદન થઈ જાય છે.

એક નહિ પણ છત્રીસ હજાર સવાલ અને જવાબથી આખું ભગવતી સુત્ર નામનું આગમ રચાયું છે. અને આ આગમ લખાયું ત્યારે માંડવગઢના રહેવાસી સંગ્રામ સોનીએ એક એક સવાલ-જવાબ પર સોના મહેર મુકીને પૂજા કરી અને આગમનું બહુમાન કર્યું. તેમના પરિવારમાંથી ટોટલ ૬૩૦૦૦ સોના મહેરો મુકાણી હતી અને આ સોનામહેર ઓગાળીને તેની સાહીથી સુવર્ણ અક્ષરે આગમો લખાયા. વાહ પ્રભુ વાહ, કેવી બલિહારી છે આ શાસનની, જેના ગુણો વિષે શું લખવું અને શું છોડી દેવું તે પ્રશ્ન છે.

ચોપડા પૂજનમાં પણ આપણે લખીએ છીએ કે ગૌતમસ્વામીની લબ્ધિ હોજો. લબ્ધિ કેવી હતી, જાણો છો? એક વાર અષ્ટાપદ તીર્થની તળેટીએ નાના પાત્રમાં ખીર લાવી અને (અંગુઠે અમૃત વસે) અંગુઠો પાત્રમાં રાખીને ૧૫૦૦ તાપસને પેટ ભરીને ખીરથી પારણું કરાવ્યું હતું, લબ્ધિના પ્રભાવે. આ લબ્ધિ કેમ મળી હતી, તેમનામાં રહેલા ગુણોથી. આવો એક પણ ગુણ

આપણામાં છે તો નહિ પણ આવી જાય તો બેડો પાર થઈ જાય માટે સાચા હૃદયથી આવા ગુણીજનોની પ્રાર્થના કરીએ. આપણાં માટે તેમની વિનમ્રતા, જીજ્ઞાસા, તપ, તેજ અને ભક્તિ જેવા ગુણો ઘણા પ્રેરક છે.

સર્વ સ્થિતિમા પ્રસન્ન, ઉત્સુક છતાં ધીર-ગંભીર એવા ગૌતમસ્વામી હતા. સાદાઈ, સંયમ, સદવર્તન અને શીલ તેમને જન્મથી વરેલા હતા. તેમ જ તેઓ બુદ્ધિમાં મેઘાવી હતા. નાના મોટા સૌની સાથે તેમનો વ્યવહાર વાત્સલ્યપૂર્ણ હતો. એટલે જ કહેવાય છે કે તેમના વાત્સલ્યનું ઝરણું એવું વહેતું કે ભોગી, રોગી, કોમળ કે કઠણ પ્રકૃતિના જીવો વૈરાગ્યના ત્યાગ માર્ગમાં સરળતાથી પ્રવેશ કરતા. તેમની હાજરી દરેકને સુવાસિત પુષ્પની જેમ આનંદ આપતી. પ્રભુના શાસનના સાચા પ્રભાવક તેઓ હતા અને રહેશે, માટે તેમને થતા વંદન પ્રમાણ છે, યોગ્ય છે અને ચંદનથી પણ શીતળ છે. આ છે મહાન આત્મા શ્રી ગૌતમસ્વામીના ગુણોની થોડીક ગરિમા. વધારે લખવાની, સાંભળવાની અને પચાવવાની આપણાં જેવા પામર માનવીની શક્તિ નથી.

સંકલન: સુશીલાબેન લક્ષ્મણભાઈ શાહ

## Ayambil

Navapad Oli starts on 21/10/12 and ends on 30/10/12.

Navapad Oli comes twice a year between the months of March/April and October/November. Devotees observe Ayambil tap during the nine days of Navapad Oli. Nava means nine in Sanskrit and Prakrit languages and Pada means post which means nine supreme posts of the universe. These nine are Arihant, Siddha, Acharya, Upadhyaya, Sadhu, Samyag Darshan, Samyag Jnyan, Samyag Charitra and Samyag Tapa.

This is the 52nd Ayambil Oli at Oshwal Centre Potters Bar. The family of Maniben Jethalal Kimjibhai is the sponsor for the Ayambil Haste Meenaben Narendra Shah. All devotees are welcomed to take part in the Ayambil.

## Diwali

Diwali has a very special significance in Jainism. On this day Lord Mahavir the last Tirthankara of the present era attained Nirvana at Pavapuri and became a Siddha. The following day which is the New Year Gautam Swami who was the 1st Gandar of Mahavir Bhagwan attained Kewal Gyan.

During the 3 days 12th, 13th and 14th November there will be Darshan, Pooja, Snatra Pooja and Angi. Anyone wishing to take part in the Angi please let the office know. The nakro for the Angi is £151.00. On Tuesday 13th November there will be a Chopda Poojan will take place at 7.30pm for which the nakro is £15.25.

**For further information and to register please contact:**

**Admin office @ Oshwal centre Tel: 01707 643 838.**

**Post your form or fax on 01707 644562**

**or email [admin@oshwal.org](mailto:admin@oshwal.org)**

**or any other queries call Aswin Shah evenings only on:**

**0777 577 0780 or [aswinshah@hotmail.com](mailto:aswinshah@hotmail.com).**

On the 14th November which is New Year's Day. The opening of the Jinalay Door will take place at 6.30am for which the nakro is £251.00. Anyone who wishes to take part please let the office know.

Diwali and New Year's fall in the weekday so we have also got a programme on Sunday 17th November at Oshwal Centre so please participate.

## Kartik Poonam – Pat Darshan

### The significance of Kartik Poonam

Kartik Poonam night is considered as the brightest full moon night in the whole year as the rainy season is supposed to end and the night sky is all clear.

Bhagwants, Sadhu's, Sadhviji's stay at one place and do not travel for four months which start on Ashadh Sud Chatrdashi and ends on Kartik Poonam. Their Vihar will start and move from town to town to reveal the truth of Religion. Ahimsa and compassion.

We will do a Bhav Yatra of Siddhachal and Pat Darshan on this day. The sponsor for this programme is Indiraben Rameshbhai and family. The family would like to invite all the devotees to the programme.

**On behalf of the Religious Committee,  
Varsha Dilip Shah**







# Oshwal Enabling Education Fair 2012

*Article by, Varsha Shah*

If education is seen as a shining beacon of light, the metaphor certainly held true on Sunday 20 August at Oshwal Centre. The sun blazed down on hundreds of people gathered together for the Enabling Education Fair, the aim of which was two-fold: to educate and inspire all to achieve their highest potential and to raise awareness about a range of disability issues so that people of all abilities could seek out and access educational opportunities. It set up a range of questions - what does education mean to Oshwals? What are the best methods to educate? How can everyone access it? And then set out to answer them.

## "To begin at the beginning"

Education means learning about and from the past, and the Gujarati village, set up by a team of volunteers at the Fair, allowed people to do just that through a sensory experience that involved a recreation of the sounds of laughter and clatter; the sights of carpentry tools, paintings, pottery, grinding stones, schools, musical instruments, medicine; and the smell of freshly made cornets of nuts, khichri, and rotla; that formed part of village life for the ancestors of Oshwals. "It is really nice," said Diptee Kimasia and her son Nishil surveying the scene.

The village was not just composed of still scenes. Purna Shah balancing vessels on her head showed the swaying dance that women would do when collecting water from the well. A garba dance was also done - to the delight of visitors. Kids who had come to the fair and had their hands adorned with hena patterns, brought music to the mix as they hit thubla and chimed bells.

Mayuri Shah was showing the recreated village to her daughter Poonam and described her own experiences at a village that she had visited some years back with her mother in India "we saw buffalo, and ate fresh gingra, and saw chillies drying in the sun. This is bringing it all back."

## Methods of Education

From the past to the present, and a variety of stalls were set up to assist visitors looking at different aspects of education in England and abroad.

Heena Pravin Shah, an HR Professional, who was giving one-to-one advice on CVs, advised people to tailor their CVs to both the job and the level of job that they were applying for: "CVs should be short and sweet, they are a selling tool, and should include a personal profile, key achievements, work history, education, and hobbies and leisure interests." Hema Shah, a

radiotherapist, warned that it was important when looking for a job that people, "follow their own passion, do what they enjoy, what they are interested in - if people are not interested, you can tell, they don't perform well."

Ben Butters from the University of Hertfordshire, and Tom Pearson from Imperial College London, advised University students to do work placements in the holidays to get experience, improve their job prospects and, in some cases, get sponsorship. Ben added that he would advise students, "to make sure they do very well in their 1st year," as this could be important in getting these work placements.

Ajay Gudka talked about the charity BEHT, "the thought behind it was how can we help people in poverty? The only answer, education." Harsha and Ketan Shah talked about the student and parent experience, emphasizing that in terms of education: "there is not one route for everyone, it is important to see what is right for the child."



## Talks and Debates

Visitors had access to a number of talks on various aspects of Education. One of the talks was given by Leena Hurloll, Head of Education Law at Moore Blatch Solicitors, on how to ensure that if a child has special education needs, these are addressed so that he or she is able to access learning and education (for example through the mechanisms of additional support in class or through a statutory assessment process that leads to a Statement of Special Education Needs).

One of the highlights of the day was a fiercely argued debate on whether state education is better for children than private education. Convincing arguments were raised by both sides - the cost of private education vs the smaller class sizes, the results on league tables vs the self confidence that going to a

private school may give, the achievements of those from non-private school vs the achievements of those from private schools. In the end the winning team, by a narrow margin, was that arguing that state education is better - but it seemed likely that this was a debate that would continue in homes and in the Oshwal community well after the vote.



## Score

Wheelchair basketball. The rules were simple: two teams, each aiming to get more goals than the other. Players adapted quickly to both the wheel chairs and the rules (on receipt of a ball a player could only turn the wheels twice and then had to pass or bounce the ball). The ensuing games were accompanied by Mexican waves, cheering and shouts from the crowd. Players twisted and spun, tackled each other, bounced and passed the balls - all with one aim: to get them into the baskets. "It was fun," said Archana Shah, "a good experience," added Khilan Khimasia, as they came off the court.



## And next?

The Enabling Education Fair ended with a number of questions answered, but many new ones raised: is the reason for education just to obtain high-paying jobs, or is it for something more? What does success mean? In the current economic climate, how can Oshwals help each other to overcome the barriers to education and employment?

The Fair showed that Oshwals care deeply about education – both access to education and methods of education. It will be interesting to see how the next challenge, "what should that education be used for?" is faced.

## About the Oshwal Enabling Education Fair

The Fair explored two key themes – Education and Disability and aimed to educate and inspire all to achieve their highest potential as well as to raise awareness about a range of disability issues to inspire people of all abilities to seek out education opportunities.

### Talks & Debates

The following talks took place at the Fair:

- Getting into University: An Overview – by Michael Husband
- Pathways through Education in Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy – by Upen Patel and Prof. Soraya Dhillon
- Getting into Medical Schools – by, Priya Shah and Punam Shah
- National Specialist Colleges – by, Anne Price
- Technology Demonstration – by, Jackie Harber
- Studying at University with Disabilities – by, Carolyn Hunt
- Parents' role in school governance – by, Meena Modi
- Funding your Child's Education – by, Neville Pereira
- National Career Services – by, Angus Laing
- Education Law – by, Leena Hurloll
- "If ignorance is bliss, then knowledge is ecstasy: The value of a good education stretches far beyond its utility in providing a source of income" – by, Deepak Shah
- Supportive Parenting to aid learning and development – by, Roshni Shah
- Coping with Dementia – by, Hansaben Shah
- Sensory Activation Solutions – by, Steven Michaelis
- Respite Care – by, Mahilesh & Raxa Shah
- Eat, Breathe and Love – by, Dr. Komal Shah
- A Career in Teaching – by, Dharmini Shah

You can download the presentation slides from these talks from the Oshwal Website: [www.oshwal.co.uk/talks-debates](http://www.oshwal.co.uk/talks-debates)

### Practical Sessions

The following practical sessions took place at the Fair:

- First Aid Demonstration given by members from St. John's Ambulance
- Debate : State vs. Private Education hosted by Kirit Modi
- One-to-One Interviews with CV reviews and Mock Medical Interviews

### Stalls & Zones

The following stalls exhibited at the Fair:

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| • Acacia Homecare         | • Merchant Taylor's School               |
| • Aloe Vera               | • National Career Services (LearnDirect) |
| • Bank of Baroda          | • National Specialist Colleges           |
| • BHET                    | • Oshwal Business & Professional Network |
| • Explore Learning        | • PricewaterhouseCoopers                 |
| • Hertfordshire Link      | • Reach-to-Teach                         |
| • Iansyst                 | • Sensory Activation Solutions           |
| • Imperial College London | • Sigma                                  |
| • Kidney Research UK      | • Squire Computers                       |
| • King's College London   | • University of Herts.                   |
| • Leena Hurloll           |  |
| • Maths & Physics Tutor   |  |
| • Mathscool               |  |

Check out the photos, videos and presentations from the Fair on the Oshwal Website:

[www.oshwal.co.uk/enabling-education](http://www.oshwal.co.uk/enabling-education)



# GUJARATI VILLAGE – ગુજરાતી ગામડું



Article by, Mradula Shah (Education Chairlady) – મૃદુલા શાહ [શિક્ષણ અધ્યક્ષ]

All of our forefathers originated from a group of 52 villages (Bavan Gaam), near Jamnagar in India.

The Oshwal Enabling Fair was the ideal opportunity to recreate a model of a typical Gujarati Village, in order to help people, especially children to learn about some of our history and culture.

All the areas were invited to participate in the project, and each was given the task of representing different aspects of village life.

A tour of our village would have started with a visit to a temple, which would have been central to the life of the village.

આપણા સૌના પિતૃઓ, જામનગરની બાજુમાં આવેલાં બાવન ગામના જૂથમાંથી આવ્યા હતા.

‘ઓશવાળ એનેબ્લિંગ ફેર’એ અમને એક સુંદર મોકો આપ્યો હતો, જેમાં એક મોડેલ લાક્ષણિક ગુજરાતી ગામડાની રચના કરીને લોકોને અને ખાસ તો બાળકોને આપણાં ઇતિહાસ અને સંસ્કૃતિ શીખવામાં મદદ કરી શકાય તેમ હતું.

દરેક પરાંને ભાગ લેવા માટે આમંત્રણ આપવામાં આવ્યું હતું, અને દરેકને ગુજરાતી

ગ્રામજીવનના જુદા જુદા પાસાને રજૂ કરવાની જવાબદારી આપવામાં આવી હતી.

આપણા આ ગામની દૂર, ગામના જીવનનું જે બિંદુ છે તે મંદિરના દર્શનથી શરૂ થતી હતી.



A typical home was recreated by the North East area, in which they had on display utensils in the kitchen and ladies making khichadi rotla on fire. There were also ladies doing traditional embroidery (Rabari Bharatkaam) and mehendi art work.

નોર્થ ઈસ્ટ વિભાગે એક લાક્ષણિક ઘરની રચના કરી હતી, જેમાં તેમણે રસોડામાં વાસણોનું પ્રદર્શન કર્યું હતું અને તેમાં સ્ત્રીઓ ચૂલા પર ખીચડી રોટલા બનાવી રહી હતી. બીજી બહેનો રબારી ભરતકામ અને મેહંદી કળાનું પ્રદર્શન કરી રહી હતી.



The North West Area created a lively and entertaining scene of village life with people gossiping around the well with a traditionally dressed “panihaari” distributing water round the village.

નોર્થ વેસ્ટ વિભાગે, પરંપરાગત પોશાકમાં સજ્જ થયેલી અને ગામના ફૂવાની આસપાસ વાતોના વડા બનાવતી પનિહારીઓ ગામમાં પાણી વહેંચતી હોય, એવા ગ્રામજીવનના પ્રવૃત્તિમય અને મનોરંજક માહોલની રચના કરી હતી.

Each village would have had a council known as a Panchayat who would have had settled disputes that arose in the community. The East area created quite an attraction in performing five short dramas solving typical problems whilst dressed in Kathiavadi attire.

સમાજમાં ઉદ્ભવતા ઝઘડાઓના ઉકેલ શોધવા માટે દરેક ગામમાં પંચાયત બેસતી. ઈસ્ટ વિભાગના સભ્યોએ કાઠિયાવાડી પોશાક પહેરીને, મુસીબતોને ઉકેલવા માટે, પાંચ નાના નાના નાટકો રજૂ કરીને ખૂબ આકર્ષણ પેદા કર્યું હતું.







Farming would have been the major source of income for most villagers, but there would have been other professions in the village to fulfil the needs of the people.

The West area had a display showing the wares of carpenters and blacksmiths. Luton area had created a scene of a working tailors shop with ladies stitching blouses and shoemakers with men repairing and polishing sandals. The Wednesday Club had put on a pottery display with interactive painting for children.

મોટા ભાગના ગ્રામજનો માટે ખેતી એ મુખ્ય વ્યવસાય રહેતો, તેમ છતાં ગામના લોકોની જરૂરિયાતો પૂરી પાડવા માટે ગામમાં બીજા કારીગરો પણ તેમનો કામઘંઘો કરતા.

વેસ્ટ વિભાગે સુથાર અને લુહારના ઓજારોનું પ્રદર્શન કર્યું હતું.

લુટન વિભાગે દરજીની દુકાનની રચના કરી હતી જેમાં બહેનો કબજા સીવી રહી હતી, અને મોચીની દુકાનમાં મોચીભાઈ ચંપલ સીવી રહ્યા હતા અને તેને પાલીસથી ચમકાવી રહ્યા હતા.

વેનસ્ડે ક્લબે કુંભારીકામનું પ્રદર્શન કર્યું હતું અને તેમાં બાળકો માટીના વાસણોમાં રંગ પૂરવા આવતા હતા.



The North Area Sakhi Mandal Ladies created a village grocery shop and had all the rations and spices(Karayana) on display in handmade jute bags. Of course there would have also been a school, which was created by the North area who had teachers with children sitting on the floor and writing on slate boards.

નોર્થ વિભાગના સખી મંડળે ગામડાની કરિયાણાની દુકાનની રચના કરી હતી અને હાથેથી બનાવેલી શણની ગુણીઓમાં બધા જ રાશન અને મરીમસાલાનું પ્રદર્શન કર્યું હતું. અને ગામની નિશાળ તો હોય જ ને? નોર્થ વિભાગે નીશાળની રચના કરી હતી અને તેમાં શિક્ષકો જમીન પર બેસીને બાળકોને સ્લેટની પાટી પર શીખવી રહ્યા હતા.



At the end of the tour visitors would have seen a map of the 52 villages showing the distance from one village to other produced by Sudhirbhai.

ટૂરની અંતે મુલાકાતીઓ સુધીરભાઈએ તૈયાર કરેલો બાવન ગામનો નકશો જોઈ શકતા, જેમાં એક ગામથી બીજા ગામ સુધીનું અંતર પણ બતાવવામાં આવ્યું હતું.

Last but not least there was a cart with real bullocks providing rides around the Oshwal Centre.

છેલ્લે, પણ જરાય ઊતરતું નહીં, એવું એક ગાડું પણ હતું જેમાં સાચા બળદો ઓશવાળ સેન્ટરની સહેલ કરાવતા હતા.



There are too many people to mention everybody personally, but I would like to thank all the volunteers for their time, effort and enthusiasm in making this project such a resounding success.

ઘણા બધા લોકોએ આ કામમાં સાથ આપ્યો હતો અને દરેકનું નામ આપવું શક્ય નથી, પણ હું બધા જ સ્વયંસેવકોનો આભાર માનું છું કે તેમના સમય, ઉત્સાહ અને તેમની મહેનતને કારણે આ પ્રોજેક્ટ આટલો સફળતા પામ્યો.



# Oshwal Enterprise Programme 2012 Kenya

*Happiness does not come from doing easy work but from the afterglow of satisfaction that comes after the achievement of a difficult task that demanded our best.*

*- Theodore Isaac Rubin*

As our group sat in the departure lounge of Kenya Airways at Heathrow Airport on 6th July, we discussed what we were going to do to make our trip as productive as possible. We were all uncertain of what to expect. What were the industries going to be like? What was the accommodation going to be like?

After an 8 hour flight we arrived at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport at approximately 6.45am local time where we were greeted by Jinit and Jay-members of the Economic Council of Oshwals (ECO). We were taken to Oshwal Boarding, where we were talked through the itinerary for the week and many of our questions were answered. After a chance to freshen up, we set off for our first industry of the trip - Acme Containers - a plastics manufacturing company. Here, we were given an insight into how the industry began and the various different processes involved in manufacturing plastics such as injection-molding and were given demonstrations of how each product is tested thoroughly before being given the go ahead to be distributed into the market.

Upon completing our tour of the factory, we were taken to the Nakumatt in Village Market, where we were pointed out various different products which had been manufactured by an Oshwal Member. It was surprising to see the wide range of products available. One point which was made very clear to us was the importance of keeping up with the constantly changing market, and targeting a particular market.

The next day we were lucky to get a taste of the Nairobi wildlife before the busy week ahead of us.

We set off very early in the morning for our first stop: a game drive at Nairobi National Park. After completing the drive we set off toward Dephne (David) Sheldrick- the elephant orphanage, where we saw the elephants being fed. Our final visit of the day was the Giraffe Centre, where we had the chance to feed the giraffes.

Later in the evening, we attended a welcome dinner at the Oshwal Academy Nairobi, where we had the opportunity to introduce ourselves to each of the directors and owners of the businesses we were due to visit.

On Monday morning, we set off towards Kapa Oil Refineries, where we were taken on a tour around their Mombasa road factory. We were guided through all the various factories, and saw processes such as the purification of oil, and the by-products which were produced as a result. We saw how these by-products were then used to produce products such as bars of soap and washing powder. This way everything is recycled and waste is kept to a minimum. Various cooking oils, soaps and detergents are only a few products they produce. Mabati Rolling Mills (MRM) was the next industry we visited. Here, we had the opportunity to listen to and ask questions to Kaushik Shah, CEO of MRM. We all found the talk very fascinating and learnt about the background, foundations and future thoughts behind the very successful business. Sanpac Ltd, a plastic packaging company, was the final visit of the day. We were shown the various different types of machinery being used and were shown prototypes of existing packaging.



During the evening, we took part in a business game at the Oshwal Boarding run by Dr. Mittal, Principal of Oshwal College. The game was interesting and very enjoyable; it put to use our negotiation skills in buying and selling as well as showing off our creativity.

Tuesday began with a visit to Chandaria Industries, primarily manufacturing paper/tissue based products. Next, we visited Kenafric Industries, famous for its confectionary and now producing stationary and footwear too.

In the evening we took part in a football match with the local Oshwals. It was a great way of team-building, and we also got a chance to wind down after a busy day.

On Wednesday morning, we left for Furniture International, where we saw the wide range of furniture being produced. The high standards of quality and precision were clear; each piece of furniture had been designed for a particular purpose. Soon after, we set off for Deepa Industries, famous for its chevdo amongst all its other products such as its wide range of spices branded under the name of 'Tropical Heat'. Polyflex, was the next industry we visited – another plastic manufacturing industry. ROK Industries, a candle making factory, was the final visit of the day. Being a fairly new business, we were able to question the difficulties and hurdles faced when initially starting the business. This was very interesting, as we heard how they planned to develop their business in the future. We spent the evening at leisure eating out in Art Caffe in Westgate – a definite favourite for us all.

On Thursday, we headed for Jetlak Industries- manufacturers of various juices and peanut butter, in Ruiru. Later, we left for Visa Oshwal Mahajanwadi in Thika. Here we had a chance to admire the beautiful Jain Derasar from both the outside and inside. We then set off for Broadway bakery, where we were shown the manufacturing process of bread – we were even able to taste some which had been freshly made...it was delicious! Our final stop of the day was at Thika Cloth Mills, where we given a tour of the factory and shown the different processes involved in cloth-making.

Being one of the final nights at boarding, we decided that we wanted to taste some of the local cuisine. The chefs at Oshwal Boarding kindly made Spinach and Oogali for us, which to some of us was a bit like marmite – we either liked it or we didn't!

On Friday morning, we departed for Nakuru. On arriving at Nakuru wey visited the Rose farm, followed by the Spin Knit factory, and lastly the

animal feeds factory. In the evening, we went to the Oshwal Mahajanwadi, where we were introduced to the Oshwal community of Nakuru. We stayed overnight in Nakuru.

On the penultimate day of our trip, once we had arrived back in Nairobi, we had the opportunity to visit the local market and purchase some curios.

For the six due to return home, most of Sunday was spent packing in preparation for their return flights later that evening. The four of us, who had extended our stay, remained back in Nairobi. We enjoyed a final meal together at a local restaurant before parting ways.

### A few notes from us:

"This trip has definitely been an eye-opener to the world of business. I found it particularly inspirational, and am very thankful to have had this opportunity to see in action the way in which industries operate in Kenya. Observing the various different processes involved in each of the manufacturing industries was truly fascinating- the uniqueness of each product was simply captivating. I was pleasantly surprised at how far the economy has developed in Kenya over the years and how so many members of our Oshwal community have set-up and are running successful businesses. One aspect which has really stood out amongst all the businesses which we visited, and I feel has added to their success, is their future planning and positive approach towards their business. The emphasis on 'quality' as opposed to 'quantity' was clear. I found our visit to 'Deepa Industries' in particular, to be most interesting. Their high standard of quality control was impressive, and the reason behind their success was evident. The knowledge I have gained from this experience has been invaluable and has opened me up to the increasingly attractive possibility of starting my own business. This entrepreneurial trip has proven to be just as fruitful as I had anticipated and I would strongly recommend other students who are either interested in business or maybe wish to start their own business in the future, to apply for a place on the trip next year!" - **Aarti Rumeet Shah**

"One of the key messages taken away from the trip was the fact that modern management techniques are being deployed with great effect in Kenya. Kenafric certainly stood out as a business fully immersed in delivering Kaizen. Branding expertise is something that is also not a uniquely western phenomenon, as evidenced by the success of



“Tropical Heat”. Arguably the highlight of the trip was the chance to meet Kaushik Shah, CEO of Mabati Rolling Mills who elaborated on the central conflict that faced many of us: that between entrepreneurialism and managerialism. His advice was invaluable in crystalizing the thought that the 2 require remarkably different skill-sets and that while young there does remain a real choice between these paths. All in all, the trip provided a fantastic insight into how businesses can operate successfully in challenging environments and many of the insights gained are applicable not just to Kenya but, arguably, the world over.” – **Parin Bhupes Shah**

“If I had to describe the Kenya Enterprise trip in three words they would be: fun, eye-opening and inspirational. Despite there being only two females amongst the eight male, we all instantly bonded and became friends. As a group, we visited many different industries which taught and exposed us to different situations. As well as meeting new people and visiting different places, we also had the opportunity to explore Kenya and enjoy the Kenyan nightlife. From the industries we visited, one particular word that stuck out was 'kaizen' - meaning "continuous improvement" in Japanese. This philosophy, famously used by Toyota, was adopted in nearly all the businesses we visited in Kenya where people at all levels of the organisation were aware of kaizen, from the CEO down to the factory workers. It was truly incredible to witness and meet some of the successful Oshwal's in Kenya. had our own personal driver Peter, who took us everywhere and made the trip entertaining. From driving us to the industries, to a football match-where we played against fellow Oshwal members, to picking the group up at 4am after a night in town we definitely won't forget Peter and the impact he made on us. The experience I gained from the Kenya enterprise trip was amazing. I learnt that there is little chance of success in business without a well thought-out

(VISION) and executed strategy. Plan, Deliver, And Succeed.” - **Priya Rajesh Shah**

“As the attention shifts from developed to developing economies, and as Africa’s impact on the global economy begins to unfold, several entrepreneurs, including those within the manufacturing industry are looking to move operations to Africa in search for cheaper labour and new target markets.

Within East Africa, Kenya is a prime example; with its government investing several billions of dollars into its infrastructure along with its recently reformed constitution has made it a hotspot for potential investors, including entrepreneurs within the manufacturing industry.

The Oshwal Enterprise programme will provide the perfect platform for those interested in gaining an insight into Kenya’s manufacturing industry and its diverse product portfolio. What’s interesting is that in a country where basic utilities such as electricity and water cannot be taken for granted, businesses continue to grow exponentially and directors of such companies themselves explain their strategies to tackle issues such as these.

Along with the ability to understand the industry is the opportunity to network with some of the most successful and inspirational entrepreneurs within East Africa and possibly create and develop business links.” – **Vidyesh Ashok Shah**

---

A special thanks to everyone who helped organise this trip: the Oshwal Committee in UK, the ECO in Nairobi for accommodating us and making us feel welcome, to Peter for everything, and to all the industries we visited for making our experience memorable!

***One thing we learnt for sure is: “don't aim for success if you want it; just do what you love and believe in and it will come naturally”***

---

- David Frost

## **Oshwal Enterprise Students 2012**

Aarti Rumeet Shah, Dhruman Piyush Shah, Parin Bhupes Shah,  
Pratik Dhiren Shah, Priya Rajesh Shah, Rahul Jatish Malde,

Rahul Pradeep Amin, Raj Nalinkumar Shah, Rajan Manoj Shah and Vidyesh Ashok Shah.



# Education Report

*by E.C.Education  
Committee*

## Asset Exams at Oshwal Centre

South Area School started entering candidates for Asset examinations offered by the OCR Examination Board three years ago. Other area's schools wished to enter their pupils for these examinations as well, but could not find any examination centre that would permit their candidates to take the exams.

To resolve the issue, the Education Committee approached OCR board and applied for the Oshwal Centre to become a registered centre. Our application was approved and we became a Centre for Asset examinations in 2012 and were able to enter candidates for these examinations.

North Area, North East Area and Luton Area participated and about 40 children were able to take the examinations in June 2012. Most of our candidates took the exams in all four skills – Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing but a few opted out for the spoken components only.

We entered our students for the Breakthrough level in which a student can achieve a level 3 as the top level and for Preliminary level in which a student can achieve a level 6 as the top level. We hope to enter some students for Intermediate in which a Level 9 can be achieved as the top level.

We are very proud of the outstanding results achieved by our pupils and the names of all those who took the exams are as follows:

Khetia: Milan Pradeep  
Mistry: Dharmesh Pravin  
Malde: Anjali Vimal  
Mistry: Chetna Pravin  
Raja: Shivam Bipin  
Malde: Nikhil Vimal  
Popatia: Nikita Nalin  
Ruparel: Krina Sachin  
Shukla: Aanya Jigneshkumar  
Patel: Kishen Shiv  
Sheth: Anish Kalpesh  
Depala: Yashvi Manish  
Mody: Riya Rahul

Shah: Aayushi  
Shah: Jinal Anup  
Raghvani: Khush Dinesh  
Shah: Niralee Ashok  
Shah: Rahul  
Shah: Ritik  
Chauhan: Karishma Jayesh  
Shah: Jasmine Punial  
Tank: Mohit Suresh  
Jagatiya: Nikita Bhikhulal  
Shah: Riya Ashwin  
Shah: Shaina Retesh  
Mistry: Shayna Jitendra

Sharma: Vidhisha Haikesh  
Shah: Vivek Keval  
Patel: Karishma Mayur  
Malde: Tanay Parul  
Khetia: Roshni Pradeep  
Raja: Jai Bipin  
Patel: Umika  
Shah: Tanvi Ketan  
Patel: Sophia Anya  
Dahya: Roshni Jitendra  
Maisuria: Krishna  
Jakharia: Chloe Asha

We would like to extend our thanks to the Oshwal Centre Office staff and committee members for their part in the running of the exams. Our special thanks must go to Kusumben Shah who was instrumental in setting up the whole process.

**Report by,**

**E.C. Education Committee**



Where are we  
now? Where do  
we want to go?

Jai Jinendra,  
Michami Dukadam

The 31st of August was a historical day for OAUK. As you all probably know, we completed the purchase of "Oshwal Ekta Centre".

The acquisition of this new centre could not have been possible without the support of a large number of Oshwals who generously donated towards the centre. With sums received from two hundred and fifty thousand pounds; to ten pounds and eighty pence. Your generosity and support is our motivation and a source of pride!

We have reached the 50% mark and still need the remaining 50%!

I appeal to all Oshwals in the UK to support us and help us reach our target.

We are indebted to the volunteers who have been visiting door to door. Some of the experiences are exceptional! The warmth and generosity of our Oshwals is inspiring and touching.

An Organisation like our need funds continuously to progress, improve facilities and cater for all our members; our elders, young families and most important of all to instil in our children Jain and Oshwal Values

Show your support ! Donate Generously.

We now have three properties. That is where we are! We want to have a property in every part of the UK!

Please join the £120 scheme because that is the easiest way we can do what we all want to do! In reality it is equivalent to just one third of a can Coke Cola as day! Need I say more!

What are you waiting for? Minutes spent reading this have already gone and will not come back!

**Please!**

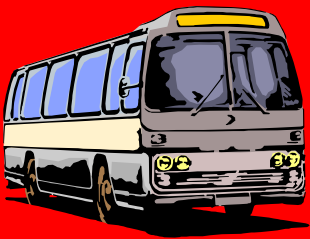
**Happy Diwali and a Prosperous New Year!**

**Jai Oshwal,**

**Ashok Mulchand Shah**

---





# Visit Oshwal Centre & Deraser

## At Potters Bar by OAUK Organised Coach

**Concept** – We want to give all life members an opportunity to visit the OAUK centre and deraser – especially those who do not have transport.

**When** – Fridays – **the programme has been approved to continue until 31/08/13 subject to demand**

### Coach Runs -

28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	North	starting from Lodge Lane (9.30am) to Waitrose, Totteridge to Odean Cinema to Centre
5 <sup>th</sup> Oct	North West	starting from Kenton Library (9am) to Queensbury Stn to Canons Park Stn to Edgware Stn to Centre
12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	West & Luton	Starting from Lampton Road, Hounslow(8.30am), TW3 4DN to Travel Lodge Luton, 641 Dunstable Road, LU4 8RQ to Centre
19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	North East	starting from Bounds Green Stn (9.30am) to Southgate Stn to Cockfosters Stn to Centre
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct - Ayembil	North West	starting from Kenton Library (9am) to Queensbury Stn to Canons Park Stn to Edgware Stn to Centre
2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	North	starting from Kenton Library (9am) to Lodge Lane to Waitrose, Totteridge to Odeon Cinema to Centre
9 <sup>th</sup> Nov	West & North West	starting from Lampton Road, Hounslow(8.30am), TW3 4DN to Kenton Library (9.15am) to Queensbury Stn to Canons Park Stn to Edgware Stn to Centre

**Cost** – **Part-subsidised by the £120 Scheme** – £3 per member for Transport & £2 per member for Lunch when there is no donation respectively – places for **both** must be registered beforehand with Area Contact person

### Programme

10.00am – 10.15am – Arrival & Mingle  
 10.15am - onwards – Deraser activities – including Snatra Pooja – NO nakro  
 10.15am – 11.15am – Yoga – please bring your mat  
 11.15am – 12.45pm – Card games including Bhukhar  
 11.45am - 12.45pm – Gentle exercises  
 1pm - 1.45pm – Jain Lunch  
 1.45pm - 2.25pm – Talk or Discussion or Games or Activity  
 2.30pm– Depart

### Donations

**We welcome donations - £200 towards the coach & £201 in total for the lunch – Please contact the office at the centre or Rahul (details below).**

**Contacts for more info (if phoning please only call between 5pm -9pm):**

#### North

**Saroj Shashi Shah**  
 Tel: 020 8420 4606  
 Email: [saroj\\_45@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:saroj_45@hotmail.co.uk)  
**Ramesh Govindji Shah**  
 Tel: 020 8446 3051

#### North East

**Taraben Ratilal Patani**  
 Tel: 020 8886 4400  
 Email: [tara@keya.co.uk](mailto:tara@keya.co.uk)  
**Ratilal Vidhubhai Shah**  
 Tel: 020 8361 2693  
 Email: [ratilalmalde@googlemail.com](mailto:ratilalmalde@googlemail.com)

#### North West

**Ramnik Hirji Shah**  
 Tel: 020 8933 7247  
**Shantilal Ranmal Shah**  
 Tel: 020 8907 0965  
**Sushilaben Laxman Shah**  
 Tel: 020 8907 1570

#### Luton

**Chandra Dhiraj Shah**  
 Tel: 01582 575 129  
 m) 07961 131 936  
 Email: [chandrashah@hotmail.com](mailto:chandrashah@hotmail.com)

#### West

**Keshavji Nathoo Shah (Columbo)**  
 m) 07735 382 657  
 Email: [kncolumbo@hotmail.com](mailto:kncolumbo@hotmail.com)

#### East

**Lalitaben Amritlal Shah**  
 Tel: 020 8220 8827

### Centre

**Joint Project Co-ordinator:** Malti Jayant Shah – home: 020 8903 9058 email: [maljay50@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:maljay50@hotmail.co.uk)  
**Joint Project Co-ordinator:** Kishor Fulchand Shah – mobile: 07887 500 818 email: [kishorfulshah@hotmail.com](mailto:kishorfulshah@hotmail.com)  
**Catering Co-ordinator:** Sushila Dhirajlal Malde – hone: 020 8958 1183 mobile: 07884 223 836  
**Project Advisor/Logistics:** Rahul Kachra Haria – mobile: 07939 076 510 or email: [rahul@houseofharia.com](mailto:rahul@houseofharia.com)  
**EC Representative:** Mradula Babulal Shah – home: 020 8441 4387

આ શરૂ કરવા નો એકજ હેતુ હતો. આપણાં વડીલો કે જેઓ મુસાફરી ના સાધનો નથી વાપરતાં તેઓ દેરાસરે આવી શકે.

ક્યારે – શુક્રવારે - તા- ૩૧/૮/૨૦૧૩ શુધી આ કાર્યક્રમ ની અનુમતિ મળેલ છે

૧૯ ઓક્ટોબર નોર્થ ઈસ્ટ, બાઉન્સ ગ્રીન સ્ટેશન (૯.૩૦.) સાઉથ ગેઇટ, કોકફોસ્ટર થી સેન્ટરે.

૨૯ ઓક્ટોબર નોર્થ વેસ્ટ કેન્ટન લાઈબ્રેરી સવારે ૯.૦૦ વાગ્યે, ક્વીન્સબરી , કેનન પાર્ક સ્ટેશન,

૨ નવેમ્બર નોર્થ ન્ટન લાઈબ્રેરી સવારે ૯.૦૦ વાગ્યે, લોજ લેન (૯.૩૦) વેઇટરોઝ, ટોટરીજ, ઓડિયન સિનેમા થી સેન્ટરે

૯ નવેમ્બર વેસ્ટ & નોર્થ વેસ્ટ શરૂ લંપટોન રોડ હંસલો (૯.૩૦) TW3 4DN થી

કેન્ટન લાઈબ્રેરી સવારે ૯.૦૦ વાગ્યે, ક્વીન્સબરી , કેનન પાર્ક સ્ટેશન, એજવેર થી સેન્ટરે.

ભાવ - £ ૧૨૦.૦૦ ની સ્કીમ માથી થોડી રાહત – મેમ્બર ના £ ૩.૦૦ બસ ભાડું અને £ ૨.૦૦ જમણ ના જૈન ભોજન

પોતાની સગવડે આવનાર ના £ ૨.૦૦ જમણ ના. ત્રણ દિવસ પહેલા આપના નામ લખાવવા મહેરબાની કરશો.

જમણ કે બસ ના દાતાર હશે, ત્યારે ભાડું કે જમણ ના પૈસા લેવામાં નહીં આવે.

દાતાર :- જો કોઈ ને જાત્રા કરાવવા નો લાભ લેવો હોય તો :- બસ ના £ ૨૦૦.૦૦- જમણ ના £ ૨૦૧.૦૦ આપી

સમૂહ માં કરાવેલ સંઘ જાત્રા નું પુણ્ય નું ભાતું બાંધી શકશે. નામ વહેલી તકે ઓફિસમાં આપશો.

પ્રોગ્રામ :

૧૦.૧૫ / દેરાસર પ્રવૃત્તિ સ્નાત્ર પૂજા ૧૧.૪૫ / ૧૨.૪૫ કસરત ,યોગા ૨.૩૦ વિદાય

૧૦.૧૫ /૧૧.૧૫,યોગા, પોતાની ચાદર ૧.૦૦ / ૧.૪૫ જમવાનું

૧૧.૧૫ / ૧૨.૪૫ પત્તા, ભુખાર રમત ૧.૪૫ / ૨.૨૫ વાર્તાલાપ,રમત

---



## ICAEW President graces Flemmings' offices

*Pictured: Back Row from left to right: Sailesh Shah, Hitesh Shah and Sumi Shah of Flemmings  
Front Row: Mr Mark Spofforth, President of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales*

**F**lemmings, a multi-disciplinary accountancy and business advisory firm, founded in 1989 and based in Croydon, Surrey, was graced by President of ICAEW Mr Mark Spofforth and his colleagues on Friday 14 September 2012 for the fourth time in a decade.

ICAEW is world-renowned and leading accountancy body in the UK with about 140,000 qualified members. Flemmings as a member firm has been working closely with the Institute for the last 2 decades and the senior partner, Hitesh Shah, also sits on the Learning and Professional Development Board of the Institute.

Hitesh Shah, mentioned that the Oshwal Community can proudly claim that about 600 individuals are members of ICAEW throughout the world but mainly based in the UK.

Raaxeet Shah, OAUk President, along with various OAUk Executive Committee members also attended this impressive gathering of professionals from the accounting, regulatory and legal professions.

Following a short reception and networking session, Mr Mark Spofforth shared his thoughts as key note speaker. His main message was the need for good governance and better regulation.

Following on Hitesh Shah provided a brief overview of how Flemmings was established in 1989 and how it has grown as a firm to its current size and strength with 3 Partners and 70 staff (including the satellite office in India). The three Partners – Hitesh Shah, Sailesh Shah and Sumi Shah – have strived to enshrine Jain principles in their business and personal lives with

attributes such as fair dealing, with clients, honesty and treating customers fairly.

We have learnt that Flemmings have trained well over 200 Chartered and Certified Accountants over the last 2 decades and very pleasing is that within this number there are probably over 100 Oshwals. Some of these Oshwals who qualified from Flemmings have gone on to setting up their own businesses and becoming partners of other accountancy practices. In addition, Flemmings have always encouraged children between the ages 14 - 18 through their unique internship programme spanning 1- 4 weeks to see what Chartered Accountancy is all about.

Rati Shah of the OAUk Executive Committee, who was also present at this visit, very humbly put it to Flemmings: *"You are certainly one of the role models of the Oshwal Community and I take pride of having witnessed your achievements on Friday."*

Raaxeet H Shah, Hon President OAUk, who was also present at the visit said: *"Sailesh, Hitesh & Sumitra have put together all the ingredients of a successful 'family' business whilst aiming for professionalism at its highest level. They are indeed a role model and a beacon of what is possible and what can be achieved with dedication and the right ethos. Many successful Accountants of the future may cite Flemmings as a major influence".*



*Pictured from left to right: Ashok Shah, Nilesch Shah, Rati Shah, Sailesh Shah, Mr Mark Spofforth, Sumi Shah, Hitesh Shah, Raaxeet Shah, Ashish Patani, Ramesh Shah and Rajni Shah*





## East Area

### 3 day Trip to Antwerp Derasar & Floriade Park – 11th May to 13th May 2012

Antwerp Jain temple is dedicated to Parshvanathji, the 23rd tirthankara, it was he who developed the basic philosophy of Jainism. It is the 1st Jain temple in the European mainland with two predecessors in the U.K.

Antwerp temple is the Gujarati equivalent of a classical Northern or Indo-Aryan style building.

Here is a detailed report on the spiritual journey to Antwerp Derasar taken by members of East Area & North-West area in May 2012:

**Day 1:** Two 48 seater coaches collected passengers from both North-West and East area. Each passenger was given a packed lunch and snacks to eat on the ferry which they boarded in Dover. Once they reached Calais, they made a detour to Bruges (Belgium) as the tour manager Divianbhai recommended seeing the sights there rather than in Brussels before making their way to Antwerp. Bruges is famous for its chocolates and knitted items e.g. bedspreads & tablecloths. Here everybody was attracted to one particular shop which was selling Belgian waffles, pretzels & ice-cream, the smell alone enticed everyone to buy a tasty treat! Once they reached Antwerp, they all had dinner at an Indian restaurant and then went to the well renowned Derasar to take part in the evening aarti before retiring for the night at the 4-star Crown Plaza hotel.

**Day 2:** They set off to Floriade Park (Netherlands) early morning where they were all lucky enough to observe The World Horticultural Expo that is held only once every 10 years! Their motto is "Be part of the theatre in nature, get closer to the quality of life" The park covers 66 hectares and had 5 themed worlds: Relax & Heal, Green Engine, Education & Innovation, Environment, and World Show Stage.

Again every member was provided with lunch containing Thepla, Monthar, Gathia, Pickle and a can of coke and tea and fairy cakes were given later on. People were also able to go around the park in cable cars from which the fantastic views of the whole park could be seen.

**Day 3:** Some members wished to take part in a pooja at the Derasar early morning. After the pooja, they were invited by the

Derasar committee for "chai & nasta" and Rasikbhai & Rasikbhai Nathoo were gifted a book on the history of the Antwerp Derasar. On departure, a donation of 170 Euros was made to the Derasar which was collectively contributed by all the travellers and the 2 drivers were given 50 Euros each as a token of appreciation. Also they met the President of the Derasar committee Rajeshbhai who expressed his gratitude to all the visitors. Their last stop in Europe was at a chocolate shop so everyone could purchase some souvenirs and a final packed lunch of Dhebra, Sev, Flapjacks, pickle and fruit was given to each passenger before boarding the ferry in Calais to come back to Dover.

Special thanks go to East area's Pravinaben for generously providing all the home-made packed lunches for all 3 days, Arunaben, Taraben & Chandriben for making Odhavo, Rasikbhai's daughters Sejal & Shreeta for making sandwiches, Sona tours, Lalitaben for donating KitKat chocolates and finally all the travellers that came on the trip. On behalf of East area we sincerely hope that you all had a brilliant time and hope that you will recommend this extraordinary experience to other members of our Jain community.



### Dal Rotli & Golden Oldies & Melodies by Mayaben Deepak - 25th July 2012

This event started on a very hot day at the Oshwal Centre from 1pm when several volunteers from East area kindly devoted their time to help prepare and serve all the food as well as set-up of both halls for this large scale event. We have to truly commend all those that worked up a sweat making a never-

ending supply of rotlis, chopping lots of onions & tomatoes to accompany the delicious Jain friendly Dal and refreshing chaas for approximately 350 people! There was a great sense of buzz and laughter coming from the kitchen as well as from the dining area!



People started arriving from 6pm onwards and they were led downstairs by the aroma of the food which we hope got everyone's mouths' watering! Then as people came back upstairs, they were greeted by three friendly faces; Rasikbhai N, Lalitaben and I (Bansi) who handed out the beautifully designed tickets to all 300+ people that had booked them in advance.

In the hall there was not a spare seat in sight as people eagerly awaited for the special performance to start. Mayaben Deepak's musical performance started at 8pm sharp. Her beautiful, soulful voice and her musician's instrumental beats could be heard from outside. Not only did she sing some exquisite Bollywood golden oldies such as: In Aankhon Ki Masti (Umrao Jaan), Ek Pyaar Ka Nagma Hai (Shor), Aap ki Nazron Ne Samja (Anpadh), but she also entertained us with her Ahmedabad style humour. It was a spectacular show which took many of us on a happy journey down memory lane.

As East Area committee members we would like to thank Pravinaben and Rasikbhai N for all their months of hard-work in organising and selling so many tickets to produce such a fantastic show for all to enjoy. Also to thank are all the volunteers for helping out on the day, without all your efforts we would not have had such a successful Dal Rotli and finally we would like to personally thank Mayaben Deepak and her musicians for providing us with a show that left the audience in awe and wishing for it to continue into the late hours of the night!



## Oshwal Enabling Education Fair: Gujarati Village – 19th August 2012

In this year's Enabling Education Fair, East Area was given the opportunity to take part in the Gujarati Village section performing a LIVE PANCHAYAT throughout the day. For those of you, like me that don't know what a Panchayat is, it literally means an assembly (yat) of five (panch) wise and respected elders chosen and accepted by the village community to act as a council of sorts. In the past, villagers would come to the Panchayat and voice their complaints e.g. poor children are unable to buy books for school studies and the Panchayat would come up with a suitable solution.

The live Panchayat had to deal with **five different problem scenarios** and were able to solve them using their wisdom:

1. Water Disputes – “paaNalnal KaTpaT”
2. Marriage – “Iagna”
3. Justice over Books – “paastaknaaonyaya”
4. Living in India... Living Abroad – “dSa... pardSa”
5. Bansi Becomes A Sad Old Woman – “baalal banal du Kalyaarl Dasal”

These five short dramas were performed throughout the day by 8 individuals: Hullasbhai, Narottambhai, Rasikbhai, Rasikbhai N, Kishorebhai, Sundipbhai, Bhavin and Bansi. Susilaben, Madhuben and Taraben also provided some complaints of their own. It was brilliant to see such a great reaction from the crowd as they stood and watched the dramas unfold. To truly understand how it was run, you had to be there to witness it taking place in the Gujarati Village; it was as if we had travelled back in time to observe how our ancestors, grandparents and parents resided in India.







## Mexican Food & Quiz Night – Saturday 25th August 2012

East Area had their first ever Mexican Food & Quiz night. Approximately 65 people attended this event. The evening started with everyone enjoying Mexican style wraps with a kidney beans mix, salsa, guacamole, sour cream, jalapeños and melted cheese with lettuce and tortilla crisps on the side (is your mouth watering?). Then everyone got into teams for the quiz. Everyone started to get into the competitive spirit as each question was read out in English and Gujarati. There were 5 different rounds: General knowledge, Picture round, Religion, Music round and a final brainteaser round. The overall winners of the quiz were Team Jalapeños which consisted of: Lalitaben, Prakash, Dooria, Nitish, Phoolna, Rajubhai and Ansuiyaben so a big well done to them for winning the chocolates!

Overall there was a very positive feedback from everyone that came and the general consensus was that we should hold more Saturday socials like this one. Lastly, thank you to all those that were in the production line for making the

wraps they were being prepared at such a pace it was like being in a fast food restaurant! Thanks to all those people that made the effort to come and a special thanks goes to the youngsters that took part in the quiz also!

## Thursdays Social Club – Held on last 3 Thursdays of every Month from 1 – 3pm

Members of our Thursday club always start with Navkar Mantra, Maitri Bhavnu and Samaro Mantra which puts everyone's minds in focus. Vasantiben then leads some chair based exercises which are very beneficial to those that have arthritis, blood circulation problems and other aches and pains. After speaking to some members, I was told that every week they do different activities from debates, card games and usually the last Thursday of the month they hold a Satsang.



I went along to the Satsang that was held on 30th August which also happened to be Chaudas. Susilaben led the chaityavandan and also did a reading on 24 Bhagvan and Dinuben also did a short reading about our 5 Mahavrat (principles) of Jainism i.e. Ahimsa, Satya, Asteya, Brahmacharya and Aparigraha. After that everybody sang some beautiful Stavans together and this was followed by our Jain Aarti taken by Monghiben & family and Mangal Divo taken by Kanchanben & Javubhai. Finally, we all had lunch together along with some "garam garam" chai followed by "thandu thandu" ice-cream to end the session. Personally I left feeling peaceful inside and with a big smile on my face after seeing just how many members of the community get together on a weekly basis and enjoy socialising with each other. Every week there is usually between 25 - 30 people that attend and they should be commended for taking time out of their schedule to get together with our East Area community especially those that travel for over an hour every week. I would like to encourage the rest of the community members that if you can afford to take some time out please do come along and see what it's all about!



## Fridays Sports Club – Held every Friday from 8:30pm – 9:30pm



Pictured Left to right: Vijal, Hinal, Nikhil, Shyam, Rahul, Sundip, Keval S, Jesal, Keval M & Gurpreet

I went along to a Friday sports session held at Canon Palmer School to see what the youngsters get up to during the time slot. It was great to see such a good group of dedicated individuals that come to play sports every Friday without fail.

After speaking to some of them, it was clear that they all love playing basketball and Sundipbhai's idea to introduce a basketball coach; Mr Samuel Okwei-Nortey to come every other week has shown a very positive impact with the members as they have consistently shown improvements in their own abilities and enjoy playing basketball matches.

One other positive observation I made was that people from other areas have also been coming along to these sports sessions because of their own area school closures during the summer. It is great to see that we have other youngsters that are willing to travel to other areas and play sports alongside new members and we are happy to welcome anyone to come and take part. We really do need more people to come to play sports on Fridays, not only will you get to meet other youngsters but as a bonus you can reap the benefits from the cardio exercise without even realising how many calories you have probably burnt because you will be having so much fun!



## Parva Paryushan – 12th September – 19th September 2012

East area's Paryushan festivities started at 6pm on Wednesday 12th September 2012. Each of the 8 days started with everyone meeting & greeting each other and then settling down to a very calm and serene atmosphere as Manekchand bhai and Veljibhai conducted Pratikaman. Usually everyday Devsiya Sutra was followed, Saturday 15th September Pakshik Pratikaman was followed and on the last day, Savantsari Pratikaman was followed. It was great to see an average attendance of 65 – 70 people every day despite children going to school and adults going to work.

After Pratikaman everyone recited 12 Navkar Mantras and then everyone sang Samaro Mantra and Maitri Bhavanu whilst Prabhavna gifts were being passed around by different members of the community each day.

Then at 8pm Dinuben Rasikant Shah would enlighten us with a reading over each of the 8 days, everyone listened as she explained the meaning behind the readings. Following on from this, we had bhavna session whereby community members sang beautiful Stavans from the heart. Then, Arunaben, Bansi and Chandubhai made their daily announcements about upcoming events and encouraged members to donate generously towards various causes such as National Sewa Day and where everyone was asked to bring cans/packets of food so we can donate them to Ilford Homeless Shelter on Sunday 7th October. Then everyone would upstand for Aarti and Mangal Divo and occasionally we would have Raas/Garba to end the evening.

On Saturday "Shrifal Padhravanu" proceedings were carried out by the Sangh Committee members, "Parna Julavano" proceedings were carried out by Monghiben Raichand Shah and family and "Pokhvanu" proceedings were carried out by the Sangh Committee. Finally we also held a "Samu Aarti" whereby 10 families had given donations towards these proceedings followed by Mangal Divo. On Sunday 16th September, the proceedings for 14 Swapnas was held along with the full parnu proceedings.

On Tuesday we had the "Tapasiya Bahuman" which was given to Bansi Chandulal Shah by Hemini R Shah. Congratulations to anyone that has completed any fasts during the Paryushan festival and thanks to the EC committee members that also joined us on that day.



## Upcoming East Area Events

**Saturday 27th October – Kathiawadi bhojan & "Live Panchayat"** – 7pm – 10pm, St Albans Hall, Albert Road, Ilford.

**Wednesday 31st October – Bhojan + Mayaben Deepak programme – "Homage to Maa"** – 6pm – 11pm, Oshwal Centre, Potters Bar. Tickets £5 (members), £7.50 (non-members)

**Friday 16th November – Diwali Bhojan & Variety Programme** – 5pm – 10pm – Canon Palmer School, Ilford.

To purchase tickets and for catering purposes for all events listed, please contact Rasikbhai Nathu & Pravinaben by phone: 0208 989 5089 or via email: pravinarasik@yahoo.co.uk

Thank you.

**Reported by, Bansi Chandulal Shah**



# Leicester Area

## Paryushan Report 2012

The Jain festival of Paryushan 2012 was celebrated by the Leicester Oswal community with great pomp and splendour at the Sanatan Mandir Hall. The spirit of the religious celebrations was evident with volunteers wholeheartedly setting up the hall and decorating the Derasar on the festival's eve on Tuesday 11th September to washing up the utensils after the Pains on Thursday 20th September.



This year the emphasis was on the younger members of the community. Children not only took part in singing stavans, explaining the meaning of Trishlamata's 14 swapnas but also reciting the sutras during Pratikraman. On Friday and Saturday, they also took active part in Aarti and Mangal Divo. There was also a dedicated corner set up in the hall for the youngest members to take part in colouring, reading or doing crossword searches, all related to religion.



Accompanied by the melodies from keyboard and tabla, various stavans were sung by the young and the old alike entertaining the attendees over the days. It was pleasant to see people of varying generations and backgrounds coming together in taking the festival to a different level.

This year the 108 Diva Aarti was performed twice - on Mahavir Jayanti and on the final evening of Paryushan. Members of the Executive Committee joined the local community on Saturday night to mark the event. Furthermore, members from as far away as Hinckley and Bradford also took time to be part of the celebrations in Leicester.



Leicester area Oshwals were blessed to have 6 Tapasvis this year. Of these, 2 young members managed Aathai while the rest had varying number of fasts. Pains for the Tapasvis were held at the same venue allowing the community at large to join in breaking the fasts.

Leicester area committee is appreciative of all who gave up their time to assist and is grateful to those who donated generously towards this year's Paryushan festival.

***Micchami Dukkadam***

**Leicester Area Committee**



## Leicester Area Committee 2012-2014

---

Portfolio	Name	Telephone	Email
Chairperson, Trustee, Catering	Mina G Shah	0116 271 7644	minashah389@hotmail.com
Vice – Chairperson, Catering	Rajesh P Chandaria	0116 271 0159	rpcshah@hotmail.co.uk
Secretary, Media & Communication	Nikunj P Shah	0116 271 4434	anmol2002@hotmail.com
Treasurer, Religion	Kanchan Shah	0116 276 8582	shah323@btinternet.com
Youth, Cultural Heritage	Ajay A Shah	0116 220 0189	ajayshah31@hotmail.co.uk
Youth, Cultural Heritage	Nita N Shah	0116 276 0820	shahneeta@hotmail.co.uk
Stores & Assets	Hasmukh L Shah	0116 271 2642	birstalljewellers@gmail.com
Social & Welfare	Jayant J Shah	0116 271 7078	jayantshah1@sky.com
Social & Welfare	Jyotika R Gudka	0116 210 8488	jyotika.gudka@googlemail.com
Social & Welfare	Rahul S Gada	0116 266 5757	rahulsom77@yahoo.co.uk
Religion	Smruti R Gada	0116 266 5757	smruti1@hotmail.co.uk
Property & Fundraising	Narendra M Sumaria	0116 288 6324	narendrasumaria@yahoo.co.uk

---





## Luton Area

### Message from the Chairman

Paryushan Parva has come and gone. Luton area religious sub-committee worked with the help of all the members of the area and made it a peaceful occasion. It gave us time to reflect and to contemplate the real meaning of life. Once again we appreciated that not only are we lucky to be born as human beings, but also as Jains. It is up to us to seize the opportunity and become better souls.

I would like to thank our religious sub-committee, committee members and all our members who facilitated peace for this occasion. Please accept my sincerest Micchami Dukkadam to everyone on behalf of our committee. In this chakra of life, death, rebirth and sansaar we are all meant to interact. In human terms this interaction brings out in us, all our weaknesses and strengths. We serve penance to ourselves by fasting to rid our bad karmas acquired from our weaknesses. Life thereon once again goes in the chakra. Let us hope the peaceful reflection we had during Paryushan brings us a better future.

We had so many volunteers from our area help during the Enabling Education Fair in August. It was great to see members helping set up the stalls on the day before the event. On the day, we had members in the medical zone, first aid zone, CV writing zone, student & parent zone, ushering, giving talks on medical school entrance requirements and in the Gujarati village. Together with other Oshwals, we made it a success.

Many of our members not only are participating in our regular area activities but venturing out to the Friday activities at the Oshwal centre. Several committee and various sub-committee members participated in the area workshop on the 9th September 2012. The common vision derived from the workshop was to increasingly portraying ourselves as one single community. Our future activities should run in parallel to this vision.

We are looking forward to the Diwali Charity Ball being organised by our Youth committee which is going to be held on the 10th November 2012. Diwali is the time when Lord Mahavir attained enlightenment and Lord Rama managed to destroy Ravan. Ravan today is the symbol of our human weaknesses. May the Paryushan and Diwali help us overcome the Ravan in us?

**Jai Jinendra and Jai Oshwal,**

***Dr Dipak Vidhu Shah***



### Congratulations!

The whole of the Luton Area Committee would like to congratulate all the students in passing their Exams this year.

Has your relative achieved something recently, be it academic or extra-curricular? If so, we would love to know! Please email [priya.shah@oshwal.org](mailto:priya.shah@oshwal.org) with further details.

These include:

**Dillan Jayesh Shah 10 GCSE's**

**Hursheel Milan Shah 9 GCSE's**

**Neekita Pankaj Shah 4 'A' Levels**

**Ricky Dilesh Shah Graduated with a degree in Accounting and finance.**

# Oshwal Sports Day 2012

This year, Oshwal Sports Day is going to be held in December. There is something for everyone – even the card players! Luton Area is looking to submit teams for the following events:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Volleyball                          | 7. Koor   |
| 2. Football (U12, U16 & Mens & Ladies) | 8. Chokri   |
| 3. Netball (Ladies only)               | 9. Circuit Training (mixed under 12, 12-14 & mixed)             |
| 4. Basketball                          | 10. Darts (mixed)   |
| 5. Under 12 dougeball (mixed)          | 11. Swimming (Separate for Males & Females) Events for all ages |
| 6. Under 12 benchball                  |   |

There is NO charge for entering into the game for Oshwal members!

Please be aware, there is a charge for non-members.

This is a great way for us to meet fellow Oshwals and have a bit of fun. If anyone wishes to participate in any events or even want to help create a team for our area please contact Keval on 07837 181332 or kevalshah\_2000@hotmail.com

**Luton Youth Committee**



## Dates for Your Diary

### Friday Club

#### Dates & Time:

8-10pm on 16th November and 21st December

**Venue:** Warden Hill Community Centre, r/o The Warden, Wycombe Way, Luton, LU3 2BW

### Luncheon Club

#### Dates & Time:

11am – 3pm on 26th November and 31st December

**Venue:** Hindu Temple, 9 Hereford Way, Luton, LU4 0PS

### Oshwal Gujarati School

#### Dates & Time:

10am – 12pm, every Saturday morning during term time

**Venue:** Denbigh High School, Alexandra Avenue, Luton

**Luton Oshwal Youth Committee**  
**Presents**

Charity No:  
**267037**

**URBAN**  
ENTERTAINMENT

**DIWALI CHARITY**  
**BALL**

*Supporting the NICU appeal*

**10th November 2012**  
**Doors open at 7pm**  
**Menzies Strathmore Hotel - Windsor Suite**  
**The Mall- Luton- Arndale Carpark LU1 2HN**

**Members - £15      Non Members - £18**  
*For Tickets Contact:*  
**Keval : 07837181332**  
**Nina: 07853681765**  
*Lets make it a Diwali to remember*  
**Dress Code : Formal**

The Committee reserve the right to cancel this event



# North Area

## North Area Committee Message

Jai Jinendra,

The month of September is always a busy period for all, as the schools reopen, students prepare to go to university and various other activities start.

For North Area, a busy September kicked off with a Pizza & Bingo event on 2nd which was well attended by all ages, Start of Gujarati School on 8th Sept, Paryushan on 12th Sept to 19th Sept, Youth Club, Social Club and Yoga on 21st Sept, Bolly

aerobics on 22nd Sept keeping all the Committee and Sub Committee members very busy.

We thank the North Area members for their continued support.

**NORTH AREA COMMITTEE WISHES EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY DIWALI AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.**

***Dinendra Haria, Vice Chairperson***

## Pizza & Bingo 2nd Sept 2012

The Pizza Bingo event was a huge success and was attended by people of all ages. The event was held on 2nd Sept at Scouts Hall, West Finchley and took a lot of hard work organising with a change of venue at the last moment. The young members of the North area took on the responsibility of cooking the pizzas in jikos and making sure the public was not kept waiting. The Committee & Sub-committee & volunteers worked as a team to ensure the day was a success.

The day was very warm and the pizza and pasta salad was enjoyed in the sunshine with Dal & Roti for some of the elderly members. The brain storming provided excellent feedback on ideas of events and activities. We will try to implement as many ideas as possible.

Bingo was enjoyed by young and old and requests for more bingo events to be held were received.



## Youth Club

Youth Club started on 21st Sept and there was a lot of excitement as the youth members had not seen each other for a while. The over 12's sessions is fully subscribed and we are unable to take on any more over 12s. There is space for the under 12's.

Activities include Football, Basketball, Bench ball, Dodge ball, Netball and many more...

Please contact Khilna Shah - 07989 971 912 or by email: northareayouth@googlemail.com to enrol your child for under 12's.

## Yoga Classes

Yoga Classes started on 21st Sept at Woodhouse College. Yoga helps Increase flexibility, stamina, posture and balance, helping to reduce stress and develop a calmer mind, increase strength, muscle tone and bone density. Each session is one and a half hours long.

Autumn term (September – November) Yoga class is fully subscribed with a waiting list. As of January 2013, if there is enough demand we will have 2 sessions of Yoga Basics.

Please contact Sejal Shah - 07931 778 642 for further information.





# North Area Youth Club

## Venue:

**Woodhouse College  
Sports Hall  
Woodhouse Road  
North Finchley N12**

## Timings:

**Every Friday  
Under 12's – 6-8pm  
Over 12's – 8-10pm**

## COME FOR A FREE TRIAL:

**Football, Basketball,  
Benchball, Dodgeball,  
Netball and many  
more...**



## Term Dates 2012/2013

- 21/09/2012 – 14/12/2012
- 11/01/2013 – 22/03/2013
- 19/04/2013 – 12/07/2013

For further information, please contact

Tel: Khilna Shah - 07989 971912

Email: northareayouth@googlemail.com

---

## Let your child learn Gujarati by Music and Movement

---

### Gujarati School

Gujarati School started on 3rd Sept. Oshwal Association of the UK has sponsored the learning of Gujarati for all children of Oshwal Life members. The sponsorship is possible due to the £120 funding scheme.

North Area Gujarati School has achieved excellent results like every previous year. The results for this year are 3A, 1B & 1C for Gujarati written language and 2A\*, 14A & 1D for Gujarati Speaking Language. It shows Gujarati school is doing very well. This year we introduced Asset exams as well, for which we had 100% pass.

We also have cultural activities in which many children have shown amazing talent.

Due to demand, we have started adult classes of Gujarati language. If you are interested in joining the adult classes please contact Daksha Maroo (daksha.maroo@gmail.com) or pop in at Woodhouse College on Saturday mornings).

North Area Gujarati School runs every Saturday during term time at Woodhouse College, Woodhouse Road, Finchley N12 9EY from the academic year September 2012 - July 2013.

Class	Age Group	Class	Age Group	Class	Age Group
Lower	Years 4 to 6	Middle	Years 7 to 12	Upper	Years 12 +

North Area Gujarati School teaches Gujarati by letting the children experience the language by learning in a fun way. This is taught through music, singing, dancing, acting, storytelling and art.

Students can also learn Tabla, Harmonium, Bollywood Dancing and we look to introduce other activities.

Applications for new students to Gujarati School are now being accepted. Should you wish your child to sit a free trial lesson or for further details please e-mail Kuntesh Shah on kshah5@sky.com / 07952 708 592 or Daksha Maroo on daksha.maroo@gmail.com / 07775 514 286

## Village of Gujarat

**North Area Gujarati School and Sakhi Milap ladies** created an ancient style Gujarati Village School at the **Oshwal Enabling Education Fair** on 19th Aug at Oshwal Centre. In the old days there were no tables or chairs, students sat on floor or long benches. Teacher would write on black board with chalk. Students used chalk or crayons to write on slates. Teaching was done explaining everything orally as they did not have visual aids, reciting old historical stories, singing old gujarati bal- geet and jodakana. Children loved to play kho-kho, hopping, jumping, saat tali and riding bicycle.

The school was decorated with Indian national flag and some old Jain temple's photos. Even parents become interested to know about the ancient way of teaching and were asking about the right way to learn language and maths. We demonstrated how to teach a slow learner and that the child shouldn't feel left out but must be part of the group.

A typical village home was created which contained a wood burning chullo (hob), Ghanti for making flour, Butter churner (valonu), Cradle for baby. There was Kariana shop (means old fashion super market) which sold all kind of Grains, Pulses, ghee & oil etc. Some ladies demonstrated art of ancient embroidery, Heena designs and makeup. To resolve disputes, there was Gham Panchayat who would also some time take decision on certain situations that affected all villagers.

**Neelamben Jadhav, Head Teacher North Area Gujarati School**



સારંગ

Bollywood Dancing  
Acting  
Tabla  
Indian Orchestra  
Gujarati  
Arts and Crafts  
Harmonium  
Bharatnatyam

They listen to the words  
They move to the rhythm  
They sing the songs  
They dance to the music.

Then you find they are humming and  
singing the songs in their spare time.  
They thought they were just playing  
but all the time they were learning.

It is the new fun way  
to learn Gujarati

Learn Gujarati  
By Music and Movement



## Paryushan 2012 – North Area

Paryushan is the most important festival in the Jain Religion, observed during Charturmas in the months of Shravan/Bhadarwa. As always, Paryushan Mahaparva in North Area was celebrated very gratifyingly. All our members enjoyed the celebrations for the eight auspicious days with very positive support from our members in bidding for Aarti, Mangal Devo and Sapnas and for the generous donations for the Swamivatsalya Bhojan, Hall Rental and General Donations.

As always our other young members conducted the daily Pratikraman very knowledgeably. All Pratikraman Sutras were sponsored by the members for the eight days well in advance of the Mahaparva. This support from the members is very much appreciated.

On Saturday, 15 September, we were very fortunate to have Jaineelbhai Shah from Young Jains to conduct the Pratikraman Workshop in English. Jaineelbhai shared his knowledge and was inspirational. This session proved very popular with all ages, especially the youth, who keenly asked various questions about Pratikraman. The feedback from those who participated in the workshop was very positive and many said that they enjoyed the session and learnt a lot from it. Talented young singers sang some bhajans as well.

On the last day of Paryushan, 108 individual members took part in the 108 Diva Aarti.



Our talented musicians and singers entertained the members after Pratikraman, Aarti and Mangal Devo. With the success of our Deeva Garba and the daily colour scheme last year, we decided to give our members this opportunity again. It was a great pleasure to see members' participation and enjoying themselves.

Fasting of any sort for these 8 days can be very challenging and it has been an honour for us to have 8 tapasvis who have done 'Athai'.

Our thoughts are with all our tapasvis and hope they are all in good "SATA".

### The Tapasvis were:-



Dineshbhai L Dodhia  
Paras D Maroo  
Nayen S Shah  
Surendrabhai N Shah  
Rekhaben R Shah  
Rupa D Dodhia  
Urmilaben M Shah  
Paaras D Dodhia (not in picture)  
3 members of one family did Athai.

After the Swamivatsalya Bhojan our members were entertained by Bhavik's bhajans.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking North Area Committee, the sub-committees and all members for their tremendous participation in making Paryushan Mahaparva a very successful event. Our special thanks to all the volunteers for their continued assistance throughout the entire period.

**Jai Jinendra**

**Mayuri Mansukhlal Shah**



## North Area Sakhi Milap

A new Sakhi Milap Committee was elected in July 2012, following the North Area Committee elections in May. The new members of the team are:

Prity Shah	Chairperson	Anjana Shah	Vice Chairperson
Ila Shah	Treasurer	Nilam Shah	Secretary
Hina Shah	Committee Member	Sheela Shah	Committee Member
Kailash Shah	Committee Member	Kailas Haria	Committee Member
Bharti Shah	Committee Member	Hema Shah	Committee Member

The new team thanks the past North Area Sakhi Milap Committee for all their hard work in organising wonderful events over the last two years and we welcome their continued support.

The enthusiastic Sakhi Milap team is preparing exciting events for the year ahead with the first 3 events kicking off in October, November and January.

Please make a note of these events in your diaries and we look forward to welcoming many of you at the following events:

**9th October** – Diwali Cookery/Floral Demonstration & Bring a Dish to share. We are honoured to have Jayaben, Pratibhaben and Lavniben, who will be sharing their culinary skills and giving us ideas to prepare ourselves for Diwali – make sure you join us to share the recipes and tips!

**24th November** – Whist Drive including light refreshments

**20th January** – A hilarious Gujarati play (you will laugh till you cry) at Wylllyotts Theatre Potters Bar.

### Kaliyaan Ni Dukaan (Village Grocery Shop)

**North Area Sakhi Milap** ladies were allocated the task of creating a village shop at the ENN event on 19th Aug at Oshwal Centre. On a sunny Sunday morning on 19 August 2012, hoards of volunteers started arriving at Oshwal Centre to start setting up for the Enabling Education Fair aiming to educate and inspire the able and disabled with expertise from medics, engineers, teachers, athletes, university professors and the ordinary village folk.

Part of the visual education was through creating an authentic Indian village which would serve as a miniature of a gaamru. A large marquee next to Oshwal House was transformed into a village which displayed many features, including a village temple, living/working old town with potters, tailors, dhobiwalas, housewives, the village doctor, paniharis going to fetch water from a well, a village school and phanchayat, the gaam officials, helping people solve their personal problems.

The North Area Sakhi Milap team set up a dukaan which displayed all the things one would expect to be sold in a gamru shop. There were sack fulls of grains, daals and colourful spices along with variari, revdi, patasas to tempt the young ones. Sakhi Milap

ladies worked hard to get old products like parle biscuits, original village pipis and did a wonderful display of a very authentic shop which eventually looked like an Alladin's cave of wonderment.

It was so rewarding to hear comments like "you would definitely win the prize today for the most attractive display" in the village. Children who had never before seen patasas remarked "mum, you have never ever bought these sweets for me!" It was amazing to see the fresh shaaks with prices in Gujarati on the board and everyone asking for change in Rupees!

It was a great team building exercise for the newly formed Sakhi Milap Committee and we had great fun in the process and listened to old village songs which added to the carnival like atmosphere in the whole village.

I would like to thank all the ladies in my team for displaying their creative and artistic skills and their enthusiasm without which the event's success would not have been possible.

**Halo re Halo.....**

**Prity Shah, Sakhi Milap Chairperson**

# North Area Sakhi Milap

## WHIST DRIVE

**Saturday 24th November 2012**

6.45 pm start till 11.00 pm  
Woodhouse College, Finchley, N12  
Entrance £6.00 for Members and  
£7.50 for Non-Members (including  
light refreshment)

### Contact:

Nilamben 020 8445 9546  
Kailasben 020 8445 2017  
Hemaben 020 8216 3728

## 'BACHU NE BAATLIMA UTAARO' A HILARIOUS GUJARATI NATAK

**Sunday 20th Jan 2013 at 4pm**

Wyllyotts Theatre Potters Bar  
£10.00 members £12.50 Non Members

### Tickets from:

Anjana Shah 07758 005 701  
Sheela Shah 07903 669 542



## Bhukhar - Oshwal House

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of month

Time: 8.00pm until 11.00pm

Venue: Oshwal House, Potters Bar



### For further information please contact:

Bijal Shah:

[bijal\\_shah@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bijal_shah@hotmail.co.uk) 020 8906 3389

Ashwin Shah:

[hasp@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hasp@hotmail.co.uk) 07921 400 328

## North Area Social Club

The Social Club meets every Friday  
from 8pm to 10pm during term time  
at:

**Woodhouse College**

**Woodhouse Road**

**Finchley**

**N12 9EY**



**Entrance is only £1.** This is a drop in club for North Area Oshwal members. Come and meet other members, play cards games like Bhukhar, Chokdi, or board games and socialize.

## Bolly Aerobics - Good Way of Keeping Fit

Most of us love dancing and most of us are trying to [get fit](#) (or even fitter!).

So come and dance your way to fitness and have fun the bollywood way!

Saturday at 9:45am (term time)

**Woodhouse College**

**Woodhouse Road**

**Finchley**

**N12 9EY**



Contact Daksha Maroo - 07775 514 286

## Yoga Basics

Increase flexibility, stamina, posture and balance, Reduce stress and develop a calmer mind, Increase strength, muscle tone and bone density, Improve respiratory, nervous, digestive, circulatory and immune systems



The new Yoga Basics Class at Woodhouse College

Friday evenings 1 & half hour Lessons from 7pm

Term charge -10 lessons - £50 (OAUK Members) £70 (Non Members) (non-refundable)

Contact Sejal Shah - 07931 778 642

## Gujarati School

Class	Age Group	Class	Age Group	Class	Age Group
Lower	Years 4 to 6	Middle	Years 7 to 12	Upper	Years 12 +

Learn Tabla, Harmonium, Bollywood Dancing and other activities and make friends

Adult Gujarati Classes - pop in at Woodhouse College on Saturday mornings

Saturday 9.30am to 12.30pm (term time)

Venue: Woodhouse College, Woodhouse Road, Finchley, N12 9EY

**Contact: Daksha Maroo – 07775 514 286 and/or Kuntesh Shah – 07952 708 592**

**All the teachers and school assistants are Criminal Record Bureau checked and approved.**



## Northampton Area

Jai Jinendra,

I hope everyone enjoyed celebrating the Parva Paryushana by fasting the feasting on the pravachans, readings, bhakti, pratrikramana- I must admit, we definitely had a Party in Northamptonshire- sharing and exchanging Jain philosophy- specially -on the days we had the people from Chandana Vidhya Peeth join us. As we do every year, Our Paryushan was celebrated with pomp and glory. We were privileged to have the learned people – our gurus from the south Prakashbahi Patalia, Jyotsnaben Samji, Trustiben Shah and Shrutiben Malde who enlightened us with their indepth knowledge on Jain philosophy. Our heartfelt thanks to Fulwanti ben for playing a good host and to all the three Jain philosophers for taking time out from their busy lives to impart knowledge to us.



On the 14th of September we had workshops with slide presentation by Jyotsnaben Samji, talking about Paryushan parva, the shlokas, Kaytosarg, mantras and the meanings of some of the recitings in English. We ended the morning session by reciting/singing the samuh loggas. In the afternoon they covered the essence of Pratrikramana and the muhpati padilehans 50 recitals. In the evening they performed the samuh Pratrikraman from the book the essence of Pratrikramana and we had about 7-8 youngsters attending the talk and the Pratrikraman and taking notes.

We couldn't wait for the next day which was Mahavir Janmakalyanak day. In the morning, Shrutiben Malde who has done masters in Jain Philisophy at Soas talked about why this was celebrated as well and the different sects of Jain religion and the reasons behind it. She also talked about the 14 dreams that Trishla Mata had and what each dream meant. In the afternoon we celebrated the Mahavir Janmakalyanak.

In the evenings, we performed the bhakti and ras/ garbas, which gave an opportunity for everyone to join in. We are very fortunate to have three tapaswis namely Gitaben Anil Haria, Kumudben Rashmikant shah and kanchen Steve wade who fasted. The committee did their bahumaan on the 7th day.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Diwali and a blissful year

**Message by, Jyoti Ajay Gada**



## Proud Moments for Neil Shah of Wellingborough

Neil Shah was a medal/flower bearer for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. For the Olympics, he was covering the Diving events in the aquatics centre, whilst for Paralympics he was covering the horse riding at Greenwich Park. Being a volunteer enabled Neil to chat to all the winners including Tom Dally. Talking to the athletes made him aware that a lot of hard work is required to achieve one's goals and not to give up at the first hurdle. Working at the Paralympics was an eye opener to see how these athletes overcame their disability to achieve their goals and made him realise that with hard work and dedication anything is possible. The memories of these games will remain with him forever and will inspire him to progress in life.

Further, Congratulations to Neil are due for obtaining an award for the highest average mark for all undergraduates for the past 3 years at LSE. He was also awarded a prize in achieving the highest overall mark in Economics in each of the 3 years.



# Rangoli and Diwali Card Workshop

by Shardaben of London and Ramaben of Northampton

Ramaben of Northampton had been inspired to join a group called Dosityo after she was diagnosed with ill health. She was requested to relax by the doctors. Hence joining Dosityo she mastered some skills including silk and glass painting and card making which she adopted as a hobby. She got more motivated and inspired by people when they congratulated on her skills.

Shardaben has been doing Rangolis since 1970. She was a committee member of Mahila Mandal in Mombasa and got inspired and always has had talent in cooking, singing and doing Rangolis. She has been entering lots of competitions with very good results. She has also been doing Rangolis with a group of people where they have created Rangolis as large as a big room floor. They have been doing all sorts of Rangolis including artistic styles – designs which are very realistic and proportionate ranging from human forms to temples.

Oshwal Association Northamptonshire Area thanks these two lovely ladies making this creative workshop very enjoyable for all age groups.



## Paryushan Parva Celebrations in Northampton

Report By, Zeel Mahendra Shah

At this year's Paryushan Parva we were fortunate to have a group of SCVP South London teachers join us - Jyotsnaben Samji, Trusitben Shah, Shrutiben Malde and Prakashbhai Patalia. They imparted their knowledge through workshops on Paryushan Parva, Pratikraman and Mahavir Janma Kalyanak over 2 days from 14th-16th September 2012. The teachers delivered the presentations and discussions in Gujarati and English to accommodate all ages.

All of the workshops were insightful and presented in a fun and engaging way; I especially enjoyed learning about the significance of Paryushan Parva and seeing the demonstration of muhapati padilehana and asanas adopted during Pratikraman. This was then put into practice during the evening Pratikraman with a greater understanding, as we



recited the sutras which were translated in English. I found the talk on Mahavir Janma Kalyanak to be very informative and found Thirthankara

Mahavir's 10 dreams before omniscience interesting as I have not come across this before.

We greatly appreciate the time the teachers had taken to prepare and present these workshops to us. It was a thoroughly enjoyable and inspiring weekend with the teachers and the Northants Community as everyone was enthused in coming together to celebrate Paryushan Parva!

*"I really enjoyed doing the workshop, the way the teachers from south London delivered it was inspiring and fun and interactive, my favourite bits were listening to the stories related to each topic of the talk and I found it funny when sometimes they digressed along a windy route eventually getting back to their point (ha- ha). I look forward to similar things in the future as I learnt a lot and love to learn more. It was so interactive and everyone came with a want-to-learn attitude, which was what made the atmosphere so nice to be in. I only hope in upcoming events and functions we receive this many people and more."*

~ Nitish Shah



# North East Area

*Pictured: Kunal Shah volunteer at London 2012 Olympic Games.*

## What's happening in North East Area...?

**Diwali DISCO DANDIYA**  
Come and join North East area OAUk for some Diwali Masti...

**When? Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2012**  
6.30pm – 7.45, Light refreshments  
7.45pm – 11pm, Dance the night away!

**Where? Alexandra Park School, Rhodes Avenue, Muswell Hill, N22**

**Tickets:**

<b>Under 5 years:</b> Free!
<b>Children 6-12:</b> £3.50 members; £4.50 non members
<b>Over 13 years:</b> £7.50 members; £8.50 non members

For more information, please contact:  
Nishma: 020 8368 7527  
Irene: 020 8086 0499  
Pushpa: 020 8086 9812

**A YOGA WORKSHOP**  
A special yoga event focusing on women's health and covering all stages of a woman's life. There will be special advice regarding puberty, pregnancy and the menopause.

**25<sup>th</sup> November 2012**  
9 am – 12:30 pm

Oshwal Centre  
Coopers Lane Road  
Northaw  
Herts EN6 4DG

Only £3  
\* Includes a healthy breakfast  
Book early to avoid disappointment

**The session will also include instruction on:**  
Meditation  
Ayurveda  
Nidra  
Diet

**Special Feature:**  
Dr. Sarika - A talk on how the ancient Vedic tradition formed the basis of a stable and rural society in India and how we can introduce it to benefit society today.

To book a place please contact:  
Pushpa: 0208 886 9812  
pshah@btinternet.co.uk  
Meyal: 0208 886 2811  
mehar@btinternet.co.uk  
Irene: 0208 886 5043  
irish@btinternet.co.uk

OAUk  
(Charity No 267057)  
N E Area Cultural & Heritage Committee  
Organises

**Day of Remembrance**  
On  
23<sup>rd</sup> December 2012

Cultural and Heritage Committee would like to invite you to celebrate the life and legacy of your loved one in a special service. The aim of this day is to:-  
Offer solidarity and friendship to our fellow bereaves  
Share experiences and memories of our loved ones

If there has been a bereavement in your family, we would like the following details from you. The name of the deceased and the date they passed away. Send this information to Pushpa Shah on 0208 886 9812 or email p4shi@hotmail.co.uk. Please send the names by 1st December 2012 to allow us time to make preparations for the service. Kindly note that no names can be taken after 1st December.

We are only able to offer this to the residences of North East Area

As Jains we believe that the soul never dies but is reborn until it achieves "Enlightenment"

The committee reserves the right to amend the programme without prior warning

For information on other events please visit the North East area section of the website.

## NE Youth Club Fun Day – Sunday 19th September 2012

A regular feature of the NE YC is the annual fun day that is held at the club grounds. The day turned out to be a real sizzler! Temperatures had hit 28°C, just right for some funky fun filled games! Around 80 people had turned out to enjoy the day. Theme of the day was an 'Olympic' style event....

To read more visit the NE section Oshwal website: [www.oshwal.co.uk/areas/northeast/area-reports](http://www.oshwal.co.uk/areas/northeast/area-reports)

## North East Gujarati School

Congratulations to all these students for their remarkable achievement. Our warmest appreciation to all the parents, teachers and the support staff for their dedication and the team work. It is the first year the Gujarati Asset Language has been done in North East Area School. Gujarati Asset Language Results:

Name	Writing	Reading	Speaking	Listening
Jasmine Shah	3	3	3	3
Karishma Patel	3	3	3	3
Mohit Tank	3	3	3	3
Nikita Jagatiya	3	3	3	3
Riya Shah	3	3	3	3
Shaina Shah	2	3	3	3
Shayna Mistry	3	3	3	3
Tanay Malde	3	3	3	3
Vidhisha Sharma	2	3	3	3
Vivek Shah	3	3	3	3

## Paryushan Parva 2012

N.E. area Paryushan Parva 2012 was celebrated with grandeur. We had three devotees from Tapovan, namely Vipulbhai who explained Kalpa Sutra Pravachan in a very easy and simple language, Manglambhai mesmerised everyone with his melodious voice and Meetbhai conducted Pratikaman very fluently. Thanks to these devotees on behalf of the area.

Everyone celebrated Mahavir Vachan joyously on Sunday afternoon. Bidding for Savapnas were done generously.

Kumarpar Raja's Aarti was acquired by Ajitbhai, Pushpaben and Ratanben Hemchand Dhanani and family. On this day, members from RSPCA joined us for Pratikaman and the Aarti and Mangal Divo and, they expressed their admiration for our Jain values.

Due to lack of rain in India this year, lots of animals have been adondened by their owners. People donated funds for Jeev Daya which will be used to lessen animals' suffering.

An Eye Camp has been organised by N.E. area in Jamnagar on 28th January 2013 to help out blind and less sighted. Generous donations were received for this humane cause. The area appreciates and thanks everyone for their contribution.

This year we had 10 Tapasavis -

Atish Rajesh Shah	12 days
Ashokbhai Tejshi Shah	8 days
Reteshbhai Nemchand Shah	8 days
Aman Dixit Shah	8 days
Darshan Ilesh Shah	8 days
Minaben Ilesh Shah	8 days
Minaben Ashok Shah	8 days
Devkurben Fulchand Shah	8 days
Hasvinaben Ramesh Shah	8 days

Champaben Narendrabhai did Siddhi Taap of 44 days, of which she fasted for 37 days and 7 days biasna

Devkurben Fulchand Shah and family donated towards Savantsari Bhojan. N.E. area is thankful to this family.

The area is most grateful of all the volunteers who helped during this auspicious occasion. Michhammi Dukadaam from N.E. committee if we have hurt anyone knowingly or unknowingly.

Happy Diwali and prosperous New Year from N.E. Area Committee.





# North West Area

Jai Jinendra,

Firstly, on behalf of the North West committee, “michami dukkadam” to all should we have hurt the feelings of any one, knowingly or unknowingly in any form by words, action or thought directly or indirectly in any form, any act, omission and disobedience.

As we approach Diwali, it is a time when we wish all our friends and relatives’ prosperity and happiness and when we as Jains celebrate the attainment of Nirvana by Mahavir Swami.

During this joyous occasion, let us all take a real step towards this by doing something that will make our friends and relatives prosperous and happy. Let us all ensure that the spirit of goodwill is carried throughout the year and not just for a few days. Let us ensure that we focus on the teachings of Mahavir Swami to make this world a better place for us, our loved ones and all the living beings on this earth.

Over the past, our forefathers have had the foresight and vision to provide for schools to ensure that the members of our community truly stand out in the field of education. This year, we take this one step further. Oshwal Association of the UK, has launched the Oshwal Business and Professional Network (OBPN). The aim of this network is to provide help and assistance for all our members do better in any academic, professional or business path they have chosen. In the current economic climate standing alone or trying to do your best by yourself may not be enough. The network aims to unite our professional intellect and business entrepreneurs to help promote success and prosperity within the community.

The world we live in is changing rapidly. The traditional support available from the state is reducing rapidly. During these changing times it is important to provide for all within the community to ensure that our family stability is maintained.

For this:

- we need to ensure that our children are well educated and have the best support available when seeking higher education or seeking employment;
- we need to ensure that our business community will help our new entrepreneurs stand on their feet;
- we need to ensure that our elders are educated enough to communicate with today’s world;
- we need to ensure that we provide our youngsters with strong roots of our values and heritage to rely on but also have wings that will guide them and our community to new heights

The above is achievable if we stand united as a community with one aim, one vision and one objective, a strong and united community.

Over the last 40 years this community has grown significantly. Today we have close to 7,000 members in NW area. As with any organisation, when it grows, it has to improve its communication and infrastructure to ensure that it can continue to provide a service to each and every member of this community. We are launching our OAUk-NW Volunteers Network. The purpose of this network will be to have areas and streets managed by key network volunteers, who will ensure that the needs of the local communities get a voice. The first meeting of the OAUk-NW Volunteers Network took place on October 1. To join this Network please e-mail [volunteer@oauk-nw.org](mailto:volunteer@oauk-nw.org).

On behalf of the North West Area Committee, I wish you all a very happy and prosperous Diwali and New year.

**Let's be the Change this community needs**

**Let's be proud to be Oshwal**

**Let's Re-Connect**

**Nirmal Chandrakant Shah**  
**Chairperson North West**

## What's been happening in your Area?

Is it really just a space of 2 months since the last issue of Oshwal News went to print? Looking back at what has happened over the last few months, it seems an absolute lifetime!



### 31st August 2012 – POSSESSION OF OSHWAL EKTA CENTRE

The day that we have been waiting for the last 40 years finally arrived. Oshwal EKTA Centre was ours and we took possession of it in true North West style with a dedicated team of volunteers intent on getting the place spick and span for the Snatra and Vastu Poojan.

### 2nd September 2012 – SNATRA & VASTU POOJAN

A Snatra and Vastu Poojan was conducted in keeping with our traditions and to formally cleanse the place and for an auspicious beginning for the use of Oshwal EKTA Centre. The Snatra and Vastu Poojan was conducted by Bhakti Mandal.



There was a record turnout and over 400 people attended the poojan with more arriving later to view the Centre. In all, more than 500 people attended Oshwal EKTA Centre on the day with 70 cars parked on site and on the property next door. A shuttle service was arranged between the Centre and Beverley Drive to collect drivers who parked their cars along the road.

### 9th September 2012 – ALL AREA SEMINAR

9th of September saw the 2012 All Area Seminar held at Oshwal EKTA Centre and attended by the Executive Committee, Area Committees and Sub-Committees for a workshop and seminar.

### 15th September 2012 – PARYUSHAN 4 KIDZ

What better event to hold as the first official North West Event at Oshwal EKTA Centre! The Paryushan 4 Kidz team outdid themselves this year, building on their experience from last year. Once again, the children were introduced to the basics of Jainism through fun and games, including relay races, playdough, colouring and lots of other fun packed activities. The session was so successful that the kids have demanded that these be held on a regular basis!



Reciting the Navkar Mantra together



Holding their breath! A fresh start before an invigorating session



Getting them in early - A special session for the toddlers



The Navkar Mantra relay race!  
An innovative way to teaching the children.

## 12th – 19th September 2012 – PARYUSHAN

The volunteers kicked in once again for a record breaking set-up on the 11th of September all ready for the 12th of September. This year we had Manojbhai, Mukeshbhai, Arpitbhai and 10 year old Parshwa from Tapovan who shared their wisdom and knowledge with us and entertained us in the evenings with Bhakti.

Snatra Pooja with a twist! This year's Snatra Pooja turned out into a full Nativity play depicting the 14 Sapnas dreamt by Mata Trishla and the birth of Mahavir.



## 22nd – 23rd September 2012 – SAVANTSARI BHOJAN

Like the annual migration our numerous volunteers descended on Oshwal Centre in the early morning of the 22nd of September and the 23rd of September to prepare for the Savantsari Bhojan. Credit to all the volunteers who soon made short work of the tasks and were way ahead of schedule in the preparation.

Unfortunately, due to the bad weather we had a low turnout. For all those who missed out, please bear in mind that full contingencies were in place to ensure minimum disruption by the rain fall. We hope to see you next year, come rain or shine! To all those who were disabled, elderly and with little babies, a special thank you for making the effort to attend.



## Tapasvi List – 2012

---

Our heartiest congratulations to all Tapasvis for their accomplishment.

Name (Ladies)	Tapasya (# of Days)	Name (Gents)	Tapasya (# of Days)
Atusha Jayesh SHAH	8	Pravin Virpar Smat SHAH	12
Avni Bhaichand SHAH	8	Rajesh Amritlal SHAH	11
Bansari Kaushik SHAH	8	Atul Keshavji Rupshi SHAH	8
Divyaben Mukesh SHAH	8	Bharat Amritlal DODHIA	8
Jayshree Avnish GALAIYA	8	Devang Yogesh SHAH	8
Neha Girish SHAH	8	Hinal Hitesh SHAH	8
Poonam Ketan DHANANI	8	Hitesh Kapurchand SHAH	8
Premkata Amritlal SHAH	8	Ketan Somchand MALDE	8
Priti Paresh SHAH	8	Kiran Kaushik SHAH	8
Purnaben Dhanjibhai SHAH	8	Nishal Ratilal SHAH	8
Rajvi Bipinchand GUDKA	8	Rameshchandra Nathoo Lakha SHAH	8
Ramaben Navinchandra	8	Rupen Kishore SHAH	8
Ranjan Mahendra CHANDARIA	8	Sagar Amichand SUMARIA	8
Rekha Mukesh NAGARIA	8	Samir jethalal SHAH	8
Renuka Dilip SHAH	8	Sanjay Velji SHAH	8
Sadhna Anil SHAH	8	Vijay Mulji SHAH	8
Sajni Dipak GUDKA	8		
Shardaben Amratlal SHAH	8		
Shobhna Kishor SHAH	8		
Sonal D SHAH	8		
Suryaben Jayantilal SHAH	8		

Oshwal Association of the UK—North West Area  
**OPERATION RE-CONNECT** team  
presents



**"ON HER MAJESTY'S  
X-MAS SERVICE"**



Venue: **"EKTA CENTRE", 366A Stag Lane, Kingsbury NW9 9AA**

Date: Saturday, 8th Dec 2012

The event begins at 7:00 PM

Entrance

Tickets Purchased before 10 Nov 2012

£10.00 Member

£6.00 Kids (3 to 15 years)

£15.00 Non-Members

Tickets Purchased After 10 Nov 2012

£15.00 Member, £9.00 Kids (3 to 15) £20.00 non-member



**FANCY DRESS EVENT— JAMES BOND & MONEY PENNY**

Food, Games and Entertainment Included

Tickets will be sold in advance only.

Please contact the following OO Agents:

Chetan – 07949 459090 (Harrow)

Dixit – 07810 554629 (Canons Park)

Dipen – 07881 511457 (Edgware)

Khilit – 07932 715245 (Kenton)

Milan – 07968 817043 (Kenton)

Minesh – 07725 707005 (Pinner)

Nirmal – 07962 177326 (Stanmore)

Rumit – 07507 668247 (Northwood)

Tickets are also available from FunSkool and Re-Active8

Management reserves the right of admission. Tickets non-refundable.

Please bring your membership cards and proof of age along with you. Failure to provide proof of membership will incur non-member charges at the door.





# South Area

## Oshwal Gujarati School Parents Day Celebration Report

Every year Oshwal South Area Gujarati School holds an annual 'Parents' Evening'. This year's show was held on the 7th of July with the theme being 'Radha Krishna'. The evening showcased the hard work of all the students and teachers and demonstrated their knowledge of Gujarati and equally as important, their understanding of our culture.

Many trophies were given out to appreciate and recognise the hard work that students put in throughout the year. The sense of pride and achievement was evident and heartwarming for all staff at the School. The new Head Boys and Head Girls, roles which provide much responsibility were also announced. This was followed by a celebration of entertaining dances and plays all based on Krishna's life. We would like to thank all the students and teachers that put their time and effort into organizing and participating in such a brilliant show which was a huge success.



### Bridge Beginners Classes

Beginners course for learning bridge. The course will be 18 to 20 weeks and Normal Club fees will apply.

For More info and to register your names please contact Ashokbhai on 020 8679 0153 or Ramnikbhai on 020 8680 3200.



### Our Regular Clubs are:

- Daal Rotli Club – Which is on the Third Saturday of the month
- Bridge Club – Every Wednesdays evening
- Karata Club – Every Saturday evening

To Join or more info Please contact Ashokbhai Meghji Shah on 0208 679 0153

### Oshwal Volunteers Group

To register your name to help out at any of our events please contact Chunibhai for more info on 0208 689 7201

### Media & Communications

If you wish to assist M&C, please contact Ravi by email [ravishah100@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ravishah100@yahoo.co.uk) or Mitul by email [mitsky@hotmail.com](mailto:mitsky@hotmail.com)

### Music Classes

Music Classes run on Monday evenings for adults from 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm. There are 10 lessons per term. At these classes, Hindustani Music (North Indian Classical Music) is taught in group sessions. For further details, please contact Dhirubhai Shah on 020 8684 3592.

### South Area Property

We would like to re-develop our Mahajanwadi, We would kindly urge you to join up to our £240.00 Mahajanwadi re-development Scheme. For more details contact Shashibhai Premchand Shah on 020 -8644 4089



## Future South Area Events

### Oshwal Gujarati School Reunion

**Date: TBA. Time: TBA**

**Venue: Oshwal Mahanwadi South Area**

For more info or if you wish to help with planning please contact

- Sureshbhai Anandji Shah – 020 8664 9170  
or email gosrani2003@yahoo.co.uk
- Ashokbhai Meghji Shah – 020 8679 0153  
or email ashok\_shah@hotmail.com
- Kamalbhai Somchand Shah – 020 8684 3792  
or email kamalshah33@googlemail.com

CALLING ALL SOUTH LONDON GUJARATI SCHOOL EX-STUDENTS

### Darshan in Derasar

We are holding classes on how to have Darshan in the Derasar for all ages. Basic Rituals will be shown.

**Every Sunday Mornings**

**10.00am to 11.00am**

**At South London Derasar, South London Mahanjanwadi**

This is a Unique Opportunity not to be missed by anyone.

For more information please contact

Shashikantbhai (Batukbhai) on 020 8684 0433

Dhirubhai 020 8684 3592

### Zumba Classes

**Starting Date: TBA**

**Venue: Oshwal Mahanwadi South Area**

Contact Kelly Chandaria for more info: kc3107@googlemail.com

### Bhavna In Derasar

Third Saturday of the Month when there is Daal Rotli.

For more information contact

Shashikantbhai (Batukbhai) on 020 8684 0433.

### Additional Notes

If you would like to publish anything in Oshwal News please kindly email Ravibhai Shantilal Shah (Media & Communication Chairperson, South) on [Ravishah100@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Ravishah100@yahoo.co.uk) or Mitulbhai Shah on [mitsky@hotmail.com](mailto:mitsky@hotmail.com)

If you have any feedback or suggestion, please forward it to our secretary by email [rajeshbid@btinternet.com](mailto:rajeshbid@btinternet.com)



**Oshwal Gujarati School Proudly Presents...**

**Raas Garba**

**Prefects Show 2012**

**Come along and have some fun!**

**Full Dinner**

**Tickets are only £5!**

**Performing on the night will be 'Jiya'. A live band that will make the night fun and entertaining.**

**Venue:**  
Oshwal Mahajanwadi,  
1 Campbell Road,  
Croydon, Surrey, CRO 2SQ  
Tel: 020 8664 9807  
Sat A.M only

**For Tickets please contact:**  
Shanil Shah: 07894751472  
Priya Shah: 07517494166  
Shivani Chheda: 07710575182  
Anjali Shah: 07757257514

**8<sup>th</sup> December 2012**  
**Show starts at 6:30**  
**(Doors Open at 6:00)**



# West Area

## Re-Unite 50+ Luncheon with music

Your West Area Committee have thought long and hard as to how to re unite the community, this in mind our first function will be Re-Unite 50+ Luncheon on 25th November 2012.

All West Area members who are 50+ in age are invited to attend this Luncheon.

This replaces our very popular Senior Citizen Luncheon.

**Date: Sunday 2nd December 2012**

**Venue: Edgar Hall, Edgar Road, Hounslow, TW4 5QP**

**Time: 2pm to 6pm+ (Lunch: 2pm to 3pm)**

**Entertainment: Yes, Music**

**Cost: Free (Donations well come, we are looking for donors to fund the event)**

Have you turned the big 50yrs? Then this is for you.

There is limited capacity so book your place now. Last day of booking 14 November 2012.

For more information and to book your place please contact:

**Keshubhai (Colombo) Tel: 020 8570 7585 or Mobile: 07735 382657 between 2.00pm and 10.00pm.**

## રી-યૂનાઇટ 50+ લંચિયન સંગીત સાથે

તમારી વેસ્ટ એરિયા કમિટીએ કમ્યુનિટીને ફરીથી સંગઠિત કેવી રીતે કરવી તેની પર લાંબો વિચાર કર્યો છે અને તે ધ્યેયને ધ્યાનમાં રાખીને આ, અમારું પ્રથમ રી-યૂનાઇટ 50+ લંચિયન, ૨૫ નવેમ્બર ૨૦૧૨ ના રોજ રાખેલું છે.

વેસ્ટ એરિયાના સભ્યો જેઓ ૫૦ કે તેથી વધુ ઉમરના છે તેઓ તમામને આ લંચિયન પર હાજરી આપવા માટે આમંત્રણ આપવામાં આવે છે. આ અમારું ખૂબ લોકપ્રિય સીનિયર સિટિઝન લંચિયનને બદલે છે.

**તારીખ: રવિવાર, 2 December ૨૦૧૨**

**સ્થળ: એડગર હોલ, એડગર રોડ, હાઉન્સલો, TW4 5QP**

**સમય: બપોરે ૨ થી ૬ વાગ્યા સુધી (જમવાનું ૨ થી ૩)**

**મનોરંજન: હા, સંગીત**

**કિંમત: મફત** (દાન આવકાર્ય છે, અમે આ કાર્યક્રમના ભંડોળ માટે દાતાઓ શોધી રહ્યા છીએ)

શું તમને ૫૦ વર્ષ થઈ ગયા છે? તો પછી આ તમારા માટે છે.

જગ્યાઓ મર્યાદિત છે તેથી તમારી જગ્યા હમણા જ બુક કરી લો. બુકિંગ માટે છેલ્લો દિવસ ૧૪ નવેમ્બર ૨૦૧૨

વધુ માહિતી અને તમારી જગ્યા બુક કરવા માટે કૃપા કરીને સંપર્ક કરો: કેશુભાઈ (કોલોમ્બો ) ફોન: ૦૨૦ ૮૫૭૦ ૭૫૮૫ અથવા મોબાઇલ: ૦૭૭૩૫ ૩૮૨૬૫૭ બપોરે ૨ થી રાત્રે ૧૦ વાગ્યે.

### Calendar for Other Events in West Area

Fri 9th November 2012 – Coach trip to Oshwal Centre.  
Sun 2nd December 2012 – over 50's Luncheon (Previously known as Senior Citizen Luncheon).  
Sat 12th January 2013- Mehfil Night.

Sun 17th February 2013 - over 50's Luncheon (Previously known as Senior Citizen Luncheon).  
Sun 17th March 2013 – Youth Club Re-Union.  
Sun 24th March 2013 – Annual General Meeting

# West Area Youth Club

**We would like to celebrate  
36 years of our Youth Club!**

**Were you our youth club member?**

**We would like to get a list together so that  
an invite can be sent to all, so that no-one  
is missed out!**

**Please contact us with your details:**

Shantibhai P Shah: Tel: 020 8840 8218

Dhiru P Shah: Tel: 020 8570 7824 Mobile: 07941 345574

Sarith K Gada Tel: 07787 563396

E-Mail: [WestAreaYouthClub@gmail.com](mailto:WestAreaYouthClub@gmail.com)

**PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD AND LET OTHER OLD  
AND NEW MEMBERS KNOW!**







# What does Equality mean within the Oshwal Community?

*by, Bini Chandaria*

*One who cultivates an attitude of equality towards all living beings, mobile and stationary, can attain equanimity. Thus do the kevalis say.*

*~ Mahavira (Anuyogadvar, 708, gatha 2)*

Jainism teaches equality to all living beings, but how often do we think about what this means and question our own attitudes, behaviour and treatment of other people? How is equality relevant within the Oshwal community? The government here in the UK passed the Equality and Discrimination Act in 2010 making it illegal to discriminate against people on the basis of their gender, disability, sexuality, age or skin colour<sup>1</sup> – but how relevant is a change in law when talking about our own attitudes in these areas?

## Gender

Traditionally, we are a patriarchal society but times have obviously changed. It is worth reflecting on how many of our perceptions of women and their role in our community are rooted in this tradition. When visiting someone's home, do you still expect that the women will make the tea or do the cooking? Is there any real reason why that should be the case anymore? Previously men would have gone out to work and the women would have managed the house, including doing the cooking – but if both men and women are working why should they both not share the housework and cooking and also seen to be doing so?

How many issues considered to be women's issues aren't women's issues at all but family issues? Childcare, balancing work commitments and career ambitions with the responsibilities of

parenting and managing home and family life apply equally to both women and men.

True equality between the genders means that each can strive to have the life they choose without being told they cannot do something because they are a woman or a man. Is it still acceptable for certain things to be 'women's jobs' or 'men's jobs'? As well as being part of a wider society and community, it is worth remembering that we are all individuals too and it is not necessary that the right choice for one person is the same for another. It is not necessary that we must all conform to the same mould. Equality should be about celebrating those differences and that individuality.

## Disability

Many of you will have attended the Oshwal Enabling Education Fair<sup>2</sup> in August or watched the Paralympics in London. Whilst these events were on a completely different scale and with differing aims, they do share one thing in common – a vision that includes and integrates everyone regardless of ability or disability. They also provided evidence that just because a person may have a physical or cognitive impairment, they can still achieve great success. As a community, we can create an environment to encourage people of all abilities to achieve their aspirations and provide support wherever possible. The Oshwal Enabling

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/equalities/equality-act/>

<sup>2</sup> For more information about the talks, debates, stalls and other useful links please see [www.oshwal.co.uk/enabling-education](http://www.oshwal.co.uk/enabling-education) or for more disability related issues contact the Enabling Network on [en@oshwal.org](mailto:en@oshwal.org).

## ~ What does Equality mean within the Oshwal Community? ~

Education Fair, which made everything as accessible as possible, and the establishment of the Enabling Network are positive steps in this direction and it is up to us all as a community to build upon this progress.

Often, unless we know someone ourselves who is disabled, we do not know how to treat them equally. It is not usually malice or prejudice but ignorance on our part and this can lead to people feeling excluded or unwelcome. Our response to disabled people can be due to our own discomfort and not knowing what to say or how to behave; if we stop and think how we would wish to be treated in their position, perhaps we could show better understanding and ensure that they are included and can participate equally at all community events.

### Age

In our culture, we have a tradition of respecting our elders. This is reflected in the two terms for 'you' used in Gujarati. Many older people may feel that younger people do not actually show this respect and that their views and experiences are being discarded; whilst younger people often feel that older people are not prepared to listen to alternate points of view – attitudes to equality being an example, particularly the role of women within our community. The 'generation gap' is not unique to us, but may be exacerbated by the fact that in addition to the difference in age is the difference in the countries in which we have grown up and the education received. Rapid increases in technology and globalisation also magnify these issues as older people may find it difficult to adjust to these changes.

There is a balance between tradition and progress; holding onto our core values and beliefs whilst removing the outdated ideas of the past. However, this involves a compromise and an ability to see an alternate point of view. Education has a role to play in this – if older people can explain why things are done the way they are, younger people may be more willing to listen; the argument that "this is the way it has always been done" is not a satisfactory reason to do anything. Younger people need to be willing to listen to the reasoning of their elders and accept that some traditions are worth retaining and explain why

others are not. In today's busy world, it is about taking the time to listen and learn from one another and treating each other's views with mutual respect.

### Gay People

The subject of homosexuality is still not discussed within our community. Given that it is estimated that between 5 and 7 % of the general population is homosexual<sup>3</sup>, it is not unreasonable to infer that the same proportion of Oshwals are also in that category and yet we still hardly hear about it. How would you respond if a member of your family came out as gay? Would it bother you and if so, why? Look at yourself and ask is there a rational reason to treat gay people any differently? Or is it more a case that many of us do not often encounter gay people, so we just pretend that they don't exist or that it makes us feel uncomfortable so we look for excuses to justify our discomfort? The language we use and the openness with which we discuss these issues can have a positive or negative influence on gay people, of which we are not always aware. If gay people, no matter how small a minority, are to achieve equality within Oshwal, they should feel that they can be open and still feel accepted as equal members of our community.

You may be aware that the current coalition government has had a consultation to put forward a law that would allow same-sex civil marriage. The current proposal would not affect religious weddings and thus would not affect wedding ceremonies at Oshwal Centre<sup>4</sup>. However, were there to be an option for religious organisations to opt in, would we allow gay weddings at Oshwal Centre? Is there any reason why, as an equal member of the Oshwal community, a gay member should be denied the rights that others enjoy? Whether the law is changed by the current government or at some time in the future, the march of progress would suggest that change is coming and we as a community should be at the forefront by embracing all our members as equals.

---

<sup>3</sup> [www.stonewall.org.uk/at\\_home/sexual\\_orientation\\_faqs](http://www.stonewall.org.uk/at_home/sexual_orientation_faqs)

<sup>4</sup> [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/equal-civil-marriage/](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/equal-civil-marriage/)

## People of Different Backgrounds

Many people in our community came to the UK in the 1960s and 1970s and as newcomers to this country they may have had experiences of racial prejudice. Attitudes have now hopefully changed as integration and familiarity has increased.

However, how often do we ask ourselves how we treat others of different backgrounds – those of different races, religions or even from different countries? It is not uncommon to hear people speaking, for example, about Muslims or black people and making sweeping generalisations based on misguided preconceptions. How often do we look at the similarities instead of the differences between us and those of different backgrounds? Others share a commitment to their community and a sense of togetherness, often reinforced by the sense of increasing education and progression that we share.

## Conclusions

My hope is that reading this article will make you think about your actions and how you interact with others. If we treat people 'unequally', it is a failing in ourselves not them. Most of the time people do not mean to make others feel bad; it is just that they have never thought about what it is like to be in another's position and the impact that their behaviour and language can have. We should not be scared to question our preconceptions of those who are different to ourselves. Jainism teaches us that all living beings are souls and all souls are equal. Jainism also teaches us compassion. We may not always live up to the Jain ideal of treating everyone equally but that is not a reason to not try to be more thoughtful and to make an effort to treat others with dignity and respect.

*Just as you do not like misery, in the same way others also do not like it. Knowing this, you should do unto them what you want them to do unto you.*

~ Mahavira (Bhagavati Aradhana, 780)

---



## ઓશવાળ સમાજમાં સમાનતા શું છે?

જૈન ધર્મ પ્રમાણે બધા જીવોને સમાનતા દેવી જોઈએ પણ આપણે કેટલી વખત આનો વિચાર કર્યો છે? આપણું પોતાનું વલણ અને વર્તન બીજા લોકોને શું અસર કરે છે? કેવી રીતે ઓશવાળ સમાજને લાગુ પડે છે? યુનાઇટેડ કિંગડમ (United Kingdom) સરકારે 2010 માં ઇક્વોલિટી અને ડિસ્ક્રિમિનેશન એક્ટ (Equality and Discrimination Act) પસાર કર્યો હતો – લિંગ (જેન્ડર - gender), અપંગતા, નર-નારી પસંદગી, ઉંમર, અથવા વર્ણ (race) આધારે લોકો સામે ભેદભાવ ગેરકાયદેસર બનાવેલ છે – પણ આ કાયદાની અસર આપણા આપણા વર્તન ઉપર કેટલી થશે?

### લિંગ (જેન્ડર)

પરંપરા પ્રમાણે આપણી સમાજ પિતૃપ્રધાન છે. જમાનો બદલાઈ ગયો પરંતુ આપણાં રીતરીવાજની અસર હજી મહિલા ઉપર કેટલી થઈ રહી છે?

આપણે કોઈની ઘરે જઈએ ત્યારે હજી આપણી અપેક્ષા એ હોય છે કે મહિલા ચા અથવા રસોઈ બનાવશે? પહેલાના જમાનામાં પુરુષો કામે જતા હતા અને મહિલાઓ રસોઈ અને ઘરનું કામ સંભાળતા હતા. પણ અત્યારે બન્ને કામે જતા હોઈ તો બન્નેની ચા અને રસોઈ બનાવવાની જવાબદારી નથી? જો પુરુષ કરે અને કોઈ જોઈ તો એમાં શું નવાઈ છે?

જ્યારે આપણે મહિલાઓની સમસ્યાઓની વાત કરીએ ત્યારે આપણે વિચાર નથી કરતા કે તે ખાલી મહિલાની સમસ્યાઓ છે કે કુટુંબની પણ છે? બાળકોની સારવાર કરવાની, કામની જવાબદારી અને તેમા આગળ વધવાની જાણ, માતા-પિતાની ફરજ, કુટુંબનો

વહેવાર, ઘર સંભાળવાનું - આ બધું પુરુષ અને મહિલાઓને સમાનતાથી કરવું જોઈએ.

સાચી સમાનતા નો અર્થ થાય કે પુરુષ અને મહિલા ને કોઈ ન કહી શકે કે તમે આ કામ ના કરી શકો કારણ કે તમે પુરુષ અથવા મહિલા છો પણ ગમેતે કામ બન્ને પુરુષ અને મહિલા કરી શકે. મહેનત કરી પોતાની રીતે જીવન જીવી શકે. આપણે સમાજ અને સમુદાયના સભ્ય છે પણ સ્વતંત્ર વ્યક્તિ છે અને દરેકના વિચારો જુદા જુદા હોય અને બધાની પસંદ પણ જુદી જુદી હોય. બધાની ઈચ્છા એક સરખી ના હોય.

### અપંગ લોકો

ઓગસ્ટમાં તમે ઘણા બધાએ ઓશવાળ એનેબલીંગ એડ્યુકેશન ફેરમાં (Oshwal Enabling Education Fair) હાજરી આપી હશે અથવા પારાલીમ્પિક્સ (Paralympics) લંડનમાં જોયું હશે. બન્ને પ્રોગ્રામ જુદા ધોરણ ઉપર હતા અને હેતુ જુદો હતો પણ એક ધ્યેય સરખો હતો - એક દૃષ્ટિ અપંગ હોય કે ના હોય બધાનો સમાવેશ થાય છે. અપંગ લોકોને પણ સગવડતા આપતા સફળતા મળી શકે છે. તે આપણે ઓશવાળ એનેબલીંગ નેટવર્કમાં ઓશવાળ સમાજ દેખાડી દીધું હતું અને સાથ આપીને આગળ વધી શકાય.

ઘણી વખત આપણે અપંગ વ્યક્તિ ને ના ઓળખતા હોય તો આપણે એ લોકો સાથે કેવી રીતે વર્તવું તે ખબર હોતી નથી. આપણે વિચાર કરવો જોઈએ કે આપણે અપંગ હોત તો આપણી સાથે એવો વલણ કરત, તો આપણે કેવું લાગત. આપણે એ નો વિચાર કરી અને સુધારો કરવો જોઈએ.

### ઉંમર

## ~ What does Equality mean within the Oshwal Community? ~

આપણી સંસ્કૃતિ પ્રમાણે આપણે વડીલને માન રાખીએ અને 'તમે' તરીકે બોલાવીએ છે. ઘણાં વડીલોને એમ થતું હશે કે આજની પેઢી એ લોકો ના વિચારો અને અનુભવ ને માન નથી રાખતા પરંતુ આજ ની પ્રજા ને એમ થાય છે કે વડીલ અમારું સાંભળતા નથી, દાખલા તરીકે ઓશવાળમા મહિલાની સમાનતા. આ નું કારણ ખાલી જુદા જમાના નો નથી પણ જુદા દેશનો વસવાટ અને વધારે ભણતર ને લીધે છે.

સંસ્કૃતિ અને પ્રગતિમાં સમતોલપણ હોવું જોઈએ. આપણા મુખ્ય સિદ્ધાંત અને માન્યતા રાખવી જોઈએ અને જૂની પદ્ધતિ બદલાવી જોઈએ અને આગળ વધવું જોઈએ છે. આ માં સમાધાન અને અનેકાન્તવાદ ની જરૂર છે. આ માં વડીલોએ અત્યારની પ્રજા ને પરંપરા ના કારણ સમજાવવાની જરૂર છે અને જુવાન પેઢીએ વડીલાની સલાહ સાંભળી અને વિચાર કરવો જોઈએ અને સમજાવું જોઈએ કે ક્યાં ભૂલ થાય છે. તે પ્રમાણે વર્તવું જોઈએ.

### ગેય લોકો (સામાન જાતી)

આપણા સમાજમાં આ વિષય ઉપર વાતચીત થતી નથી. સરકારી ગણતરી પ્રમાણે પાંચ થી સાત ટકા ગેય વસ્તી છે. આના ઉપર થી આપણે અનુમાન કરી શકીએ કે પાંચ ટકા ઓશવાળ વસ્તી ગેય હશે. તમારા પરિવારમાં કોઈ આવીને તમને જણાવે કે તે ગેય છે તો તમને વાંધો આવશે કે નહીં આવે? તમારે વિચાર કરવો જોઈએ કે ક્યાં કારણે તમે એ લોકોને જુદા ગણો છો? અથવા તમે ગેય લોકોના સંપર્ક માં નથી આવ્યા કે તમે એમ વિચાર કરતા હશો કે કોઈ વાત ઉચારતા નથી

એટલે આપણા સમાજમા ગેય લોકો નથી? આપણી ભાષા અને વલણ ની અસર કેવી રીતે ગેય લોકો ઉપર થાય છે એની આપણે ખબર નથી.

### જુદા વર્ણના લોકો

આપણા લોકો જ્યારે ૧૯૬૦ અને ૧૯૭૦ યુનાઇટેડ કિંગડમ (United Kingdom)માં આવ્યા હતા અને ત્યારે ઘણાને ને ભેદભાવનો અનુભવ થયો હશે. અત્યારે જમાનો બદલાઈ ગયો છે અને ભેદભાવ ઓછા થઈ ગયા છે.

પરંતુ આપણે કેટલી વખત વિચાર કરીએ છે કે આપણી ભાષા અને વલણમાં બીજા તરફ કેટલો ભેદભાવ હોઈ શકે છે?

### સમાપન

મારી આશા છે કે આ વિષય ઉપર વાંચીને તમે વિચાર કરશો અને તમારા વલણ બીજા સાથે સુધારશો. આપણે ભેદભાવ કરતા હઈશું તો આપણી જ ભૂલ હશે. આપણે જાણી કરીને બીજા સામે ખરાબ વર્તન ના કરીએ પરંતુ આપણે કોઈ દિવસ વિચાર ના કરીઓ કે આપણા વર્તનથી બીજાને કેટલી અસર થાય છે. જૈન ધર્મ આપણે શિખવાડે છે કે બધા જીવોમાં આત્મા છે અને બધા આત્મા સરખા છે. જૈન ધર્મ માં કડુણા પણ છે. આપણે બધા જૈન આદર્શ ન પાડી શકીએ તો પણ આપણે કોશીશ કરવી જોઈએ.

~ બિની ચંદરીયા



# Foreign Language Learning as an Adult

*by Varsha Shah*

There are certain times when you feel old: standing at the top of a frozen ski slope when a group of toddlers whiz past at breakneck speed, hearing whispers about Federer's age when he is younger than you, invitations to ten year reunions from University dropping cheerily in from the letter box. If you then try conjugating a list of verbs - knowing that you were already past your peak, in terms of learning a foreign language, on your sixth birthday – it can sometimes require the consolation of a rather large slice of chocolate cake.

There are compensations (apart from the aforementioned chocolate cake) for trying though. For anyone who has ever thought of picking up a foreign language or two - and giving those eternally smiling five year olds a run for their money - here are some thoughts and suggestions:

## Why?

At a time when it's a struggle to even keep Gujarati in working order, why would you add another language to the mix? Everyone speaks English don't they? Why learn a language that you'll never be able to use? What is the point if you can't be fluent in it?

It is both an easy and a difficult question to answer. Difficult because if you approach the matter purely in terms of utility, then yes, unless you reach a certain level of fluency, or intend to travel to a non-English speaking country on your own without a guide, learning a language will not give you the same immediate use that you would get from, for example, learning how to change a light bulb. However this is missing the point. Learning a language isn't about utility (although it can be very useful). It is about connecting with people.

It is, for example, impossible to learn a language in isolation – start learning a country's language and you will find yourself getting books on its history, watching documentaries on its landscape, going to

restaurants to taste its food. You'll be drawn to other people who speak the language, both those who speak it fluently and those who speak it as struggling beginners. You'll find yourself flicking through travel magazines, dreaming about visiting the place and booking a ticket to see it for yourself.

If you know a smattering of the language and visit the country, you'll find yourself reaching out to other people, laughing as you try to make yourself understood, listening carefully to both what is said and what is not. Trying to speak another person's language is not the only way to build connections, but it is a good way – and so often appreciated much more than the effort it takes.

You will also see your own language in a different way. Learn Japanese verb conjugations which for the most part are regular as clockwork, and English suddenly seems a wonderful, maddening, chaotic mess – try to explain for example why the past of blink is blinked, but the past of think is thought, the present of bought is buy, but the present of caught is catch not cry.

## Which?

Any language that appeals to you will be a good one to choose. If you are fluent in English you might want to pick as your first language French or Spanish, where so many words look or sound similar, where you might have a base already from your school days, and where you can see yourself travelling to France, French speaking parts of Africa, or Quebec. On the other hand, you might want to try your hand at a language that has nothing to do with English and marvel at the differences.

Learn Korean and you will get an insight into the history. The Korean script, Hangul, made up of what at the beginning seems like lines and ovals, was designed in about 1443 to be easy to learn to increase the levels of literacy in the country. You will



get an insight into the culture as well – Korean grammar uses a system where the differences between formal and informal speech are made absolutely and painstakingly clear.

## How?

I have more enthusiasm for learning languages than ability, so these are just suggestions:

1. **Learning a language is like learning a combination of music and maths.** The best method that I have found is to work through grammar rules and lists of vocabulary in the same way as quadratic equations, and then surround myself with the language as I would do with music – listening to it on the TV and on the radio, travelling to the country if I can, having foreign language newspapers lying around.
2. **Use technology.** There is a surprising amount of free information out there – podcasts, youtube videos, and Apps. For learning French for example I have used a podcast called Coffee Break French, which you can listen to whilst drinking your morning coffee.

3. **Go on courses.** Do your research first though, as these can vary in quality. A course that teaches grammar in a rigorous way is the best.
4. **Be patient with yourself.** Someone picking up a violin for the first time would not be expected to play a Mozart concerto in a year. Likewise learning languages takes time.

Learning languages as an adult may not be as easy as it is for five year olds, but it is fun. As for utility, I've changed my mind. Knowing how to change a light bulb is useful but knowing how to order chocolate cake in four different languages isn't useful, it's essential!



# Dealing with loss in our Community

*by Suraj Shah*



## About the Author

Suraj Shah is a bereavement support visitor, writer and speaker. He lives in NW London and is a member of the UK Jain community.

**T**he death of a loved one affects us all.

You may have lost someone close to you, someone old or young. They may have suffered a long-term illness or suddenly passed away. They may have faced a natural death, or have been involved in a car crash. Perhaps they found it so hard to deal with their own circumstances that they took their own life.

Every death is different, surrounded by its own unique set of circumstances.

Every loss is also different, unique and very personal.

## Loss: a turbulent time

At a time of loss and during the months and years that follow, you may find yourself going through a whole range of emotions. Perhaps you feel anger and frustration one day, then guilt and sadness the next. Some days you may feel despair, and yet on other days you may experience elation. Some days you may feel so lonely that you crave company, while other days you're suffocated by those around you and just want to push them away.

Family, friends and colleagues around you may even be concerned about your yo-yo like emotions and shifting personality. But they'll struggle to find a way to support you, and you too may feel confused about how to move forward.

So sure enough, just as every death and every loss is unique and personal, there is never a one-size-

fits-all solution for dealing with loss. You need to discover what works for you and within our wider community there is support available to help you with it.

## Support available to live with loss

Within our community, we have diverse forms of support available to help us come to terms with and perhaps even glide through a loss.

### 1. Detachment-cultivating stavans

When someone in the community dies, all members of the community plus extended family and friends gather together at a sadadi (a.k.a. prarthna sabha or betthak) to pay their respects to the family.

This is usually where vairagya na stavano (detachment-cultivating songs) are sung to help us enhance calm within ourselves at this delicate time.

It is also a wonderful opportunity to stay quiet, bring stillness to ourselves, and contemplate on the temporary nature of our own bodies, the coming and going of people in our lives and the ever-changing situations in the world around us.

It helps us to question how we could possibly base our happiness on things that will inevitably change and encourages us to start seeking that which is permanent which will bring rise to everlasting happiness and peace.

For more about vairagya na stavano, read [livewithloss.com/calm-inducing-rituals](http://livewithloss.com/calm-inducing-rituals) and to benefit more from sadadis that you attend, read [livewithloss.com/from-disrespect-to-introspect](http://livewithloss.com/from-disrespect-to-introspect)

### 2. Bereavement support

When you have faced the loss of a loved one, it can often be hard to talk to family and friends about it. You may go to them seeking support and solace,

but may find yourself walking away frustrated and sad.

The thing is that family and friends care about you so much and they do want to support you, but emotions, agendas and selfish-motives sometimes get in the way, making it difficult to see you through this delicate time. (By the way, if you happen to be offering comfort to a friend who has recently lost someone, check out the support tips at [livewithloss.com/offering-support](http://livewithloss.com/offering-support) - your friend will thank you for it.)

If you find talking about your loss to be a struggle, you may want to reach out to a bereavement support service. They will help connect you with a bereavement support visitor - an impartial person you can confidentially talk to about anything to do with your loss, especially things that you may feel uncomfortable talking with family and friends about.

This is often a free service run by volunteers, so no charge to you, and available to anyone of any age. You could meet with a visitor once a week for a while and then see how it goes for you.

You may wish to seek out a local bereavement support service or your GP could refer you to one. Learn more about getting bereavement support at [livewithloss.com/bereavement-support](http://livewithloss.com/bereavement-support)

### 3. Living the virtues

It may sound odd, but the one person you will get most strength from at this delicate time may just be your loved one who has passed away — through the contemplation of their virtues.

Self-realised Jain saint Shrimad Rajchandra, upon learning about the death of his dearest friend and soul-mate Saubhagbhai, wrote a letter to Saubhagbhai's sons (Vacchanamrut letter 782, in Gujarati). Here is an abridged version — my basic understanding so I can share the essence of it with you:

*"His loss has caused great sorrow to you because (i) he was your family elder / head of the family; (ii) of your gratitude towards him; (iii) the awesomeness of his virtues. This is understandable. Let go of the remorse around the loss of your family elder, but continuously remember the great compassion he has bestowed upon you. Encourage your soul to contemplate on the words of wisdom and virtues he has described. Don't dwell on the sorrow that you have lost your father, but*

*instead dwell on the loss of his qualities. Remind yourself of the awesomeness of his virtues. With great patience and tolerance, pacify the sorrow born of delusion and take comfort and shelter from his inspiring words. The following virtues of Shree Saubhag are worth contemplating on repeatedly: straightforwardness; firmness of resolve for the ultimate truth; benevolence towards all seekers of the ultimate truth."*

If you feel down now that your loved one's physical presence is no longer with you, consider shifting your thoughts away from the sorrow of a physical loss and towards a recollection and contemplation of their magnificent virtues.

Appreciation of your loved one's qualities and the values they lived their life by can inspire you to apply them in your own life and help you at a time of sorrow. Read more on this at:

[livewithloss.com/elder-values](http://livewithloss.com/elder-values)

[livewithloss.com/missing-dad](http://livewithloss.com/missing-dad)

## Community support at a time of loss

So it turns out that at a time of loss, we have some great resources to see through the storm.

We have the stavans that cultivate detachment and help to calm our emotions. We have bereavement support from family, friends and services in the wider community.

Most importantly, we have the inspiring virtues of bhagwan and other elevated souls. We can embrace the teachings of our elders and loved ones we have lost to inspire us to lead a calm and purposeful life.

---

## Sadadi Announcements

If you would like to find out whether a Sadadi is being held at Oshwal Centre, Oshwal Mahajanwadi or Oshwal Ekta Centre, in respect of any deceased Oshwal, you may ring the Information Line at the Oshwal Centre and a Recorded Message will advise of the time of the Sadadi and the name of the person in whose memory the Sadadi is being held.

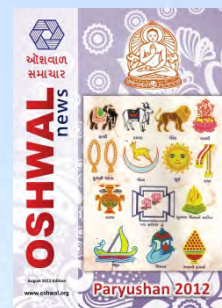
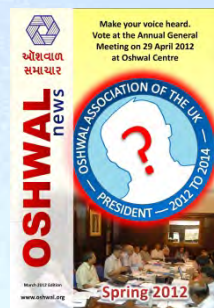
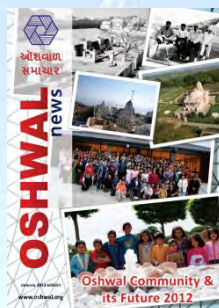
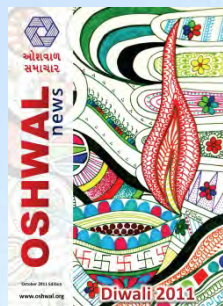
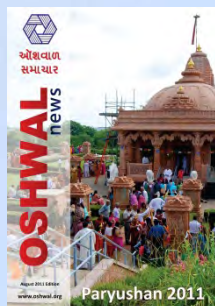
**Information Line Telephone Number:**

01707 661 066 (Recorded Message)

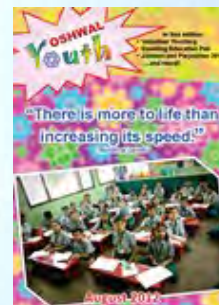
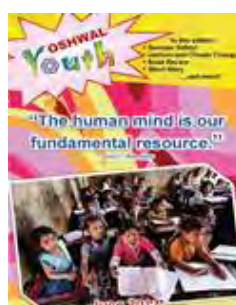


# Oshwal Publications

## Oshwal News Magazine



## Oshwal Youth Magazine



## Oshwal E-Magazine



Find out more about Oshwal Publications at:

[www.oshwal.co.uk/media](http://www.oshwal.co.uk/media)