

ઓશવાળ  
સમાચાર

A passionate Oshwal & a pillar of our community

Former OAUk President

Late Ashok Mulchand Vaghji Gosrani

7 October 1954 - 13 November 2018

# OSHWAL news



March 2019 Edition



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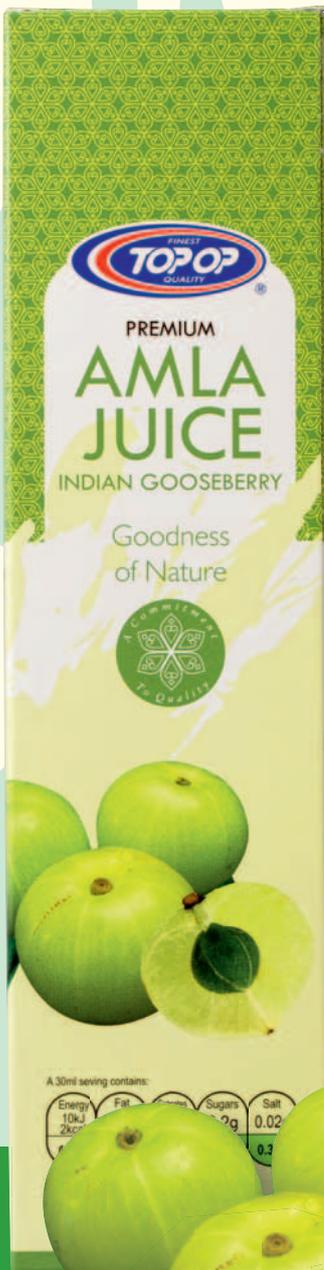


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Jai Jinendra

A new year brings many new challenges; I hope 2019 is a good year for you all. Life provides us all with many happy and sad times, but I truly believe that it is

very important that we live the short time we have here on earth to the fullest, enjoying all the precious moments that life gives.

I want to write about the sadness that occurred after the passing of Ashokbhai Mulchand Shah at the young age of 64. As a sign of respect and appreciation of his hard work for the community for over 34 years, we have dedicated the front cover to our much loved Ashokbhai which was kindly designed by 'Tribal Ape Designs'.

Oshwal news has become one of the best read magazines in our households, with your help and guidance we continue to make changes to the magazine. Thank you to all the avid readers of Oshwal news and a special thank you to all the young readers providing innovative ideas for the future.

Please note: Instead of a hard copy of the magazine if you only prefer to receive a digital edition, please inform the media team by emailing [media@oshwal.org](mailto:media@oshwal.org) or by letter to the Oshwal address which you can find at the bottom of this page.

Thank you to all the contributors, trustees, advertisers, committee members, helpers and all our readers across the U.K.

Kindest Warm Regards

**Sudhir Meghji Shah**

*Trustee and Editor of Oshwal News*  
[sudhir.m.shah@oshwal.org](mailto:sudhir.m.shah@oshwal.org)  
 07785 710914



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All other articles and reports to:

**[sudhir.m.shah@oshwal.org](mailto:sudhir.m.shah@oshwal.org)**

Pictures must be very high quality in Jpeg files

Articles from members should be max one page

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# President's Message

Jai Jinendra and Pranam

It's a start of New Year

Already one month has gone. A lot has been happening in our community and below are some highlights which are coming for this year.

## Opening of OAUK Primary School in Macchu Beraja and Samet Shikhar Jatra



I am pleased to announce that school which had been sponsored by the OAUK, in Macchu Beraja is now ready and the formal opening ceremonies took place on Saturday 9th February 2019. A few of the OAUK Trustees together with several donors and other OAUK Members attended in Macchu Bereja.

### Derasar Extension Work

For more than eighteen months now we have been trying to arrange for work visas for the specialist workers to come from India to carry out the necessary work on the extension to the Derasar. The officials from the Home Office have refused to grant visas on various grounds and even after we managed to get these decisions reversed, through administrative reviews, the entry clearances have still not been granted. Following the reversal of the original decisions the Entry Clearance Officers interviewed the workers and subsequently refused to grant the visas on minute grounds. The final decisions on granting of visas are made by the Entry Clearance Officers or their Managers and the applicants cannot appeal these decisions if the visas are refused.

We have now had to start the whole process again for a completely new team of workers and are arranging for them to submit their applications. Account has been taken of all the various issues raised by the officials during the back and forth communication, including rejections and subsequent reversals, for the previous team of workers as well as the grounds flagged up during the interview process. Every effort is also being made to ensure that the new team of workers is also better prepared for the interview stage and gets through it successfully. When we built the Derasar the application process was a lot simpler as we only had to apply for work permits which were granted under special consideration for the construction of the temple. Since then the whole Immigration system and its rules have been overhauled and changed, very significantly, making it quite complicated and difficult to bring in workmen from other countries for carrying out specialist works such as what we require for our temple.

### Oshwal House Extension Work

Whilst the work on this project has taken a lot longer than originally anticipated, we are pleased to

report that it is now in its final stages and should be concluded over the next few weeks. Once completed it will provide additional modern facilities, for smaller functions, which will complement our existing two assembly halls

### **Oshwal Health and Care Awareness Fair**

On 2nd June 2019 a mega event is being hosted at Oshwal Centre and aimed for all members of our community which will focus on health, well-being, care and career opportunities. As you will appreciate to organise an event of this magnitude, we need many volunteers from medical professionals to general volunteers. If you can help, please register using the following link: <https://www.oshwal.org.uk/ohcaf/>. Please make a note in your diary and look forward to seeing you all.

### **Oshwal Wedding Show**

On 24th November 2019, we will be hosting the biggest and most fashionable event of the year - the Oshwal Wedding Show at Oshwal Centre!! Preparations have already started for this huge event

and we are looking for volunteers, as well as for those who want to exhibit their wedding related services at the Show. Find out more about this great event on our website:

### **Other Events**

Various events are being held by all areas throughout the year. For further details please visit our website.

### **Oshwal Directory**

We thank everyone for their huge patience with regards to the Directory project. It has been a challenging and long project. But I am pleased to report we have made excellent progress on getting the Oshwal Directory and are preparing the Directory for printing.

Jai Mahavir, Jai Oshwal

Nilesh Bhagwanji Shah  
Hon. President  
Oshwal Association of the UK  
Email: [President@oshwal.org](mailto:President@oshwal.org)



We were privileged to have Poonamben Maadam, minister of Gujarat at the school opening ceremony.



Dear *Friends,*

Jaya Bachchan  
Chairperson  
Life Blood Centre  
(Blood Donor Movement)



MAY 01, 2018

We are celebrating **40th year of Changing lives** through humanitarian activities. We wish you a great & wonderful time ahead, We are thinking, because Thinking matters to us - Thinking ahead even more It's always good to think about tomorrow today.

That's why To meet the tomorrow's challenge we act today. We motivate, educate prospective blood-givers and organizations so that we can collect, make proper testing, process scientifically, store efficiently and provide 24 x 7 as service provider. We have given **592 thousand units of blood & blood components** to the needy patients.

We are the **first blood bank in South East Asia** to have **X-Ray Blood Irradiator** and we are the first blood bank to adopt NAT Technology in Gujarat State.

We have screened **656 thousand Thalassaemia Tests** To prevent birth of Thalassaemia major child.

We have distributed **257 thousand 6 to 15 ft. (63 varieties)** grown up trees for replantation.

Through our everyday Yoga sessions, We have impacted **579 thousand** persons towards health & wellness, Conducted shibirs in all **22 jails** of Gujarat State benefitting **7041 prisoners**.

We have pledged to construct **108 buildings of primary schools** and **5 Primary Health Centres** in the rural area of Gujarat. Till now we have built and dedicated **78 schools** and **5 Primary Health Centres**.

We have empowered more than **7 thousand** marginalized **widows / women** to enable them to be self-sustained.

We have been identified by the Government of Gujarat as one of the **Six Non Resident Gujarati Centres for Saurashtra and Kutch region**.

We do take responsibility of sustaining social and environmental issues.

Come and join us -  
**Together we will make a difference.**



Yours

Jaya Bachchan  
Chairperson

'Life', Racecourse Ring Road,  
Rajkot - 360001, Gujarat, India

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## HISTORY OF MACHHU BERAJA VILLAGE

Machhu Beraja is a Village in Lalpur Taluka in Jamnagar District of Gujarat State, India. It is located 34 KM towards South from Jamnagar. 6 KM from Lalpur. The nearby Villages to Machhu Beraja. Machhu Beraja is surrounded by Jamnagar Taluka towards East, Khambhalia Taluka towards west, Jamjodhpur Taluka towards South, Bhanvad Taluka towards South. Setalus, Sevak Bharudiya, Rafudad Moti, Arablus, Kanalus, Khambhalia, Salaya, Jamnagar, Kalavad are the near by cities to Machhu Beraja. There are many temples at nearby distance in Machhu Beraja like Ram Mandir (Choro), Jay Bahucharmaa Temple, Hindava Semraj Pir, Ghelbai Mataji Temple Machhu Beraja 2011 Census Details Machhu Beraja Local Language is Gujarati. Machhu Beraja Village Total population is 1677 and number of houses are 316. Female Population is 52.7%. Village literacy rate is 58.6% and the Female Literacy rate is 26.2%.

Population Census Parameter Census Data Total Population 1677 Total No of Houses 316 Female Population %52.7 % ( 884) Total Literacy rate %58.6 % ( 982) Female Literacy rate 26.2 % ( 440) Scheduled Tribes Population %0.0 % ( 0) Scheduled Caste Population %2.9 % (49) Working Population %56.1 % Child (0 -6) Population by 2011 198 Girl Child (0 -6) Population % by 2011 54.5 % ( 108) One can reach Machhu Beraja by Kanalus Junction Rail Way Station, Modpur Railway Station are the very nearby railway stations to Machhu Beraja. Reliance Smart Mall; Reliance Greens; Motikhavdi; Gujarat 361140; India 14.1 KM distance.

The Oshwal Association of the UK has been associated with Project 'Life', Rajkot, India since many years and has supported social causes including promotion of education in the rural Gujarat by generously donating the new primary school building named Oshwal Association of the UK Primary School at village Machhu Beraja in Jamnagar District. The infrastructure of the school building The school consist of 10 ideal classrooms along with the spacious corridor, safe drinking water facility, a multipurpose hall, principal office, separate toilets for boys & Girls, a big play ground covered with boundary wall. However, our ultimate aim is to provide excellence in education through holistic development of the students through various programs.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT DONORS OF OSHWAL ASSOCIATION OF THE U.K.

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- \* **Plus other doners not included**

# Oshwal Health and Care Awareness Fair

## Sunday 2nd June

The above mega event is aimed all members of our community - Oshwal Health & Care Awareness Fair, on Sunday 2 June 2019 at Oshwal Centre which will focus on health, well-being, care and career opportunities. As you will appreciate to organise an event of this magnitude we need a large number of volunteers from medical professionals to general volunteers. If you can help, please register using the following link:  
<https://www.oshwal.org.uk/ohcaf/>

Also please tell all your family and friends to put this date in your diaries. If you require additional information please contact us on [OHCAF@oshwal.org](mailto:OHCAF@oshwal.org).

The Oshwal Health & Care Awareness Fair aims to promote:

- awareness of health issues applying to both young and old;
- the care that is required to assist those individuals with particular health issues. In particular highlighting the burdens and needs of family members and carers (in many cases this falls on the younger members);
- careers in health & social care. This will help higher education students, undergraduates, postgraduates, professionals and those not pursuing higher education in selecting and developing their chosen careers. It is also aimed at parents to inform them of the current career and development options available to assist and guide their children; and a healthy diet and lifestyle including alternative medicine and therapy.

Key benefits for the attendees are:

- Learn about particular health issues
- Have specific diagnostic tests done
- Obtain career development advice and information
- Build contacts and network
- Share and learn from experiences of others
- Learn about healthy food choices

### Prominent Speakers

The Fair will host prominent specialist speakers to provide an overview of particular health issues and the specific care requirements. Also there will be speakers who will be able to share their experiences of dealing with specific health issues. Due to limited places for the talks, pre-registration will be required.

### Health Advisory Stalls

These will be manned by professionals who offering general advice.

### Career Stalls

There will be stalls on various health & social care careers, where attendees can talk to people working in these professions and get insights into the institutions and companies they work for, or businesses they manage and what career development opportunities are available. The stalls will be represented by individuals at different stages in their career.

### Workshops

The Fair will also have workshops including basic first aid. Due to limited places on these workshops, pre-registration will be required.

### Diagnostic tests

There will be diagnostic testing including among others hearing, eye, dental, blood sugar checks, etc undertaken on the day. Due to limited places for these checks, pre-registration will be required.

### Healthy Food Demonstrations

During the day there will be regular healthy food cookery demonstrations.

### Food Zone

During the day healthy refreshments will be available for a nominal price.

### General Stalls

There will be stalls offering information and other items. You will see from the above that an event of this magnitude requires the generous sponsors so if you can help by sponsoring the event then we have the following two packages available:

Lead Sponsors Package - £3500 per sponsor

This package includes the following:

- 1 A full page advert in the OHCAF booklet (as an optional extra one can have the back cover for £500 or the inside front or back cover for £300)
- 2 Prominence throughout the event
- 3 A stall for promotion

Other Sponsors Package - £1000 per sponsor

This package includes the following:

- 4 A full page advert in the OHCAF booklet
- 5 Prominence throughout the event

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor please contact Hitesh Shah on 07958 138414 or by email at [hitesh.i.shah@oshwal.org](mailto:hitesh.i.shah@oshwal.org).

A NEW SERIES OF REGULAR TALKS  
OSHWAL ACADEMICIANS – EDUCATORS - INSPIRERS – ACHIEVERS



**Topic:** My DNA  
**Date:** Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2019  
**Time:** Registration: 7:30pm for 8pm start to finish 10pm  
**Venue:** Ekta Centre, 366A Stag Lane, London NW9 9AA

**Rajvee Punatar (Nee: Shah) -** Research Scientist, Francis Crick Institute.



**Topic:** How to start, grow, sustain and hand over a family business  
**Date:** Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2019  
**Time:** Registration: 7:30pm for 8pm start to finish 10pm  
**Venue:** Ekta Centre, 366A Stag Lane, London NW9 9AA

**Bharat Shah -** Co-Chairman of Sigma Pharmaceuticals Plc



**Topic:** Acting, Stunts and Performing  
**Date:** Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2019  
**Time:** Registration: 7:30pm for 8pm start to finish 10pm  
**Venue:** Oshwal Centre, Coopers Lane Rd, Potters Bar EN6 4DG

**Kiran Shah -** Hollywood Actor

This event is free and open to Members and non-members.  
For more information please visit OAWK website: <https://www.oshwal.org.uk/>  
Event organised by Youth Culture, Professional Development, Membership Services Sub Committee.

#BeInspired #GrowOshwal #Achieve #Believe

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Management reserves the right to refuse admission and to make any changes to the event due to unforeseen circumstances. Please note photographs and videos may be taken at this event, and by attending you are giving permission to Oshwal Association of the UK for your image to be used in any post event publication such as Oshwal News Magazine, our website and/ or other media channels.

# Our Hero - Ashok Mulchand Vaghji Gosrani

Many great and wonderful events have taken place at Oshwal centre over the years; many of these were under the guidance and leadership of Ashokbhai. He held every position in the core EC team such as President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Honorary Secretary and also served in the NW area team. His passion and drive helped in the progression of our community. He was very articulate, smart, caring and passionate about the future of Oshwal. He was a warm family man with a great sense of community spirit. He was an avid collector of watches, cars and family memories.

Both his parents late Mulchundbhai, Kanchanben and his wife Hansaben have all been very supportive in various projects that Ashokbhai undertook with great success. He will be sorely missed by his mother, wife, children, grandchildren, past and present trustees, committee members and the wider community.

On the following pages we take a look at fond memories he shared with us all.









# Events in your area

## Northampton

**Monthly Fun Club-** Every 3rd Saturday of the Month  
Time – 19:00 pm – 22:45pm  
Venue – Weston Favell Parish Hall, Northampton  
Light Refreshment followed by fun and games i.e. board games  
or any suggested activities  
Contact – Gitaben Shah 01604 584971  
/ 07751982975 or gita.shah@oshwal.org

**Twin Heart Meditation (Pranic Healing-** Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month  
Time – 19.30pm – 20.30pm  
Venue – Weston Favell Parish Hall, Northampton  
Contact – Gitaben Shah 01604 584971 /  
07751982975 or gita.shah@oshwal.org

## South London

### Bridge Club-

Time: 8:00PM -11.00PM  
Contact: Ansuyaben Ansuya.h.shah@oshwal.org 07877  
410390

### Ramat Gamat & Welfare Club-

1st Friday of every month  
Time: 11.00AM – 4.00PM  
Venue: Oshwal House  
Contact: Maiuriben – maiuri.v.chandaria@oshwal.org

### Gujarati School-

From ages 5 upwards  
Every Saturdays  
Time: 9.00AM – 12.00PM  
Venue:Harris Academy.

### Karata Club

Every Saturday evening  
Venue: Oshwal House

### Satsang Mandal

Every Saturday  
Time: 2.00PM – 4.00PM  
Venue: Oshwal House

### Sports and Social Club

Racquets and Kids Club  
Time 10-11.30am every 2nd and 4th Sunday  
Venue: Harris Academy, Purley (off Pampisford  
Road)  
Contact: southyouth@oshwal.org

### Walking4Health

Every Sunday morning  
TIME: 9.20am  
Venue: meeting point Oaks Road Car Park off  
Coombe Lane  
Contact: Nila (07941 300867)

### Wellbeing Events

Yoga Classes from Monday 7th January Time:  
7.30 – 9pm  
Venue: Mahanjanwadi.  
Contact:Kanchan on 07947 866402 for

## North East London

### Tuesday Welfare Club – Chair Yoga

Time: Every Tuesday, 10:30 to 12:30  
Venue: Oshwal Centre, Coopers Lane Road, EN4  
4DG  
Contact: Rohit, rohit.z.bidd@oshwal.org

### Keep Fit – stay healthy with our exercise classes

Time: Every Tuesday, 20:00 to 21:00  
Venue: Trinity at Bowes Methodist Church,  
Palmerston Road, N22 8RA  
Contact: Madula on 07944 010 464

### Gujarati School – learn the language of our ancestors

Time: Every Saturday, 09:30 to 12:30  
Venue: Woodhouse College, Woodhouse Road,  
NL2 9EY  
Contact: Bakul, bakul.h.patani@oshwal.org

### Sunday Youth Club Class

Time: Every Sunday, 09:00 to 10:30  
Venue: Alexandra Park School, Rhodes Avenue,  
N11 2AZ  
Contact: Aashni, aashni.s.shah@oshwal.org

## **Yoga Classes – unite the body and mind in one of our classes**

### **Monday Class**

Time: Every Monday, 19:00 to 20:30  
Venue: Southgate School, Sussex Way, EN4 0BL  
Contact: Maysuri on 07960 127 100

### **Tuesday Class**

Time: Every Tuesday, 19:00 to 20:30  
Venue: Southgate School, Sussex Way, EN4 0BL  
Contact: Dilipbhai on 07966 443 607

## **North West London**

**Bhakti @ EKTA-** Once a month on a Wednesday  
Time: 8:00PM – 10:00PM (doors open at 7:45PM)  
Venue: Oshwal Ekta Centre  
Contact Mahesh Shah (07804 648 197)

**Weekly Bhukar-** Every Thursday  
Time: 8:30PM – 10:30PM  
Venue: Oshwal Ekta Centre; 366A Stag Lane; NW99AA  
Contact: Mahendra Chandaria – 07714 712713

**Elderly Monthly Meets-** On 3rd Saturday of each Month.  
Tickets: £5 per session (OAUk Members Only) – payable at the door  
Time: 11:30AM – 4:00PM  
Venue: Oshwal Ekta Centre; 366A Stag Lane; NW99AA  
Contact: Manjulaben Shah – 020 8864 2522

**Oshwal Ekta Mandals**  
Every Monday and Thursday (Except when hall is not available). Tickets: £2 per session (OAUk Members only)  
Time: 10:30am – 12:30pm  
Venue: Oshwal Ekta Centre; 366A Stag Lane; NW99AA  
Contact: Pritiben Gudka – 07737 150832

## **North London**

**Friday Youth Club**  
Time: 6-8pm Under 12s, 8-10pm Over 12s  
Venue: Woodhouse College – Sports Hall  
Contact Rakhee, yc.north@oshwal.org

**Friday Yoga**  
Time: 7-8pm, Suitable for all levels ages 16+.  
Venue: Woodhouse College – Dance Studio  
For more information contact Simran:  
activities-n@oshwal.org

**Saturday Gujarati School**  
Time: 9.30- 12.30  
Venue: Woodhouse College – Main building  
From ages 4+ (including adult classes) Free trial classes available.  
Contact: Dipa/Kuntesh, education-n@oshwal.org

**Zumba Classes** – dance to energetic music  
Time: Every Wednesday, 19:00 to 20:00  
Venue: Ruth Winston Centre, 190 Green Lanes, N13 5UE  
Contact: Pushpa, pushpa.j.shah@oshwal.org

**Youth Club** – play a variety of sports and a free taster session  
Time: Every Sunday, 09:00 to 13:30  
Venue: Alexandra Park School, Rhodes Avenue, N11 2AZ  
Contact: Aashni, aashni.s.shah@oshwal.org

**Bhukar** Every Once a month on a Saturday  
Time: 7:30PM – 11PM  
Venue: Oshwal Ekta Centre; 366A Stag Lane; NW99AA  
Contact: Ajitbhai Shah – 07737 418603

**ReActive8** (Sports and Leisure)  
On Friday's (during term times)  
7.30pm to 11.00pm  
Harrow Leisure Centre, Christchurch Ave, Harrow, HA3 5BD  
Contact: reactive8-nw@oshwal.org

**Whist Drive** (Chokdi)  
Once a month on a Saturday. Tickets: £7 for members £9 for non-members  
Dates: Click here.  
Time: 7.00pm to 11.00pm  
Contact: Premharbhai Shah– 07961 048465

**FunSkool, NWACAS & Communicate**  
Every Saturday (term time)  
Contact: education@northwest.oshwal.org

**Friday Social Club**  
Time: 7.30 – 10.30 pm  
Venue: Woodhouse College – Foyer  
Contact: Kuntesh, social-n@oshwal.org

**Saturday Bollyaerobics**  
Time: 10am to 11am  
Venue: Woodhouse College Dance Studio  
Contact: Simran, activities-n@oshwal.org

**Friday Yoga**  
Time: 7-8pm, Suitable for all levels ages 16+.  
Venue: Woodhouse College – Dance Studio  
For more information contact Simran:  
activities-n@oshwal.org

**Saturday Cultural Activities**  
(included for all that attend Gujarati school) from £170 per year.  
Time: 11.30-12.30  
Contact: Dipa/Kuntesh education-n@oshwal.org

## Luton

**Games Night-** 1st Friday every month.  
Time: 6-8pm Under 12s, 8-10pm Over 12s

Venue: Warden Hill Community Centre  
Contact Neil on 07880 310221.

## West London

### Kurry Klub

Time: First Saturday of the month, From 6:30pm  
Venue: Oshwal Shakti Centre  
Contact: Keshubhai (Columbo) on 07735 382 657 (between 2:30pm and 9:30pm only).

### Wednesday Social Club (Two sessions)

Time: Every Wednesday, 1st Session – From 1:45pm to 4:30pm (Tea and snacks at 4:00pm);  
2nd Session (card games only) – From 8:00pm to 11:00pm.  
Venue: Oshwal Shakti Centre  
Contact: Keshubhai (Columbo) on 07735 382 657 (between 2:30pm and 9:30pm only).

### Satsang Mandal

When: Second Thursday of the month, From 8:00pm to 10:00pm.  
Contact: Dipakben on 07908 780 589 or Chunibhai on 07904 878 657.

**English Classes** (run by Centron Skills Training) – Learn English in an Easy way.

When: Every Thursday, From 12:30pm to 2:30pm.  
Contact: Chunibhai on 07904 878 657.

## East London

### Yoga Classes

Note: Bring your yoga mat and a bottle of water.  
Time: 8.00PM – 9:00PM (Every Tuesday)  
Venue: St. Johns Church Hall, St. Johns Road, Seven Kings, IG2 7BB  
Contact: Bhartiben Babulal Shah – 020 8590 0091.

### Monthly Social Gathering

Note: Bring your yoga mat and a bottle of water.  
Time: 7.00PM – 10:00PM (Last Saturday of the each Month)  
Venue: St. Johns Church Hall, St. Johns Road, Seven Kings, IG2 7BB  
Contact: Sumita Shanti Shah 07504 032 517 or 020 8518 1848

### Gujarati School

When: Every Friday (term time), From 6.00pm to 8.00pm.  
Contact: Ushaben Shah on usha.shah@oshsal.org.

### OAUK Shakti Salon

When: Last Wednesday of the month, From: 2:00pm to 5.00pm.  
Contact: Shejal – 07825 371 875

### Friday Night Card Games .

When: Every Friday, From 8:30pm to Midnight.  
Charge: Each session: members: £1.00 pp and non-members £2.00 pp.  
Contact: Dhirubhai Nathoo Shah on 07960 631 602 after 7pm.

**Youth Club** – Play sports and enhance your fitness.

When: Sunday Morning: Football, Basketball, Netball  
For further information and charges contact: Ketan K Shah.

### Monthly Social Gathering

Note: Bring your yoga mat and a bottle of water.  
Time: 7.00PM – 10:00PM (Last Saturday of the each Month)  
Venue: St. Johns Church Hall, St. Johns Road, Seven Kings, IG2 7BB  
Contact: Lalitaben Ambrital Shah – 020 8220 8827 or 07557 901 321

## Congratulations

Dahiben Jivraj Karamshi Shah, Age 104 Years

Dahiben was born on 19th February 1915, and a daughter to Leelaben & Surabhai Parbat Shah (Navagam).

Dahiben was the eldest having 4 sisters and 2 brothers. Sadly all her brothers and sisters have passed away. Leelaben her mother was nearly blind and from a very young age Dahiben took on the responsibility of managing the house and looking after her brothers and sisters.

At a young age of 13 years she married Jivraj Karamshi Shah (Chela) and migrated soon after to Nairobi, Kenya. She was devastated to leave her family behind in India, but very soon settled in Kenya and through hard work, managed to raise 3 sons (Jayantibhai, Rasikbhai, late Dineshbhai) and 2 Daughters (Ramaben & Jayaben)

Never one to sit idle, she has tirelessly done so much knitting, sewing, papad making and helped so many others in their household work. She still attends many regular events at our Centres and can still recall all the Oshwals and their life history! She has 8 Grandchildren and 16 Great Grandchildren.





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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**Also please tell all your family and friends to put this date in your diaries. If you require additional information please contact us on [OHCAF@oshwal.org](mailto:OHCAF@oshwal.org).**

## Oshwal Directory

We thank everyone for their huge patience with regards to the Directory project. It has been a challenging and long project. However, we are pleased to report we have made excellent progress on getting the Oshwal Directory and are preparing the Directory for printing.

In 2019, we will be printing a A4 sized Oshwal Directory (estimated pages 400). If you would like to advertise in the Directory, please register your interest via our website: [www.oshwal.org.uk/directory](http://www.oshwal.org.uk/directory)

The advertisement rates are as follows and the deadline for registering your interest is 31st March 2019.

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Inside	£ 250	QRT	Portrait format

\*Note: if there are more than 1 interested advertiser for the BACK COVER, INSIDE FRONT COVER and INSIDE BACK COVER a random draw will be done to select an advertiser.

## Religious Event Dates For 2019

- » **Fagan Terus** - 19th March
- » **Ayambil** – Thursday 11th April to 20th April
- » **Kalpa Sutra Poojan** – 1st September (jointly with all the areas)
- » **Paryushan** – Monday 26th August to 2nd September
- » **Chatya Pari Party** – Sunday 8th September (visiting 5 temples in London) Oshwal Centre, Mahavir Foundation, Colindale, South (Lunch) and finishing at Ekta Centre
- » **Dhaja Din** – Sunday the 15th September
- » **Ayambil** – Saturday 5th October – 14th October
- » **Diwali** – 27th October (Day time – Pava Puri ni Bhav Yatra – Depicting Life of Mahavir and evening Chop-da Poojan)
- » **Diwali** – 28th October – New Year
- » **Kartak Poonam** – 12th November
- » **Gnan Pacham** - 1st November
- » **Posh Dashmi** – 20th, 21st and 22nd December – (22nd will be a big Poojan)
- » **A Poojan** – 1st January 2020 (New one – which we will announce near the time)

For more information on any of the religious events, or to volunteer please contact portfolio chair **Varshaben Dilip Shah** at: [varsha.d.shah@oshwal.org](mailto:varsha.d.shah@oshwal.org).



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# *All good wishes to the UK Oshwal Association for 2019*

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### 2019 EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR DATES

Dates	Time	Venue	Topic	Speaker
Wednesday 24th April 2019	7.00 pm - Indian Buffet Dinner (includes soft drinks)	Mumbai Junction Restaurant, 231 Watford Road, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 3TU	<b>'Inherently Unfair'?</b>  Inheritance Tax is widely viewed as unfair, and even the Chancellor agrees it's complex, but only effective and early planning can minimise it's impact on your estate.	Dipesh Shah DipPFS, CeMAP MSc BA (Hons) Wealth Manager & Company Director of Oakdale Financial Services Ltd
Wednesday 22nd May 2019	8.00 pm – Seminar talk: <b>'Inherently Unfair'?</b>	Limited parking available onsite	This seminar talk will include a look at: Wills, Lasting Power of Attorney, Gifting, Trust Planning*, Business Relief, Protection for Inheritance Tax Planning.	Dipesh has a wealth of experience advising his clients in the important subject of inheritance tax Planning. Dipesh enjoys helping his clients minimise the impact of this tax on their estate, leaving more for their loved ones after they have passed away.
Wednesday 19th June 2019	9.00pm – Q & A Session			

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WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU AT ONE OF OUR SEMINARS.

# 'Inherently Unfair'

**Inheritance Tax is widely viewed as unfair, and even the chancellor agrees it's complex: only effective and early planning can minimise its impact on your estate.**

Well overdue, perhaps, was the news that Chancellor Philip Hammond had asked the Office of Tax Simplification (OTS) to review Inheritance Tax (IHT) with a view to simplifying the regime. In writing to the OTS, he acknowledged that "IHT, and the system within which it operates, is particularly complex".

Currently, if your net estate is worth more than the standard nil-rate band of £325,000, 40p in tax is charged for every pound that exceeds the threshold; except that, broadly, if you leave your main residence to a lineal descendant, £125,000 is added to that nil-rate band (rising to £175,000 in 2020/21). Unused elements of both allowances are transferrable on death to a surviving spouse or civil partner.

The regime has been criticised also for being discriminatory against those who do not own their own home, those who do not have children, and those who are not married or in a civil partnership.

Even if there is potential to simplify IHT exemptions, it's probably too much to hope that the tax will be scrapped. After all, a cash-strapped Exchequer seems increasingly reliant on taxing people's estates posthumously. In 2022/23, the UK's Exchequer is expected to raise £6.38 billion from IHT.<sup>1</sup>

That said, several governments around the world have convinced themselves that reforming or repealing estate taxes is vital to their political survival. If Donald Trump's ambition is realised, the United States will join a growing list of nations where taxing people's estates is being phased out or abandoned. Sweden abolished the practice in 2004, while Hong Kong and Russia did the same in 2006. In Norway, inheritance and gift taxes were abolished in January 2014.<sup>2</sup>

IHT is often referred to as a 'voluntary tax', and it does seem that inertia or ignorance is largely to blame for wealth ending up in the hands of the taxman rather than surviving family members. The fact is that with some careful planning, those with estates currently worth more than the nil-rate band can legitimately reduce their IHT liability, or possibly pay nothing at all.

## In your gift

Gifts are normally included in the net estate for IHT purposes if they were made less than seven years before death. However, these gifts are ignored if they total less than £3,000 in any one tax year. This means that you can

make gifts of up to £3,000 in total in any tax year without attracting IHT. The £3,000 can be given to one person or it can be split between several people. If the exemption is not used in one tax year, it can be carried forward to the next year, potentially enabling a couple to remove £12,000 from their joint estate in just one tax year.

That money could be used to help with the financial challenges faced by younger family members; for example, topping up a child's pension or Junior ISA could go a long way to providing them with an invaluable head start in life. With the end of the tax year looming, this opportunity could be lost unless action is taken soon.

Those with sufficient surplus income may also want to take account of the 'normal gifts out of income' rule – if you make regular gifts out of income and in doing so don't affect your standard of living, the gifts are exempt from IHT. However, to reduce the possibility of a disagreement with HMRC, it is wise to seek professional help from a financial adviser or accountant.

While lifetime gifts can significantly reduce an IHT liability, it's worth noting that if you don't take time to write a valid Will, your estate will be handled according to the laws of intestacy. If you die intestate, you will have no control over how your estate is distributed, and rather than everything passing to a spouse or civil partner, a proportion could be transferred to descendants, triggering a potential IHT liability.

If your children's share is worth more than the individual IHT threshold, they could be liable to pay 40% tax on anything they inherit over that amount. This could be avoided by writing a Will that leaves assets worth up to the tax-free threshold of £325,000 to children, with the balance of the estate left to a surviving spouse. But there may be even better options, depending on circumstances, through the use of trusts.

## Take advice

IHT often falls on the ill-prepared and unadvised. That's why it's important to seek financial advice, so that all your assets are properly protected. Shockingly, fewer than a fifth of over-55s have taken action to reduce their potential IHT bill.<sup>3</sup>

The levels and bases of taxation, and reliefs from taxation, can change at any time and are dependent on individual circumstances.

<sup>1</sup> Office for Budget Responsibility, *Economic and fiscal outlook* – March 2018

<sup>2</sup> EY, *Worldwide Estate and Inheritance Tax Guide 2017*

<sup>3</sup> Prudential, May 2017

To receive a complimentary guide covering Inheritance Tax Planning, contact Dipesh Shah on 020 8150 7565 or email [Dipesh.Shah@sjpp.co.uk](mailto:Dipesh.Shah@sjpp.co.uk)



**Mr Dipesh Shah** DipPFS, MSc, BA (Hons)

Tel: 020 8150 7565 Mob: 07960 568644

Email: [dipesh.shah@sjpp.co.uk](mailto:dipesh.shah@sjpp.co.uk)

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## Oshwal Trek 2018- Everest Base Camp

On 5th October 2018, 30 Oshwal trekkers eagerly awaited their arrival into Kathmandu. Stepping foot into Kathmandu filled me with excitement knowing I was so close to starting an adventure of a lifetime, never had a I felt such a sensory overload with a gusting level of sights, sounds and smells all hitting us at once. Kathmandu had a certain air of charisma that we hadn't experienced before. From travelling in a rickshaw, barrelling through the traffic-jammed alleyways of old town, to marvelling through the medieval temples in Durbar Square or dodging trekking touts in the backpacker district of Thamel - Kathmandu was certainly a beautiful city to begin our expedition in.

On Sunday 7th, the much awaited day arrived – our departure to Lukla! Appropriately labelled the world's most dangerous airport at 2843m high and only a 527m runway, we arrived with our bright orange duffel bags eagerly waiting to board the flight. We were transported in a minibus to the airside where we all sat in front of a small and compact "Summit air" propeller plane in awe, thinking "will we survive this, let alone base camp!". As we buckled our seatbelts, I could feel the adrenaline rush as we prepared for the 30 minute rollercoaster. We felt every jolt of wind and motion of turbulence, but all of which was forgotten as we looked

out to the spectacular views of crisp white, snow filled mountains and their untouched valleys – so calm and peaceful! To my surprise the landing was incredibly smooth, a testament to the highly skilled pilots.

And so the hike began. The first day started with a gentle hike from Lukla-our route took us through numerous beautiful villages before arriving to a small village called Phakding,-4 hours later. The following day, after following the banks of the 'Dudh Kosi' river we arrived at a spectacular suspension bridge which marked the long uphill climb to Namache. Passing several beautiful prayer wheels with the chant Om Mani Padme Om intricately carved into them, we would pause to spin the wheels in a clockwise direction.



When the prayer wheels are turned, some of which were greater than 5ft, it is believed that the mantras are activated and purify negativity and generate compassion.

After crossing many suspension bridges, we finally made it to the famous Himalayan mountainside town, called Namche Bazaar. A distinct town on its own, a true get away from the Khumbu region. It was in this town trekkers could pick up any last-minute comforts including apple pie and reenergise before continuing our journey.

We spent 2 nights in Namache Bazar to acclimatise. Our acclimatisation walk entailed hiking to the Everest Hotel which sat at an altitude of 3880m. Along the way we caught our first glimpse of Mt Everest (8,848m), Ama Dablam (6,665m) and Lhotse (8,500m). Seeing it in person, brought home the reality that we really were guests of the world's highest mountain.

It was so easy to keep your head down and concentrate on each foot step, but taking a moment to pause and reflect on the beautiful scenery would instantly motivate me to 'keep going' when I felt out of breath feeling of reaching Everest Base Camp was unreal! Such a proud moment! There we were surrounded by enormous mountain ranges in every corner we turned too.

I've come back from the trip feeling even closer to nature!

My gratitude goes to the positivity, motivation and willpower of the Sherpas; which I believe were the three qualities I too required to successfully achieve the goal I had set 6 months ago.

The following day the trail dropped down to the

'Dudh Kosi' river . We stopped for lunch in a small village called 'Punki Thanka', before embarking on a steep ascent through the 'rhododendron forest' which brought us to 'Tengboche' and its famous monastery. Tengboche lies at the base of Kantaiga and the spur of this ridge offers panoramic views of the main peaks of Khumbu including Everest, Lhotse and Ama Dablam. This little village is famous for the festival of Mani Rimdu, a celebration of empowerment. Normally celebrated during the months of October/November, the celebrations entail locals dancing to the Tibetan opera in the monastery courtyard. We arrived at



We left the village of Lobuche at dawn on the 14th October 2018, with it being -10°C ;suffering from loss of appetite and fatigue my feet struggled at the prospect of a 5 hour hike to Gorak Shep. This was certainly the toughest part of the hike for me personally, but with the prospect of not being able to turn back, and immense motivation from the rest of the group, we arrived at Gorek Shep at about 10.30am. Following a slight rest, an hour later, we left for a 3 hour hike to Everest Base Camp.

'Dingboche' 6 hours after leaving Tengboche With everyone still in such high spirits, we spent the night sipping lemon and ginger tea by the yak-paddie-powered stove, laughing with our Sherpa hosts and playing cards

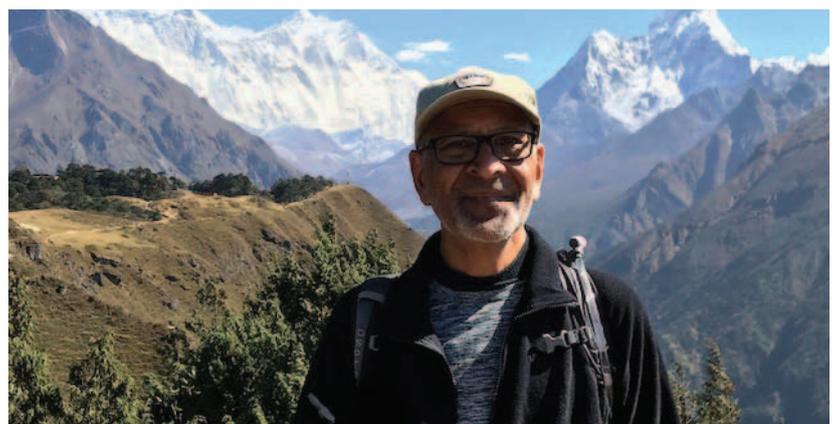
(I think we all became experts at 'Mafia' by the end of it) before enjoying the most delicious "daal bhat" which reminded us of our home cooked meals. We were starting to feel the altitude as we arrived to approximately 4400m and decided to spend another night in 'Dingboche' before we headed to 'Lobuche'.

The feeling of reaching Everest Base Camp was unreal! Such a proud moment! There we were surrounded by enormous mountain ranges in every corner we turned too.

I've come back from the trip feeling even closer to nature! My gratitude goes to the positivity, motivation and willpower of the Sherpas; which I believe were the three qualities I too required to successfully achieve the goal I had set 6 months ago.









On 7th October, 30 Oshwal trekkers landed in the world's most dangerous airport, Lukla - Nepal, to start their adventure of a lifetime. The 2 weeks spent trekking to Everest Base Camp and Gokyo Ri have left memories of vibrant colours, warm hospitality, tasty hot meals and stunning scenery and most of all we have gained new friends. The group worked hard to raise a fantastic [£30,000] which will help rebuild an entire school, Basnet Gaun School, which is located in Benighat Rorang Guapalika in the Dhadhing region of Nepal. The school was badly damaged during the April 2015 earthquake which has meant urgent repairs were required for the safety of the children.

Sita Shah, Anish Shah

Trekkers:

Ananka Shah, Anish Shah, Ashni Pau, Cheenar Shah, Deep Shah, Dhiren Shah, Dhruv Shah, Geetu Mirpuri, Hema Shah, Jamie Shah, Khush Shah, Kunjal Shah, Malkesh Shah, Mandeep Shah, Mihir Shah, Miraj Shah, Nikhil Patel, Pooja Shah, Praful Nanda, Purav Patel, Riddhi Shah, Rishi Shah, Ronak Bid, Rushab Shah, Sahaj Shah, Sameer Bagha, Sanjay Shah, Sita Shah, Sona Shah, Sonak Shah



# KismetConnect

21 DECEMBER 2018 – KISMETCONNECT FIRST EVENT HELD AT OSHWAL EKTA CENTRE

It was a little push from destiny, a slight self-nudge from individuals with a sprinkle of Christmas magic that set the scene for KismetConnect – the first singles' event held on 21 December 2018 at Oshwal Ekta Centre.

The response was huge! The event was a sold out nearly a week before the event date!

It was the last Friday before Christmas and almost everyone dressed in their festive best, with Christmas jumpers and all! A brilliant effort by over 60 people attending.

Upon registering, all picked up a festive welcome drink and were free to network with the gentle aid of a celebrity guessing game!

The evening was designed to provide a relaxed and comfortable environment, with fun activities and prizes to get everyone talking with one another. One activity involved learning and teaching a new skill, where, would you believe it – the men and women were split up and separated to learn a skill! Fear not, later in the evening they had to teach each other their new found skill!

In the background, there were wonderful volunteers who helped with the setting-up, cooking and decorations. The Christmas themed food was delicious, including a vegan nut roast with trimmings and gravy complimented by red and white sparkling grape juice.

Super thanks to Neha & Jaimal Shah for allowing use of their pre-wedding shoot photo! Photo Credit: J Nandha Photo & Video



Dinner was followed by a story telling session – it was like no other, each individual per table revealed their favourite cuisine, holiday destination and crazy experience and had to combine it into a funny story for the judges to decide the winner. Well done to all for your entertaining stories.

The evening drew to a close with chatter over teas/coffees, mince pies, biscuits and baklavas!

Thank you to those who came and kindly provided such positive feedback! Here are some of comments left by participants.

Read the full event report on our website: [www.oshwal.org.uk/kismetconnectreport](http://www.oshwal.org.uk/kismetconnectreport)

The KismetConnect team will be planning more events in the future and if you would like to register to be included in the Oshwal singles list, get in touch with the KismetConnect team by email: [network@oshwal.org](mailto:network@oshwal.org)

## Navagam Reunion

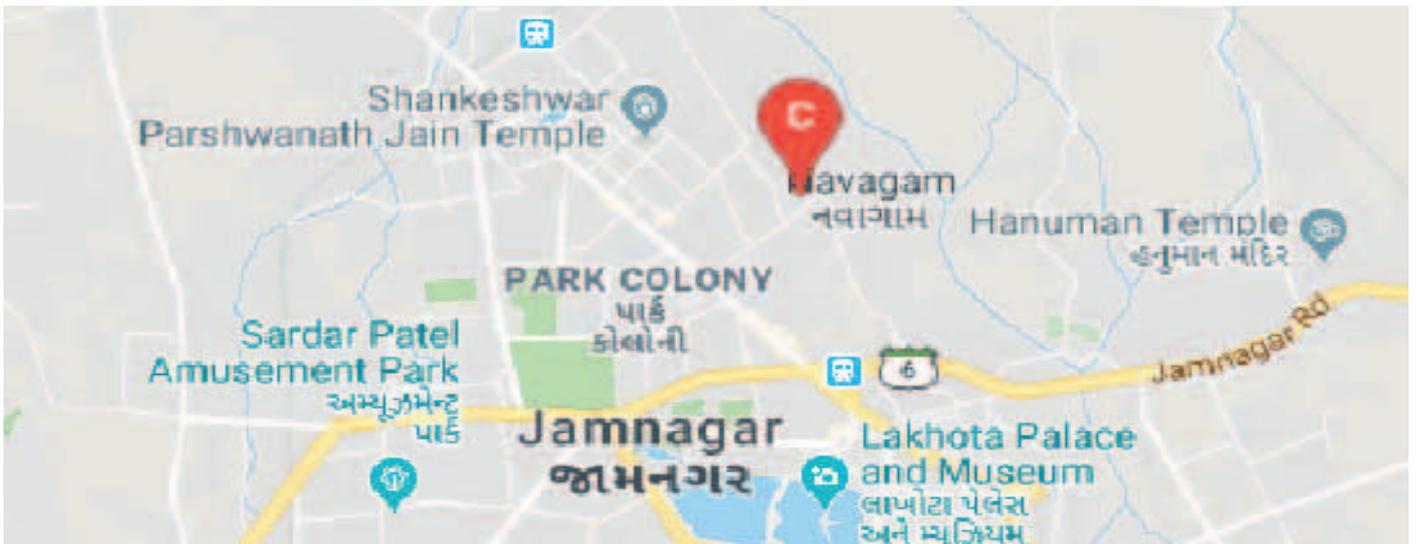
Navagam Derasar was built in the Year 1919 during the time of our parents and grandparents who resided in the village of Navagam. They have seen its creation and use as a place of worship and in many cases found solace from the hardships sustained during the early days of their lives in Navagam. Life in those days was challenging for most of our forefathers and their families and so over the years a lot of them migrated to other parts of India and abroad to seek a better lifestyle. However, the memories of their childhood are as vivid today as it was in the early days.

Next year marks the 100th anniversary of the Navagam Jain Derasar and the Navagam Mitra Mandal of Mumbai has organized a 6 days event to commemorate the centenary celebrations in Navagam. This event will take place from 7th – 12th May 2019.

In conjunction with this we have also organized a reunion to reconnect with the Navagam descendants residing in the UK. This follows on from our very successful reunion back in the Year 2012 and once again we wish to extend our invitation to all those who have their origins from Navagam, their children, grandchildren, daughters and their spouses and to all others who feel connected with Navagam. At this event, for all those who are aged 80 and over, we intend to have a bahumāna ceremony (honouring the over 80s) in addition to various other activities for the day to make it a fun filled, exciting and educational event for all age groups.

**Venue:** Oshwal Centre, Coopers Lane Road, Potters Bar, **Date:** Sunday 19th May 2019,  
**Time:** 10.00am to 5.00pm

For the bahumāna ceremony it would be very helpful if you would let us have details of any family members born in Navagam who are aged 80+ and they intend to attend the event so that we can update our records. Please register your details, number of people attending and those aged 80+ by 20th April 2019 with the following co-ordinators:



Shree Bhikhubhai Shah  
21 Norman Way  
Wellingborough  
Northants  
NN8 3PA  
Tel: 01933 273986  
Email: bhikushah@hotmail.com

Shree Babulal Devji Shah  
10 Reynolds Way  
Chadwell Heath  
Romford, Essex  
RM6 4NT  
Tel: 0208 590 0091  
Email: rageromford@yahoo.com

Please convey the above information to all those who are connected with Navagam.

Jai Jinendra

નવાગામ મમત્રસંમેલન નવાગામમાં જન્મેલાં બાપદાદાના ઓશવાળ સમાજનાં વારસોને શતાબ્દી અને મમત્રસંમેલન ઉત્સવ મનમમતે આમંત્રણ નવાગામન દરાસર આપણાં માબાપ, નાનાનાની અને દાદાદીના ત્ાંના વસવાટ દરમમ્ાન સન૧૯૧૯માં બાંધ વામાં આવ્ હત. તેમણે તેની ઉદ્ધાટન કિ્ જોઈ હશે અને તેને એક ભ ક્તતસ્થાન તરીકવપરાતા પણ જો હશે અને ઘણાં કટબોએ નવાગામ ના એમના વસવાટના એ કદવસોમાં પડલીમશ્કલીઓનો સામનો કર વાન મનોબળ પણ ત્ાં જઈ પ્રભપ્રાથના કરીને મળવ્ હશે. આપણાંવ ડવાઓ અને તેમનાં કટબીજનો માટ એ કદવસો વસમા હતા, એટલે જ એમાંનાં ઘણાં લોકોએ પોતાનીજીવનપધ્ધમતને ઉત્કર્થ કરવા ભારતના અન્ ભાગોમાં ક પછી પરદશમા જઈ રહવાન પસંદ ક્ હત. પણ એમ નાં બાળપણના કદવસોની સ્મમતઓ હજ પણ તેમનાં માનસપટ પર અ કબંધ રહી છે. આવતી સાલ નવાગામના જૈન દરાસરન ૧૦૦ વર્થ પરા થશે અને તે ની શતાબ્દીની ઉજવણી મનમમતમબઈના નવાગામ મમત્ર મંડળે નવા ગામમાં છ કદવસનો મહોત્સવ ોજ્ો છે. આ પ્રસંગ ૭ થી ૧૨ મે૨૦૧ ૯ માં ઉજવાશે. આ પ્રસંગના સંદભથમાં જેમનાં વડવાઓ નવાગામનાં છે તેવાં બ્રિટનમાં વસતાં લોકોમાં એક પ્રકારનીઆત્મમ્તા મવકસે તે માટ અમે પણ એક મમત્રસંમેલન ોજ્ છે. ૨૦૧૨માં ોજેલા આવા જ સંમેલનનીસફળતા ના આધાર આ બીજો પ્રસંગ એ જ રીતે ઉજવા એવ અમે ઈચ્છીએ છી એ. ફરી એક વારનવાગામનાં મળ ધરાવતાં કટબો, તેમનાં બાળકો, પૌ ત્ ્રા-પૌત્રીઓ, દોકહત્રા-દોકહત્રીઓ, દીકરીજમાઈઓ અને જે કોઈને નવાગામ સાથે લગાવ હ્ તેવાં સૌને આ સં મેલનમાં ભાગ લવાન અમારઆમત્રણ છે. મવમવધ પ્રકારની પ્રવમતઓ ોજી આ પ્રસંગને અમે દરક ઉંમરનાં લોકો માટ આનંદદાક,અને મા ક્ રહતીપવક બનાવવાનો આશ્ રાખીએ છીએ, તે ઉપરાંત ૮૦+ વર્થની વ્નાં વડીલોન બહમાનપણ કરવાનો ઈરાદો છે. સ્થળ: ઓશવાલ સેન્ટર, કપસ લેઈન, પોટસથ બાર તારીખ: રમવવાર, ૧૯ મે ૨૦૧૯ સમ્: સવારના ૧૦ થી સાંજના ૫ વાગ્ા સધી બહમાન પ્રસંગ માટ જો તમારાં કટબમા ૮૦+ વર્થની વ્નાં વડીલો હ્,જે આ સમારંભમાં હાજરરહવાના હ્, તો તેમની મવગતો અમને પરી પાડશો તો મદદરૂપ થશે. આ રીતે અમારી પાસે છે તેનોંધમાં અમે વધારો કરી શકશ. તમે અને હાજર રહવા ઈચ્છતાં ૮૦+ વર્થની વ્નાં વડીલો સકહત કટ લાં જણ ભાગ લેવાનાં છે તેનીમાકહતી અમારા સં્ોજકોને ૨૦ એમપ્રલ ૨૦૧૯ સધીમા શ્

રી બ્રભભભાઈ શાહને નીચેના સરનામે: 21 Norman Way Wellingborough Northants NN8 3PA  
Tel: 01933 273986 Email: bhikhushah@hotmail.com

અથવા શ્રી બાબલાલ દવજી શાહને નીચેના સરનામે પરી પાડવા મવનં મત છે: 10 Reynolds Way  
Chadwell Heath Romford, 9 Essex RM6 4NT Tel: 0208 590 0091 Email: [rageromford@yahoo.com](mailto:rageromford@yahoo.com)

નવાગામ સાથે સંકડ્ેલી દરક વ્ક્તતને ઉપર આપેલી માકહતીથી વા કફ કરવા મવનંમત છે. જ્  
જજનેન્

## Botown at Oshwal Centre

On Saturday 26th January, India Republic Day, over 400 people attended a ground-breaking night at Oshwal Centre. In a twist to the wonderful traditional music nights hosted over the years, this special night hosted not one, but TWO modern music shows.

The first act was the legendary BOTOWN, a British Asian band who play a musical reimagining of the Bollywood genre, tinged with funk and soul of the Motown era, with a bold brass section. Formed in 2008 by lead singer and guitarist Ajay Srivastav, they have played live across the country for the last decade, and won accolades. Born and raised in North London, Ajay has worked alongside artists such as Jamiroquai, The Brand New Heavies,

Gregory Isaacs, Apache Indian and Bollywood legend Shah Rukh Khan. Infact the crowd were mesmerised by the live appearance of Shah Rukh Khan – OK – it was a life size cardboard cut out – but everyone had their selfie taken with him!



BOTOWN treated the crowd to numerous classics, including golden oldies such as ‘Dum Maro Dum’ from the 1971 film Hare Krishna Hare Rama, ‘Roop Tera Mastana’ from 1972’s Aradhana, to the (slightly!) more recent ‘Kajara Re’ from the film Bunty Aur Babli (2005), and 2003’s tear jerker ‘Kal Ho Na Ho’ from the film of the same name.

The audience spanned the entire age range, and for a Mehfil night there was a very big contingent of

teenagers and younger adults. The clever way in which BOTOWN played Hindi tracks with a funky western feel certainly appealed to the younger crowd, but the older generation were equally thrilled. “Seven Stars!” commented one reveller. Bijal and Rita from West Area got into the 70’s funk theme, donning afro hairstyles and rainbow soul glasses. They certainly added to the entertainment and Bijal got his moment of fame when he was called on to the stage!



After BOTOWN completed their set, the audience descend to the lower hall for dessert and were treated with a perfectly moist and delicious vegan Carrot Cake, whilst the second act – a live DJ Set from DJ Nills kicked off. The Indian National Anthem ‘Jana Gana Mana’, composed by Bengali poet

Rabindranath Tagore, was played as the audience stood in respect. Republic Day honours the date on which the Constitution of India came into effect on 26 January 1950 and this was a chance on this evening to acknowledge this historic event.



Straight after this, DJ Nills soon had the entire dance floor packed, and again the crowd of all ages were dancing away to Bhangra, Bollywood and RnB hits. Unfortunately, the evening had to finish at 11pm, but the crowds lingered and the atmosphere was still buzzing as everyone slowly left. A lot of feedback flooded in within hours through social media about the excellent meal which was mainly a variety of street food items. There were plenty of calls for a similar night to be organised again soon, and whether this

should become an annual event! Eventually the car park emptied as the last of the revellers headed off to various after parties, or to rest their aching legs! BOTOWN treated the crowd to numerous classics, including golden oldies such as ‘Dum Maro Dum’ from the 1971 film Hare Krishna Hare Rama, ‘Roop Tera Mastana’ from 1972’s Aradhana, to the (slightly!) more recent ‘Kajara Re’ from the film Bunty Aur Babli (2005), and 2003’s tear jerker ‘Kal Ho Na Ho’ from the film of the same name.

## Education

Dear Members,

I wish you a happy 2019. This year should be a memorable year for the schools. Our four Gujarati schools, have organised a joint, variety program on Sunday, the 24th March 2019, as part of the 50th year celebration of OAUK.

Reminiscing, how we, as Oshwals have carved such a strong foothold, since our journey to UK. We are now seeing the third and fourth generation here. Our members have outperformed in all fields, irrespective of the education our fathers and forefathers had, they have certainly given us the best education and opportunities to progress in life, economically as well as society. Our schools have been running for almost 45 years. I would say we have succeeded in retaining our culture, music, religion, family attachments, nurturing the young with our Jain principles and guiding them. A lot of credit should go to our schools and parents, who have helped us refrain, from adopting other cultures in its entirety and keeping focus of our identity.

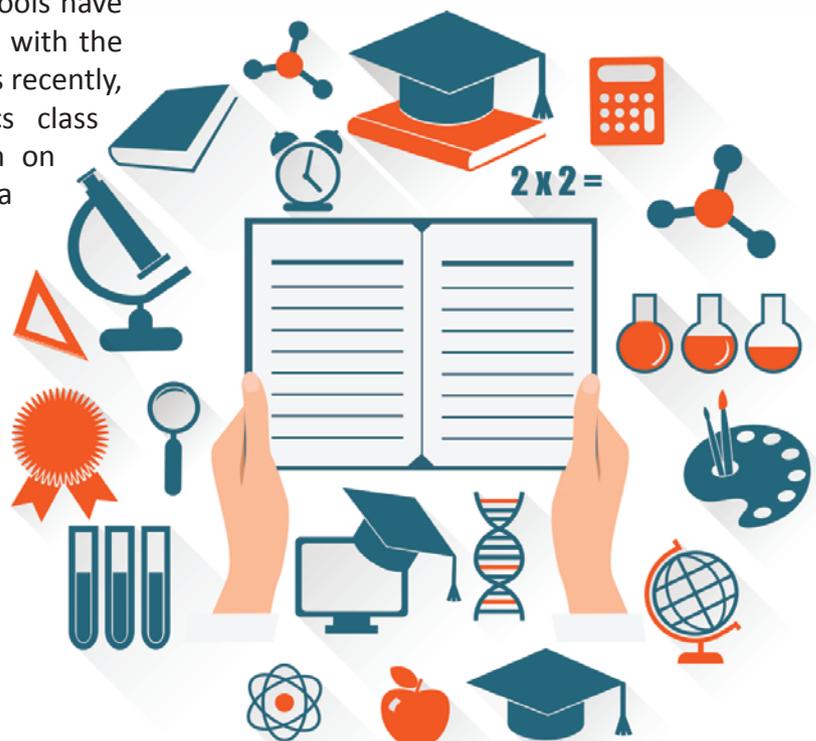
I would like to request all parents to send their children to our schools. Our schools have made a tremendous progress moving with the times. Our North West area school has recently, incorporated additional mathematics class for children so they can learn both on a Saturday morning. The South area school has reformed their classes by conducting them in one communal area but teaching the same topic to groups at different levels, giving the children opportunities to learn and speak in Gujarati, bringing in about a better bonding between children and teachers and revive their interest. The North area school has included cultural classes in their curriculum, for a number of years now. The teachers have had two training

sessions, one in November with the Consortium of Gujarati schools and one in January at Ekta Centre, as an in-house training to upgrade and use modern techniques of teaching our mother tongue, through music, play and games. We would like to thank the EMM team of NW Area for facilitating us on the day, with a scrumptious lunch.

Complimentary Passes for the variety programme will be issued by the respective schools. A lot of planning has been done by the schools for commemorative event. It would be good for parents to come and see the children, participate on the day.

Livestreaming of the event will be done for all to see at home from 2pm. So, please don't miss this wonderful opportunity. I wish to make a very humble request to all parents or members, if anyone wishes to make a small contribution towards the day, your generosity will go towards a worthy cause and will be much appreciated by all schools, teachers, children and myself.

Jai Oshwal.



વહાલા વાલીઓ, વડીલો, ઓશવાલ સમિતિના સભ્યો, શિક્ષકો અને બાળકો,  
૨૦૧૯મી સાલ આપ સર્વે માટે એક યાદગાર, આનંદીમય નીવડે એવી મારી શુભેચ્છાઓ. ૨૪મી  
માર્ચ ૨૦૧૯ નાં આપણી ગુજરાતી શાળાઓ એક મનોરંજન કાર્યક્રમ યોજવાનું નક્કી કર્યું છે. આ  
કાર્યક્રમ, ઓશવાલ સમાજ, યુ.કેમાં, ૫૦ વર્ષ પહેલાં સ્થાપવામાં આવી તે નિમિત્તે યોજવાનો નિશ્ચય  
ઠર્યો છે.

આપણી બધી શાળાઓ કાર્યક્રમમાં ભાગ લેશે એટલે બાળકોને ઉત્તેજન આપવા પ્રયાસ કરશોતો  
તમારો ઘણો આભાર.આ કાર્યક્રમ માટે વાલીઓને શાળાઓમાંથી પાસ આપવામાં આવશે. ઇચ્છા  
હોવા છતાં આપણે વધારે વ્યક્તિનો સમાવેશ કરવો અસંભવ છે. તેમ છતાં, આપણને લાઇવ  
સ્ટ્રીમીંગની સુવિધા કરી દેવામાં આવશે જેથી લોકો ઘર બેઠા આ કાર્યક્રમની મજા માણી શકશે. આ  
લ્હાવો લેવાનું ચૂકતા નહીં.

આર્થિક રીતે જોઇએતો શાળાઓ પાસે પૈસાની બહુજ તાણ રહેતી હોઇ છે. તમે આ યોજનાને  
પરિપૂર્ણ કરવા માટે થોડી મદદ કરી શકશોતો અમારી માટે કાર્ય કરવો સરળ થશે. ફૂલ નહીંતો  
ફૂલની પાંખડી. બાળકોને આ અવસર જીવનમાં જરૂર યાદ રહેશે અને તમે પણ જ્ઞાનનો પ્રતિક  
માનીને, અમને ખર્ચ દીઠ સહાય કરશો એવી મારી અભિલાષા. અમે તમારા રૂણી છીએ. ફાળા માટે  
શાળાનો અથવા મારો સંપર્ક સાધવા વિનંતિ કરું છું.

જય જિનેન્દ્ર.

લિ : રેખા મહેશ શાહ

ફોન: ૦૭૫૩૦૬૭૩૮૪૬



### Venilalbai & Anilaben

We find that many Oshwals are silently doing great things to help others who are less fortunate than us; read the below extract giving you brief details on this wonderful couple.

Venilal Virpar Shah was born in Nairobi in 1946 and Anila Venilal Shah was born in Goonj, in 1948. Financial difficulties were quite common in the old days, for this reason they couldn't complete their education due to the responsibilities of helping their family.

Got married in Kenya 1971 and then came to UK, here they worked in a factory / shop for a number of years. They have two daughters: Heena & Reena.

Since retirement, they make visits to Jamnagar annually. During one of their early trips, they stumbled across an orphanage without adequate facilities. Immediately they donated money and time to oversee work carried out to improve the building by installing cupboards, desks, chairs and other classroom facilities. The help they provided made the children happy, and to observe the change and sense the positive aura, touched their hearts. This was the start for them to begin charity work in Jamnagar on their annual trips.

The current charity work they do is for 'Narayan Seva Sansthan,' in Udaipur, Rajasthan. This charity was established in 1985 with a view to serve poor patients, mainly suffering from Polio and other birth disabilities, to have corrective surgeries free of charge. With the donation they have collected in the UK, the poor children and adults have been given the correct treatment, either medicinally or by surgery; and this has given them a new life. More about this charity can be found at <https://www.narayanseva.org/>.

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Email: [shandip@balanceconsultancy.co.uk](mailto:shandip@balanceconsultancy.co.uk)

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While we have good health we rarely think about what would happen if we lost our **mental capacity or indeed became very ill**. This is becoming more and more common as our lives become complex and longer. Would it not be great if at the time of your greatest need, you have loved and trusted ones taking decisions on your behalf safely and legally? You can do just that by taking out **Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPA) to cover Health and/or Finance**. They are both different LPAs but equally important. A vital document for the times we now live in. LPAs can only be set up while you have adequate mental capacity. LPAs are not just for the elderly but everyone over the age of 18. No one know when an illness can strike. Invest in your peace of mind now.

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# Northampton

## Fun Club

On this day we had organised a Bowling evening before the Fun Club. Amazingly we had 29 members who took part in the bowling and all of us had fun. One of our eldest Oshwal member, Raniben (85+ years old) took little bit of part in this sport. Such an inspiring, independent and friendly lady. We could learn a thing or two from this ever-smiling lady. Well Done Raniba!! (she is everybody's Ba).

After we finished bowling, we had our normal Fun Club evening. We had idli sambar for light refreshment and finished off the evening playing cards.



## Christmas Party - By Mona Rupen Shah

The feeling of Christmas was very much present at the Northamptonshire annual Christmas party held on Saturday 15th December 2018. Most members were in festive clothing with Christmas songs playing in the background and even a small Christmas tree was put up. The event was well attended with about 50 members attending.

The evening was jammed pack with various fun and exciting games and activities. We started off by warming up to some exercises which led way to musical chairs. Everyone joined in with the youngest being 5 year old Shreyan to the oldest 93 year old Raniben!! The ever-popular Pooing the Potato game followed and some very bruised and battered potatoes at the end of the game.

Light refreshments comprising of dhokra, sev, kachori, green chutney, tamarind sauce, sandwiches (for the kids), tortilla crisps, veg sticks with various dips and peanuts were served.



Shreyan, Devina and Tishna kept the guests entertained with some magic tricks and quiz. Devina, very bravely, led the audience to sing 'On the first day of Christmas' song. Stacking playing cards to form the tallest structure proved to be challenging and frustrating game that followed with no team being able to have a structure in place at the end of the 15 minutes they were given. Before the end of the evening cake, tea and coffee were served. Finally, the committee would like to thank all the volunteers who helped to set up the event and clean up afterwards. A big thank you and well done to all Shreyan, Devina and Tishna for all the effort they had put in – everyone thoroughly enjoyed your show.

## Deepawali 2018 - By Gita Shah

Northamptonshire area celebrated Deepawali – Get-Together on 10 November 2018. While we were waiting for the all the guests to arrive, music was arranged to start playing garbas, which everybody enjoyed and burnt some calories. Then the guests were welcomed by Bhikubhai, our Chairman. A minute's silence was observed for our departed Oshwal Members after reciting Navkar Mantra.

Guests were mingling together and wishing "Salmubaraak" (Happy New Year) to each other. We had three Rangoli displays by Trishna, Devina and Shreyan which were beautifully done. A wonderful effort by these youngsters. We thank them very much and hope that next year we will have more children to take part in any activity that has been organised for this wonderful occasion of our calendar.

After refreshments members were keen to get started with Antakshri (a favourite for the singers) with a twist. Three teams were formed quickly and Jyostnaben and Mahendrabhai got the following rounds going and all participants had lots of fun. Round one was normal Antakshri and each team had to sing starting with the last letter that the previous team ended the song with. Round two was a word round and the word picked by each team had to fit in the “Antra” of the song. Amazingly all three teams were brilliant and managed to sing within given time. Round three was a vision round where teams had to guess from the picture the name of the Bollywood film and sing the relevant song. Again, with some clues given most teams managed to get this round correct.



**Oshwal Association of Northamptonshire Area wishes everybody a Happy and a Very Prosperous Year with lots of abundance.**

**Bhukhar - By Mona Rupen Shah**

9th Annual Bhukhar competition was once again held at Oshwal Centre on 18th November 2018 and was organized by Northamptonshire Area. Entries from participants started to arrive as early as July and we managed to accommodate 60 teams (3 members per team) to participate. Bharatbhai explained the rules and answered to any questions before the games commenced. First five games were played before lunch after which the competition was split into 2 groups – Premier and Champions. 4 further games were played after lunch. This was followed by vote of thanks from the Area and prize giving. The Area is very thankful to all volunteers and participants who helped to make this another successful event.



- Premiership Winners Team – Neha
- Premiership Runners Up Team – Alpha 1
- Premiership 2nd Runners Up Team – Northwood Trio
- Championship Winners Team – 3 Gada’s
- Championship Runners Up Team – Mbale
- Championship 2nd Runners Up Team – Sahdhan



## 35th Oshwal Sports Day

Wow, these Oshwal Sports competitions are as old as I am and still going strong! These games always make me feel young at heart and taking part with so many people of all ages, which are encouraged to play with such confidence, is the most inspiring thing to see. This year I took part in netball with some under 16's, basketball with some of my peers and for the first time playing dodgeball at the sports day with the over 35s! All in all it was a good laugh with a great sense of unity, and as always, a great sporting atmosphere.

Northants took part in the following sporting events: Volleyball (3rd place), Netball, Swimming (2nd place with 13 gold medals), Ladies Basketball, Men's Basketball, Boccia, over 35's Dodgeball, Men's Kho, Under 12's Kho, Under 12's Dodgeball, Under 12's Football, Chokri, Men's Football (2nd place) and Darts.

Aryan Shah and Aahil Shah were the youngest players in the UK ever to have taken part. Aahil was interviewed by his mum Vandna: Question: What did you play in sports day? Answer: Boccia. What was the best bit about sports day? Answer: I helped win. Question: What else did you enjoy? Answer: I made a new friend. What was your favourite sport to watch? Answer: Football which Arjun played in.

Experience from a team member - Krina Shah: 'This was my first experience in taking part in the ladies

netball and basketball team for Northampton. I enjoyed getting involved and meeting new people. I think it is brilliant that the Oshwal community hold these games as it is a great way to get to know others and keep fit at the same time. I appreciate the amount of organisation it takes to put these events together, so well done to all the organisers in making it enjoyable. I definitely intend on participating next year.'

A massive thanks to Northwest & North for allowing us to borrow some players and also for some of our under 12's to take part with them. Thanks to our area captain Vivak Shah for organising, we had the largest number of participants this year of 90, and the Northants team look forward to even more coming on board and taking part with us at Sports Day 2019!

Northampton Area  
By Zeel Mahendra Shah





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# INDOCHINA A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

**Indochina also known as (Indochine)** once a French colony now three separate countries (Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos) until recently closed to visitors, now welcomes tourists with open arms, each of the countries is unique. These days' people explore these fascinating destinations travelling with likeminded soul mates in small groups.

Your journey of discovery commences in Cambodia as you step into the crumbling world of the ancient Khmer Empire, at the awe-inspiring Siem Reap's legendary temples complex of Angkor. Roam through tranquil temples, the story of the Ramayana and Mahabharata unfolds in the carvings on the main temple, Angkor Wat. Delve into the historic culture of the Khmer's at the majestic **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, as your day closes and the sun starts to set, the colours of the stone and Bas Relief mystically change in the dying light of the evening.

Phnom Pehn's grim reminder of the harsh reality of the Pol Pot Regime at the Killing Fields will astound you and is contrasted by the Capital City's beautiful Cambodian architecture, its lavish Royal palace and temples.

The mighty Mekong River begins its watery journey from the Tibetan Plateau, through China, Myanmar, Laos and Thailand before meandering through Cambodia and Vietnam's Mekong Delta, with traditional riverside



towns, quant-floating markets, fruit gardens and on to the bustling colourful Cai Rang Floating Market.

Nothing will prepare you for the frenetic city of Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City), which with a population of ten million people has over seven million motorbikes all appearing to travel towards each other at breakneck speeds, through wide boulevards edged with colonial buildings a reminder of its bygone French colonial past. Explore Vietnam's vast subterranean network of tunnels, a vestige of the Vietnamese war the Cu Chi Tunnels, once home to thousands of Vietnamese soldiers.

The charming town of Hoi An will captivate you, another **UNESCO World Heritage Site** which has a rich cultural history, follow the shimmering silk lanterns to the town's night market,

illuminated by thousands of locally made silk lanterns on display at the market stalls. Ancient Chinese temples sit alongside Japanese Merchant houses, beautifully manicured gardens with the Thu Bon River running through Hoi An, once a thriving port for European, Asian and Arab Merchants. These days it's also famous for its tailors who will make suits and dresses in a couple of hours.

Our journey takes us through spectacular countryside, traditional villages, historic temples with a backdrop of the Marble Mountains and panoramic views over the South China Sea, to the former capital of Vietnam, Hue rich in royal history with beautiful palaces lining the picturesque Perfume River flowing through this charming city. Delve into Hanoi's historic and cultural past in the provincial capital of

Vietnam, meander through tree-lines boulevards of the old colonial French Quarter. No holiday to Vietnam would be complete without a visit to the Ho Chi Minh's original family home a simple stilt house, contrasted by his Palatial Presidential Palace and Mausoleum.

The unforgettable sight of Ha Long Bay's spectacular islands sculptured into incredible shapes by wind, waves and time as you arrive into this **World Heritage site** is truly awe-inspiring. What better way to explore these calm waters but to experience a cruise on a traditional Vietnamese Junk, through unspoilt water villages, limestone islets, floating homes with a stunning backdrop of sheer island mountains. If you have time add on an extension to Laos which starts with a visit Luang Prabang the ancient first capital of Lane Xang kingdom and the centre of religious life in Laos. If you wake up early you can give ALMS to the hundreds of monks lining up in the streets in the morning. Visit the mysterious Pak Ou caves which hold thousands of Buddha statues. Vientiane the capital of Laos contrasts Luang Prabang with Patuxay monument which is well known as Vientiane's own Arc de Triumph, Your journey of discovery through fascinating Indochina ends at Hanoi, with friendships made through shared experiences of the most captivating countries, truly a journey from your heart.

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# South London



Jai Jinendra

The time is flying, by the time you received this issue of Oshwal News it will be spring time, beginning of longer and hopefully warmer days. There are number of activities we have organised throughout the year for the benefit of our members.

If you haven't seen or heard of them please get in touch and get involved.

In 2018 we took our well being agenda a few gigantic steps further following the success of Ramat Gamat. We believe mental wellbeing is important for each and everyone of us and our wellbeing sessions gives you a chance to make a difference to yourself and to others.



We have been running Ramat Gamat for the past 3 years and we have seen the positive benefits such interaction can bring.

We started Wednesday Wellbeing meet ups in the evening to give many more people the opportunity to join in and make friends. From learning how to make Vietnamese rolls, papaya salad to henna and candle decorating to making pendant and steamed dahi wada.

We also started Wellbeing yoga sessions in the evenings and also wellbeing sewing workshops.

Our message is that a person can look so well on the outside but inside them could be a very different story.

During our Ramat Gamat sessions we visited Hugglet Animal Sanctuary and podia painting to a diwali mistan and farshan competitions.



During our Ramat Gamat sessions we visited Hugglet Animal Sanctuary and podia painting to a diwali mistan and farshan competitions.

Our Wellbeing seminars further complemented this agenda by discussing emotional and sensitive subjects such as business enterprise, organ donation to mental health and preparing for death.

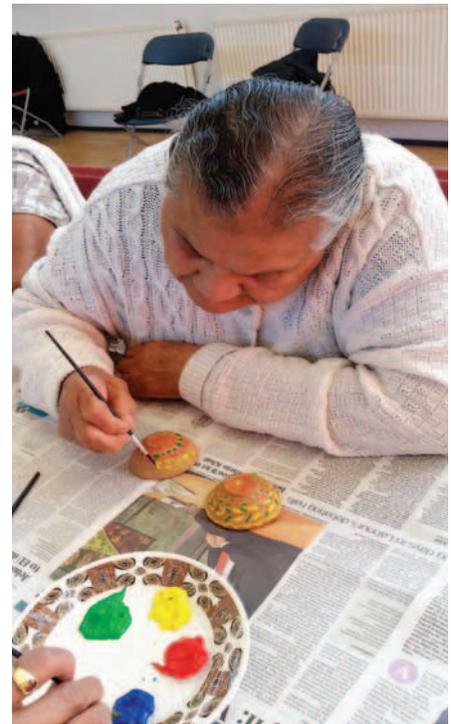
**We look forward to continuing with this in 2019.**

**Ramat Gamat**

- First Friday of month from March onwards
- Wellbeing Wednesday
- 17th April Making Fabric Book Covers
- 19th June Summer Cookery
- Yoga every Monday
- Wellbeing Sewing Workshop 7th April
- Wednesday Seminar
- Feb 27th Eye and organ donation
- March 27th Diabetes Talk
- May 29th May Mental Health in Young People, causes and dealing with it.

**Coming soon**

- Monthly Luncheon
- Jain Classes – back to basics



We will keep you update via what’s app, eshot, facebook and via our website. If you have any questions please to get in touch with us.

**Annual General Meeting**

Our AGM will be held on 30th March 2019 at St Oswalds Hall, Green Lane, CR7 8BH 7pm -9.30pm

**Windmill Road**

We are working with our planners, architects and council to create a brand new Centre for South Area. We will bring regular updates to you as soon as we are able to. In the meantime’s are organising an open day for all members of our community to come and view the property on 17th March 11am to 1pm.

If you have any suggestions for events or would like to know more about getting involved with Oshwal please do get in touch.

Paresh Raishi Shah

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# North East London



Pranam, Jai Jinendra, Hello, Hi!

I hope you are all well and are having a great start to 2019. On behalf of the North East area committee, I wish you all a healthy and prosperous 2019.

January was a very busy month for us. With three events over three weekends, we were immensely proud of what we as a committee achieved and the continuous support and smiles we have seen from our members. The first event held was the Cultural & Heritage Remembrance Day. Spanning over ten years, this event is successful every time. This year, we saw the hall packed with over 450 people celebrating the life and legacy of their loved ones. We then had our North East Area Youth Club Party to celebrate and thank Hiteshbhai, our badminton coach and Geetaben, our yoga teacher who have served the club for many years and are now moving onto pastures new. Overall, it was a fantastic event and one we hope to repeat annually. Come along to Youth Club every Sunday from 09:00 at Alexandra Park School, Rhodes Avenue, N11 2AZ. We offer a

free taster session for new joiners and play sports for people of all ages.

Botown was our third and final event for January. With over 420 people attending to celebrate India's Republic Day, we saw both the young and old dancing the night away to Botown and a great DJ as well as thoroughly enjoying our scrumptious food.

We have our Sakhi Mandal Mother's Day event approaching on Sunday 17 March. With live music, lunch and plenty of fun, I hope to see you all there. Sakhi Mandal is celebrating its 40 years of existence in the North East Area, it's a big year for us and I hope you all attend and enjoy! Finally, the North East Area AGM is being held on Sunday 10 March at Oshwal House. Please do come and support the committee and the area. For our regular and forthcoming events, and for more information please contact any of the North East Area committee members.

I thank you for your continued support, help and attendance at our events and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Nishma Shah, North East Area Chair



## Remembrance Day

### *A Wonderful Gathering to Celebrate the Lives of our Loved Ones*

On Sunday 13th January 2019, the North East Area Cultural and Heritage Committee organised their 5th Remembrance Day, which saw the largest gathering to date, honoring the lives of our loved ones, who have sadly departed this world. We were greatly encouraged to see almost 500 members from our community, both young and old, gathered at Oshwal Centre to celebrate the lives of their loved ones.

This event brought together family members and colleagues in remembering the lives and memories of parents, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters and friends. It was an opportunity to look back at their lives, to celebrate the tremendous contributions and sacrifices that they made in making everyone's lives better. It was also a time to reflect on the lasting memories both good and bad, we shared with them, how these bonds have influenced us, made us stronger, bringing us closer together and prepared us for the future.

The afternoon was opened by Harshi Nishad Gudhka reciting the Stavan Om Mangalam. Stavans, prayers, poems in English & Gujarati were recited, Jayeshbhai gave a short lecture on Samadhi Bhavna, there was even a 10-minute meditation session written and guided by Aayushi Nishad Gudhka, where there was pin drop silence throughout. Young Veer Minesh Shah sang Charno Me Tere Rahakar Bhagwan, and finally, Aanya and Aashna Kishor Pankhania sang Anand Data.

This was followed by the names of all 143 loved ones called and their families invited to light a candle in their name.

The mood and atmosphere were just perfect, the children and all of the speakers captured the essence of why we were present at the event. It was so wonderful to watch the young children standing up on stage with such confidence and grace. That was truly inspiring and shows that the future is bright for the Oshwal Community as a whole, and especially, North East Area, when we have such talented children in our community.

a community atmosphere.

The programme finished with delicious refreshments, kindly donated by our donors.

The North East Area Culture and Heritage committee would like to thank the many volunteers who

support us and work behind the scenes, to ensure everything runs so smoothly and all of the friends and families that came to remember the memories and lives of those who are no longer with us, to create a community atmosphere.

Feedback on the event

*"It was very well organised. Children who took part deserve enormous praise. Special thanks to Aayushi. She was an inspirational girl and touched many people's hearts. The food was delicious and plenty of it too. Thank you to all the organisers and the volunteers for another successful Remembrance Day."*



## Party

On Sunday 20 January, NE Youth Club (NEYC) held a party inviting all ages to join in for yoga, chokri, board games, sports and lunch. Reteshbhai held a 1-hour yoga workshop for 28 people. The exercises were designed to cater for all abilities and ages, giving everyone suitable challenges. Reteshbhai did a number of basic breathing exercises, including Bhastrika and Kapalhati Pranayama.



Chokri and board games were also enjoyed by attendees. It was amazing to see so many tables full of Chokri players, who were pleased to see NEYC embracing their generation and enjoying the game. This is the first time we have held Chokri at the club, and we hope to continue it in the future and open Youth Club up to new people

Board games such as carrom, chess, draughts, snakes and ladders and Jenga were brought by NE parents for the day for all to enjoy. Carrom was a huge hit across both the younger and older groups!



It wouldn't be NEYC without some physical activity! We began with a few rounds of

Kho, followed by extreme dodgeball. Everyone loved the sports and the kids and parents were left wanting to play more!

We then moved onto playing a club favourite, the 'Find Your Shoe' game. The game involved describing your shoe to the player in front, for them to find it in a pile of shoes. The first team to have all their shoes on their feet and sat down were the winners!



Lunch was served soon after! Kids and adults alike, tucked into a great lunch, prepared by Binduben, Hansaben, Pushpaben, Dina, Simi, Hasmita, Caroline, Nayna, Reena, Nishma, Vipa, Sarju and others.

Meanwhile, we had face-painting by Namita and Nishma, and mehndi by Meera. Thank you all for putting smiles on the children's faces.



We said farewell to Hiteshbhai, our badminton coach, and Geetaben, one of our yoga teachers. Thank you to Hiteshbhai for serving NEYC for over 30 years, teaching the kids and growing up with them. Your fun, bubbly personality will be sincerely missed, and I hope we can continue to teach and inspire the kids as you have done over the years. The club will forever remain open to Hiteshbhai and Geetaben.

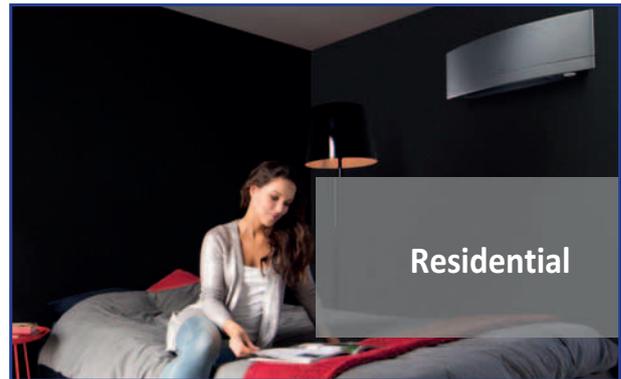


Overall, it was a fantastic event and one we hope to repeat annually. Come along to NEYC every Sunday from 09:00 at Alexandra Park School, Rhodes Avenue, N11 2AZ. We offer a free taster session for new joiners and play sports for people of all ages.

Meanwhile, we had face-painting by Namita and Nishma, and mehndi by Meera. Thank you all for putting smiles on the children's faces.



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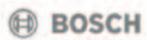
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# North West London

## Religion at NW

This year Parushan celebration was unique and everybody present had a lovely Aradhana. All the help given by committee members and volunteers have been greatly appreciated.

After Parushan on Sunday 30th September 2018 Devotees from Edgware Satsang Mandal visited our Derasar at Ekta Centre for Panch Tithi celebration. Everybody was chanting and all had a great time. Sangh were welcomed by our Ex-Chairman Mr Prabhulal Shah, Religious Chair Mr. Jayu Shah, treasurer Mr. Amubhai Shah & Education chair Mr. Navin Kamani. Sang leader Sushilaben & Mahendrabhai Chandaria were presented with Coconut prabhavna.

After Darsan sangh enjoyed Kesaria milk and all were given prabhavna of suko mevo by North West area. It was a lovely atmosphere and all the devotees enjoyed. A donation was given by the Sangh to North West Area. Our volunteer Rameshbahi helped to prepare Kesaria milk.

Monday 12th November 2018 about 30/40 devotees gathered at Ekta Centre- Derasar for Gnan Pancham vidhi (to gain knowledge). Jayeshbhai explained the essence of Gnan Pancham and all present performed vidhi well. After that Aarti & Mangal Divo were performed by Sangh. Prabhavna were given to all by North West Area.

Thursday 22nd November 2018 about 50 devotees came to Ekta Centre to perform Chaumasi Chaudas vidhi. Our Oshwal Shrivak with Jayeshbhai performed vidhi very well. After Pratikraman all departed about 7.00pm. Prabhavna of Suko Mevo were given to all present. A donation was given by the Sangh to North West Area.

## Jainism Classes at Ekta Centre *by Dr. Ajit Shah*

We have been running Jainism classes under the auspices of OAUK NW Area for many years. These are usually held for about 12 weeks on Friday nights, after Paryushan and normally last for about 2 hours.

The topics vary, but over the years we have covered many topics including Nav (9) Tatvas, Eight Karmas, the 12 vows of a Jain householder (Shravak), the life of Bhagwan Mahavir; The life of Lord Parsvanath; the life of Lord Aadinath; Jain Ramayan; Samyaktva – right knowledge; the 12 Bhavnas; the story of Samraditya Kevali; the meanings of Samayik & Chaityavandan Sutras and the 35 Virtues of a those who are ready to follow the path of a Jain Shrivak (Marganusaripana no 35 Guna). All the teaching is illustrated by stories from Jain literature. The medium of instruction is Gujarati with English explanations wherever necessary, and this has worked well for most of the participants.

This year the classes are being held at Ekta Centre, as has been the case for a few years now, and the topic is the 35 Virtues of those who are ready to follow the path of a Jain Shrivak. The timing for the classes this year is on Fridays from 8:00pm to 9:30pm. We have studied more than half the subject matter, and will finish in early February 2019, as there will be a break of a few weeks in January.

These classes give you an introduction to the vast knowledge held within our scriptures, and practical guidance on incorporating the principles of Jain Dharma in our thoughts, speech and deeds. Attendance varies because Fridays are difficult for many people to commit to on a regular basis. We have had between 10-40 people attending.

There is no charge for these classes. We have in the past requested participants to donate an amount of their choice to OAUK, which helps OAUK towards the expense involved in hiring out the space.

In addition, we run a more advance class for an hour every Wednesday as part of the Jain Pathshala, held at Kenton Derasar. I take an hour's lesson in this Pathshala from 9:00pm-10:00pm. Champaben Mansukhlal Shah runs and co-ordinates this group, which is very well attended. This is entirely in

Gujarati and it is more advanced. The topic this year is also the 35 / 21 virtues of those who are ready to follow the path of a Jain Shrivak, but the emphasis

and the teaching method is different from the Friday classes.

In addition, this year, we run a fortnightly class on Thursdays at Jain Centre Colindale on the basics of Jainism. This class is completely in English and the participants are young people mainly.

If you need any information about the classes, or have any suggestions, or would like to help with teaching, organizing, or even learning anything to do with Jainism, and would like to spend some time to explore questions that you have struggled with regarding Jain Dharma please send me an E-mail on [ajitkumarnagda@hotmail.com](mailto:ajitkumarnagda@hotmail.com) or contact me on 07968 746878.

31st October 2018 – Bhakti was sponsored by Harania & Haria family - haste Arunaben Mahendrabhai Shah in memory of Hemrajbhai Kachra Shah, Maniben Hemraj Shah, Premchandbhai Vershi Shah & Jamnaben Premchand Shah.



28th November 2018 – Bhakti was sponsored by Family of Khimjibhai Lalji Mepa Shah in memory of all the family members no longer with them today.



26th September 2018 – Bhakti was sponsored by Family of Late Premchandbhai Vershi Shah & Late Jamnaben Premchand Shah- Haste Benaben and Navinbhai, Arunaben and Mahendrabhai, Bachubhai and Sunandaben, Jayshreeben and Kiritbhai, Manojbhai and Mitaben, Shailanbhai and Devalben.

## Bhakti Sandhya at Ekta Centre by Mahesh Shah

Regular monthly Bhakti Sandhya continues with excellent attendance & everyone enjoying it thoroughly. The success of Bhakti Sandhya with great feedback from the families has encouraged sponsorships. My special thanks to all who sponsored the bhakti in 2018, singers, musicians and all the volunteers who have helped make the bhakti Sandhya a very successful, enjoyable and spiritually uplifting event, and a special thank you to Vimalbhai for capturing the special moments by video and photos.

## International Women's Day 23rd March 2019

Online tickets are on sale please book yours as soon as possible. The evening will be a night to remember with live music, 3 course meal, guest speakers and great raffles prizes. For more information please see the poster below. Priti Ajit Gudka (07737150832) – [priti.a.gudka@oshwal.org](mailto:priti.a.gudka@oshwal.org)



**International Women's Day 2019**

**Sat 23 March 2019 from 6.45pm till 11pm**  
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Non-refundable Tickets: Under 16s (£16), Members £20 & Non-Member £25

**[www.oshwal.org.uk/event/iwd2019](http://www.oshwal.org.uk/event/iwd2019)**

More info contact: Priti Gudka 07737 150 832 or Vinaben 07970 426 370 or EKTA Office 020 8206 1141

Oshwal Association of the UK (Charity Reg. No. 267037) T&C apply, see website for details [www.oshwal.org.uk](http://www.oshwal.org.uk)

#OshwalUK 

## North West ReActive8

Firstly, on behalf of the youth volunteers and committee members our wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2019 to you and your family.

North West ReActive8 had a great finish to 2018 with the 35th Oshwal games in which the area had over 175 participants in all the events and also represented other areas. The Oshwal Games for us was to get as many of our children to participate in any event for any area which had lack of players to make a full team.

North West provided a large pool of under 12's players for Kho, Dodgeball, Football, Benchball, Circuit Training and Swimming for other areas. The whole concept was the idea of taking part no matter which area you play for and not just winning. We believe in the idea of "Winning is not as important as holding your head up in Defeat" and every one of the children made us proud in taking part and participating to their full potential, so well done to every participant.

The youth club had been transitioned over from the previous committee, where we have a great group of volunteers to handle activities so the change is to encourage over 12's to take up roles to coaching the under 12's and this is a way of learning to handle activities as they get older and also help in building self-confidence.

To achieve this as an ongoing training and handling of activities we need parent volunteers to take on certain areas of responsibilities on Fridays, as there are many areas, we need help in so please come forward!

Finally, our planned activities for your calendar for 2019 currently include the End of Year Party. However, we will have more events for which the information for will be made available as soon as possible.

### નોર્થ વેસ્ટ એરીયા - ધાર્મિક કમીટીનો સંદેશ

પર્યુષણ પર્વની ઉજવણી દરમ્યાન શ્રાવકોને પાંચ કર્તવ્યનું પાલન કરવાનું હોય છે અને તેમાંનું એક કર્તવ્ય છે ચૈત્યપરિપાટી. રવિવાર તા.૩૦.૯.૧૮ ના રોજ એજવેર સંતસંગનો સંઘ પંચતિથી કરવા એકતા સેન્ટરના દહેરાસરમાં દર્શન વિધિ કરવા પધારેલ. સંઘના આગેવાન વડીલ શુશીલાબહેન તેમજ શ્રી મહેન્દ્રભાઈનું બહુમાન શ્રીફલ અર્પણ કરી શ્રી પ્રભુલાલભાઈએ કરેલ. કમીટીના સભ્ય જયુ વીસરીયા, અમુભાઈ તેમજ નવીનભાઈ કામાણી આ પ્રસંગે હાજર હતા. સંઘને કેશરીયા દૂધ પીવડાવ્યા બાદ સુકામેવાની પ્રભાવના કરવામાં આવેલ. રમેશભાઈએ દૂધ બનાવવા મદદ કરેલ. આ પ્રસંગે સંઘમાં પધારેલ ભાવીકોએ તરફથી નોર્થવેસ્ટ એરીયાને ખુશીભેટ મળેલ હતી.

સોમવાર તા.૧૨.૧૧.૧૮ ના રોજ એકતા સેન્ટરમાં જ્ઞાન પાંચમનો કાર્યક્રમ ગોઠવવામાં આવેલ. જયેશભાઈએ સુંદર આરાધના કરાવેલ અને ભાવીકોએ સારી સંખ્યામાં પધારી લાભ લીધેલ. દહેરાસરમાં બધાએ આરતી અને મંગલ દીવાનો લાભ લીધેલ. બાદ સંઘ વતી પ્રભાવના કરવામાં આવેલ.

ગુરુવાર તા.૨૨.૧૧.૧૮ ના રોજ શ્રાવક-શ્રાવીકાઓ સારી સંખ્યામાં ચૌમાસી ચૌદશની આરાધના કરવા એકતા સેન્ટરમાં પધારેલ. આપણા સંઘના નવજુવાન ભાઈઓએ સુંદર આરાધના કરાવેલ. પ્રતિક્રમણ કર્યા બાદ ભાવીકોને સંઘવતી સુકામેવાની પ્રભાવના કરવામાં આવેલ. આ પ્રસંગે ભાવીકો તરફથી નોર્થવેસ્ટ એરીયાને ખુશીભેટ મળેલ હતી.

આપ સહુને જણાવતા આનંદ થાય છે કે દર મહીનાના છેલ્લા બુધવારે એકતા સેન્ટરમા સાંજના ૮.૦૦ થી ૧૦.૦૦ વાગ્યા સુધી ભક્તિ સંઘયાનો કાર્યક્રમ રાખવામાં આવે છે. ભાવીકો ઉલ્લાસથી ભક્તિ કરી જીવનને ધન્ય બનાવે છે. કોઈ ભાવિકોને ભક્તિ કરાવવાનો લાભ લેવો હોય તો મહેશભાઈ લીલાધર શાહનો સંપક સાધવા વિનંતી. ફોન નંબર 07804 648197.

છેલ્લા ઘણા વર્ષોથી પર્યુષણ બાદ જૈન ધાર્મિક વર્ગો દર શુક્રવારે સાંજે ૮.૦૦ થી ૧૦.૦૦ વાગ્યા સુધી એકતા સેન્ટરમાં ચાલે છે. જુદા જુદા વિષયો જેવા કે નવ તત્વ, આઠ કર્મ, ભગવાન મહાવીરનું, આદેશ્વર ભગવાન, પાર્શ્વનાથ ભગવાનના જીવન ચારિત્ર અંગે જાણકારી, બાર ભાવના, ચૈત્યવંદન વગેરે વિષયો ઉપર ગુજરાતી તેમજ અંગ્રેજી ભાષામાં શિખવવામાં આવે છે. ઘણા ભાવિકોને લાભ મળેલ છે. આપને જૈન ધર્મ અંગે વધારે જાણકારી મેળવવાની ભાવના હોય તો ડો. અજીત શાહનો સંપક કરજો. ફોન નંબર 07968746878 email: ajitkumarnagda@hotmail.com

### સ્નાત્ર પૂજા

આપ સહુને જણાવતા આનંદ થાય છે કે એકતા સેન્ટરમાં રવિવાર તારીખ 7.4.2019 ના રોજ સવારે ૮.૩૦ વાગ્યે સમૂહમાં સ્નાત્ર- પૂજા રાખવામાં આવેલ છે. સ્નાત્ર પૂજામાં તિથંકર ભગવંતોના ચ્યવન અને જન્મ કલ્યાણકનું વર્ણન આવે છે. જ્યારે તિથંકર ભગવંતોના જન્મ કલ્યાણક થાય તેજ સમયે ૬૪ (ચોસઠ) ઈન્દ્રો તેમના પરિવાર સાથે દેવલોકમાંથી આવીને મેરૂપર્વત ઉપર ભવ્ય જન્મઉત્સવ કરતા હોય છે. તેને અનુલક્ષીને સ્નાત્ર-પૂજામાં વર્ણન કરવામાં આવે છે. સ્મરણ પૂજાની સમજણ સાથે પૂજા કરાવવામાં આવશે. પૂજાના વસ્ત્રોમાં આવનારને ભગવાનના સિંહાસન પાસે પૂજાની વિધીનો લાભ મળશે. અન્ય ભાવિકોને પણ સમૂહમાં ભક્તિનો લાભ મળશે. દરેકને પધારવાનું ભાવભયું આમંત્રણ છે.

સ્નાત્ર પૂજા બાદ ચા-નાસ્તા પાણીની સગવડ કરવામાં આવેલ છે. જે ભાવિકોને આ સ્નાત્ર પૂજામાં પધારવાની ભાવના હોય તો તમારા નામો જયુ વિસરીયાને જણાવવા આભારી થજો જેથી વ્યવસ્થા કરવામાં સુગમતા પડે. ફોન નંબર 07961415640 or 020 8907 6151

જયુ વીસરીયાના સ્નેહભર્યા પ્રણામ.

## Bhukhar

On Monday 31 December (New Year's Eve), we had our annual dinner with Bhukhar Games from 6pm until midnight. All the attendees really enjoyed a delicious dinner with a choice of Jain and vegan options. We played some games followed by a tea break with mince pies and biscuits. All of us celebrated the New Year and departed.

Our dedicated team of volunteers helped with the catering arrangements, setting up and clearing up. We extend a big thank you to all of them and the sub-committee members for making this event very successful.

## Whist Drive

On Saturday 8th December 2018 we had another successful Whist Drive Xmas special. We had a delicious in-house cooked dinner with a lot of help from volunteers. Food cooked was Motisar ladoo, Matoke curry, Yellow puri, Salad, Daal and rice, Bhajiya, Chhas and chutney.

Bhaichand bhai from Eldoret donated a floating trophy in honour of his wife Taraben. It will be used as a floating trophy for overall for December 2018 winner Hirjibhai Parbat Shah and January 2019 winner Ashwinbhai Shah.

## EMM

17th November 2018 EMM – This event was sponsored and we have arranged this time with Ekta Mandal to perform Bhakti, appropriate for the start of the new year. Sponsor's family were really impressive as they all got involved with the event by serving all and helping us with putting away chairs and tables and even helped us with cleaning of the tables as well, very much appreciated by EMM team. Sponsor sent us a beautiful message for the team and delicious lunch we made.



18th December 2018 EMM – This event was a Xmas party with games. Our elders thoroughly enjoyed playing games and being involved with the tasks they had to perform.



19th January 2019 EMM – This was a really great start of the year as all enjoyed the Music and Jokes program and had delicious lunch which was sponsored by Urvinaben, Reemaben and Anishbha (children of Binduben and Sudhirbhai Kantilal Shah) in loving memories of their beloved grandparents Late Kantilal Velji Premchand and Late Lalitaben Kantilal Shah. Our thank you to the family for supporting Oshwal.

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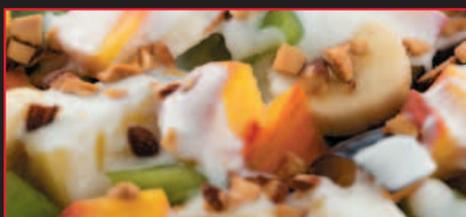
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The value of investments and pensions can fall as well as rise, and you could get back less than you invested.

# North London



Jai Jinendra

It's AGM season and I look forward to seeing you all at Woodhouse College on Sunday 17th March. North area member households will all have received the relevant papers in the post.

It's been a busy few months and looking back, we had a fantastic sell-out Whist Drive in December, followed by the annual Sports Day competition, where as you will all know by now, North Area came first. Congratulations to all the participants! In particular a big thank you to the hard work of the area captain Riya, area vice-captain Jiten, the youth club sub committee led by Anup, and all the organising team members for another fantastic event. It was great to see so many members from North area taking part (even if not playing for North!) and the community spirit amongst all area participants.

In January we held a memorable music night jointly organised with NE area, where BOTOWN entertained the crowd with their unique blend of Funk, Soul and Bollywood! Please see the event report in this magazine and pictures.

Looking forward we are pleased to announce a series of lectures on Jainism in May hosted by SCVP, as well as a talk on Estate and Inheritance Tax planning hosted by Dipesh Shah. See the event posters for full details of the events and do come along and bring your friends and family.

We are also planning another fun filled Summer Party on Sunday 7th July. Make a note in your diary!

Shailan Shah, North Area Chair

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Oshwal North Area Presents...**

# SUMMER PARTY 2019

**There will be fun, food and games to enjoy.  
Come along with your family and friends!**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July**  
**The Woodside Park Club, Southover, N12 7JG**  
**1pm – 5pm**

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You agree to participate in activities at your own risk. Oshwal are not liable for any injuries.  
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## Sports Day 2018

This year I took on the responsibility of being North Area's Sport Captain. Fortunately, I had the full support from Jiten Shah (a.k.a my dad) as my Vice Captain. I think we can agree that he also did a great job helping the organising team (Sachin Shah and Vishal Shah) in leading a very successful sports day. First and foremost, I would like to congratulate North Area on bringing the cup back home and thank them for all their efforts over the past year!

Being area captain has allowed me to develop my organisational and managerial skills. As with any role, there were difficulties along the way. However, these helped me learn the importance of clear communication and delegation, overall improving my leadership skills which I will carry with me through adult life.

Although I have been a member of youth club for over 10 years, and attended sports day for as long as I can remember, the feeling I experienced when North were announced as winners was second to none and something I will never forget. I look forward to taking on more responsibilities within youth club and I hope that I can inspire more youths to step forward and take on bigger roles within the community.

On top of winning, I am extremely proud of Keeyan Shah and Dhvani Shah for winning sports boy and girl of the year. On behalf of the North Area Youth Club committee, I would like to congratulate them both on two well deserved awards.

This is what Keeyan had to say: *After a fantastic sports day, I was delighted having won so many trophies. It had been another fun-filled exciting weekend that I really enjoyed.*



But when I heard my name being called out, announcing me as sports boy of the year, I was thrilled and overjoyed. I couldn't believe it; it was beyond my wildest dreams! Even now, every time I look back at my trophy, a sensation of joy rushes through me. I was incredibly proud of my achievement, even more so since I am 10 and this was a trophy for the best under 16 boy. It has helped give me the motivation to be able to do anything in life such as having a career in sports, whilst increasing my self-confidence.

Throughout the year, during youth club as well as on the day, I have really enjoyed the experience of playing and competing in a range of sports, improving both my teamwork and leadership skills. Now, as one of the older members of the under 12s, I want to be a role model to my peers and help others

improve at youth club. This is an achievement that I am so proud of and I will never forget the moment I found out I was sport boy of the year. I would like to thank everyone who has looked after me at youth club, ensuring that we all have a great time.

This is what Dhvani had to say: *This year at sports day, I was lucky enough to win sports girl of the year, an award which I am really proud to have received having been at youth club for almost ten years!*



North Area presents an evening of financial information ...

# Insights into Inheritance Tax

Date & time	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2019 – 20:00 - 21:30
Venue	Wren Academy- Hilton Avenue, North Finchley, N12 9HB
Speaker	<b>Dipesh Shah DIP PFS, MSc, BA (Hons)</b> Director of Oakdale Financial Services Ltd

Come and learn about ways to save paying inheritance tax. The talk will cover wills, lasting power of attorney, trusts and gifting.

Management reserves the right to refuse admission and to make any changes to the event due to unforeseen circumstances. Please note photographs and videos may be taken at this event, and by attending you are giving permission to OAUk for your image to be used in any post-event publications.



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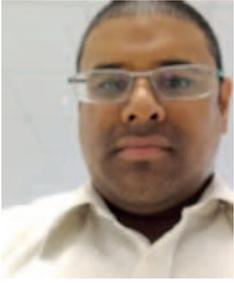
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# Luton



Jai Jindera.

Happy new year to you all, although this seems a long distant memory.

In March of 2019 the committee will see its 1st year of the 2 year term complete.

We had focused our efforts on the Friday club and health talks this year.

The Friday club created a platform to come together as a community socially and share ideas on different activities and games.

We have a wide a range of games being played from board games, table tennis, cards and darts and we offer this social events once a month for free.

Please do get involved and join us for these events which are held on the 1st Friday of each month at Warden Hill Community Centre.

If there is something that you as a member would like to see the committee doing, or would like to come and help please feel free to come speak to us and we will try to endeavour to meet your request.

We would welcome you on board should you want to get involved in hosting an event that you are passionate about and would be of shared values for the community.

In September we celebrated our annual payrusshan festivities. It was a joyous seven days with some fun. The jain festival also gave us time to reflect on our jain principles. In November/December we held our sports day, where Luton area has taken part in Swimming, darts, choriki & Boccia for the last six years and I would like to congratulate all the participants. We would like to see more members from the community to get involved, please contact Neil Shah if you are interested.

We will have our annual AGM held on the 10th March from 16.30pm at Warden Community Centre.

With the community support we look forward to hosting more events in 2019.

Jai Jindera

Keval Rajnikant Shah, Luton Area Chairperson

## Galley & Warden Hills Nature Reserve:

Enjoying Warden and Galley Hills Nature Reserve was Luton's first nature reserve and is the perfect place to enjoy a walk. There are three routes to choose from when exploring this common. You can avoid climbing the hills by taking a circular walk from Streatley village or you can climb up Warden Hill to enjoy the views across Luton from the top. The final route involves walking along part of the Icknield Way which is an ancient route that was used in the past for trade.

### Wildlife

The chalk downland supports a huge variety of wild flowers and these attract rare insects and over 20 species of butterflies.



## Features

“Drays ditches” run along the base of Warden Hill which were originally dug in the Bronze Age as boundaries to separate tribal groups. However, later on in the Iron Age these were built up as a way to control the traffic along the Icknield Way.

Near the top of Galley Hill two Bronze Age barrows can be found. These were excavated in the 1960s and the remains of 14 burials were found in the largest barrow. In the Middle Ages a gallows was built on top of one of the barrows to be used for public executions.



The Barton Hills National Nature Reserve offers enjoyable and peaceful walking trails in the Chilterns. A series of footpaths take you to the attractive downland, chalk grassland and beech woodland. It's delightful in the summer months with a variety of wildflowers attracting butterflies such as marbled white and dark green fritillary. Look out for vegetation including wild thyme, horseshoe vetch, marjoram and orchids as you make your way along the paths. It's a great area for wildlife too with lots of different birds and mammals such as stoats, weasels and hares. The walk can start from the little town of Barton-le-Clay which lies just to the north of the reserve or from continuation from the Warden hills. Follow the John Bunyan Trail through the town and south to the reserve.

To extend your walking in the area you can follow the John Bunyan Trail and the Icknield Way Path through the surrounding Bedfordshire countryside. The trails can take you east towards Hexton, Pegsdon and Pirton or south towards Luton. From there you can enjoy a climb with wonderful views over the surrounding area. Also nearby is the village of Streatley and Sundon Hills Country Park. This includes the climb to Sharpnose Clappers where there is an Iron Age Hillfort and more great views to enjoy.

## Pegsdon Hills

Enjoy a climb to Deacon Hill and enjoy wonderful views over the Chilterns on this walk in the Pegsdon Hills. The hills are also a designated nature reserve so there's lots of interesting flora and fauna to see as well.

There's a series of footpaths to follow across the site where you will find chalk hills and wildflower meadows with orchids. In the summer months the flowers attract butterflies such as dingy and grizzled skippers. There are fine views of the surrounding Chiltern Hills from the high points which reach nearly 172 metres at Deacon Hill.



On your walk you may see a deer and various birds including skylark, buzzard and fieldfare.



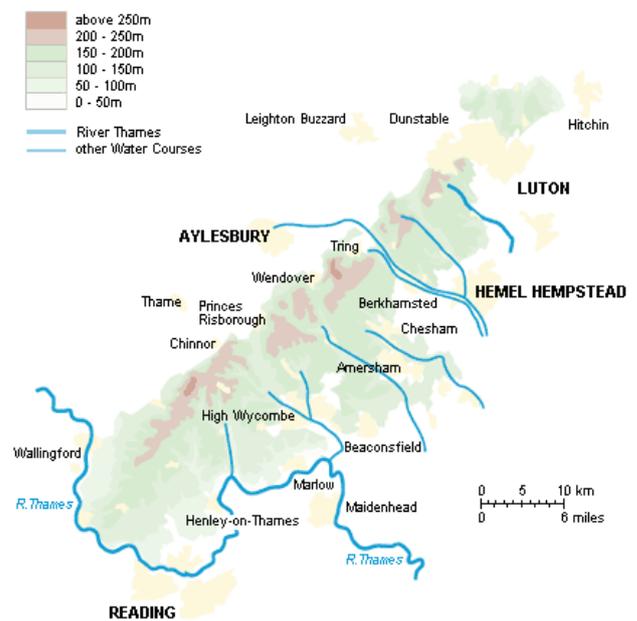
The newly formed Desi Ramblers have weekly walks in many of these Chiltern Hills namely Barton Hills, Ashridge Estate Tring and Wendover Hills. The hills provide a good training ground for all the challenges they take part in.

## Beauty of Luton and the Chiltern Hills:

*by Rajesh Zaverchand Shah*

Luton owes its existence to its situation. Just to the north of the town are the springs that give rise to the River Lea and, all around, are the chalk hills. Over the years, the river has played an important part in the life of the town, not least in the powering of water mills that were recorded in the Domesday Book. The Chiltern Hills have provided chalk for building and also flint for tools. All is not lost in the past because the river and the hills are still wonderful places for children, and older folk too, to enjoy.

I discovered the hills purely by accident during my training for my first Himalayan high altitude trek in 2006 Ladakh India. Since then the Chiltern Hills has become a training ground for all trekkers based in the London and the South East.



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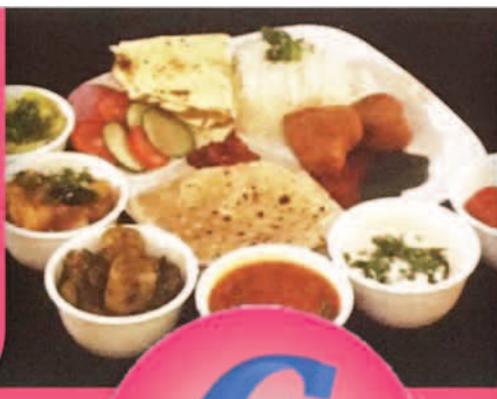
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# Leicester

## **Christmas Party:** *by Bhavna Shah*

Leicester area held a Christmas party with Karaoke on Sunday 9th December 2018. The program started with prayers and 45 members attended.

Mr ay Rathod sang Mukesh's songs for about an hour and then the members from community had chance to sing. Hemal followed by Bhavna, Lata, Dravin, Jyotika, Rajesh.and Nikunj. Everyone enjoyed themselves and some members took part in dancing.



Light refreshments were served Pizza, wedges, coleslaw and for dessert apple pies and custard. The food was much appreciated by all.



Unfortunately, not enough people turned up but those present enjoyed themselves. I wish to thank the committee members, their spouses, and volunteers for all their help and support

## **Chopda Poojan:** *By Rajesh Panachand Chandaria*

The Leicester Oshwal community celebrated Chopda Poojan on 7th November 2018 at Jitendra Rajpar's premises.

There was a fewer people than normal in the past but everyone who attended enjoyed the occasion. After the Poojan there was tea and snacks provided by Jitubhai 's family. Their generosity is greatly appreciated by the Leicester Area Committee and likewise by the community in the whole.

Nutan Varsha Abhinandan



## Diwali 2018: by Bhavna Shah

Leicester Oswal community celebrated Diwali dinner and dance program on Sunday 11th November 2018 at Braunstone Civic Centre from 3 pm to 8 pm, with a total turnout of 109 people.

Armistice Day, Remembrance Day or Veterans Day is commemorated in many countries involved in the First World War on November 11th every year or on the Sunday nearest to it (as it happens it was Sunday this year). Several countries remember the people lost during the First World War and other wars by holding a two minute silence at 11am on that day. The celebrations started with prayers and 2 minutes silence for lives lost during The Great War. The prayers were also for the loved ones who are no longer with us.



Nikunj explained about the number of Indian soldiers that had taken part during the World Wars 1 and 2 who lost their lives.

Vinodbhai Gandhi and group entertained everyone by singing the golden oldies as well as new songs. The music was enjoyed by younger generations and elderly



Including Swahili songs. Also we had families from Northampton and Nottingham who joined us for the celebrations.

Anika and Kinal entertained the audience by performing a Bollywood dance. As a gesture of appreciation Leicester Committee presented them with a bouquet of flowers and a box of chocolates each.

Chocolates were distributed by Vanitaben Shah in honour of becoming Great Grandmother.

Everyone enjoyed the delicious meal of puri, moong daal shaak, ringda bateta nu shaak, kachori, shrikhand, kadhi, bhaat, green chillies and carrots pickle. Sureshbhai kindly donated Gluco Lab machines to people who are suffering with Diabetes.

Also I would like to thank committee members and their spouses for making the program successful.

Last but not least I wish to thank the whole community for their support in ensuring that the event was a success and enjoyed by all.





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# East London



Jai Jinendra to all,

The Year has passed so fast. You must have had good times in the past year. My best wishes to all our members for this year.

My committee members and I would like to wish you all a happy healthy and a prosperous New Year. If you are a young or a student than our best wishes that you do well in your studies. If you are working than you have good progress at your work place. If you have a business than we wish you make good progress in it and if you are retired or an elderly than wish you have a happy and healthy life.

Our prayers for those beloved souls who have passed away to rest in peace and those who are sick God give them strength and help in speedy recovery.

Ashokbhai our trustee and past president of OAUK passed away his soul rest in peace. He has given a long service to our association. On this note our East Area past chairman Rasikbhai Virpar had a fall and is in the hospital we wish him a speedy recovery.

We as a committee try our best to visit those who are sick in our area and also visit those who have lost

their beloved.

Our East Area is a small area but I can see we have a big heart always willing to welcome everyone.

We are holding Thursday Club every Thursdays whole year round 1 pm to 3 pm, Yoga Classes Every Tuesdays 8 pm to 9 pm, Pathsala on Wednesdays published dates 8 pm to 10 pm Jayeshbhai is conducting this. Saturday Socials on last Saturdays of the months where we have meal and different activities with it 7 pm to 10 pm. All the above events are held at St John's the Evangelist Church, St John's Road Illford, Essex IG2 7BB. Try to attend and join us in enjoying the events. On Saturday 26th January we will celebrate republic day of India, Saturday 23rd February will have a talk on Inheritance and Wills, Saturday 30th March we will hold our AGM.

Always check Oshwal Website for up to date information or ask any committee member.

All the nine areas are holding lovely events during the year every Oshwal is welcomed to join them.

Young and old every Oshwal should have one motto how can I help or do Seva for my association.

Jai Oshwal

Kishore L Haria, East Area Chairperson

## Diwali and New Year

Diwali and New Year celebration was held, at Canon Palmer Academy, Seven King, Ilford Essex on the 9th November 2018, from 7.00pm to 10.00pm. The members started coming in time to the hall and met each other and conveyed new year greetings to each other. After mingling with each other the crowd sat down and the Diwali programme started. Our hon. Chairman Mr Kishore Bhai Lalji Haria, gave a speech, welcomed everyone, and wished a HAPPY NEW YEAR with good health to everyone. Ayushi Hinesh Shah (11 years old) chanted the Navkar Mantra and then recited the Manglik. Lalitaben praised Ayushi who said the Manglik in such a clear speech. Then Ayushi told all about Diwali and why the four days are celebrated in Jainism. Also mentioned that the Diwali is celebrated as our Lord Mahavir attained nirvana on Diwali day and on new years day, Gautam swami gets the Kevalgyan.

Then everyone is invited to a tasty meal of Jalebi, Ganthia, sambar, Chana Curry and puri. Everyone enjoyed the meal and were happy.

The cost of the food was sponsored by Mr Ashwin Virpar Shah many thanks to the family from OAUK. The second part started after the meal part and Avni ben did the Raas Garba, Dandia and the Ramjanyu, which was interesting. Many members took part in the event with good support of the general public and hope that they will always support at the monthly events.

ઈસ્ટ એરિયા માં દિવાળી ની ઉજવણી.

પૂર્વ ક્ષેત્ર ઓસવાળ એસોસિયેશન દ્વારા ૯ નવેમ્બર ૨૦૧૮, શુક્રવાર, કેનન પ્રાથમિક એકેડેમી, સેવનકિંગ, એસેક્સ ખાતે દિવાળી ઉજવવામાં આવી હતી અને આ સાંજ ના ૭.૦૦ વાગ્યાથી ૧૦.૦૦ વાગ્યા સુધી રાખેલી હતી.

માણસોને ઉત્સાહ નો પાર નહોતો અને દરેક નવા વસ્ત્રો પહેરીને હોલ માં હાજર થયા. સૌ પ્રથમ, દરેક એકબીજાને મળ્યા અને દરેક નવા વર્ષના અભિનંદન એક બીજાને પાઠવીયા. રંગોળી અને કાર્ડ નું પ્રદર્શન રા ખેલ તે બધાએ નીરખ્યું. બધા શાંતિથી બેસી ગયા અને અમારા ચેર મેન ભાઈશ્રી કિશોરભાઈએ તે મનો સંદેશો આપ્યો અને દરેક ને નવા વર્ષના અભિનંદન પાઠવયા.

ત્યાર બાદ, આયુષી હીનેશ શાહ એ નવકાર મંત્ર ના જાપ કર્યા અને સ્પષ્ટ શબ્દ માં માંગલિક દરેક ને સંભળાવ્યું . ત્યારે લલીતાબેન અનુમોદના કરી અને આયુષી ને સાબાશી આપી કે માંગલિક યોખા શબ્દ માં સંભડાવ્યું તે ખુબજ સરસ કહેવાય. પછી આયુષી એ દિવાળી કેમ મના વાય છે અને જૈન શા માટે દિવાળી ઉજવે છે ? મહાવીર સ્વામી દિવાળી ના દિવસ નિર્વાણ પા મેલ અને ગૌતમ સ્વામી ને કેવળજ્ઞાન નવા વર્ષે થયેલ. દિવાળી, નવા વર્ષ, કાલિચૌદસ અને ભાઈ બીજ વિશે પણ કહ્યું. બીજી ઘણી વાતો કરી પણ બધું અહીં સમાવેશ ના કરી સકાય.

ત્યાર બાદ દરેક ને જમવા માટે બોલાવીયા અને જલેબી, ગાંઠિયા, સંભાર , ચાન્નાનું સાક અને પુરી ભોજન માં રાખવામાં આવેલ. સારી સંખ્યા માં મેમ્બરોની હાજરી હતી અને બધાને સ્વાદિષ્ટ ભોજન જમીને ખુબજ આનંદ થયો. આ જમવાનો ખર્ચ ભાઈશ્રી અશ્વિનભાઈ વિરપાર ગોસરાની તરફથી આપવામાં આવેલ અને આ પરિવારનો ખુબજ આભાર.

બધાએ જમ્યા પછી અવનીબેન તરફથી રાસગરબા, દાંડિયા, અને રમજન્મયું કરેલ અને આ દિવસ ખુબજ સારી રીતના ઉજવવામાં આવ્યો.

ઈસ્ટ એરિયા ને મેમ્બરોનો ખુબજ સાથ મળ્યો અને સારો એવો પ્રોગ્રામ થયો. ખાસ વિનંતી કે મેમ્બેરો તમે બીજા કાર્ય માં ભાગ લિયો અને આપણે સારા પ્રોગ્રામ ગોઠવી શકીયે.

રિપોર્ટ દે નાર બાબુલાલ દેવજી શાહ





## Rangoli Demonstration By Bijalben Shah

East Area Oshwal Association held a monthly event on 24th October 2018 and were honoured to have Bijalben Shah to perform a demonstration of Rangoli. This event was held at St. John's Church Hall, St. John's Road, in Seven King, Essex. The members started arriving in the hall with smiles on their face, and in the spirit of the arrival of the Diwali.

They mingled with members and talked about the news of the area and health of the other members in the area who are not well. Everyone congregated and a prayer was started by the members to start the programme. Our Hon. Chairperson Mr Kishore Bhai Haria gave his speech, welcoming Bijalben. Then the tasty dinner of Falafel, with hot tea and biscuits were served with the main meal and all enjoyed a very healthy meal. When the food is so tasty and delicious I think all are happier and also they look forward to coming again

પૂર્વ એરીઆમાં રંગોળી નિદર્શન. બીજલ બેન શાહ દ્વારા

27 ઓક્ટોબર, 2018 ના રોજ, પૂર્વ એરીઆમાં, સેવન કિંગ્સમાં, સેન્ટ જોન્સ ચર્ચ હોલ, ખાતે બીજલ બેન દ્વારા રંગોળી પ્રદર્શનનું આયોજન કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું.

દિવસ ખુશીથી શરૂ થયો અને દિવાળી ના આગમનથી દરેકને ઉત્સાહ હતો. દરેક એકબીજાને મળ્યા અને સમાચાર પૂછીને જોડાયા. કાર્યક્રમ એક પ્રાર્થના સાથે શરૂ કરવામાં આવી હતી. અમારા ચેરમેન કિશોર ભાઈ હરિયાએ ભવિષ્ય ના કાર્યક્રમ વિશે એક સંદેશ આપ્યો.

પછી દરેક ને સ્વાદિષ્ટ રાત્રિભોજન માટે આમંત્રણ આપવામાં આવે છે. દરેક ને સલાડ સાથે સ્વાદિષ્ટ ફલાફલ પીરસવામાં આવે છે. યા અને બીસ્કીટ પીરસવામાં આવ્યાં. બધાએ સ્વાદિષ્ટ તંદુરસ્ત ખોરાકનો આનંદ માણ્યો. જો ભોજન સ્વાદિષ્ટ હોય તો તમે વધુ ખુશ થાઓ અને દરેક ને ખૂબ જ આનંદ થયો.

પછી બીજલ બેને રંગોળી વિશે વાત કરી. શા માટે રંગોળી કરવામાં આવે છે? અને રંગોળી માટે કઈ વસ્તુઓનો ઉપયોગ કરી શકાય? રંગીન તેલ રંગો સાથે છત ટાઇલ્સ પર પણ રંગોળી કરી શકાય છે. તેઓ સ્ટેન્સિલ પણ લાવ્યાં હતી જેથી દરેક તેમની રંગોળી બનાવી શકે. જ્યારે સ્ત્રીઓ રંગોળી કરે છે, ત્યારે પુરુષો કાર્ડ રમે છે. સમય ઝડપથી જાય છે અને દરેક ના ચહેરામાં સ્મિત અને આનંદ સાથે કાર્યક્રમ સમાપ્ત થાય છે. મને લાગે છે કે આ એક સારો કાર્યક્રમ હતો અને દરેકને આનંદ આવ્યો. અને આપણે ઘણું શીખ્યા.

અમે અમારા પ્રોગ્રામ્સ માટે જાહેર સમર્થન ની ખૂબ જ આશા રાખીએ છીએ. પૂર્વ લંડનમાં અન્ય સફળ કાર્યક્રમ પૂર્વ સમિતિ દ્વારા કરવામાં આવે છે.

રિપોર્ટ દેનાર બાબુલાલ દેવજી શાહ

## East Area Visits St. Joseph's Hospice

I hope you all have heard about the word Hospice, and also what hospice provide? The word hospice is a word not heard by everyone in their life but is an organisation who are concerned with terminally ill patient or a patient who is in their last days of life. The patient is critically ill and needs all the best caring treatment. Hospice does their best in providing with the utmost care a patient requires and also makes the family very comfortable by taking the patient in their care. There is no charges or cost involved to the family and is all done free of cost with extreme care to the patient.

East area did a collection from the public who attended the festival of Paryushan and Swamivatsalaya Bhojan and with their great generosity, we collected £ 300.00 and this amount was handed over to St. Joseph's Hospice treasurer by Mr Kishorbhai, Mrs Lalitaben, Mr Nandlal Bhai, Mr Narottambhai and Mr Babubhai. (L To R ) Babubhai, Nandlal Bhai, Lalitaben, Kishorebhai, Treasurer of Hospice, Narottambhai.

We were welcomed by the treasurer who walked us around the hospice showing the building and how it was established, and now it has become such a big institute, mainly run on the charitable funds and gets a very small govt. grant. She showed us the operation of their institute and also took us around the hospice building where they have prayer rooms, activities & recreation area and a garden.

It was a great experience and if anyone wants to visit the hospice get in touch with their office and they will be happy to take you around to see the building and their operation.

એરિયા ઓઈ સ્ટશવાળ એસોસિએશન ને સેન્ટ જોસેફ્સ હોસ્પીસ ની મુલાકાત લીધી

આશા છે કે તમોએ હોસ્પીસ નામ સાંભળું હશે અને આ સંસ્થા શુ સારવાર આપે છે? અને તે મની આપણ ને ક્યારે જરૂર પડે છે ?

હોસ્પીસ એવી સંસ્થા છે જ્યાં દર્દિઓ તેમના છેલા દિવસો માં હોઈ અને તેમના છેલ્લા દિવસો સારી રીતના અને ખુબજ સંભાળ થી પ્રસાર થાઈ, ત્યાં સારી રીતના તેમની સારવાર કરવામાં આવે, માટે દર્દિને છેલ્લે હોસ્પીસ માં લઈ જવામાં આવે છે. હોસ્પીસ ને ગવર્નમેન્ટ ગ્રાન્ટ થોડું મળે છે અને બાકી પબ્લિક ડોનેશન ઉપર આધાર રાખે છે. એવો આ ખુબજ સુંદર કામ કરે છે અને આપણી ફરજ થાય છે કે તેવો માટે થોડું વોલ્યુન્ટરી કામ કરવું જોઈએ અને આ સંસ્થા માટે ડોનેશન એકઠું કરવું જોઈએ.

બાબુભાઈ, નંદલાલભાઈ, લલીતાબેન, કિશોરભાઈ, ફંડ રૈશર, અને નરોત્તમભાઈ (R TO L)

ઈસ્ટ એરિયા એ સેન્ટ જોસેફ્સ હોસ્પીસ ની મુલાકાત લીધી અને તેવોએ આખું બિલ્ડીંગ બતાવ્યું અને તેમનું કામ કેવી રીતના ચાલે છે તે દેખાડ્યું. ઈસ્ટ એરિયા એ પર્યુસણ પર્વ અને સ્વામિવાત્સલય ભોજન સમયે એક ડોનેશન બોક્સ રાખેલ અને તેમાં અસંખ્ય વ્યક્તિએ દાન મુકેલ, તો આ દાન કરનાર સર્વેનો ખુબ ખુબ આભાર. આ ડોનેશન બોક્સ માં £ 300 ની રકમ એકઠી થઈ હથી અને તે માનનીય અધ્યક્ષ કિશોર ભાઈ, લલીતાબેન, નંદલાલભાઈ, નરોત્તમભાઈ અને બાબુભાઈ ની હાજરી માં આ એકઠું કરેલું દાન સેન્ટ જોસેફ્સ હોસ્પીસ ના નામ નો એક આ સંસ્થા ને આપવામાં આવેલ. સેન્ટ જોસેફ્સ હોસ્પીસ ના ફંડ રૈ શર ( fundraiser ) એ દરેક નો ખુબ ખુબ આભાર માન્યો છે અને કોઈને પણ મુલાકાત લેવી હોઈ તો તેમને જણાવશો તો તેવો સગવડ કરીને તમને આ સંસ્થા દેખાડશે.

રિપોર્ટ દેનાર બાબુલાલ દેવજી શાહપાઠશાળા

ઈસ્ટ એરિયા માં પાઠશાળા શરૂ કરવાનો વિચાર કર્યો અને ખુબજ જલદી તે પૂર્ણ પણ થઈ ગયો . જયેશભાઈ એ ક્લાસ કરાવ્યા અને ખુબજ સરસ રીતના સમજણ આપેલ.

પાઠશાળા માં જૈન ધર્મ બારા માં ખુબજ જાણવાનું મળ્યું અને જે દેરાસર માં ક્રિયા અને વિધિ કરીયે તે બારા માં સમજણ આપી. જયેશભાઈ એ ખુબજ શાંતિથી અને સારી રીતના બોધ આપ્યો તો તેમનો ઈસ્ટ એરિયા ખુબજ આભારી છે. પાઠશાળા માં ૪૦ થી ૪૨ ની હાજરી મળતી હતી અને જેમ દિવસ નાના થતા ગયા તેમ થોડી હાજરી ઘડતી ગઈ.

પાઠશાળા ના દિવસે જયેશભાઈને ઓસવાળ સેન્ટરેથી તેડી આવવા અને પાછાં તેમને મુકવા જવાના તો તે ભાઈ બહેનોએ આ લાભ લીધો તેમનો સંસ્થા ખુબજ આભારી છે. તેમની અનુમોદના કરીયે છીએ.

જયેશભાઈ ને આમરા ખુબ ખુબ ગુરૂ વંદના હો

પાઠશાળા આવતા વર્ષે પાછી શરૂ કરવામાં આવશે અને આનો આપ અવશ્ય લાભ લેશો.

રિપોર્ટ દેનાર બાબુલાલ દેવજી શાહ

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## Congratulations from OAUK

Amritlal Kanji Shah (Amubhai) and Kanchan Shah proudly announce that their Son-in Law Nitesh Gor ( married to Nili Shah) was awarded the OBE for services to Education

Niteshbhai Gor (OBE) is Chief Executive of the Avanti Trust. His experience encompasses CEO and director roles across the exploration, management consultancy and investment banking industries. He is a published author and has a broad business strategy background gained as a result of working for two leading corporate strategy consultancies and as an independent advisor to corporate boards. His primary corporate focus is on leadership, strategy and entrepreneurship. Nitesh has an MBA from London Business School and an undergraduate degree from the University of London. He is a Deputy Lieutenant with the Greater London Lieutenancy and was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List of 2018 for Services to Education.

For information about him see:  
<https://avanti.org.uk/about/team/>



Hi All Members

If you have some good news about Awards that you have received or other Achievements, please come forward and write to the Editor OAUK acknowledges these are Special Events in your Life, Let us share the good News! With our members – for inspiration

# Congratulations on the MBE to Ajaybhai



Oshwal Association of UK take pleasure in congratulating Mr Ajay Somchand Mulchand Gudka on being honoured with an MBE (Most excellent Order of the British Empire) in the Queen's 2019 Honours Awards. The MBE was awarded for services to Charity and the community in Gujarat, India.

Ajay was born in Kenya and did his early schooling at Visa Oshwal Primary school in Nairobi and then came to UK in 1971 for further studies. At Mill Hill School, he did his O & A levels and went on to do a degree in Print Technology at Watford college. An active sportsman, in 1979 he toured Far East with Angels Hockey team on a month-long tour – the team was one of the first British teams to go to China.

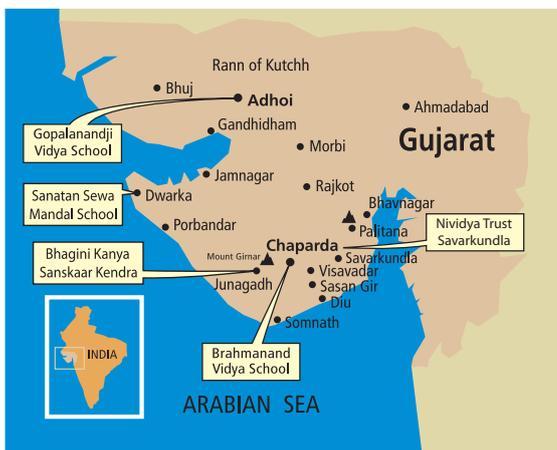
After getting some work experience in the print industry, he helped to start the family print business in St. Albans in 1987. Caprin Printers is still in business today and services small & medium size companies & organisations throughout London & Hertfordshire. As years passed, Ajay felt satisfied with his financial goals but found something deeply lacking in his personal life. From early on, especially after having lost his father at a young age, Ajay had an interest in spiritual matters and in discovering what happens to the soul once one's last breath leaves the body.

He found his calling when he met Pujya Muktanandji (affectionately known as Bapu) on a visit to Chaparda (Gujarat) in 1995. Bapu satisfied his thirst for spiritual knowledge and inspired Ajay on to the Nishkam Karma path (to provide selfless service to the poor and needy, without any expectation of any form of recognition or reward). In 1998 Bhagvatinandji Education & Health Trust ("BEHT"), a charitable Trust (Registration No. 1072109) was set up in the UK.

Since that time, in the past 20 years, under Ajay's tireless and enthusiastic guidance and leadership BEHT has organised countless number of fund-raising events (Swimathons, Walkathons, Mehfiles, Gujarati Naataks to name just a few!) to not only raise funds but also raise awareness within potential and actual donors of the situation in Gujarat and keep them posted of how the funds are being applied. Throughout this period, Ajay has been in weekly contact with Bapu, and on average has personally visited Chaparda and the other rural areas of need about twice a year (often with his family, and entirely at his own expense). Therefore, he has been able to



*Ajay Gudka with Pujya Muktanandji  
(just recently appointed President of all Sadhus in India)*



*5 Educational Centres*

keep tabs on what has been going on and provide reliable first-hand reports to all donors thereby giving them the necessary assurances. Collectively, through all these efforts and including some very generous donations from a few individual philanthropists but largely with the backing of the general Gujarati diaspora in the UK, some £3.5 million has been raised to date. That level of funding has been the catalyst for the establishment of 5 educational centres in Gujarat, in what was previously "zero" or just rural farmland space twenty years ago. Over 8,000 under-privileged children are currently receiving education and thousands more have done so over the last eighteen years, something that would not otherwise have happened. A school for blind children as well as several residential homes for the elderly have also been built in Chaparda.



*Brahmanand Vidya School complex, Chaparda*

In 2012, a hospital was built in Chaparda to serve the local community. After a few years of teething problems, the hospital is now treating about 200,000 patients annually, free of charge. The poverty level in rural areas is such that many people avoid going to a doctor when they have a health issue. They bear their pain in silence which in many cases ends up as a tragic fatality. In 2012, under BEHT's banner, Ajay led a group of 40 trekkers (20 from UK & 20 from USA) on Mt. Kilimanjaro Trek where they raised about £ 200K in total for the Hospital project.

When severe earthquakes struck Kutchh (Gujarat) in 2001 and Nepal in 2015 with devastating effects, Bapu was extremely prompt in mobilising relief efforts when they were most urgently required and Ajay made sure that BEHT raised as much funding as possible in a short space of time to support these efforts.

In summary, countless number of lives have been changed for the better, directly as a result of the path



that Ajay chose to adopt and has followed so diligently for the past twenty years.

It is a proud moment for the whole Jain and Oswal community that one of its member has been recognised for his service to the poor and needy people and that in India.

A well-deserved honour indeed!

E-mail: [info@beht.org](mailto:info@beht.org) [www.beht.org](http://www.beht.org)



# West London



Jai Jinendra and welcome to the first ON edition of the year!

We're just 3 months into 2019 and it's gone by so fast! The Satsang Mandal had a successful first event on Thursday 10th January which started us off just right - with positivity, good vibes and looking forward to a great year. We were excited to add this to our regular events as it was sincerely created by the members, for the members - which is the true meaning of a community. As well as the Satsang Mandal, we still have our old favourite coming back such as monthly Kurry Club, and weekly Wednesday

Social Club at Shakti Centre. Gujarati Classes will be running every Friday, with fun learning activities for the children to help them understand and remember our culture and heritage. Youth Club also runs every Sunday morning for those young and young at heart and allows the children to interact with others outside of their school/university/work friends whilst building social skills like teamwork and communication. For more information on any of our events or activities, please contact a member of the committee.

Social and Youth will be going bigger and better this year but we don't want to give away all our surprises just yet so watch out for all our upcoming announcements on the Oshwal Social Media Channels. We would like to thank you for all your continued support and we want 2019 to be a year where we all strengthen our current relations and build new ones. We encourage you all to try to bring friends and family to any events you attend so that we can continue to grow our community and bring in new ideas, talents and skills. I would also like to take the opportunity from the entire area to congratulate our youth on their performance at sports day!

For more News and Information about the forthcoming events and programmes please visit the website or follow on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Kind regards,

Urvashi Shah, West Area Secretary

## First Talk of 2019 at Shakti Centre

Symptoms;

1. Excessive thirst.
2. Frequently urinating.
3. Weight loss.
4. Tiredness.
5. Cuts and wounds take longer to heal.
6. Blurred vision.

What causes all the above, you guessed it our talk was on Diabetes and the prevention of it.

### Coming Up Next...

**West Area Annual General Meeting,** Saturday 23rd March 2019, evening, Oshwal Shakti Centre

**Masala Dosa Evening,** Saturday 16th March 2019, From 4.00pm till late, Oshwal Shakti Centre (Not long to go so buy your tickets now.)

**Childrens Easter Egg Hunt,** Saturday 13th April 2019, From 2.00pm to 5.00pm, Inwood Park (play area), Inwood Road, Hounslow, TW3 1XW

Our resident Pharmacist Arti Shah MPharm gave the members a wonderful insight into the different types of Diabetes, it's causes and how to help yourself in prevention and management. There was time for questions and a challenge by Arti to all present to have their BMI measured and for members to get it checked in 6 months' time at the same place and same time.

Look out for further talks taking place at the Shakti Centre.



Has a nice ring to it right? On 23rd October, the new Youth Committee kept traditions alive by hosting the annual West Area Halloween party.

Every year this is a highly anticipated event as many children enjoy showing off their fun and innovative costumes that they have been planning for days if not weeks! This year we had lots of Superhero's and Superdooper Villains as that does seem to be the biggest trend this century.

Every year this is a highly anticipated event as many children enjoy showing off their fun and innovative costumes that they have been planning for days if not weeks! This year we had lots of Superhero's and Superdooper Villains as that does seem to be the biggest trend this century.

We had various activities like a colouring station, Mummify your parent, Witch hat ring toss, Musical Monsters, and the grand finale of Apple bobbing! We also created a paint mural to commemorate the event.

The afternoon was finished with mini pizzas and party bags, which were kindly donated by one of the volunteers and her family. Congratulations to all the winners for best costume and the games and as always a heartfelt thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who helped making the day such a success! See pictures online.

We hope you all had as much fun as we did and will see you at our Xmas party on 8th December! Check the poster for more details.

**OAUK Presents**  
**Children's Easter Egg Hunt**  
 2pm to 5pm  
 Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2019  
 Meet at Inwood Park (Play area)  
 Inwood Rd, Hounslow, TW3 1XW

Donations welcome!

Please RSVP to Ashmi - 07949739624, Urvashi - 07969021209  
 or Arti - 07950988699 by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019

Management reserves the right to refuse admission and to make any changes to the event due to unforeseen circumstances. Any surplus from the event will go towards the Oshwal General Funds. Please note photographs and videos may be taken at this event, and by attending you are giving permission to Oshwal Association of the UK for your image to be used in any post-event publication as Oshwal News magazine, our Website and/or other media channels. Oshwal Association of the UK is a registered charity (No. 267037)

## Celebrating Shakti Centre's 5th Birthday Party

Days gone, years gone, it's been 5 years since we achieved our first goal of acquiring our own premises for west area members. We successfully celebrated Shakti Centre's 5th Birthday on 21st October 2018. HIGH CHAI was what the event was providing for the public.

This included hot khichi, Idli sambhar, Jalebi, Gathia and CHAI. There were lots of new faces including youths at the party.

Big heartfelt thanks go to volunteers for making delicious food and making event successful. Thanks to the three gorgeous ladies that donated cupcakes (who wanted to remain anonymous). Singers were there to celebrate the birthday singing live.

Our honorary president Nileshbhai, EC trustees and board of advisers were there as well. The way you have helped us to celebrate this birthday, big thanks to all of you and in the future, we are looking for your heartfelt support to achieve bigger success.

There was a raffle draw for cutting the cake. Winner of the raffle draw was Manjulaben Shobhag, Shah and she graciously called all the young children present to blow the candles and cut the cake. The raffle was drawn by a young boy who incidentally was also 5 years old.

West Area volunteers also made 5 MISHTANS, (thank-you to Manjuben, Maheshbhai, Miral, Radhika and Rishi for the donation of one of the MISHTANS) which were prepared a few days before by volunteers, these were sold off in colourful boxes at the end to all that attended.



## Christmas Jumpers Galore at Shakti Centre *By Ashmi Shah*

It was certainly feeling Christmassy at Shakti Centre with our favourite Christmas songs playing.

On the afternoon of Saturday 8th December, the West Area Youth Sub Committee organised yet another successful youth event – this time it was our annual Children's Christmas Party. The Christmas tree was up and our amazing volunteers even managed to create a Santa's grotto! The event attracted nearly thirty children aged between 1 and 14! Every child came in their most festive Christmas Jumpers or T-shirts and it was good to see the parents join in too!



The event comprised of various fun and exciting activities including a gingerbread decorating station, a Christmas card making station and a salt dough tree decoration station. A special guest arrived after the children (and adults) finished with the initial activities. The children waited patiently for his arrival! Yes – you've guessed it – Father Christmas came to Shakti Centre. He was very jolly and had clearly been eating a lot of mince pies! He had presents waiting under the tree for all the children who have been generally good this year.

Unfortunately, Santa could only visit for a short time. Which meant the volunteers were on hand to entertain the children. They played musical chairs and musical statues which meant everyone worked up a good appetite which was just as well because it was time for food. The volunteers helped create a lovely feast for the children which was very well received!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the youth subcommittee (Arti, Neha Mukesh, Dilan, Aryan, Ashmi, Minal and Neal) for their efforts in making this event happen and the support of Jinitaben, Manjuben and team for their assistance in the food preparation – it was absolutely delicious!

Once again thank you to everyone who attended and supported this event, and for all your donations, without these we could not continue holding these wonderful events which bring our youth together. Keep a look out for the next under 12's event.

See online for some of the colourful photos!

## Diwali With Games & Quiz

When I'm first said, I'm quite mysterious, but when I'm explained, I'm nothing serious. What am I? (Scroll down for the answer)

Over 80 people descended on Shakti Centre to attend the programme of Diwali with a Twist, sorry, Games & Quiz! The doors opened at 4pm and people started to trickle in and half an hour later almost all had arrived eager to enjoy the renowned delicious food and experience at first-hand what all the fuss was about the Quiz!

Full Dinner was served first!

Everyone was excited about the Quiz and with full stomachs were raring to step into the unknown and take up the challenge. All those who were participating were each given a playing card and those with the same suite were grouped in teams with there being ten teams of eight people.

The Quiz consisted of three general knowledge/history, music and geography rounds entwined with three table quizzes of solving riddles, anagrams and picture round.

Shejalben started off by announcing the rules and the most important being that there was "One golden rule: the QUIZMASTER's answer is the correct answer even if it is wrong!" The Quiz began in earnest thereafter with Jaysukhbhai, the anchor Quizmaster, firing off questions. He was ably assisted by his sidekicks, Urvashiben and Mayurbhai.

After each round the teams swapped answers and marked them, the team with the winning score were awarded prizes which ranged from the mighty shoe horn to the humble tin of loose black tea.

There was a mini break at the interval with all having a refreshing cup of tea and homemade cake which was made and donated by Dakshaben.

With everyone recharged and energised part deux of the Quiz resumed with the remaining rounds.

Time flies when you are having so much fun but no one complained about the length of time as the evening came to a close nearly six hours from start. Everyone boarded their carriages for a safe journey home.

Our thanks to all those who attended and supported the area committee and the volunteers for an entertaining event. Check the website for more photos.

(Answer: A Riddle)





Enabling Network Committee (EN) celebrated the 2018

International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) with a Charity Gala Dinner held on 17 Nov 2018 at Oshwal Centre.

IDPD is a UN designated day celebrated each year on the 3rd of December. For the last 6 years, OAUk through Enabling Network has celebrated this day in various ways.

The objectives for this event were:

- Celebration of OAUk's 50th Year.
- Celebration and awareness of IDPD and Enabling Network.
- Raise awareness and funds for the Alzheimer's Society (Dementia support) and DEMAND (Design and Manufacture for Disability) charities.

The evening commenced with welcome drinks whilst the string quartet serenaded the audience



with their lovely tunes, followed by a hypnotist who mesmerised the audience with his talent and kept them in stitches of laughter!

The Dinner raised substantial funds through generous cash donations and raffle prizes received from individuals, businesses and the raffle ticket sales. OAUk donated £2250, from the surplus funds, to each of the two charities - Alzheimer's society and DEMAND.



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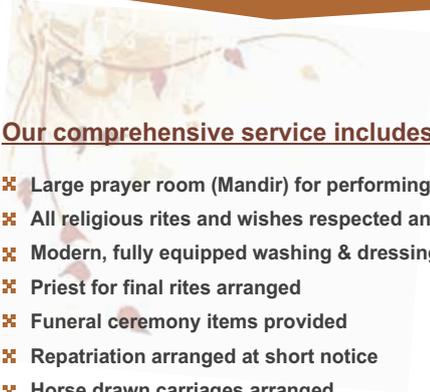
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1. Please send all pictures for publication as **high quality .jpeg images** with a minimum resolution of 2180 pixels wide (height may vary depending on your picture shape).
2. Full or half-page adverts that run over the page edges should include a 3mm bleed all around, i.e. for an 210mm x 297mm A4 page the advert size should be 216mm x 303mm inc. bleed. Text should be at least 15mm within the A4 page margins.
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For any queries or questions please contact Sudhir Meghji Shah at email [sudhir.m.shah@oshwal.org](mailto:sudhir.m.shah@oshwal.org) or telephone 07785 710914.

# General Information

We would always encourage all Oshwals and Oshwal Members to always first consider hiring our venues at Oshwal Centre (Northaw), Oshwal Mahajanwadi (Croydon), Oshwal Ekta Centre (Kingsbury), Oshwal Shakti Centre (Hounslow). By hiring these Oshwal venues you will be supporting your community. All funds raised are for the benefit of the Oshwal Association of the UK

## *Weddings, Birthday and Anniversary Parties, Meetings, Sadadi, etc,*

Please phone or email the administrators at any of the offices with regard to availability and charges.

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Info line 01707 661066  
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## *Marriage Registration*

*Oshwal Centre & Oshwal Mahajanwadi 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. Oshwal Ekta Centre is registered for civil marriages thus religious ceremony is not needed. For further information please phone the administrators.*

### **Sadadi Messages**

If you would like to find out when and where any Sadadi are being held in respect of any deceased Oshwal, please call the information line on for further details.

All sadadi messages received will be placed on the website at [www.oshwal.co.uk](http://www.oshwal.co.uk) and also on the message line up to 4 days in advance only of the sadadi date. We request that all messages are kept very short & to the point. The reason is to avoid the engaged tone on the telephone line. Our admin staff will try to accommodate as much as they can but they will have a limitation on the length of the message. We wish to respect everyone wishes at such sad times for the family and request everyone for their kind cooperation in advance.

### **Obituary / Shraddhanjali Messages**

**The rate for inserting an Obituary I 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.





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