



ओशवाल  
समाचार

# OSHWAL news



**Shri Rishabhdev Bhagwan's Painting**

March 2022 Edition

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Dear Members & Friends,

Pranam

The last Oshwal News issue was sent out April 21 and now after 12 months we have our first Issue for 2022, many things have occurred, the reports are good to read, we have many photos from our past events. See the OAUk website for other news and details [www.oshwal.org](http://www.oshwal.org)

As you know the lockdowns have prevented OAUk in arranging our elections for a long time, many Trustees have gone due to one reason or another we need to now start electing new teams. Good News that things are improving, so we can feel slightly relaxed, make our journeys to Oshwal Centre, visit family and friends, cinemas, restaurants etc.

Details of the SGM / AGM – are shown in this issue. Area elections will also take place afterward – some changes are proposed – see this in the SGM notice We have many talented, honest & genuine people in our community it would be a good step forward if you can please come forward and join the new teams – we can re-shape things as required and continue to manage

what we have in place. Despite all the problems our Trustees and Committee members have looked after our community in best way possible, our supporters have grown threefold, and people have appreciated what has been done, thanks go to our members / supporters of OAUk, the Advertisers and for the generous donations

Sadly, too many Oshwals have passed away and the list is getting longer, very difficult times for all Our heartfelt Condolences goes to everyone, be extra Strong - OAUk will offer you good support Jayeshbhai and the 'Religion' teams are easily reachable

Jai Oshwal

**Sudhir Meghji Shah**, *Trustee and Editor of Oshwal News*

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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

I hope you all keeping well and safe. Firstly, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year with the start of year 2022. Past few years had been awful for all of us due to corona virus pandemic. Hopefully, we shall all be able to see the light at end of the tunnel and normality of our lives will commence after a long time. Many of our activities in the areas have now started and I urge you all to participate and these details will be sent you by the areas or information will be published on our website.

## Election and AGMS

As you all know we had not been able to hold our AGM for the past 2 year due to lockdown. I am pleased to advise you that Executive Committee have now set a date on 24th April 2022 to hold the AGM at Oshwal Centre. Details of the notice has been enclosed with this magazine. In addition election will be held to for a new committee to take the Associations work forward. Please consider yourself to take on board and be part of the committee and bring your expertise and talent to take forward the Association's work. We look forward to seeing you all in the forth coming AGM and election. Area election will also be held this year.

## Special General Meeting

As you may recall we had a Virtual meeting last year on 2nd May 2021 and at that time we had stated to bring in few changes to our current constitution which has served Oshwal Association of the UK without little need for changes or amendments for the past 16 years. Executive Committee is therefore now holding a Special General meeting On 27th March 2022 at Ekta centre to discuss the proposed changes. Details of these are enclosed with this magazine.

## Aymbil Oli

This will commence on 8th April 2022 for nine days. For the past few years due to lockdown we were unable to hold it Oshwal Centre. This year our religious team will be hosting live at Oshwal centre and you are all invited to attend at Oshwal Centre. For catering purpose I urge you all to give your names to Varshaben Our Religious Chair or register your name at our office at Potters Bar.

## Shradhanjali/Prathna Sabha Service.

I am pleased to say OAUK has launched a new sewa initiative which you will see, Oshwal volunteers delivering shradhanjali/prathna sabhas and providing comfort to those experiencing bereavement in the community at this challenging time. For further details please see our website.

## Antim Darshan Vidhi

We are now offering facilities to hire Ekta Centre to hold Antim Darshan Vidhi of your loved ones who have sadly passed away. For further details please visit our website.

My special thanks to all the area committees, members at all levels, for their dedicated work they had given to our community. Special thanks to all the Volunteers who had given their valuable time. I hope that these efforts and momento will be continued beyond 2022.

Finally, on behalf of my fellow trustees and committee members I seek your forgiveness for any misdeeds or actions on our part which may have hurt your feelings in any way.

Michammi Dukkadam

Jai Mahavir, Jai Oshwal

**Nilesh Bhagwanji Shah**

*Hon. President*

*Oshwal Association of the UK*

*Email: [President@oshwal.org](mailto:President@oshwal.org)*



## **Derasar Extension, Tushar Jayantilal Shah, Chairman Project Sub-Committee**

Our Derasar at Oshwal Centre was completed in 2005 and the Inauguration was celebrated with 10 days Pratishtha. Since then our Derasar has been a focal point for Oshwals but also the wider Jain community regularly attending for Darshan or Puja.

Approximately 5 to 6 years back, we identified some aspects which needed to be addressed, like water entering the Derasar from the roof, the difficulty in doing darshan to the 3 Pratima's from a single point, moss growth on the outside, shoe racks exposed to the outside weather etc.

Just over 4 years ago, we concluded to extend the Derasar and address the weak points above. Plans were drawn up by Rajeshbhai Sompura (our Indian Architect) and a contract given to supply newly carved stone work and bring over an Indian team to work with local contractors to extend the front canopy of the Derasar by construction of 8 new pillars and 3 new domes on the extended front.

Once the new stone pillars and carvings arrived from India, we submitted applications for Indian workers to come from India. However, our country was going through Brexit and much immigration to UK was curtailed and we were faced with a major problem of material on site but no Indian specialist workers !!

Our Vice President Kaushikbhai Narshi Shah, took on the responsibility of engaging Immigration lawyers and raising issues with the Immigration department and awareness meetings with several MP's. After sheer persistence and dedication by Kaushikbhai, and 18 months later, we were given the good news that our Indian team were granted visas to come to UK to complete our work.

However, the delay of granting visas were a true blessing for OAUk, as during this time we had even more places in the Derasar where water was now entering from the roof. Once Rajeshbhai arrived with the Indian team, we had a joint meeting with our local architects / consultants and eventually concluded the work would have to be extended by removing the whole central dome where water was being absorbed and seeping in several places inside the Derasar. This was totally unexpected in our original discussions and greatly increased the costs for OAUk.

This was a major project for OAUk as each Dome stone piece had to be removed carefully to prevent damage, cleaned, polished and replaced after the internal dome was protected with 3 waterproof layers.

I am pleased to confirm the water ingress has reduced by well over 99% and the only weak aspect is the water ingress, from the Shikar which were unable to remove as advised by both sets of Architects

Highlights of Works undertaken:

- 8 new pillars and Derasar extended at the front.
- 3 new domes on newly built extension.
- Widening the opening to the Derasar Ghabaro so that all 3 Pratima's can be worshipped.
- Large dome removed and replaced after installing 3 different waterproofing layers.
- New Flat "Fibre Glass" seamless roof installed.
- New wider marble steps to entrance of Derasar.
- New Shoe racks semi enclosed under the new front extension.
- 2 new sculptures installed on the roof.
- Kesar rubbing table and sink installed on landing of Derasar.
- Special chemical applied to the exterior stone work to prevent water absorption and prevent moss growth.
- New Exterior lighting to the Derasar.

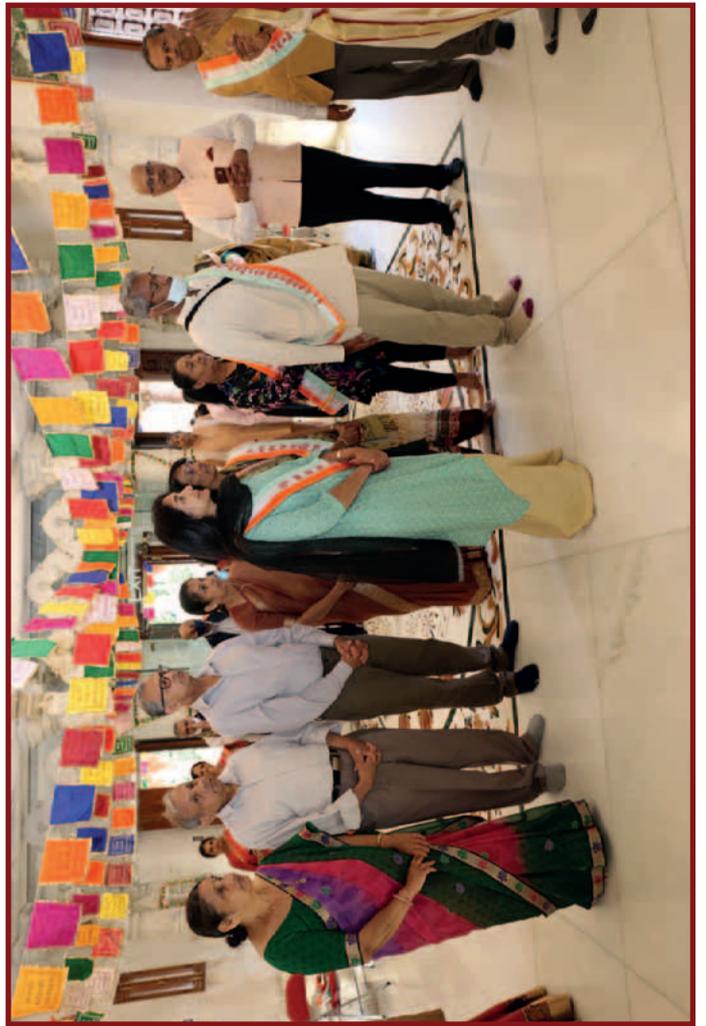
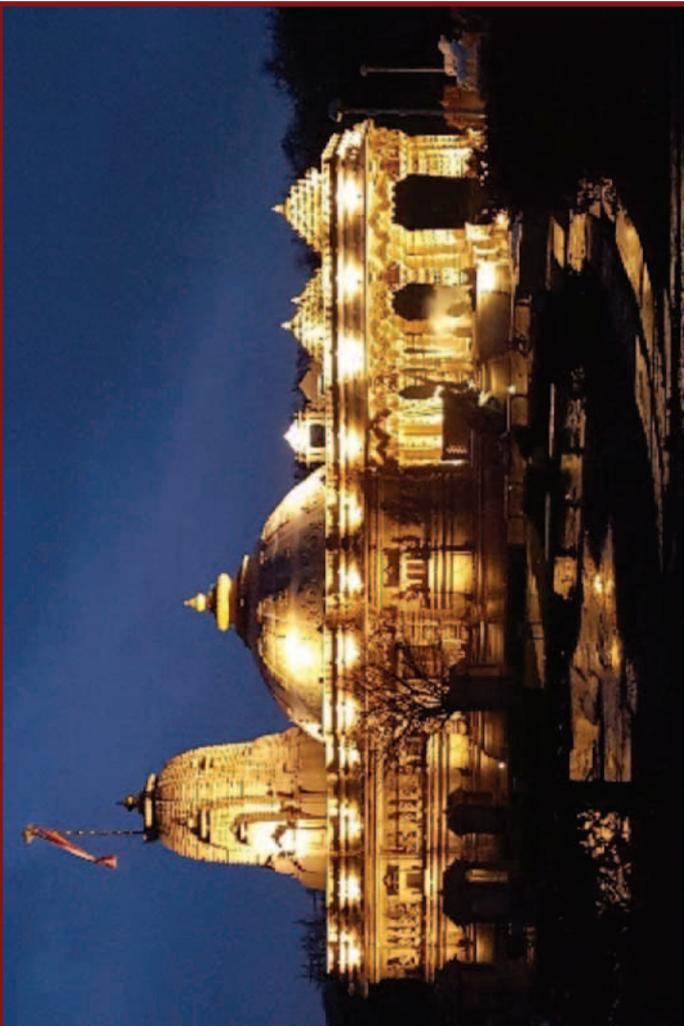
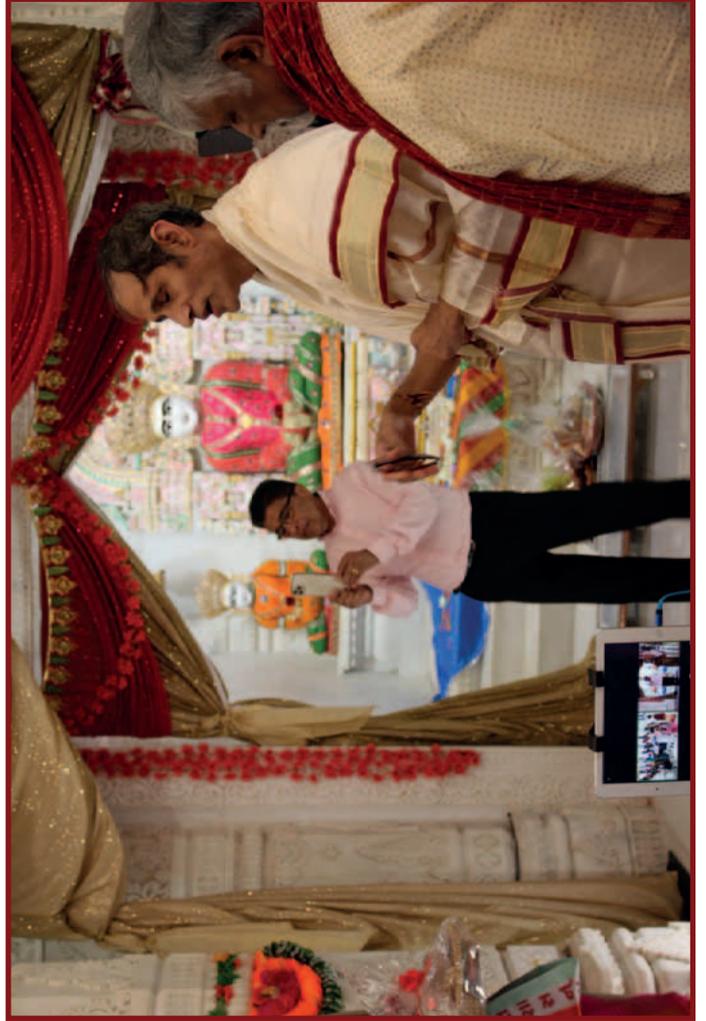
The newly extended Derasar has truly transformed the look and those of you who have attended for Darshan or seen it on our Zoom Satsang's have complimented on the work undertaken. On behalf of OAUk, I thank all the donors who have supported our various fundraising schemes for this work. These schemes are still open if any member still wishes to contribute. Please contact the Office, Jayeshbhai or any Trustee for further details.

Our opening ceremonies for the Derasar were planned for March 2020 but were postponed as a Pandemic was announced. The opening ceremonies did eventually take place in September 2021 and all the donors and families were invited (numbers were restricted due to the ongoing pandemic) This event was webcast on our own YouTube channel by our Zoom Team.

The grand finale of all the works was our Lighting ceremony on Diwali day function at Oshwal Centre and the picture below shows the Derasar in its glory in the evening.

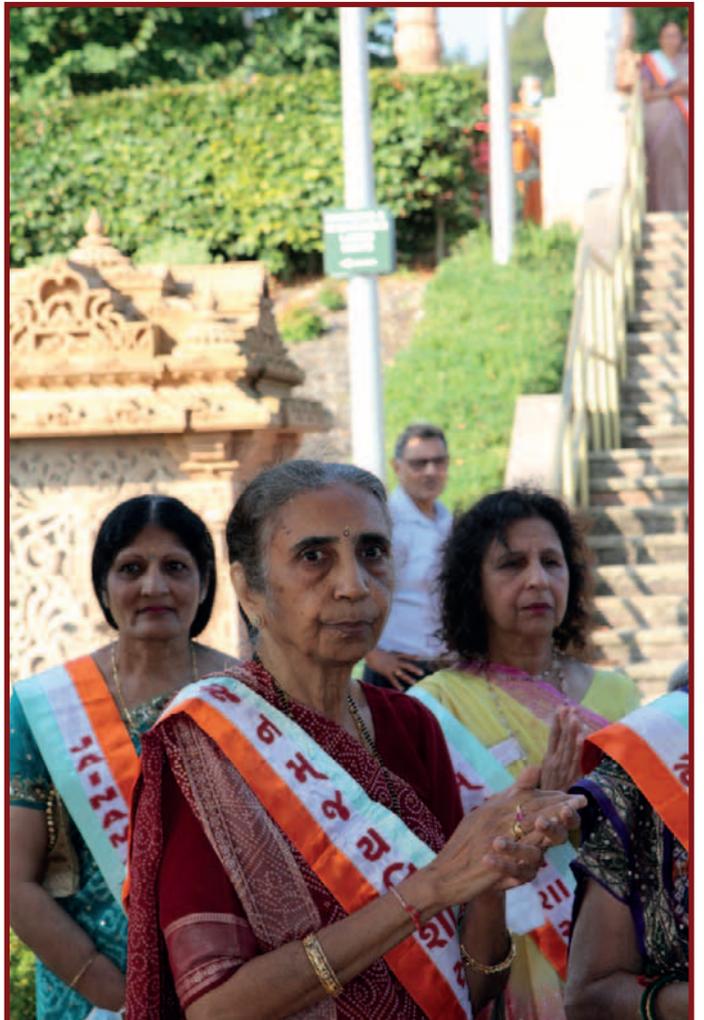


Finally, my appreciation to Ashok Premchand Shah, Aswin Babulal Shah, Dhiru Devraj Shah, Raxeet Harakhchand Shah & Suresh Hirji Shah, who have helped and worked together with dedication for the last 20 plus years in the various refurbishment, improvement works to all our properties.











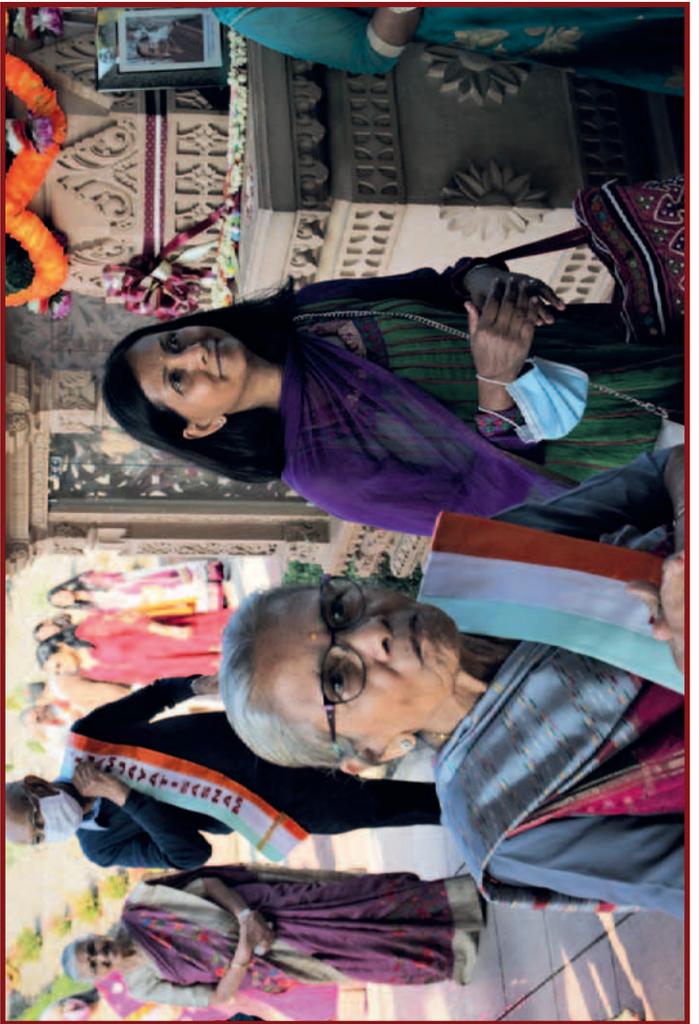










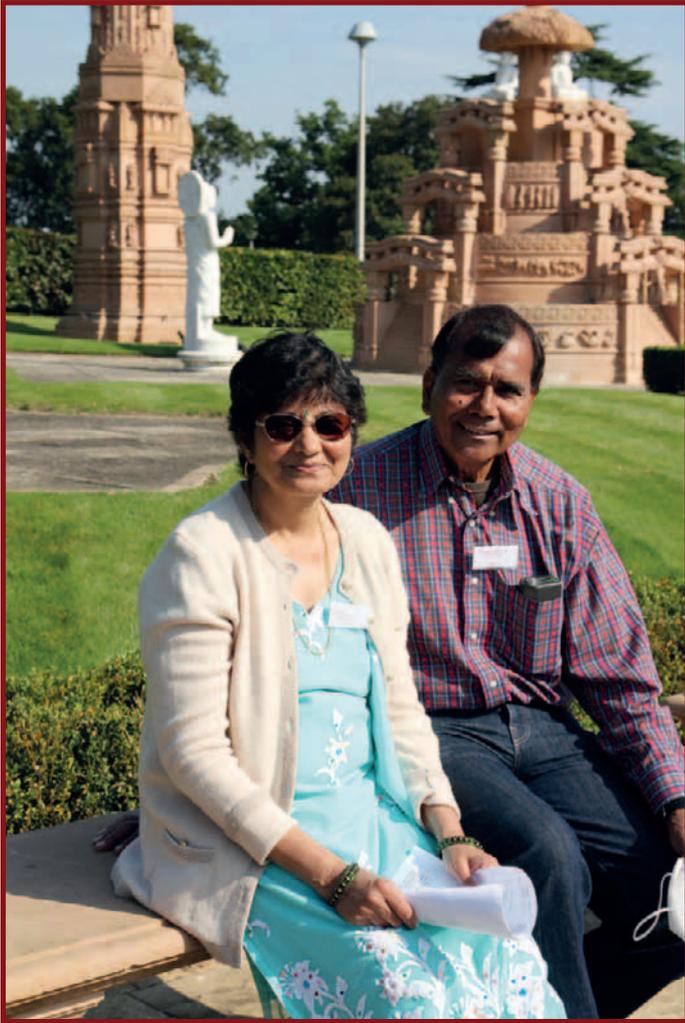
















## ૨૦૨૧ની સાલમાં થયેલા ઓનલાઈન કાર્યક્રમની રૂપરેખા



૧૫મી માર્ચ ૨૦૨૦માં કોવિડ ઉપદ્રવ આવ્યું અને બધાજ કાર્યક્રમ રદ (Cancel) કરવા પડ્યાં. પણ બધાજ ધાર્મિક કાર્ય ઝુમના માધ્યમ દ્વારા સરસ રીતે થયા. ૨૦૨૧ના વર્ષમાં પ્રવેશ કર્યો અને બધાજ કાર્ય, ગયા વરસની જેમ ઓનલાઈન થયાં. ઘરમાં રહીને બધાજ ધાર્મિક પ્રવૃત્તિમાં જોડાયેલા રહ્યાં.

આધુનિક ટેકનોલોજીના આભારી છીએ. સમાજના કાર્ય કરતા, પૂજ્ય શ્રી જયેશભાઈ, ઝુમ ટીમના ભાઈ બહેનો, ધાર્મિક સમિતીના વર્ષાબહેન અને દરેક સેવાભાવી જેઓ તન, મન ધનથી સેવા આપી રહ્યા છે અને બધાને ધર્મ વૃદ્ધિમાં જોડાયેલા રાખ્યાં તેઓની અનુમોદના, અનુમોદના, અનુમોદના. સાથે સાથે જેઓ ઘેર બેસીને બધાજ કાર્ય નિહાળતા હોય છે તેમની પણ અનુમોદના. NHS ટીમ અને ફ્રન્ટ લાઇન કામદારો ને ખૂબ ખૂબ આભાર. તેઓએ રાત દિવસ તંતોળ મહેનત કરી વેકસીનનું શંશોધન કર્યું. દર્દીઓને સેવા આપી અને એપ્રિલ મહીના સુધી બધાજ વડીલોને વેકસીન પુરા પાડ્યાં.

અખંડ નવકાર મહામંત્રના જાપથી વર્ષની શરૂઆત થઈ. નવકાર મંત્ર આપણા જીવનને પવિત્ર, પાવન, પાપથી મુક્ત, શુભ ભાવોથી અને ધર્મથી યુક્ત બનાવે અને વિશ્વમાં શાંતી આપે, એવો આ મહાન મંત્ર. હજી લોકડાઉન ચાલું જ છે. ઓનલાઈન સત્સંગ ચાલી રહ્યા છે. અંતરમાં એક જ ભાવના અને તમન્ના છે કે વિશ્વમાં સર્વ શાંતી થાઓ. બલસાણા વિમલનાથ સ્વામીની ભાવ યાત્રા બધાએ સાથે મળીને શુભ ભાવથી કરેલ. દાનવીરોએ પોતાની સંપત્તિનો લાભ લઈ, ખુબ ઉદાર દિલથી £૫૦૧ દાન આપી, દર મહિનાના ખર્ચને પહોંચી વળવા દાન આપ્યું. તે હજી ચાલું જ છે. ફેબ્રુઆરીમાં અમૃતવેલની સજ્જાય જે ઉપાધ્યાય શ્રી યશોવિજયજી મહારાજાએ રચેલ છે. તેની ૨૯ ગાથા છે અને તેનું સ્વાધ્યાય દર રવિવારે વિસ્તારથી શ્રી જયેશ ભાઈએ સમજાવ્યું, તેનું સ્વાધ્યાય જુલાઈમાં પૂર્ણ થયું. ઘણા ભાવિકોએ પહેલીજ વખત આ સજ્જાય સાંભળી હશે.

માર્ચની ૧૪ તારીખે માતૃવંદનાનો કાર્ય ગોઠવેલ. ફોટા સાથે સ્લાઇડ શો કરેલ. સંગીતકારોએ હૃદયને સ્પર્શી જાય એવા ગીતો સંભળાવ્યાં. માર્ચ અને એપ્રિલ બે મહિના

ધર્મ પ્રેમી ભાવિકોએ શુભ ભાવથી સાંકડી આયંબિલના તપ કર્યા. ૧૫ માર્ચથી ૩૧ માર્ચ સુધી પાઠશાળાના ૭ સત્ર (Session) થયા. જેમા સામાયિકના અને ચૈત્યવંદના સુત્રો, શુદ્ધ ઉચ્ચારથી શિખ્યાં. ફાગણ સુદ ૧૨૧૩ના પાલીતણાની છ ગાઉંની ભાવ યાત્રા કરેલ હતી. ચૈત્ર મહિનામાં શાશ્વતી નવપદ આયંબિલની શરૂઆત થઈ. દાનવીરોએ £૧૦૦૮નું દાન આપી અને નવ દિવસનો આદેશ લીધેલ હતો. તેમના પરિવારના બે સભ્યોને સવારે પૂજા કરવાનો લાભ મળ્યો હતો. તેમજ પ્રભુ દર્શન, પૂજા, પ્રવચન આપણને સૌને ઘેર બેઠા લાભ મળેલ હતો. વૈશાખ સુદ ૧૧ના શાસન સ્થાપના દિન હતો. આપણા ઉપકારી શ્રી પ્રભુ મહાવીરે આ શુભ દિવસે સંઘની સ્થાપના કરી હોવાથી આપણને આ મહાન જૈન શાસનના સભ્ય બનવાનું સૌભાગ્ય પ્રાપ્ત થયું. દરેક આત્માને આદર્શ ગુણોનું ભેટ અપાવતું અને સકળ જીવો સાથે મૈત્રી ભાવોથી ભાવિત કરતું શાસન. દેવોએ સમોવસરણ રચ્યું હતું તેની ઉંડાણથી સમજણ આપવામાં આવી હતી.

૨૦ જૂન પિતૃવંદનાનો કાર્યક્રમ ગોઠવ્યો હતો. ફોટા સાથે સ્લાઇડ શો કરેલ અને પિતાના સુંદર ગીતો સંગીતકારોએ સંભળાવ્યાં હતાં.

૧૪ જૂનથી ૨૩ ઓગસ્ટ સુધી ફરીથી વિશ્વશાંતિની ભાવનાથી આયંબિલ તપ આરાધકોએ ઉત્કૃષ્ટ ભાવથી કર્યા.

પરમ પૂજ્ય પંચાસ પ્રવર શ્રી વૃજસેન વિજયજી ગણિવર્યશ્રી પાંચ જુલાઈના સોમવારે રાત્રે ૧૦.૨૫ મિનીટે સકળ સંઘના મૂખે નવકાર મહામંત્રનું સ્મરણ શ્રવણ કરતા પૂર્ણ સમાધી પૂર્વક કાળધર્મ પામ્યા. તેમની સ્મૃતિ ભાવ અંજલી પ્રાર્થના રાખેલ હતી.

પર્યુષણ પહેલા દેરાસર શુદ્ધિ કરણ કરેલ. જિનાલયમાં પરમાત્માની આરાધનાનું વિશેષ પ્રકારે શુદ્ધિ રાખી, કાર્ય કરીને જેટલું પ્રાધન્ય અને મહત્તા છે એટલું જ સમગ્ર જિનાલયનું છે. આપણો આત્મા કર્મથી દોષોથી ભરેલો છે. જિનાલય શુદ્ધિ આપણાં આત્માને શુદ્ધ કરે છે. લગભગ ૨૫ સેવાભાવીઓની હાજરી હતી. કેવી ઉત્તમ ભાવના. શ્રી પ્રભુ વીરના અનુયાયી ભાગ્યવંત આત્માઓએ પુણ્યનું બંધ બાંધ્યું. બપોરે બધાને ભોજનની વ્યવસ્થા પણ કરી હતી.

શ્રાવણ મહિનામાં પર્વાધિરાજ પર્યુષણ પર્વ આંગણે પધાર્યા. બધા પરાએ સાથે મળીને આરાધના કરી અને દરેક પરાને રાત્રે સુંદર ભક્તિ કરવાનો લાભ મળ્યો. તપસ્વીઓનું અનુમોદના કરેલ. પર્યુષણ પૂર્ણ થયા એટલે ૧૬મી સાલગીરી નિમિત્તે જિનાલયમાં

સત્તરભેદી પૂજાના ૧૮ ટિકડીઓ કરેલ અને દરેકને એક એક પૂજા કરવાનો મોકો મળ્યો. શિખર ઉપર ધ્વજા રોપણ કરવાનો લાભ સુશ્રાવિકા અનિલાબહેન હસમુખરાયને હસ્તે થયો. જિનાલયનું પ્રાંગણ પ્રભુ ભક્તિમય બન્યું હતું. ત્યાર પછી તરતજ હાલારના બાવન ગામની ઝુમ દ્વારા ભાવ યાત્રા કરી હતી.

અઢાર સપ્ટેમ્બરના જિનાલયનો આગળનો ભાગ વિસ્તૃત (extend) કર્યો હતો. તેમજ અંદર પણ જે ફેરફાર કરેલ તેની વિવિધ પ્રકારની વાક્ષેપ પૂજા, ભૂમિ પુજન, સ્થંભ પૂજન શિખર પૂજન અને દેરાસરમાં અનેક પૂજાઓ, જેનું ઉદ્ઘાટન સમારોહ (Opening Ceremony) રાખ્યું હતું. તેનું વાક્ષેપ પૂજન કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું. સમય સંજોગ અનુસાર લાભાર્થીજ આમંત્રીત હતાં અને વાજતે ગાજતે ખૂબજ ઉલ્લાસ પૂર્વક વિધિ કરી હતી. સાધર્મિકો માટે ભોજનની સુવિધા રાખવામાં આવી હતી.

આસો મહિનાની આયંબિલનો પ્રારંભ થયો. ખૂબજ સુંદર રીતે આરધના થઈ. લાભાર્થી પરિવારને પૂજા કરવાની તક મળી અને પૂર્ણ થતા તપસ્વીઓની અનુમોદન કરેલ.

દિવાળીનો પર્વ આવ્યો. ચોપડા શારદા પૂજન હોલમાં થયું. લગભગ ૧૦૮ પૂજનીય હાજર હતાં. ભાવિકોએ છઠ્ઠ તપ કરેલ અને દેરાસરમાં શાક્ષાત પ્રભુનો અભિષેક કરવાનો આનંદ થયો. ત્યાર પછી દરેકને પૂજા કરવાનો લાભ મળ્યો. પાવાપૂરી રચના, રંગોળી, અક્ષતના સાથિયા, જાતજાતના નૈવેદ્ય, ફળથી, આંખને સ્પર્શી જાય એવું રમણીય દ્રશ્ય શોભતું હતું. લાભાર્થીઓએ પાવાપૂરી ભાવયાત્રા, સ્નાત્ર પૂજા, નવસ્મરણ અને ગૌતમ સ્વામીનો રાસ, સંગીતના સૂર સાથે, સાંભળીને સૌનો આનંદ નિરવિધ બન્યો.

નવેમ્બરની ૭ તારીખે જિનાલયને રાત્રે પ્રકાશ પાથરે (Lighting Ceremony) એવો કાર્યક્રમ રાખ્યો હતો. બપોરે સાધર્મિક ભોજન રાખ્યું પછી ભક્તિ ભાવના રાખેલ હતી. લાભાર્થી પરિવાર હાજર હતા અને સાંજના ઉદ્ઘાટન હેતલબહેન શાહના હસ્તે થયું. દેરાસર અદ્ભૂત શોભતું હતું. નવેમ્બર તારીખ ૧૯ના કાર્તિકી પૂનમનો સિદ્ધગિરી ગિરિરાજ પટ દર્શન ભાવ યાત્રાનો કાર્યક્રમ હોલમાં રાખ્યો હતો. ત્યાર પછી સાધર્મિક ભક્તિ રાખેલ હતી.

આ કોવિડની મહામારી તો હજુ ચાલુ જ છે એટલે ઝુમના માધ્યમથી બધાજ કાર્યક્રમ સુંદર રીતે થાય છે અને બધા ભાવિકો જોડાઈ પણ શકે છે. પરંતુ હજી રુબરુ સમુહમાં કાર્ય

કરવાનો આનંદ નથી. ગમે તે રીતે કાર્ય કરીએ તેના ફાયદા અને ગેરફાયદા છે. અંગ્રેજીમાં કહેવાય છે કે “Failure is a stepping stone to success”. જીવનમાં ચઢતી પડતી તો આવવાનીજ છે પણ જ્યારે પડતી આવે ત્યારે સાચી સમજ ધર્મથી પ્રાપ્ત થાય છે અને જ્યારે સાચી સમજ આવે ત્યારે ચઢતીના શિખર ચઢાય. આપણે તો ઝુમ દ્વારા ધર્મનું જાણ્યું, માણ્યું અને શ્રવણ કર્યું. ધાર્મિક પ્રવૃત્તિમાં જોડાયેલા રહીએ એવીજ અભિલાષા.

જૈનમ્ જયતી શાસનમ્

લેખક: શારદાબહેન શાહ (N. E. Area)

Oshwal Association of the UK.

ધાર્મિક સમિતિના વર્ષાબહેન

સકળ સંઘના ભાઈ બહેનોને વિનંતી છે, કે આપણી સંસ્થાના કાર્યોને,  
જિનાલયના કાર્યો માટે, મહિનાની સાધારણ ફંડની યોજના  
£૫૦૧ - નકરો રાખવામાં આવેલ છે. જેમા આપે લખાવેલ મહિનાનો લાભ  
સંસ્થામાં ચાલતી પ્રવૃત્તિમાં લાભ મળે છે.  
£૧૦૧ - નકરો જેમા દેરાસરમાં થતી પૂજા, આરતિ, આંગીનો લાભ  
એક દિવસનો મળે છે.  
£૫૧ - નકરો બુધવાર અને રવિવારે ચાલતા, ઓનલાઈન સત્સંગ કરવાનો  
લાભ મળે છે.  
આપ સર્વેને લાભ લેવા વિનંતી છે.



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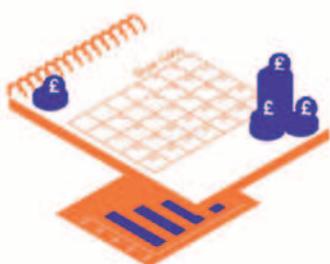


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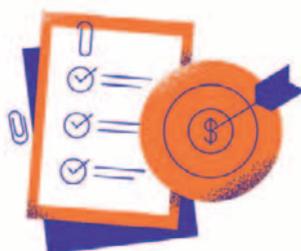
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# East Area



Jai Jinendra and Pranam to all

Our committee's four years have nearly been completed and the AGM and election for the new committee will take place soon after the SGM on 27th March 2022 (further details of the SGM is attached with this Oshwal news). Please do make an effort to attend our East Area AGM (a separate notice will be sent for this) and also join the committee, which I can say is truly enjoyable Sewa work.

We as a committee have thoroughly enjoyed serving you all during our term. The last two years have been very difficult for all of us due to the corona virus. Sadly, we have lost quite a few members during this period. Our Prayers for the departed souls to rest in peace and God give strength to their families. Those who are ill, we pray for their speedy recovery.

Our best wishes to those who have got married and to the newly borne. We have organised many programs during our term and those who have attended it have enjoyed these events. Currently we are still organizing our monthly Saturday Socials, so please do join us whenever these programs are held. I thank all the volunteers and my committee members for all the help they have given to me during these challenging times.

Hopefully we are now seeing a start back to the normality that we were all used to, but please do follow the government guide lines and also look after each other. Many individuals in our area have done very good work in their life I would like to congratulate and thank them for this and hopefully you continue with such work.

If my committee or I have hurt anyone during our term in thoughts, words and deeds knowingly or unknowingly we beg for forgiveness Michammi Dukkadam.

Jai Mahavir

**Kishore Lalji Haria**

*Trustee and East Area Chair*

## 100th BLOOD DONATION MILESTONE.

### East Area Member

CONGRATULATIONS ..... from the east area members and the committee.

Mr Gulab Ramji Kethshi Shah ( Nagaraia ) of Lakhbavad (India), and currently a member of East Area, resident of Ilford, Essex, UK.

Gulab is from Mombasa Kenya and has done his schooling in Mombasa. He has donated 100 pints of blood. A great achievement and maybe one of the first oshwal to donate 100 pints of blood.

*I am delighted to inform you of the achievement of my lifelong ambition. On 7th July 2021, ( when England played semifinals ) I carried out my 100th Blood donation. This process has taken me over 42 years. I attach an image of the letter from the Director of Donor Experience NHS Blood and Transplant. I will share an image of the award once I receive it. Keep safe and take all the precautions. Wear your mask where ever needed.*

### Gulab RamjiShah



Just for information, Gulab has served the East Area Committee as an office-bearer and also EC rep. In 1983. He started donating blood when he was 22 years old.

How many of you donate blood?

How many of you have thought of donating blood and never did it?







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# Leicester Area



Pranam,

Most of us would have heard the adage, “Nothing ever stays the same”. While we all on some level know that change is inevitable, somehow, it’s a notion that’s often easy to forget.

We have read of our roots, as Oshwals, being from Ossiya. From those early days of tilling the land, we have made choices and found our way, settling in all the continents etching our names as Oshwals in diverse professions. These changes are certainly not only witnessed in our personal lives and career paths but also jointly as a community.

As the Oshwal Association of the UK, here too we see the changes that have unfolded over the years. From the humble beginnings of it being formed some 50+ years ago when meetings were being held in homes to the current utilisation of modern technologies to keep members connected, especially during the pandemic. We changed and adapted to not only the needs of the day but as we visualised the days ahead of us. Decisions made along this journey impact us; some good, some not so good.

With the current term coming to an end, be it at an Area level or at the Executive level, this changing scenario is one factor that we have to acknowledge. The SGM and the AGM shall pave the way for a change in the teams of volunteers and perhaps novel ideas to be actioned.

People give up their time as volunteers for varied causes, many of them passionate about their particular cause. For this, I applaud and thank the current and past Leicester area committees and volunteers who have helped run the events over the years. The same appreciation also goes out further to members of the Executive as well as the volunteers across the whole of the UK. Whether we agreed or disagreed, without the dedication and tireless efforts, we would not have made the strides that we see across the whole platform.

Stay well,

***Nikunj***

**Leicester Area Chairperson**

Jai Jinendra,

Wishing you all a very healthy, happy and a prosperous New Year. Hope you and your families are keeping well and safe during this Covid-19 crisis and the new virus that is affecting a lot of people.

## **Picnic on 29th August 2021 at Evington Park, Leicester**

After a long period of Covid lockdown, picnic in the park was refreshing which was held on Sunday 29th August 2021 at Evington Park, Leicester.

17 members turned up for the picnic. It was nice to see each other after a long time. Weather turned out really warm and all who joined enjoyed the picnic. People brought their own food, thus there was a lot of variety and plenty to go round. Members played badminton, Frisbee, did lots of walking and chatting. Everyone had a good time.



## Meet and Greet Programme on 12th December 2021

After such a long wait we managed to arrange a Meet and Greet event on 12th December 2021 where 22 members attended.

The programme started with a prayer and as Leicester have lost many people during the lockdown, everyone chanted together 12 Navkar Mantra loudly which gave a brilliant vibe in the atmosphere.

After the prayers we played a game called "Strange but true" where a question was asked and a true but strange answer was given.

We then played Antakshari where everyone joined in singing the old melodies and religious songs.

To end the afternoon, idli and sambhar were served along with gulab jamun followed by apple pie and custard and tea. Lataben had prepared sambhar, chutney and gulab jamun. Hemalben had prepared idli and provided apple pie and custard. Hasmukhbhai prepared the tea.

Everyone had great fun and enjoyed the food.

*Bhavna Shah, Culture and Heritage*



**Jiv Daya and Anukampa Donations**

Our members kindly donated during various events for this noble cause and hence the committee decided to make donations of £567 each to various charities as follows:-

**Gorse Hill Farm in Anstey, Leicester:** It is a working farm and community project dedicated to the welfare of our animals.



**The Leicester and Rutland Wildlife Trust:** It is the leading wildlife conservation charity working to protect and enhance the wildlife and wild places of Leicestershire and Rutland.

**Leicester Hospitals Charity towards Chemotherapy Suite Appeal:** They are raising funds to increase the number of chemotherapy chairs by six through transforming an unused balcony to a new treatment area. This will mean 4,000 more treatments can be given each year.



**The Menphys Hub:** Menphys is a local Charity that provides a range of specialist services to support children and young adults with additional needs and disabilities, and their families. It has been supporting families across Leicester and Leicestershire for 50 years, striving to give young people equal choices, equal opportunities to allow them to live ordinary lives.

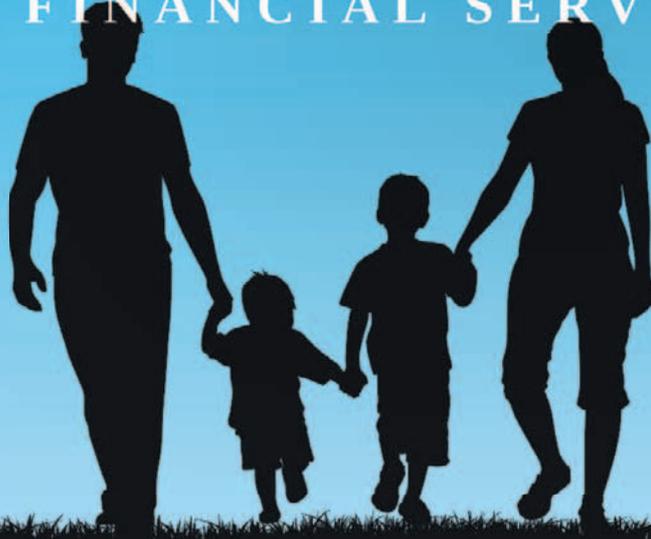
Although Leicester Area is not able to organise regular events where we can physically meet each other, a lot of programs are being conducted online for members to get involved and be part of.

**Jyotika Gudka & Dravina Shah**  
Leicester Area Media & Comms.



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# Northampton Area



Bhikhalal Velji Bid – The Chairman.

Jai Jinendra

Happy New Year to you all. Me and my committee members wish you a very prosperous one with lots of abundance and lots of blessings.

What a year 2021 has been. All of us have gone through different experiences and challenges during the lockdown and post this situation. These circumstances have led some people to have mental issues, some financial problems, relationship issues etc. Some have lost their loved ones. May their souls rest in peace. Om Shanti Om!

Let us hope that everybody is coming to some sort of understanding that this phase is going to be over soon and as they say there is always light at the end of the tunnel. So, it is a must to keep smiling and be grateful for what we have got. Some of us may have learnt a few lessons in the last year or so.

Since we were not able to hold our events physically, we decided to conduct our events online via Zoom from April 2021. A Zoom team was formed – Deepak Jivraj, Kaushika (Northampton), Jyotsna (Wellingborough), Usha (Northampton), Mona (Northampton) and Gita (Northampton). Pleased to say that these events were executed successfully, and we had an attendance of about 25-40 people during the sessions.

We have donated £2000 to Wellingborough Mandir covering the last two years. EC had allocated £1000 from Jiv Daya Fund from which we have donated £340 to Hope Centre, £330 to Wellingborough Food Bank and £330 to Animal in Need, Wellingborough.

Since we were not able to hold AGM last year, we will be holding our AGM, the date for which is to be confirmed and would request all Northamptonshire Area members to attend this meeting.

***Gita Shah***

**On behalf of Bhikhalal Velji Bid, Chairman**

*Northamptonshire Area*

## ONLINE ZOOM EVENTS

### Photography -Held on 11th April 2021 Ketan Shah CPAGB, BPE3

Ketan Shah is an award winner for his photography talents. He presented his mind blowing and breath-taking photograph images exceptionally well. He showed some 250 photos which he had captured. Ketan explained where they were taken and shared some of his tips to some interested members. It was so inspiring that we requested him to write an article about his journey to reach this stage of his hobby and he is still aiming to achieve some more.

“Having worked in the family business for most of my life, I had very little time to have any holidays. This was about to change, when in Dec 2006 having sold the business, I was now free to travel the world and see the places I had only dreamt of. It was about the time when digital cameras were taking off. I wasted no time and bought my first camera, a simple point and shoot. I had only ever used my dad’s film camera a handful of times in my life.



*Ketan Shah*



Now with instant results using a digital camera I soon developed an interest in taking photos, initially just to capture the memories of these holidays. A couple of years later I upgraded to a Bridge camera and my images were now getting even better. In 2010 a friend suggested we join a club, Northampton Camera Club. I wanted to look the part that of a serious photographer and once again upgraded to my first SLR. I soon realised having talked to some of the members and seen their work that I was total novice. I didn’t even know the basics. Luckily for me a kind mature Gujarati gentleman, who was a member of this club with several years of experience took me under his wing and began to teach me every aspect of photography. Being retired and having ample

time on my hands, I fully immersed myself into my newfound hobby. To a point, that it became an obsession.

Competitions are a thing in camera clubs, and I looked forward to entering every single one. It is here through critique that my photography improved immensely. As a beginner I had several knocks but that didn’t deter me. In the 4th year of joining, I was now ranked no 1 in the club, practically winning every trophy the club had to offer, in themes including portraiture, landscapes, wildlife, action and creativity etc

In 2016 an image I took of deer in Richmond Park won me a £1000 prize in the mammal’s section in a competition featuring British Wildlife by the Sunday Mail newspaper.

It was time to move on and took the decision to join Duston Camera Club, the leading camera club in the county. I was eager to progress and learn from its members whose work I greatly admired having seen it in Regional Exhibitions and Club v Club Tournaments. In my third year there, I finished on top of the club’s league table by winning the Monthly Competitions.



It was then I decided to gain qualifications. Having not done well academically at school I felt I wanted to achieve some status in my life. The Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB) which all photographic clubs are affiliated to offer merit awards to all its members and in 2017, I entered some of my work for adjudication and was awarded the CPAGB, letters which I could proudly put after my name.

In the last three years I have been entering British Photographic Exhibitions (BPE), some 17 dotted around England where photographer from all over Britain enter their images in the hope of getting an acceptance and to win awards. For every acceptance you have had in an exhibition you receive one point. Currently I have had 164 acceptances and have won some 25 medals, ribbons, and trophies in total. The success in these exhibitions have earned me letters BPE3 which I can now add further to my name.

The journey is not over yet though. This month I am hoping to achieve the next level in the PAGB adjudications so I may now be termed as having gained DPAGB. Following that in the coming months I hope to achieve BPE4 for having had 200 images accepted in The BPE’s. I have also had successful acceptances in International Exhibitions but awards there are still eluding me there. My intention is to change this soon.

I hope my story has inspired you to realized that you are never too old to set and achieve new goals. All you need is a strong commitment and determination!

## Mahavir Janma Kalyanak - Held on 24 April 2021



All the attendees took part in singing songs/stavans related to this auspicious day. We had the privilege of having Nituben Shah and Rousab Malde reciting some songs. Very proud to say that we had young children participating as well. We had organised a dress code for this event.

*Riyan Ricky Haria* recited Navkar Mantra



*Aryan Vivek* \_  
Recited Uvasagaram and  
Loggasa and  
*Arjun Vivek* –  
Recited a story on birth of Mahavir.



*Rousab Malde*

*Neetuben Shah*



Shriya and Belaben Rupen Shah had done a prathna – Maitri Bhavnu Pavitra Zaaranu

## Prayanama Exercises and talk on Deafness by Doctor Mayur - Held on 9th May 2021

*Fulvantiben* demonstrated few Pranayama Breathing Exercises which can be used in everyday life to achieve strength and lots of energy. This proactive session was very educational, and the members took part in these breathing exercises.





*Dr Mayur* who is a retired GP had prepared this topic, Hearing Loss, as it was requested from our members. Dr Mayur presented this talk with explanatory slides and went through the impairments which can occur and what solution can be applied. It was a very informative session. This talk gave all the members insight to ear problems and possible solutions.



## Cookery Session by Jyotiben Shah (London) – Held on 23rd May 2021



*Jyotiben* demonstrated 4 recipes as per below by using Thermomix.

Biscoff Chocolate Crunch, Instant Dhokra, Red Pepper & Tomato Soup and Roasted Vegetables and Couscous Salad. The recipes were shared with all the members in Northamptonshire.

## Gardening Tips– held on 6th June 2021

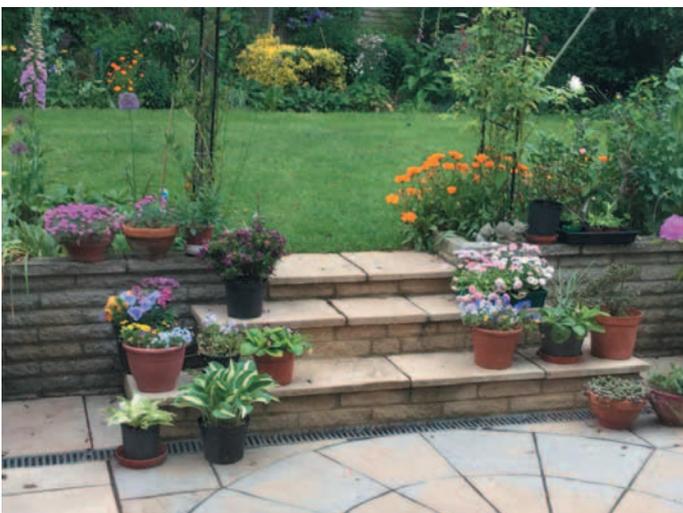
Our two keen gardener members volunteered to show their skills on gardening. Their skills were recorded and then shared via zoom on this event.



*Manjuben Bhikhhalal Bid*

Manjuben showed us, via recorded video, how she creates a hanging basket, and she also went round her garden describing some of the plants. It was a beautiful garden. It was very informative session and members enjoyed her tips.

These are some of photos of her garden.





*Vasantiben Mahendra Shah*

Vasantiben presented her skills via slides – how to grow herbs – methi (fenugreek), coriander and she also presented the benefits of various herbs when consumed.

This presentation was very educational, and all the members benefited from it and several of them started trying their gardening skills after this event.



## **Antakshari – Held on 18th July 2021**

This event was started off with Omkar Mantra and then Namō Arihantanam was recited... This event was organised with 3 rounds, one being normal antakshari, 2nd round - a gujarati alphabet would be shown on the screen and 3rd round with a gujarati words from bollywood songs etc. shown on the screen. The teams would need to sing the songs beginning with these shown alphabets and the words within a song respectively.

The rules were explained by Jyotsnaben. Each round would last 20 mins and 10 points would be gained by the playing team if able to sing a song beginning with the given alphabet and if not able to then the team would loose 5 points and this would enable the opposite team to gain 10 points if they are able to sing with this alphabet and so on.

At least 30 PCs were logged in to play Antakshari. Lot of participants took part and enjoyed the whole event.

## **Singing Event – 1st August 2021**

The members enjoyed this event as there is quite a few Northamptonshire Area singers who sing beautifully and agreed to take part in this event.

## **Paryushan Parva 2021 – 3rd September 2021 – 10th September 2021**

Again, this year Paryushan was celebrated online at Potters Bar. In this way ALL the members could enjoy all the scheduled events and celebrations. e.g Prabhu Darshans, Pujas, Aangi, Aartis, Mangal Divos, Bhaktis, Pravachans, Pratikarman and Bhakti Bhavnas.

On Tuesday 7th September 2021 - Mahavir Janma Celebration - online - Northampton had been given one Sapna - The Celestial Aeroplane.

Northampton Area and Leicester were given the opportunity to perform Bhakti Bhavna, via Zoom, on Thursday 9th September 2021. The members who took part from our area were Rahul, Arjun and Aryan Malde, Kundenben, Ramaben, Mahendrabhai, Chirag, Jivrajbhai, Raniben, Manjulaben.

Additionally, on this day our area was given an opportunity to perform Aarti, Mangal Divo. Sponsors for the Aarti-Mangal Divo were Bhikhubhai and Manjuben, Jahantilalbhai and Hansaben, Ashok and Usha, Rupen and Mona, Deepak and Kaushika, Suresh and Gita, Pravin and Meera, Pankajbhai and Manjuben, Anju Hasmukh Haria and one was anonymus.

There were few tapasavis who had done atthai tap– Kanchan Wade – 8 upvas, Gita Anil Shah – 12 upvas and there was one or two who wanted to remain anonymus.

On Sunday, the 19th of September 2021 Northamptonshire Area distributed prabhavna to each Oshwal Northamptonshire household as we were not able to hold Samwatsari Bhojan. We received donation of £1010 from our members for this purpose. We also collected £382.00 for Paryushan festivities from our members. Oshwal Association of UK Northamptonshire Area appreciates and conveys their gratitude to all the members who donated.

The Oshwal Northamptonshire Area Committee members convey “Michammi Dukhdam” to all the members.

Some of our Oshwal Northamptonshire members have engaged in showing their talents in various projects – described on a report by Ushaben which is found on the link on Oshwal Website.

The year 2021 has come to an end but let us hope that this new variant of COVID passes us as soon as possible and life can be as normal as prior to March 2020.

***Gita Shah***

*Oshwal Association of Northamptonshire Area Media.*

# North Area



Jai Jinendra

I hope you are all well. A few North area activities have been continuing and in this issue we have updates covering religious activities, our wonderful Gujarati School and our excellent youth club.

Read about one of our inspirational members who climbed the highest mountain in England and Wales. Hear all about the Youth Club Christmas Party, and an update from Kunteshbhai on our Gujarati School.

My thanks to all committee and sub-committee members plus volunteers who have kept activities going. Please encourage your family members to take part in our activities. We wanted to restart Friday social club in January but due to Omicron had to cancel. But we hope to start that again soon.

Hopefully we will hold our area and EC AGM's soon and that will bring about much changes as we re-shape for a sustainable future. I hope you will all come forward to play a part in that new chapter of our association.

**Shailan Shah**, North Area Chair person.

## Gujarati School

The Gujarati School is continuing to run successfully, currently we have 50 students enrolled and we are still getting enquirers for more students who are wishing to join. There was a 100% pass rate for students taking GCSE exams last year, with 2 students achieving grade 9, 2 achieving 8, 1 achieving 7. Congratulations to them and their teachers for all their hard work in achieving these results.

We offer a wide and varied range of activities at school, we teach our culture, language, in addition we also offer Tabla, Bollywood Dancing and Harmonium classes. Can I please ask for all parents to send your children/grandchildren to Gujarati school if they do not already attend.

Recently the school held a Diwali Party where children were making Diwali cards, rangoli, narrated the meaning of Diwali and enjoyed a wide selection of Indian food. Before we broke up for the Christmas holidays, we held an Xmas party, where there was a Santa's Grotto with Father Christmas handing out presents. In addition, there were performances from the Bollywood Dancing and Harmonium classes as well as fun games for the children to play and enjoyed light refreshments.

I and fellow teachers/helpers would like to say a big thank you to two teachers who recently retired from our Gujarati School after many years of teaching with us. They are Bhavnaben and Hiteshbhai, who showed years of dedication, professionalism, adaptability, there are not enough words to describe how they helped the school. They will be sadly missed but not forgotten, we wish them luck in their future.

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GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF THE UK IS A REGISTERED CHARITY (NO. 267077)

I would like to thank all the committee members, helpers and teachers at the school which has ensured the smooth running of the school.

Regards,

**Kuntesh Shah** North Area Education Chair

Mobile: +44 (0)7952 708 592 | Email: education-n@oswal.org

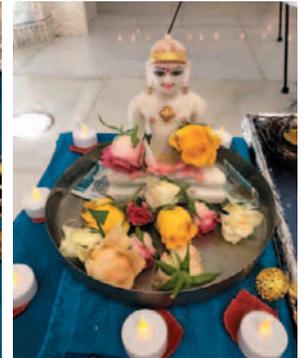
**Paryushan, Aymbil Oli, Diwali and New Year**

Pranam,

I hope you all are keeping well.

Due to Covid pandemic all religious festivals were organised by the Religious committee of Oswal Executives. All members of nine areas were invited to join by virtual webcast (online).

Some members (sponsors) were invited to take part in Puja, Aarti, Divo, etc. Below are North Area members taking part in Puja, Aarti, Divo, etc.



## YOUTH CLUB CHRISTMAS FUN EVENING 10TH DECEMBER 2021

By Varshita Shah and Alisha Shah

On Friday 10th December at Woodhouse College, North Area Youth Club held a fun evening, where under 12s, over 12s and parents all participated in a range of exciting activities.

The evening kicked off with an introduction to the new youth committee followed by the creation of 4 colour coded teams. We started with an intense starter game of musical cones where we saw some members run like never before to get hold any remaining cones they could get hold of. This swiftly transitioned to big games of dodgeball, where we witnessed some surprising and some questionable dodges and throws! Next, we had four neat rows of all the participants ready for a competitive game of under and over with balloons. With a few balloons popping on the way the groups successfully completed by working collectively as a team to get a win! The next game was a golden oldie - the lemon and spoon race. Some of the parents definitely got their competitive edge out and cheered on their team. The final event was 'queen of sheeba' - we had our very own committee member Bansi as the queen ordering what she desired most and made everyone run around.

The evening ended with the results and prizes everyone was waiting for, with an overall win from team Yellow! The atmosphere was very festive with xmas songs being played in the background, secret santa and snack bag for everyone during the break.

Overall, this event was a real success and everyone who participated had an amazing time!

**Khub khub Anumodna to Vimlaben Dilipbhai, Arunaben Somachandbhai and Ushaben Chandubhai donating four Chamars to Oshwal Centre for use in Derasar.**

Inquire now to enrol from January 2022!

Contact [yc.north@oshwal.org](mailto:yc.north@oshwal.org) for more info

OSHVAL ASSOCIATION OF THE UK

YOUTH CLUB

Football  
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And much more!

Woodhouse College Sports Hall  
North Finchley, N12 9EY

18.00 - 20.00 - Under 12's  
20.00 - 22.00 - Over 12's

Management reserves the right to refuse admission or to make any change due to unforeseen circumstances.  
Oshwal Association of the UK is a registered charity (No. 267047)





## 16th Dhaja Celebration of the Derasar

The annual **Dhaja Din (Flag raising)** took place on Sunday 19th September 2021. On this auspicious day, **Sanatra Puja** was performed followed by **Sattar Bhedi Puja (17 Pujas)**. Dhaja is one of these Puja.

Normally there is only one draw and the family from the draw would perform Sanatra Puja and all Sattar Bhedi Pujas. However, this year there were 18 draws in total. From North Area there were five families selected for the following Pujas.

1st Puja - Sanatra Puja - Jayaben Somachand Parivar

5th Puja – Phul Puja (Flower) - Rekhaben Maheshbhai Parivar

9th Puja - Dhaja Puja - Anilaben Hasmukhrai Parivar

12th Puja – Panch Prakaari Phul Puja (five types of flowers) - Sarojben Shashibhai Parivar

17th Puja – Vagianthro (musical instruments) Puja – Sanjitaben Yogeshbhai Parivar



### It is never too late to challenge yourself..

On a recent family trip to Wales, one of the items on the agenda was to climb Mt Snowdon. A younger member of the group innocently asked why dadi got an exemption. "Dadi, you're fit and healthy, why won't you join us?"

A perfectly valid question!! Why not!

For anyone who knows my sasu ( Usha Chandulal Shah), knows that she's not one to back down easily. So, this was the start of her personal challenge to climb Mt Snowdon!

Along this journey, at 74, watching her attempt this beast of a climb I learnt a few gems which I would like to share with you...

Number 1 - Not knowing what you've signed yourself up for, is the best position to be in. When she agreed to climb it with us – she didn't know the peak was over 1000 m above sea level. There's a train that goes from the base of the mountain to the peak – the train takes over 2 hours to complete that leg of the journey. Can you imagine how she may have felt, when she learnt this a quarter of the way up?

Number 2 – you will meet the most amazing people on the trek. She got so much support along the way from complete strangers who were all amazed to see her determination and perseverance. They were all so positive, strong and confident. Most importantly they were all happy.

Number 3 – the trek tests you – staying positive is your only ticket to success. In particular the trek tests your patience, persistence and gratitude. There were stretches of constant vertical climbing, this can be the most exhausting. Not only physical difficulties but also the mental difficulties test you. At regular points we all checked up on her and gave her the option to return to base, we were all concerned about the impact of the incline on her knees. But she stayed strong and reassured us to continue with her!

She certainly was very resolute to get to the top, this determination and the incredible support she got along the way from strangers gave her the zest to make it all the way to the peak. Best view comes after the hardest climb.

My take on her experience is that you're never too old. If you have the right outlook and attitude, there's no reason why you can't experience the thrill and sense of achievement that goes with climbing a mountain.

And if you do, you'll swiftly come to realise that the notion 'age is just a number' applies to many of the things that you might like to do in life but previously thought you might be too old for.

### Rupal Shah



# North East Area



***Pranam, Jai Jinendra, Hello, and Hi..!***

It seems like a lifetime ago I wrote to you. The North East area committee and I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

We have all been impacted by Covid-19 and the life we have had to live has significantly changed. For some, being indoors with their loved ones has brought immense joy and those humans have made the most of this time however, for others, being constrained and restricted has been hard and had meant many have faced both physical and emotional challenges.

I would also like to take this moment to pass on our condolences to all those who have lost loved ones during this time.

We recently lost Retesh Bhagwanji Shah. Reteshbhai used to be a tabla player in our annual Paryushun festivities. Every year he would drive from North West London to Oshwal Centre for eight days and be part of our annual Paryushun band. He was a great inspiration to all. A truly lovely and heart-warming person who will be dearly missed by the North East area.

The committee and I would like to pay our respects and pass on our condolences to Reteshbhai's friends and families during this difficult and unexpected time.

During Paryushun 2021, I am pleased to announce with our members' help, we raised £1800 for Jiv Daya charities. This money has been distributed amongst various charities – a huge Thank You to all who donated.

Finally, I wish you all the best during this time and Thank You all for your continued support to the society, to each other and to our community.

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy and Let's Work Together on Fighting Against Covid-19 and Saving Lives.

**Nish**  
**EC Trustee and North East Area Chair**



## ધાર્મિક સમિતિનો ૨૦૨૧ સાલનો વાર્ષિક રિપોર્ટ

ઓશવાળ એસોસિએશન નોર્થ ઈસ્ટ પરના ધાર્મિક સમિતિના સાદર પ્રણામ.



૨૦૨૦ની સાલમાં લોકડાઉનને હિસાબે જેમ સામાન્ય જીવન જીવવાની વૃદ્ધિમાં પલટો થયો હતો તેમજ ૨૦૨૧ના વર્ષમાં પણ આપણા બધાના જીવનમાં ઝૂમ પ્રસરી ગયું હતું અને બધાજ ધાર્મિક કાર્યક્રમ ઝૂમ દ્વારા નિહાળીને આનંદ માણ્યો હતો.

અનાદી કાળથી ચૌરાશી લાખ યોનીમાં ભટકતા ભટકતા દેવો પણ દુર્લભ એવો મનુષ્ય ભવ પામીને દરેક આત્માએ આ ભવની સાર્થકતા અને આત્મ કલ્યાણના માર્ગ આગળ વધવા માટે આપણને પૂજ્ય શ્રી જયેશભાઈએ બધાને ધર્મ માર્ગમાં જોડેલા રાખ્યા. દર બુધવારે તથા રવિવારે સત્સંગ દ્વારા ધર્મ જ્ઞાન પીરસતા ગયા. બધાના મનમાં એકજ સંદેશો સાર્થક કર્યો.

**"અરિહંત પરમાત્મા એજ આપણા દેવ છે  
પંચ મહાવ્રતધારી સાધુઓ જ આપણા ગુરુ છે  
પરમાત્માએ દર્શાવેલો ધર્મ જ આપણો ધર્મ છે"**

આ બોધ બધાના મનમાં ઘર કરી ગયું છે.

જોત જોતામાં ચૈત્ર માસની શાશ્વત નવપદ આયંબિલની ઓળી આવી. બધા ભાવિકોએ ખુબજ સરસ રીતે ઘરે બેસીને આરાધના કરી અને પૂજ્ય શ્રી જયેશભાઈના ખુબ સુંદર પ્રવચનો પણ સાંભળવા મળ્યા.



ત્યાર બાદ સહર્ષ ઊમંગની સાથે સોહામણા પર્વાધિરાજ પર્યુષણ આંગણે આવી ગયા. ભગવાનના શાસનની બલીહારી છે. આત્માની નજીક વસીને, આત્મ ધ્યાન, ધર્મ, જીવ માત્ર પ્રત્યે અત્યંત લાગણી, કરુણા, ક્ષમાપના કરવાનો અવસર પ્રાપ્ત થયો. પર્યુષણ દરમ્યાન

આઠ દિવસ દરેક પરાને, રાત્રે ભક્તિ મહોત્સવ કરવાનો મોકો મળ્યો હતો. નોર્થ ઈસ્ટ પરાને છઠ્ઠા દિવસે ભક્તિ રજુ કરવાની તક મળી. પાંચમાં દિવસે મહાવીર જન્મ કલ્યાણક વાંચનના દિવસે બધાં પરાને બે બે સ્વપ્નાની ઉચ્ચવણી કરવાની તક મળી.



દેરાસરનું માહોલ ખુબજ સુંદર રીતે સર્જવેલ હતું. વાજતે ગાજતે બધા ખુબજ સરસ રીતે, ત્રિશલા માતાના સ્વપ્નાને લઈને દેરાસરમાં પધાર્યા. નવમું સ્વપ્નું સુવર્ણ કલષ (Golden Vase) રમાબહેન રમણીકભાઈના પરિવારે લાભ લીધો હતો.

તેમજ દશમું સ્વપ્નું પદ્મ સરોવર (Lotus Lake) કનકબહેન મનસુખભાઈના પરિવારે લાભ લીધો હતો. ખુબજ સરસ રીતે ઢોલના ધબકારે અને તાળીઓના તાલ સાથે વાજતે ગાજતે ગીતના ગુંજન સાથે સ્વપ્નાને લઈને દેરાસરમાં પધાર્યા હતા.



છશ્ચે દિવસ આવી ગયો.....

ભક્તિનો રંગ મને લાગ્યો ઓ સાહિબા ભક્તિનો રંગ મને લાગ્યો રે લોલ.....

નાના બાળકોએ સુંદર નવકારથી શરુઆત કરી અને બધાએ જુદી જુદી રીતે સુંદર તેમની કળા દર્શાવી.

- ૧) શેય (Shay) અને લઇલા (Leila) નીલ શાહ, નવકાર મંત્રથી શરુઆત કરી હતી.
- ૨) નેહા (Neha) શીતલ શાહ, નવકાર ઉપર સરસ નૃત્ય કર્યું હતું.
- ૩) આન્યા (Aanya) અને આશના (Aashna) કિશોર બન્નેએ ખુબ ભાવથી સમરો મંત્ર ભલો નવકાર, ગાય અને સંભળાવ્યું હતું.
- ૪) પુજા (Puja) દિલન શાહ, વાંસળી પર સુંદર સૂરમાં નવકાર સંભળાવ્યું હતું.
- ૫) હર્શી (Harshi) નિશાદ ગુઢકાએ સુંદર સ્વરમાં ગાયને, અમી ભરેલી નઝરોં રાખો સંભળાવ્યું હતું.
- ૬) આરતી (Aarti) અશ્વિન શાહે પર્યુષણને આવકાર આપવા, આવ્યા રુડા પર્યુષણ પર્વ ઉપર સરસ નૃત્યું કર્યું હતું.

### **બધા સહભાગીઓની ખુબ ખુબ અનુમોદના.**

પર્વાધિરાજ પર્વનો મહાન સંદેશો, જીવ દયાનો તેમજ ઉત્કૃષ્ઠ ભાવથી દાન આપવાનો અને ક્ષમા કરવાનો. તેને અનુલક્ષીને, નોર્થ ઈસ્ટ પરાએ કુમારપાળ મહારાજાનું સુંદર નાટક પ્રસ્તુત કર્યું હતું. કુમારપાળ મહારાજાની એક જ ઝંખના હતી.

**"ખામેમિ સવ્વે જિવા, સવ્વે જિવા ખમંતુ મેં  
મિત્તિ મેં સવ્વ ભૂએસું, વૈર મઝં ન કેણઈ"**

સહુ જીવ, હિંસા ધર્મનું પાલન કરે તેના માટે તંતોળ પ્રયાસ અને પ્રેરણા કરી હતી.

આ નાટકમાં રાજા, રાણી, છડીદાર, મંત્રીધર, નગરશેઠ અને પ્રજાજનો ઊપસ્થિત હતાં. સુંદર જીવ દયાનો, અને દાનનો સંદેશો પહોચાડ્યો હતો. મહારાજા વિષે પ્રજાજનોએ ઘણી બધી જ્ઞાનની વૃદ્ધિ કરી, અને બધાને ખુબજ જાણવા પણ મળ્યું.

**ભાગ લેનાર સહભાગીઓ હતા: -**

- કુમારપાળ રાજા - પ્રબોધભાઈ મણીલાલ શાહ.  
રાણી - દિપ્તીબહેન પ્રબોધભાઈ શાહ.  
છડીદાર - રોહીતભાઈ ઝવેરચંદ બીદ અને ઘિનલભાઈ ચંદુલાલ શાહ.  
મંત્રીધર - મનુભાઈ રાયશી શાહ.  
નગરશેઠ - અશોકભાઈ તેજશી મુલજી માલ્ટે.  
પ્રજાજનો - પારસભાઈ જયેન્દ્ર શાહ, શારદાબહેન શાહ, જ્યોતિબહેન જયેન્દ્ર શાહ,  
ભાવનાબહેન રશ્મી શાહ.  
કથાકાર - ઈનાબહેન જયેશભાઈ શાહ.  
ફોટોગ્રાફી/સહાયક - પ્રસિત રમેશભાઈ શાહ, વિવેક જયેશભાઈ શાહ.  
કેનિલ જયેશભાઈ શાહ.  
સ્ક્રિપ્ટ લેખક - જયેશભાઈ શાહ.  
સ્ક્રિપ્ટ ટાઇપિંગ - શોભનાબહેન નરેશ શાહ.  
મુખ્ય આયોજક - પુષ્પાબહેન જયેંતિલાલ શાહ.



છેલ્લે દેરાસરમાં તબલા, મંજીરા, ખંજરી, કીબોર્ડ અને સંગીત સાથે ભક્તિથી ખુબજ ઉમંગથી ગજાવ્યું તેવા હતા આપણા હોશિલા, ઈનાબહેન જયેશભાઈ, શોભનાબહેન નરેશભાઈ અને શોભાબહેન હરીશભાઈ.



દેરાસરનો માહોલ જોઈ, એવું લાગ્યું કે ખરેખર ભગવાન આપણી ઘરે પધાર્યા છે. બધે આનંદ આનંદ છવાઈ ગયું હતું અને શ્રાવકો ચામર, ખંજરી, ડાંડિયા અને તાળિયોના તાલ સાથે ખુબજ આનંદિત થઈ ગયા હતા.

આરતી અને મંગળ દીવાના લાભાર્થી હતા સોનમબહેન, તનવીબહેન

નિશાબહેન, કનકબહેન અને દિપ્તિબહેન પ્રબોધભાઈ. ખુબજ ભાવ અને ઉમંગથી બધાએ સાથે મળી આરતી અને મંગળદીવાનો લાભ લીધો.

જોત જોતામાં પર્યુષણના આઠ દિવસો તો પુરા થઈ ગયા. ભાવિકોએ ખુબજ કઠિન તપસ્યા કરીને જૈન શાસનને દિપાવ્યું. બધા તપસ્વીઓની ઘણી ઘણી અનુમોદના.

### **પુસ્ત્યશાળી તપસ્વીઓના નામ: -**

- ૧) કુમારી દીપા રમણીક શાહ.
- ૨) કુમારી મીના કાંતિલાલ શાહ.
- ૩) શ્રીમતી મીનાબહેન ઈલેશ નગરીયા.
- ૪) શ્રીમતી રોશની અમર શાહ.
- ૫) શ્રીમતી મંજુબહેન ચંદુભાઈ શાહ.
- ૬) શ્રીમાન દર્શન ઈલેશ નગરીયા.
- ૭) શ્રીમાન અશોકભાઈ તેજશી મુલજી માલ્ટે. તેમનું માસક્ષમણ હતું.

**બધાની ખુબ ખુબ અનુમોદના.**

ત્યાર બાદ, આસો મહિનાની આયંબિલની ઓળી આવી. નોર્થ ઈસ્ટ પરામાં પણ ઘણા બધાએ આયંબિલની ઓળી કરી હતી. તેમને પણ ખુબ ખુબ અનુમોદના. આજે ગર્વની સાથે લખવાનું મન થાય છે કે આપણા પરામાં પણ તપસ્વીઓની લાંબી વર્ધમાન તપની ઓળી ચાલી રહી છે, અને તેવા તપસ્વીઓ છે આપણા:

શ્રીમતી મધુબહેન કાંતિલાલ શાહ. જેમણે ૯૭ આયંબિલ ઓળી પૂર્ણ કરી.

શ્રીમતી ભાનુબહેન રતીલાલ શાહ, જેમણે ૩૮ આયંબિલ ઓળી પૂર્ણ કરી.

શ્રીમતી મંજુબહેન ચંદુભાઈ શાહ. જેમણે ૩૦ આયંબિલ ઓળી પૂર્ણ કરી.

આવા મહાન તપસ્વીને અમારા ખુબ ખુબ અભિનંદન અને ખરે ખર દિલથી અનુમોદના કરીએ છીએ. તમારી સહુની પ્રેરણાથી અમને પણ ક્યારેક ભાવ જાગશે એવી અભીલાષા રાખીએ છીએ.

*તપસ્વી અમર રહો....., તપસ્વી અમર રહો....., તપસ્વી અમર રહો.....,*

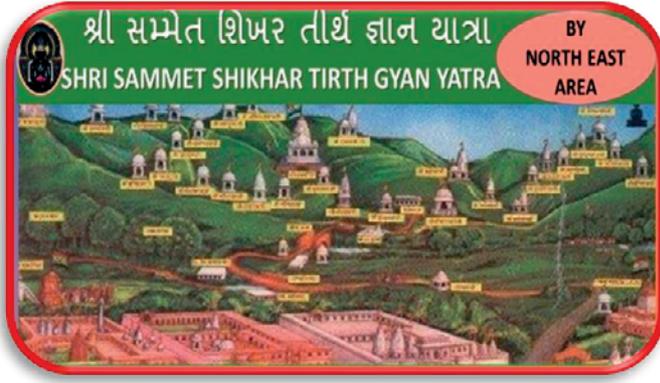
છેલ્લે દર રવિવારે પુજ્ય શ્રી જયેશભાઈ, તથા ધાર્મિક સમિતિના વર્ષાબહેને, બધા પરાને જુદા જુદા વિષય પર સત્સંગ કરવાનો તક આપ્યો. અમારા ભાગ્યમાં ૨૬ ડિસેમ્બર ૨૦૨૧ના સમ્મેત શિખરનો વિષય ઉપર તક મળ્યો હતો.



*"ચાલો ચાલો ને રુડા તીરથ ભેટશું રે લોલ"*

યાત્રા પોટર્સબાર દેરાસરેથી શરૂ કરી. શ્રી જયેશભાઈએ સુંદર રીતે, મહાવીર પ્રભુ, આદેશ્વર દાદા અને પાર્શ્વપ્રભુના દર્શન અને સ્તુતિ કરાવી, પહેલી તીર્થ યાત્રાનું પ્રારંભ કર્યું. શારદાબહેને સરસ ભાવથી, સ્તુતિ સાથે સમ્મેત શિખરની માહિતી સમજાવી, અને બિજી તીર્થ યાત્રા ભક્તામર અને સમોવસરણ દેરાસરના દર્શન કરાવ્યા. કનકબહેને ખુબ ભાવથી ભોમિયા દાદાજીના દર્શન કરાવ્યા અને પૂજ્ય શ્રી જયેશભાઈએ સાથે સુંદર સ્તવનની બે કળી ગાઈ અને સંભળાવી.

**"તુને મુજે બુલાયા હો... ભોમિયાજી. મેં આયા..., મેં આયા... શિખરજી"**



કલિકુંડ પાર્શ્વનાથના દર્શન કરી, અને યાત્રા શરૂ કરી. શોભનાબહેન, શોભાબહેન અને ઈનાબહેને ખુબજ સુંદર રીતે ૩૧ ટૂંકના દર્શન કરાવ્યા. ચિત્ર અને સ્તુતિ સાથે દર્શન કરાવ્યા એટલે, બધાના દિલમાં આનંદ છવાયો અને વર્ષો પહેલા કરેલી યાત્રા પાછી

તાજી થઈ. ખાસ કરીને વડિલો ખુબજ આનંદ પામ્યા, કારણકે આ યાત્રા કરવી સહેલી નથી અને ઘરે બેઠા તેઓ યાત્રા કરી શક્યા. ત્યાર પછી ઋજુવાલિકા તીર્થની યાત્રા ચંપાબહેન ચંદુભાઈએ કરાવી. આ થઈ આપણી ચોથી પંચ તીર્થ યાત્રા. તનમનબહેન વિનોદભાઈ એ આપણને સહુને રાજગૃહીની યાત્રા કરાવી અને પંચ તીર્થ યાત્રા પણ આપણીથઈ ગઈ. યાત્રાને પૂર્ણ કરવા, ગીતા બહેને સુંદર પ્રાચીન સહુને વહાલું, સ્તવન સંગીતના સૂર થી સંભળાવ્યું. બધા સહભાગીઓની ખુબ ખુબ અનુમોદના.

આ હતી આપણી, નોર્થ ઈસ્ટ પરાની, ૨૦૨૧ સાલની ધાર્મિક પ્રવૃત્તિની રુપરેખા. નોર્થ ઈસ્ટ સમિતિના સભ્યો, બધાની ખરા દિલથી અનુમોદના કરીએ છીએ. નોર્થ ઈસ્ટ કમિટિ, OAUK ના પ્રમુખ શ્રી નિલેશભાઈ, ધાર્મિક સમિતિના વર્ષાબહેન, પૂજ્ય શ્રી જયેશભાઈ તથા ઝૂમ ટિમના સર્વ કાર્ય કરતાઓ તેમજ સર્વ સેવાભાવિઓએ, બધા કાર્યો કરવામાં પુરે પુરો સાથ આપ્યો છે, તે બદલ ખુબ ખુબ આભાર માનીએ છીએ. અમારાથી જાણતા કે અજાણતા કાંઈ પણ ભુલ થઈ હોય, અથવા તો કોઈનું પણ દિલ દુભાવ્યું હોય, તો ખરા દિલથી માફી માંગીએ છીએ.

**મિચ્છામિ દુક્કડમ  
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Pranam, Jai Jinendra,

Covid 19 pandemic has been with us past 2 years. Sadly, our life styles have changed considerably. During the pandemic, we have not been able to see our loved ones. During the past 2 years, we have lost many of our loved ones.

Please accept our heartfelt condolences.

## **Ekta Centre Reopened and our area community events are back.**

With some relaxation of Government rules, Oshwal Ekta Centre has opened for Sadadi, Antim Darshan, Chaas Pivanu and Private functions.

During 2021, a number of various functions had taken place at Ekta Centre.

The derasar is open for prayers and aaradhna from 9.30 until 12.30 pm everyday.

Once it was safe to do so, our **Gujarati School** for the children was moved to Oshwal Ekta Centre every Saturday morning during term time. Please register your children and/or grandchildren to attend and learn our mother tongue. Our children's first mother tongue is now English and we as a community must preserve Gujarati. Attending the school is also a great opportunity to meet other young Oshwals and learn our Culture.

**Youth club** has also started at Harrow Leisure Centre. **Table Tennis** is played at Oshwal Ekta Centre 3 days each week. Please encourage your children to join, have fun and participate in sports.

**Arts & Craft** meet on Mondays. They have been very active creating beautiful paintings, knitting etc. Bhukhar is played every Thursdays & last Saturday of the month in Karania Hall. Those wishing to learn or experienced players, please do join us. Further details available from Mahendra Chandaria 07714 712713.

**Culture & Heritage** are planning more events for 2022 and are also hoping to return to hosting our other regular events soon, including weekly Yoga sessions, Oshwal Elderly Monthly Meets, Whist Drive & Family Social Evenings.

My appreciation to all Ekta Volunteers who have managed to keep the place open during this time. Safety of our volunteers and hall hirers and guests was our top priority.

Also, my appreciation to our cleaners who have also helped regularly to keep the Centre sanitized.



Our appreciation to the singers and musicians

4 families took the Aarti & Mangal Divo Labh.



During the Paryushan Parwa many families also sponsored daily aarti and mangal divo and attended prayers at the derasar.



On 2 October 2021, we held a Snatra Pooja and Gandhi Jayanti event to welcome everyone back to Ekta Centre. The pooja was conducted by Bhakti Mandal and the spiritually uplifting aaradhna was enjoyed by over 140 people present. Good funding was raised through uccahvanis for aarti, mangal divo and shanti kalash vidhis and excellent bhakti was also delivered with live musicians in attendance.

After a delicious bhojan, kindly sponsored by Swagat Catering, guests enjoyed the story of Gandhiji with music and songs presented by Pradeepbhai, Nitinbhai, Ketanbhai and Naynaben Dhanani and Jyotiben Shah.

Our chief guests included Shri Bhanubhai Pandya from Gandhi Foundation and Mrs Jyotnaben Shah from Gujarat Samachar - both of whom spoke about Gandhiji's later life. Our comperes for the event were Jayubhai Visaria and Prafula Shah.



On 20 November 2021, we held our Daal Roti with Bingo and Antakshari event. Over 90 people attended and enjoyed a delicious simple meal of Vegan mithai, special daal and roti with rice and salads. We thank our ever-ready volunteers for preparing the food at Ekta Centre with excellent feedback received for the tasty meal served to all.

After dinner, guests participated in two games of Bingo, with Jayubhai as Bingo Caller, ably assisted by our Gujarati School lead Neeraben and her daughter Anjali. Themed Antakshari, compered by Prafula Shah ended a superb evening which was enjoyed by all present with a request to organise more of such events.



In partnership with Brent Council and the NHS, we hosted a Diabetes Open Day on Saturday 13 November 2021 from 10am – 4.00pm.

We are grateful to all members who attended and all committee members and our fantastic volunteers for making these events a success.

If you have a few hours spare and can help at our regular events, please get in touch by calling the **Ekta Centre office on 020 8206 1141**.

Area elections which should have taken place in 2020, did not go ahead due to the lockdown. This year elections will take place in April or May. As ever we are seeking Oshwals to join and support in the Committee, Sub -Committees or as volunteers for the running of Oshwal Ekta Centre. If you are able to serve or support and would like to know more, please contact current committee members.

Finally, my appreciation to the North West Area committee, sub committees, volunteers and Ekta Team of Volunteers to ensure our activities, and our Centre remains open during these challenging times.

***Nilesh Dhanraj Shah***  
***Trustee, NW Area Chairman***

# West Area



Pranam,

In West Area the Shakti Centre is fully open, where members can meet and have that personal connection once again, we are also open for hire of the hall and facilities.

We restarted the monthly Kurry Klub evenings (one Saturday of the month), Elderly luncheons on a bi-monthly basis on a Sunday afternoon as well as were able to arrange the annual joint Diwali and Savantsari Bhojan in November 2021.

This was all possible with the members coming to support as always, including our team of selfless volunteers and the people in the background who do so much more that is not seen.

As a community we make regular donations to the Hounslow FoodBox project thereby making a difference and supporting our fellow residents.

I would end this message with saying that every Oshwal should think and say, "What can we do for the Oshwal and not what can Oshwal do for us".

**West Area AGM has been planned in 2022** and the election for new committee will be conducted. Please feel free to contact a committee member for further details.

If you would like to be kept abreast of news, events and happenings in our Oshwal community in a quick and convenient way then please join our WhatsApp group using the below link <https://chat.whatsapp.com/2tDhWq7BAnr4dHVFkEP0rL>.

We beg your forgiveness if at any time, knowingly or unknowingly, we have hurt your feelings or not carried out any personal requests. Please accept sincere **Micchami Dukhdam** from all members of the West Area Committee.

Jai Jinendra

**Chunilal P Shah (Vice-Chair)**

## RELIGIOUS REPORT

It has been a great pleasure to hold the religious folder in West Area.

Another year and most religious functions and activities have continued online.

Last year again Paryushan was celebrated via the online platform. Members joined us at Shakti Centre for the few days where we opened up for the celebration of the Maha Parva. We were

fortunate enough to have 2 Swapnas delegated to West Area which were both celebrated at the Centre. We were also delegated to perform Bhakti Bhavna and Stavans on the last day of the festival at Shakti Centre where members were able to participate and enjoy this live.

Shakti Centre is fully open; we have had an afternoon of bhakti last October and have regular Satsang on Monday afternoons.

We arranged to celebrate Poonam Paat Yatra at Oshwal Centre where we took members by minibus. Our Yatra's are always get fully booked and we are so happy that our members are able to join us on these where they meet friends and family from all over UK on a scheduled date arranged by the Central Committee.

Thank-you to all our past and present sponsors for the minibus hire. Any member who would like to join us on our future Yatra's please contact Chunibhai or Keshubhai.

Jai Jinendra and Micchami Dukhadam.

**Religious portfolio holder: Chunilal P Shah**

## HEALTH AND WELFARE REPORT

Keshubhai is the portfolio holder and through the last year he has been a pillar to our community, he regularly rings members to ask about their health and informing them of the many activities that are going on at the Shakti Centre and at the Oshwal Centre. He has carried on his tradition of sending Birthday cards to members who have special birthdays. He amazes the members by the information and memory he has.. **He asks that members if possible, inform him of any family additions (and for those special birthdays) or if they have moved so he can send your greeting cards to the correct location**

Members young and old know him and are always excited to see him and to contact him as he loves to hear from you by phone or email to [kncolumbo@oshwal.org](mailto:kncolumbo@oshwal.org).

Jai Jinendra and Micchami Dukhadam.

**Health and Welfare portfolio holder: Keshubhai (Columbo)Shah**

## CULTURE AND HERITAGE REPORT

The Culture and Heritage oversees social events. The C&H committee and sub-committee have been busy with activities in one form or the other. Shakti centre has many activities on a regular weekly, monthly, or bi-monthly basis which are mostly advertised through the members WhatsApp group. These include card nights, Kurry Klub, Yoga, elderly luncheons etc. Our final function for 2021 was held on 19 December with a full menu and a live band. Members thoroughly enjoyed the food, music and dancing which started in the afternoon and carried on well into the evening. These events will carry on this year so please look out for them through the social media groups.

The committee thanks the team of dedicated volunteers who come and help with the making of the food, cleaning and generally supporting the C&H events in every way possible. The team have always come together like the OSHWAL family they are.

**C&H portfolio holder: Jinita M Shah**

## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (PMC) REPORT

PMC's function at Shakti Centre is mainly the upkeep and maintenance of the premises. This is solely done with the help of volunteers who tirelessly give their time and devotion to keep it running whether through maintenance, hiring of the hall or at events. **We thank all volunteers for their dedication and SEWA, our group of volunteers ranges with different expertise however, we are always on the lookout for other members who are available ad hoc for assistance needed, so feel free to contact a committee member if you are available to assist in any way.**

Shakti Centre has had many minor changes with regards to repairs but are due to have a major overhaul soon with permission from Central and London Borough of Hounslow. This entails the refurbishing of the downstairs part of the hall which includes revamping the kitchen, installation of additional toilets and generally upgrading the hall which is vitally needed. We hope that this will be carried out this year subject to planning permission.

***PMC portfolio holder: Arvind D Vora***

## EDUCATION REPORT

Our West Area Gujarati school is held at Oshwal Shakti Centre in Hounslow on Friday Evenings from 6.15 pm until 7.45pm. The school develops relationships between students through games, yoga, prayers, dancing, and other activities we try to develop their speaking and listening skills. The children have made great friends and enjoy coming to the class and their parents have joined the education sub-committee and are invaluable in the development of the school. It gives me great pleasure to let you know that the whole school is taught with a team of dedicated volunteers who would like our children do develop our SANSAR. The older class who are nearing GCSE level are still having classes on an online platform as well as at the centre.

With the help of the Youth team, we have managed to have many activities at the centre and outside the centre with the children. The older children have joined in as part of the sub-committee of the youth and take part in the organisation of the activities.

Some of the activities took place outdoors during the restrictions and the rest were indoors once restrictions were lifted. Paryushan celebrations, Osterley Park Scavenger hunt with a twist, Picnic in the park with activities, Overnight summer camp (at the start of the school holidays), Halloween indoor camp, Navratri/Garbo/Dandiya celebration where parents were invited to join towards the end, Diwali (diva painting, card making, rangoli patterns, story time and food to celebrate), Christmas fun, games and party organised by the youth.

For the New year the youth already have a calendar of activities organised with the school (Holi, Easter hunt and family fun day). The school also celebrates Paryushan, Mahavir Janma Kalyanak, plus an annual trip to our DERASAR with parents and Grandparents invited along. If you would like further information about the school and come for a Trial Day please contact Maheshbhai on 07984624639 or email [mahesh.v.shah@oshwal.org](mailto:mahesh.v.shah@oshwal.org)

***Education portfolio holder: Mahesh V Shah***

## YOUTH REPORT

The Youth team has been busy with the regular activities on Sunday which take place at Lampton School, please contact [dilan.shah@oshwal.org](mailto:dilan.shah@oshwal.org) for more information.

The sub-committee meet regularly and are always looking at what to put in the calendar for future events, we have been lucky enough to have volunteers who have been giving up their time and energy to come up with activities, organise them and make it happen. We have also been lucky enough to work with other members of the committee closely, especially **education** to bring the youngest generation under the Oshwal umbrella (they bring a lot of joy & enthusiasm into the mix).

Some of the activities organised during restrictions and after restriction included online Easter Quiz (where a giant chocolate egg was donated), the winners were 3 generations of ladies from Ealing (grandmother, mother, and daughter) it's all about teamwork. Our regular overnight camps have been attended by children from all areas, this means when they all meet at Oshwal Centre they know each other. We had a ten-pin bowling event attended by over 18's only, which created a lot of competition and ego's being burst. By the time this magazine comes out we will have had a Christmas party for the Gujarati school children on their last day before they broke up for Christmas. We are organising some fun and interactive activities for 12-16 year olds, bowling, mini golf, board games night and more. As for the over 18's we have planned some outings for everyone to get to know each other, escape rooms, bowling night, poker night (no money involved), darts, treasure hunt around London.

We will be celebrating Holi, which is on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2022 so make sure you save this date and get ready to be colourful. **Interested in Oshwal sports day event at the Oshwal Centre, where there would be classic school sports day events such as sack race, pea and spoon race, team building activities and more? Please contact me at the above email if you are interested in any of the above.**

**West Area Youth Team thank-you for your continuous support.**

*Youth portfolio holder: Dilan Shah*

## MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Media and Communications portfolio oversees the communications to our members via various channels including the Oshwal News magazine, E-Newsletters, WhatsApp messages, Oshwal website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and posters on the notice board at Shakti Centre.

Over the past couple of years, the community has had to adapt to more of virtual events and with these events coming thick and fast, the M&C team have continued to share information about these as soon as it is available to ensure maximum participation.

As well as conveying information and details of virtual events organised Centrally and locally like health & wellbeing forums to lifestyle talks and from religious discourses to Paryushan Maha Parva, M&C team has facilitated the distribution of details of face-to-face functions whenever these were possible.

We hope that you will continue to keep an eye out for more fantastic events lined up for this year by following us on the various social media channels: -

Web: [www.oshwal.org.uk](http://www.oshwal.org.uk) | Facebook: [www.facebook.com/oshwaluk](https://www.facebook.com/oshwaluk) |

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/oshwal\\_uk](https://www.twitter.com/oshwal_uk) | Instagram: oshwal\_uk

WhatsApp:- And please use the below link

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/2tDhWq7BAnr4dHVFkEP0rL> to join your West Area WhatsApp chat group as this acts as a notice board for central and local area news, events and happenings in Oshwal community.

**Media and Communications portfolio holders: Dina R Shah and Nikesh J Malde**

## Events and Activites during 2021 West Area







**GUJARATI CLASS**

Emphasis on speaking and listening ability  
 Suitable for ages 4 to 99 years!  
 Every Friday from 6.30pm to 7.45pm @ Shakti Centre, Hounslow TW3 3UX

Would your children like to learn Gujarati a fun way?  
 Learning words, sentences, numbers with dance, rhyme, stories and much more.  
 They get to meet Mameed children and are involved in group activities in a safe environment.  
 Open to Oshwals and Non Oshwals

For more information please contact:  
 Malini Shah on 07966524032 or  
 email malini@shakti.org.uk

# Luton Area



Jai Jinendra and Pranam,

I hope that everyone is keeping safe and healthy. Although the past couple of years have been extremely challenging, it has given us the opportunity to spend more time with our loved ones and to reflect on our lives and what is truly important to us.

O.A.U.K. has delivered many insightful and inspiring online programmes to educate and entertain our community which we have thoroughly enjoyed. Our members have quickly become experts in the use of technology. In 2021, Paryushan was celebrated virtually with all nine areas taking part in satsang. I would like to thank Ranjanben Kantilal Sumaria and Nemchand Mulchand Shah for singing the stavans for Luton Area.

Unfortunately, some of our local events have had to be put on hold due to Covid. However, on 14th November 2021 we were grateful to celebrate Diwali with a small get together where we enjoyed light refreshments and delicious masala tea. For many of us that attended, it was the first time seeing other members in person since the beginning of Covid restrictions. We ended the event with all members sharing their experiences during the pandemic. It was fascinating to hear about all the different activities undertaken and new skills learnt by our members. These included nature walks, cooking new recipes, gardening, playing cards and mastering Zoom. We will soon be restarting our monthly Friday club and satsang and we look forward to seeing our members there.

I would like to thank the Luton Area Committee and Oshwal members for all their support over the past year. My thoughts and prayers are with all those who have lost loved ones. May Lord Mahavir give us strength and clarity to move forward through these difficult times.

## Sewa work

Members donated food during the Diwali get together which was delivered to the Luton Food Bank. In December 2021, Luton Oshwals donated meals, fruits, and snack bars in conjunction with Go Dharmic for the homeless and vulnerable.





OAUK Jiv Daya donations were given to the Luton and Dunstable Hospital for their NICU and hele pad and to Beds and Northants MS Therapy Center.

On Sunday 23rd January 2022 Luton Area participants (Ranjanben Kantilal Sumaria, Jyoti Sandeep Shet, Madhu Naresh Shah and Nita Pankaj Shah) took part in the virtual Shri Jinendra Bhakti Satsang. We gave talks on Bhakti, Jinendra Bhakti Mahotsav, Sewa, Taap and Daan. A slideshow was also presented to remember our Luton Area Jinendra Bhakti Founders and to showcase the events involved in Jinendra Bhakti Mahotsav which was held for 11 Years.



**Nita Pankaj Shah**  
EC Trustee and Luton Area Chairperson

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# South Area



## Shanti Centre Fundraising Appeal

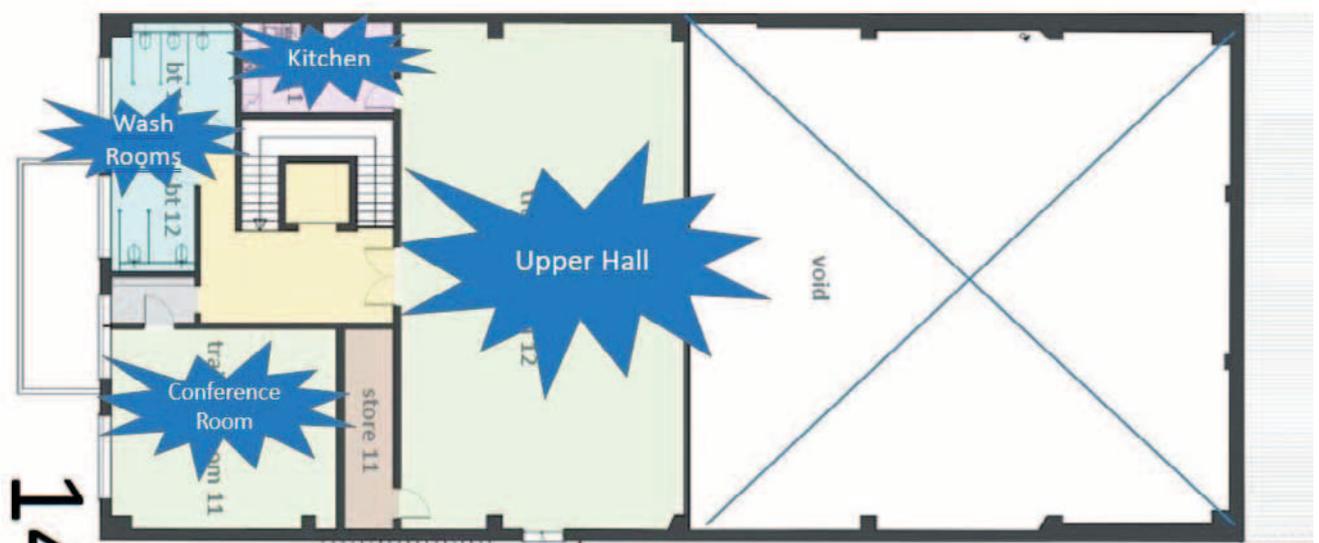
Jai Jinendra

I hope you are all keeping safe and well. This Pandemic has been a challenging time for all of us. We have tried to maintain our activities via zoom or physical when the government guidance has allowed us.

When you read this, we hope we are in a better place so we can start to look forward and commence the work on Shanti Centre. We need your help in order to move the project forward.

Since purchasing the property at 58/60 Windmill Road, Croydon, CR0 2XP in Nov 2018, the Property Committee has worked tirelessly to get the Planning Permission granted by Croydon Council for us to be able to use the premises for our community purposes.

The layout of Shanti Centre will be split across two floors as below:



The tender process was in progress in early 2020 and by June 2020, we had shortlisted down to two contractors. The final due diligence was in progress to choose the ultimate contractor, however due to the Covid 19 Pandemic and uncertainty of cashflow, all OAUk Projects were put on hold.

We are now in a better position, however due to the pandemic labour and materials costs have increased. We need your help to support OAUk to bridge the cashflow issue and allow the project to be started as soon as possible.

We have two put together two schemes for everyone to consider.

## Takti Scheme

The Shanti Centre Takti scheme ranges from £1,000 to £150,000 broken down as follows:

Area/Item	Takti Amount
Main Hall	£150,000
Upper Hall	£100,000
Office	£5,000
Lift	£20,000
Main Kitchen (Received)	£45,000
Upper Kitchen	£10,000
Foyer	£20,000
Conference Room	£25,000
Car Park	£50,000
CCTV	£5,000
Audio Visual	£10,000
Stage	£5,000
Main Hall Chairs & Tables( Received)	£10,001
Upper Hall Chairs & Tables	£5,000
Office equipment	£5,000
Kitchen equipment	£25,000
General Donation	£1000

Ghar Derasar	Uchavni
Opening Ceremony	Uchavni
Derasar Opening	Uchavni
Ground breaking / Bhumi pooja	Uchavni

## Interest Free Loan Scheme

In order to bridge the short term cashflow issue at OAUK, we would request your support to provide Interest Free Loans to OAUK for a period of either 3,5, or 7 years (These will be a legal Loan agreement put in place for these).

See attached Interest Free Loan Scheme form

If you would like to find out any further information on these schemes, please contact

**Paresh Shah (South Area Chairman) – 07958 213075- [paresh.shah@oshwal.org](mailto:paresh.shah@oshwal.org)**

**Rajesh Shah (South Area Vice Chairman) –07563 552914- [rajesh.s.shah@oshwal.org](mailto:rajesh.s.shah@oshwal.org)**

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***Jai Jinendra***



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 Tel: 01707 643838 ♦ E-Mail: [admin@oshwal.org](mailto:admin@oshwal.org)  
 Website: [www.oshwal.org.uk](http://www.oshwal.org.uk)

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### FUND RAISING SCHEMES FORM

Full Name:		
Address		
		Post Code
Tel no	Mobile	Email

I / We would here by like to give an interest free loan to Oshwal Association of UK, Oshwal Centre, Coopers Lane Road, Northaw, Herts., EN6 4DG.

(PLEASE TICK THE APPROPRIATE BOX FOR THE SCHEME(S) YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN)

	£100,000		£15,000
	£50,000		£10,000
	£25000		£5,000
	£2,500		£1000
	Other amount( please specify)		

How long are you willing to provide the loan

3 years	5 years	7 years
---------	---------	---------

Payments can be made by, Cheque, Credit Card or Bank Transfer

Cheques To Be Made Payable To: **Oshwal Association of the U.K.** and please write your Name & Address on the back of the cheque.

To Pay By **CREDIT** or **DEBIT CARD**: Call the office to make a payment 01707 643838

For Payment by Bank Transfer: Barclays Bank Plc, Sort Code: 20-35-90, Account No: 00757969  
 Please quote your **MOBILE NO. or TEL.NO.** as Ref No. & **You MUST also e-mail a copy of the Form to us as soon as payment is made.**

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>For Office Use Only</b>	
OAUK Receipt No: _____	Issued On: _____

## Mukhtaben's Journey with the painting of Shri Rishabhdev Bhagwan.

My name is Jaishmin Shah, daughter of late Mukhtaben Mohanlal Shah. In 1959 my mum went from Uganda to Dabasang, India. This was her first trip to her childhood home since her mum, Maniben, passed away. During her visit, her dad, Punamchand Keshavji, took my mum and some of her siblings on a Jatra to Palitana. My mum acquired a beautiful painting of Rishabhdev Bhagwan during her visit in Palitana. From this moment the painting has been treasured by her throughout her lifetime.

On her return to Mbale, the painting was framed and displayed in our family home shared by the joint family of Gangabai and Narshi Manek Shah. The painting stayed there for over a decade.

In March 1972, during the Exodus, our family fled Uganda and went to India. The painting was unframed, rolled up and securely wrapped in a sari and placed in the one suitcase that she was allowed to carry.



*Mukhtaben Mohanlal Shah*

In April 1973, the family came to the UK, together with the painting. A few years later, when we bought our family home, the painting was framed and displayed once again. Since then the painting of Rishabhdev Bhagwan has been displayed at many of our Jain celebrations.

My cousin, Jatin Shah, displayed it during the Sweet Harmony sessions as well as events for Young Jains. It was also displayed on the stage during the North West Area Paryushan at Byron Hall. Prior to building our Shikar-bandhi Derasar at Oshwal Centre, my mum loaned this beautiful painting to be worshipped at the Ghar Derasar in Oshwal house.

Whilst the painting has been in our family's possession my mum used to perform her daily prayers in front of the painting of Rishabhdev Bhagwan. My mum was a devout Jain and practised her daily Jain rituals until she sadly passed away in September 2015. Since then the painting has been at my home. In December 2020, I approached "The Repair Shop" in the hope they would consider restoring the painting to its former glory. After several months of communication, the painting was finally going to be restored!



Over the years, in the painting, creases have been formed, the colours have faded, pure gold has flaked off and paper cracked. Louise Drover, an Art Conservator specialising in paper, prints, drawing and historic wallpaper, took on the mammoth task. The artwork was cleaned, chipped and flaked paintwork was covered and she even used 24-carat gold to replace the original in missing areas. Throughout the restoration process, Louise observed the Jain principles by using alternative methods to avoid animal products like gelatine. Louise's work on the painting, including an interview with me about my mum's journey with the painting of Shri Rishabhdev Bhagwan, was aired on the BBC 1 programme 'The Repair Shop' on the 19th of January 2022. This programme is available to watch on BBC iPlayer - The Repair Shop, Series 8, Episode 13.

Treasure what you value!

Jai Jinendra

*Jaishmin Shah*

## Joys of Cycling in London

I have always been a fair weather and Sunday morning cyclist which means, living in London with its British weather, I only used to get out on my bike a few times a year. I had two circular routes that I rode: a 10-mile and a 20-mile route around Harrow with both routes being predominantly on busy main roads.

Then three years ago, I found Breeze rides (a most friendly and free cycling group for women), joined the Harrow Breeze group and my cycling life has completely transformed. I have cycled with the group in all terrains, weathers and parts of London and the surrounding countryside in the last three years that I had never visited or ever knew existed!

The therapeutic effects of cycling in London during lockdown have been great and apart from exercise I have benefited immensely in so many other ways. I have gained new friends from all backgrounds, I feel stronger, happier and more confident, have a great sense of adventure and achievement seeing nature in all its glory through the seasons. The biggest thing I've learnt is there is no such thing as bad weather (just bad gear) and your skin is waterproof! :)

I have since become a Breeze ride leader in Harrow, and I would encourage all women who are interested in cycling to join the group by registering on the website <http://www.letsride.co.uk> and join the Breeze group in your area. There are groups in Harrow, Hillingdon, Barnet, Ealing, Enfield, Brent, to name a few. We cater for all abilities and levels of cycling and our aim is to get more women into cycling and enjoy its benefits.

To give you an idea of where we cycle, recent rides from Harrow (on quiet roads) have included cycling to Regents Park, Richmond Park, Windsor Castle, Bhaktivedanta Manor, Cycle superhighways in London and the Chiltern hills. Shorter rides include rides to local parks, green spaces, canals and lovely cafes for cycle stops. London highlights have included crossing rivers on ferries, boats and cable cars and cycling along the Thames.



*Diwali Breeze ride led by Pragna Shah (far right) and assisted by Alka Shah-Kalayil (third left) to Bhaktivedanta Manor from Hatch End*

Our motto is everyone is welcome and we never leave anyone behind!

If you are new to cycling, live in or near Harrow and would like to learn how to ride or improve your cycling go to <http://www.harrowcyclehub.org> and sign up to the newsletter for all their current and future cycling news and events.

**By Alka Shah-Kalayil**

PS: Look out for Priti Shah's interview "My Cycling Life" in the next issue of the Oshwal Magazine

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## For Sending Articles, Pictures, Reports and Adverts in for OSHWAL NEWS Magazine – please follow these guides:

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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4. All **adverts** should be sent to [poonam.c.shah@oshwal.org](mailto:poonam.c.shah@oshwal.org)

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.

### **OSHWAL CENTRE (Northaw)**

Coopers Lane Road  
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Hertfordshire EN6 4DG

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Info line 01707 661066  
Email: [admin@oshwal.org](mailto:admin@oshwal.org)  
Website: [www.oshwal.co.uk](http://www.oshwal.co.uk)

### **OSHWAL MAHAJANWADI (Croydon)**

366A Stag Lane  
Kingsbury  
NW9 9AA

Tel: 020 8206 1141  
Email: [ektacentre@oshwal.org](mailto:ektacentre@oshwal.org)

### **OSHWAL EKTA CENTRE (Kingsbury)**

### **OSHWAL SHAKTI CENTRE (Hounslow)**

Inwood Road  
Hounslow  
Middlesex, TW3 1UX

Tel: 020 3441 1020  
Email: [shakticentre@oshwal.org](mailto:shakticentre@oshwal.org)

## *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 / 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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