

3rd OFFICE BEARERS' NEWSLETTER – Feb 2020

**PRESIDENT: RIZWAN RAHEMTULLA, VICE PRESIDENT: ABBAS MANJI, TREASURER: RAMZAN WALJI,
ASSISTANT TREASURER: IMTIAZALI BHIMANI**

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

At our inaugural Management Committee meeting, Rizwan set a challenge to all members of the Management Committee to raise a minimum of £100 (each) for the Al Qaeem Building Project.

Everyone rose to the challenge and two youngsters – Ali & Mahdi Abdallah (sons of Dr Mohamed Othman) created a video outlining their passion towards the project. As a result, between them, they raised £1,120 which is an amazing achievement! Ali gave a presentation to the MC members which was followed by handing over the money to Rizwan who praised both the youngsters on their achievement, thanked them both on behalf of our Jamaat and said that they were an inspiration to everyone.

The total amount raised by the Management Committee was £53,660.



HADITH OF THE MONTH

The Holy Prophet (SAWW) said "Perform acts of courtesy to those who are worthy of them as well as those who are not worthy of them, and even if they have no effect on those who deserve them, you are at least worthy of performing them"

(Uyun Akhbar ar-Ridha, v2, page 35, No. 76)

ISLAMIC CULTURAL AFFAIRS (CoEJ)

We are honoured to hear that Sheikh Nuru Mohammed has taken the steering role as the Head of the Islamic Cultural Affairs (ICRA) at CoEJ.

One of the pivotal aim at ICRA is to fill in the gaps within our communities at large and add value to forthcoming initiatives. Through such pragmatic ways, their aspiration is to empower Jamaats to evolve and thrive.

We were asked to nominate a suitable candidate from our Jamaat who would be co-opted in the core team.

We are proud to announce that Mullah Mohamed Kassamali has agreed to take on this role on behalf of Peterborough Jamaat.



WAFAT OF BIBI UMMUL BANEEN (A.S.)

At our November Management Committee meeting, the English Lecture Committee Team put forward a proposal that we should, (as a Jamaat), commemorate the Wafaat of this esteemed Lady A.S.

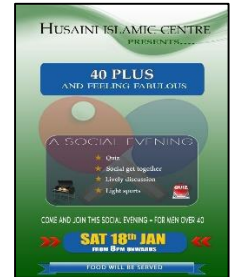
Alhamdulillah, we commemorated the Wafaat on Friday 7th Feb and were graced with

Guest Lecturer Sheikh Ayub Rashid. We pray that Sheikh Ayub is rewarded for his efforts.



OVER 40s SOCIAL

A 'Gents over 40s' Social evening was held at our Centre on Saturday 18th January. This was the first of its kind and proved a huge success.



The evening included games such as table tennis and Carrom as well as a game of Block Busters.

There was an insightful presentation by Dr. Awon Raza on the topic of 'Managing Stress & Mental Health' (what it is, how it affects your physiology, the effects on those around you and tips on how to deal with stress positively).

Mehboob Dato presented on the topic of Diabetes and explained how men over the age of 40 and from an Indian-Sub Continent background are more susceptible to Diabetes. He explained what Diabetes is, how it affects individuals and what we can do to prevent this disease.

This was followed by an interview of Rizwan (conducted by Mohammed Abbas Ismail). Areas covered by Rizwan included his motivation to become the President of our Jamaat, achievements made so far, his vision for the future and how we can collectively work for the betterment of our community.

During the programme, the attendees were treated with some very tasty snacks as well as a lovely meal.

The next social is scheduled for Saturday 29th Feb from 8pm onwards.

KAFFAN WORKSHOP

The first Kaffan Workshop was held for Gents (especially the Youths) on Saturday 1st February.

The Workshop was led by our Mukhi (Hasanbhai Abdullah) who has been part of the Ghul & Kaffan committee for almost 34 years.

The Workshop was an interactive one with practical involvement and included a question and answer session.

Approximately 35 individuals attended and provided us with very positive feedback as well as requesting further similar Workshops.

Insha'Allah, a Ghul Workshop will be organised in the near future.



OPEN FORUM

As per Constitution (Clause 2) of Standing Orders our Open Forum will be held on Tuesday 25th February. We have decided to hold the Open Forum after the Kushali programme in order that we have maximum participation.

The Agenda has been set as:

- **Recruitment of Resident Alim** (Resident Alim Team & Office Bearers)
- **Al-Qaeem Project** (AQ Team & Office Bearers)
- **Mr Tyre Purchase** (Office Bearers)
- **Any Other Business** (time permitting)

As per the Constitution, no quorum is required and no voting will take place.

Arrangements will be made so that both ladies and gents are able to participate in the Open Forum.

RESIDENT ALIM COMMITTEE

The Resident Alim Committee was formed (as of December 2019) and consists of Sarfaraz Mavani, Fattim Mavani, Hussein Ravji, Shozebali Ebrahim, Zahra Mavani and Zuhair Walji.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) were created and unanimously adopted by the Management Committee at their meeting on 11th January.

The Terms of Reference are on display in the Gents and Ladies notice boards (as of 16th January).

The advertisement for the post of was circulated to all our contacts including the World Federation Secretariat, WF Islamic Education Board, CoEJ Secretariat, NASIMCO Secretariat, Africa Federation Secretariat, Maida Vale, Aim Islam, Majlis Ulema and WF Qom Office – all of whom replied to us positively.

The closing date was 15th February and can confirm that we have received 6 applications.

We are now at a juncture where we need to sift through the applications received to ensure that they fit the criteria as laid out on the Terms of Reference. As well as this it is important for us to ensure that the details contained within the 'Resident Alim Survey' (192 replies received) are taken into account when sifting the applications.

Therefore we are looking at creating a 'Resident Alim Selection Committee'.

If you would like to be part of this Committee, please inform one of the Office Bearers as soon as possible so that we can discuss the requirements with you.

The shortlist of candidates will then be presented to all members of our Jamaat in due course for the final selection to be made.

Further details will be provided at the Open Forum.

KEEP OUR SENIORS WARM THIS WINTER

CoEJ have launched the above project and they are very keen to support our Seniors (who are aged 70+) and struggling to pay their heating bills to stay warm.

If you or anyone you know requires this support, then please contact one of the Office Bearers or a member of the Welfare Team (Abdulbhai Hirji or Saeedabai Jiwa) in confidence.

ELECTION FOR PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD FEDERATION

The Election for the post of the President of the World Federation was held in Peterborough on Thursday 30th January between 7.30pm and 10.00pm.

The Returning Officer for Peterborough (Ramzanbhai Walji) declared the results as follows:

Dr. Husein Jiwa – 70 votes
Sh. Safder Jaffer – 24 votes
Ashakhusein Rashid – 11 votes
Aunali Khalfan – 4 votes

Total Number of Votes – 109
Total Number of Spoilt Papers - 0

We thank the candidates for putting themselves forward in order to serve our various Jamaats and pray that their intention and their dedication is rewarded accordingly.

We also congratulate Dr. Jiwa on gaining the majority vote in Peterborough

HELP FOR OVER 70s WITH DIY

A new initiative has been launched for anyone over the age of 70 who needs help with DIY (such as installation of outside security lighting, fitting draught excluders, fitting of new locks, etc.).

The work will be carried out by members of a professional team (made up from members of our Jamaat) and usually free of charge.

If you require any help, please contact one of the Office Bearers.

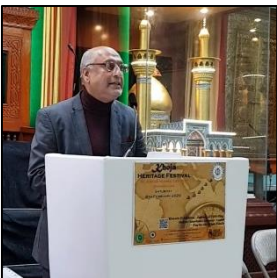
KHOJA HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Rizwan and Iqbalbhai Manji attended the above Festival which took place at the Al-Abbas Islamic Centre in Birmingham on Saturday 8th February.

The Festival was very well attended and gave us all an insight into the history of the Khoja community and the great sacrifices made by our forefathers.

As well as learning about our heritage, the festival included fun activities for everyone which included a number of speeches, the Khoja Heritage Exhibition, a play performed by the Birmingham Seniors, a Gujarati words game and a treasure hunt.

Iqbalbhai gave a 20-minute presentation to the attendees outlining the rich history of Peterborough Jamaat which was a great success. We will request for a similar festival to be held in Peterborough later this year.



INNA LILLAHI WA INNA ILAIHI RAJI'UN

A Senior member of our Jamaat (Alibhai Rajabali Sundarji Pardhan) was called to the Mercy of Allah SWT on Tuesday 18th February.

The Marhum was the father of Br. Mohammed Husein & Sr. Misriya Pardhan (of Toronto) and Br. Mohammed Abbas and Sr. Sabira Pardhan (of Peterborough).

We will miss the Marhum greatly and will remember him with fondness. We request all readers to pray for the family to have Sabre-Jameel at this difficult time as well as request all readers to kindly recite Surah Fateha for the Marhum as well as for all Marhum and Marhumeen.

IMAM ALI (A.S.) & BIBI FATEMA (A.S.) AWARDS PROGRAMME

In order to nurture our younger members spiritually and to build their community spirit, the Tableegh Committee developed a new initiative by launching the above awards for boys and girls of our community.

There will be two groups; 5-10 year olds and 11-19 year olds. The activities for the awards will include community work, sporting achievements and partaking in religious activities.

Following publicity of these awards, we are pleased to announce that almost 50 individuals have registered on the programme which is amazing!

CONGRATULATIONS

It is with great pleasure to congratulate...

Insiya Walji (daughter of Amiralibhai & Hasinabai Walji of Peterborough Jamaat) and Sohail Gulamali (son of Yasinbhai & Azmina Gulamali of Hujjat Jamaat) on their engagement.

Azim Gulamali (son of Afsaralibhai & Zehrabanu Gulamali of Peterborough Jamaat) and Aaliya Panjwani (daughter of Nasirbhai & Fatimbai Panjwani of Dar e Salaam Jamaat) on their engagement.



SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS' VISIT

As part of their community engagement work, the Cambridgeshire Chief Constable (Nick Dean), Assistant Chief Constable (Sharn Basra) and Superintendent Andy Gipp visited us on 11th February. They were greeted by Ramzanbhai Walji, Abbas Manji and Abdulbhai Hirji.

CHANGES IN ORGAN DONATION

As you will be aware, the law in the UK is changing from spring 2020 whereby individuals will require to opt-out from donating their organs as opposed to opting in for those who wish to donate their organs.

These changes will affect all adults who have been living in England for over 12 months (prior to their death), have the mental capacity to understand the new arrangements (and take the necessary actions) unless they have recorded that they do not wish to donate.

Copy and paste the link below for a summary and changes taking place and the actions required to opt-out from organ donation:

<https://nhsbtdeb.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-assets-corp/15763/organ-donation-law-in-england-factsheet.pdf>

We will shortly be sending a Whatsapp message to our members which constitutes the rulings from Tawdih al-Masail and Questions & Answers from His Eminence's Website.

FINAL QUEST

The Final Quest - a play on Qays Ibn Mus'hir was held at the Key Theatre on Saturday 2nd February.

Over 250 members of our community attended with excellent feedback.

Following the feedback and the success of the play, we will endeavour to bring the production company back to Peterborough later in the year to dramatise another Islamic play.

All profits made as a result of the ticket sales have been donated to the Al-Qaeem Project.

Thank you to everyone who helped, assisted and supported in making the event so successful.