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TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2010.

Structure, governance and management

The Charity is governed by its constitution and is constituted as a charitable trust. All decisions of the Executive Committee are recorded in the minutes.

The trustees of Wessex Shia Ithna Asheri Jamaat are the members of the executive committee. They are for the purposes of the constitution, officers of the charity.

The trustees are responsible for the overall management and control of the charity and meet regularly to manage its affairs.

Objectives and Activities

- a) The object for which the Charity has been established is to promote and advance the Islamic Religion in accordance with the principles of the Shia Ithna-Asheri faith. The Charity through its Executive Committee shall have the power:
- b) To encourage the practice of the Islamic Religion as taught by Shia Ithna-Asheri laws
- c) To eradicate poverty
- d) To advance education amongst the community.
- e) To relieve of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill health, and disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage
- f) Promote good health and health living
- g) To do all such others things as shall further the above-mentioned object





Development and achievements

The Trustees consider that the performance of the Charity has been satisfactory. The Charity has been successful in fulfilling its aim and objectives.

The focal point of our activities this year has been to make progress in the collection of funds towards the development of a new centre. Fundraising activities have been taking place at a local, national and international level to secure support from the worldwide community. In August 2010, we signed contracts for work to commence in early 2011. We are planning to move into a new purpose built centre by the spring of 2012.

1) Interfaith activities and seminars.

- 'Bring a Friend Day' – This is organised by the youth during the holy month of Ramadhan. It is the brainchild of the youth of the community whereby all members are requested to invite their friends to Al Mahdi and break-fast together. This year we had over 80 people attending.
- Students in the Faculty of Religion and Education from the Chichester University were hosted in the madrasah. This was followed by a visit to the University whereby a group of young members of our Community discussed with the University students the experiences of living as a Muslim in the UK.
- Wessex Jamaat has hosted teachers who are going to teach Religious Education in schools. A dinner meeting was organised where the teachers experienced meeting students from the community and learn more about the faith from the child's perspective.
- The Imam of the community continues to provide support to the local hospital chaplaincy department as a volunteer. There have also been local networks established with Sarum College of Theology where the Imam provided an overview of Islam. The Imam has also been invited to participate on local radio shows such as BBC Radio Solent.
- Involved with local Equal Voice Group at Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust where the Imam has provided advice on issues facing the Muslim community and facilitated input from mothers who have used maternity services.
- Madrasah students have been involved in Eye Contact Charity that serves the blind children in Romania
- Dahwul Ardh / Earth Day – This was organized by the Madrasah. Community leaders from the Abrahamic Faiths were invited to celebrate the day when the earth was spread for the advantage of human beings. Madrasah students heard presentation environmentalists and learn the value sustainability.
- Regular participation in various events and seminars organised by the South East England Faiths Forum (SEFFF), Three Faiths Forum, Hampshire Interfaith Network (HIN)
- Attended the 70th Anniversary of the Blitz and Portsmouth Cathedral where prayers were done as part of the commemoration of the blitz.
- Supported the local Immigration Detention Centre by holding a commemoration service for the Shia detainees during the month of Muharram at the Haslar Detention Centre.





- Participated in the Remembrance Day Service held on 14th November 2010 where the Imam from Wessex Jamaat led a prayer in the service.
 - Promoted cohesiveness in the community links with the Anglican and Catholic communities are strengthened.
 - Celebrated of birth of Prophet Isa (Jesus): Muslim /Christian evening jointly organised at the Portsmouth Cathedral.
 - Participated at the local St Nicholas Church Big Draw festival where the community came together to share their pictures of what makes a community.
- 2) Publish publications for interfaith activities and promote religion.
- At request of schools, talks are delivered to students on Islam as part of the Religious Education Curriculum.
- 3) Publish religious materials for use by members.
- Weekly publications of the 'Friday Message - Risalatul Juma'. This is a synopsis of the message delivered during the Friday Jumah prayers. It is sent to all members of the centre and others who have requested to receive it.
 - 'Majlis Summary' – is a brief outline to sermon given by the Imam every Friday on historical events on the Islamic Calendar. This is sent to all members of the centre and others who have requested to receive it.
 - Recommended Prayers on Islamic dates are broadcast to all members and laminated cards distributed.
- 4) Arrange seminars and events.
- Members and guests are invited to attend weekly Majlis, Friday Jumah prayers, Lectures on historical events on the Islamic Calendar and other educational activities organised by the Jamaat.
 - Sessions of special supplications and prayers as per the dates on the Islamic Calendar are organised for members.
 - Provision of care in the birth, marriage and funeral ceremonies.
- 5) Annual conferences for religious scholars and students.
- This year we once again played a leading role in the annual conference for the religious scholars. This event helped bring to light issues facing the Minister of Religion of different regions. Catering for the youth, women's issues, interfaith and intra-faith were just some of the issues discussed, resolved and actions highlighted.
- 6) Summer camps for young girls and boys.
- One youth from our community participated in the CoEJ youth boys and girls camp. This programme is very successful and is attended by over 50 youths from all over Europe. This programme helps foster new friends for the community and helps in building networks within our European communities which otherwise would not be possible.





- An educational revision session was held for GCSE and AS/A Levels where two youth attended the programme. This enabled students to be better prepared for GCSE and A level Revision
- 7) Annual sports tournaments for both ladies and gents.
- Wessex Jamaat participated in this competition representing team in Golf, Football and badminton. This is an annual event in which the entire CoEJ participates. This event started in 1996 and has got more successful over the years. Wessex Jamaat is committed to this event as it helps the members of our Jamaat, across all ages and gender, to meet with members of other communities.
- 8) Fund raising activities for a number of relief and humanitarian projects.
- This year as in years past, Wessex Jamaat has supported other charities and humanitarian programs. This year the Jamaat was involved in raising funds for floods in Pakistan. The Jamaat organised sending 150 food boxes to the affected community in Pakistan. The local newspapers and media picked up the activity.
- 9) Organised medical updates through the website and emails targeted to members.
- As part of 'Healthy Living' we publish regular health updates to our membership. This year we promoted 'Healthy Eating' during the holy month of Ramadhan, promotion on regular exercise, dementia, Parkinson's and thalassemia.
- 10) Support of overseas Muslim students coming to study at the University of Southampton, University of Portsmouth, and University of Chichester.
- Pastoral and religious activities organised to help these students settle in the area.
 - Students are allocated an adoptive family who provide a support network
 - Students looking for accommodation are signposted to families who provide such facility.
- 11) Revamped and maximise the utilisation of the charity's website with the appointment of a team of volunteers who are responsible for updating it regularly.
- 12) We have introduced a staff handbook for our employee. This handbook contains all the necessary information about the organisation and human resource policies.
- 13) Received funding from Portsmouth and Southampton City Council for teacher training manual for madrasah teachers and introducing Islam and Citizenship Education as part of the local madrasah.
- 14) The Imam successfully completed the Muslim Council of Britain's Leadership Development Programme and media training provided by Faith Associates. A personal development programme for the Imam has also been designed and implemented.
- 15) The charity declared itself fully compliant to Standards 3 and 4 of the MINAB (Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board) and partially compliant to Standards 1, 2, and 5. It has developed an action plan to be fully compliant to all the Standards of the MINAB by December 2010.
- 16) The Jamaat has also supported its members to attend a national leadership development programme as part of its capacity development strategy. This year the Jamaat sponsored three members to attend the four day development programme.





There has been continued growth of the Charity and we now have increased our volunteer base and the number of volunteers is increasing.

Looking Ahead to 2011

The focus of 2011 would be to move into the purpose built centre. This will most likely take place around Spring 2011.

Developments across all of main areas are likely to undergo even more dynamic change and the Charity will enhance its services to its members. The charity will be inviting the MINAB (Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board) to undertake an assessment of how the organisation meets the MINAB standards.

We shall also be putting an application with the UK Borders Agency to gain sponsorship license for Tier 2 and Tier 5. Systems and processes to enable this application to be successful have now been designed and implemented.

Engagement of the youth in undertaking volunteering work within the community will be taking place. It is envisaged that through this engagement, we shall enable the youth to take on leadership positions within the community as part of our capacity building programme.

Financial Statements

The financial statements comply with statutory requirements. The Charity's constitution and Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP) published in March 2005.

Risk Management

The managing trustees have assessed the major risk to which the charity is exposed, in particular those relating to meeting payments to suppliers and the use of restricted funds. The trustees are also satisfied that the systems are in place to mitigate our exposure to these risks and the processes implemented are designed to minimise any impact on the charity, should any of these risk are to materialise.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

State whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statement.

Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue operating in the future.





The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the applicable law. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the financial and other information included on the Charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions

Roshan Gangji, President

Abbas Rahim, Hon. Treasurer

Redha Hooda, Hon. Treasurer

