



# BELMONT AND SUTTON MUSLIM ASSEMBLY (BASMA)

Registered charity number: 1198897

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## NEWSLETTER UPDATE

**Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh.**

All praise is to Allah, the most beneficent, the merciful. We send salutations and request blessings to be sent upon his noble servant and messenger, Muhammad (Sall Allahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) and his people, as were sent upon the noble messenger Abraham (Alaihi Salaam) and his people.

I have pleasure in presenting this newsletter on behalf of the Trustees, which gives an update on the planning process, has an article on Hajj and the ten days of Dhul Hijjah and provides Community news. I hope you enjoy reading it.

Also, on behalf of the Trustees, I would like to give our heartfelt thanks to all our congregation, volunteers, supporters and donors over the past four years who have enabled BASMA to achieve what it has so far. We are always in need of your support and duas. Jazakum Allah khayran Ihsan al jiza.

Indeed we can only achieve anything solely with the mercy and help of the Almighty Creator. Wa Salam

**Hassan Shirwani**  
Chair, BASMA

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**1**

## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Alhamdulillah, during last Ramadan our community came together in an extraordinary way, raising **over £70,000** through LaunchGood to propel Phase 2 of our vision. These funds will enable us to **finalise our planning application, undertake essential renovations, and break ground on new facilities.**

What makes this achievement all the more remarkable is the breadth and depth of our global community: **5,500 unique donations** spanning **84 countries**, each one a testament to the universal bond that unites us in faith and service. **15 masjids** across the UK came together in solidarity, organising fundraising drives, sharing our message, and encouraging their congregations to stand behind this project—an example of collaboration that transcends borders and backgrounds. Every pound, every dua, and every word of encouragement has been a building block in this collective effort. We have also received an award from LaunchGood, pictured below

As we transition from planning to construction, your continued duas and advocacy will be more important than ever. Whether you share our campaign link, volunteer your skills, or contribute what you can, you remain an integral part of this journey. To revisit the story of our Ramadan appeal and see the full impact of your generosity, please visit our LaunchGood page:

**[launchgood.com/growbasma](https://launchgood.com/growbasma)**

Please note that the site is currently not yet open or available for use by the community. To ensure safety and consideration for our neighbours, we kindly request that people avoid visiting the site unless advised otherwise.

If you would like to arrange a visit or tour of the property, please email [contact@basma.org.uk](mailto:contact@basma.org.uk), and Insha'Allah we will be able to accommodate your request.





## **2 PLANNING UPDATE**

The Trustees are only too aware that the congregation is waiting in anticipation for news about the former Sutton Ambulance Station site. In February this year, the Trustees appointed UWA Atelier Architects to assist them in submitting an application for Change of Use to the local council and prepare tentative designs and layout for the proposed Centre.

The Trustees have been working with the architects to finalise the design and prepare various important documents that are submitted as part of the process. These documents include the Design Access Statement and the Planning Statement. In addition, on the recommendation of the architect, the trustees have commissioned a reputable firm to carry out a transport and parking survey. We hope that before the end of May, insha'allah we will be able to engage with the Council as part of a pre-application process.

## **3 COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **A RAMADHAN & EID**

Alhamdulillah the BASMA Community had a very productive Ramadhan with our two Taraveeh imams, **Sheikh Fouad Goma'a** and **Imam Shafiq ur Rahman** working hard to recite the quran to all of us in twenty raka'ats daily, completing the entire reading before the end of the holy month. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to these Qaris for both their recitations and insightful discourses. We also had the honour of our taraveeh prayers being led by guest Imams, **Sheikh Musa Abu Zaghle** and **Sheikh Dr Farag Zidane**. Each of these Sheikh's had their unique uplifting style.

We held three iftars during the month and everyone participated wholeheartedly. Our thanks to all the sponsors and volunteers who made these iftars, and indeed the whole month a great success.

During the month, we opened our doors to other charities for collection. Aldershot Mosque, Streatham Mosque, Al Hedaya Mosque Thornton Heath, Kingston Muslim Youth and other registered charities all made collections. In total, more than £35k was collected by these Charities. Every charity often comments how generous the BASMA Community is.



We ended the month by performing Eid Prayers in the St John's Community Hall, led by our esteemed guest imam Sheikh Fouad Goma'a who delivered an inspiring khutbah. The Trustees send their heartfelt appreciation to the congregation who attended and performed the prayers in a calm and organised, but happy manner, with little or no disturbance experienced by the local neighbours.



### B

## GARDENING AND UPKEEP OF THE AMBULANCE STATION

Our volunteers have enthusiastically been busy in upkeep, clearing and planting in the garden areas of the Ambulance Station as well as cleaning the inside. Below are some photos. May Allah SWT reward everyone.



**﴿ إِنَّمَا يَعْمُرُ مَسَاجِدَ اللَّهِ مَنِ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَى الزَّكَاةَ وَلَمْ يَخْشَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ ۗ فَعَسَىٰ أُولَٰئِكَ أَن يَكُونُوا مِنَ الْمُهْتَدِينَ ﴾**  
**[ التوبة: 18 ]**

Innama yaAAamuru masajida Allahi man amana billahi walyawmi al-akhiri  
waaqama assalata waata azzakata walam yakhsha illa Allaha faAAasa ola-ika an  
yakoonoo mina almuhtadeen

The mosques of Allah are only maintained by those who believe in Allah and the  
Last Day and establish prayer and give zakah and do not fear except Allah, for it is  
expected that those will be of the [rightly] guided.

Surah At-Tawbah, Ayah: 18





**C**

## CYCLING CLUB RIDE TO BOX HILL

Many members of our community are keen cyclists. Last week Brothers Adnan Arab and Asadullah did a 45km stint with the Wallington riders culminating at the top of Box Hill.



**D**

## BASMA HEALTH & FITNESS SESSIONS + BADMINTON



Br Abdus Sami demonstrates his blocking technique in the weekly BASMA fitness class.



The brothers enjoying a nice badminton game at our weekly badminton games





## 4 HAJJ & VIRTUES OF THE FIRST TEN DAYS OF DHUL HIJJAH

BY IMAM ELIAS HOSSEN ANSARI

يَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الْأَهْلِ قُلْ هِيَ مَوَاقِيتُ لِلنَّاسِ وَالْحَجِّ وَلَيْسَ الْبِرُّ بِأَنْ تَأْتُوا الْبُيُوتَ مِنْ ظُهُورِهَا  
وَلَكِنَّ الْبِرَّ مَنِ اتَّقَى وَأْتُوا الْبُيُوتَ مِنْ أَبْوَابِهَا وَأْتُوا اللَّهَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ  
(Surah Al-Baqarah 2:189)

"People question you concerning the phases of the moon. Say: "They are signs to determine time for the sake of people and for the Pilgrimage."

According to the Hijri calendar **الْهَجْرِيّ التَّقْوِيم** (Islamic calendar), the current month is Dhul-Qi'dah and the next month is Dhul Hajj which is one of the most sacred months in Islam and the month of Hajj. In light of this, I am writing this article to shed light on the profound significance of Hajj and first ten days of this month in the Islamic faith.

Hajj (**حَجّ**), the fifth pillar of Islam, remains a profound and transformative act of worship with timeless relevance in the modern age. Hajj is a prestigious Holy journey, obligatory upon Muslims who have means to perform. Besides a physical journey, Hajj is also a spiritual journey because it wipes off the sins like a new born child. Therefore, almost every Muslim has this deepest desire to perform Hajj at least once in their lifetime.

The first 10 days of Dhul Hijjah are considered the most blessed days of the year in Islam, offering a unique opportunity to earn immense rewards and forgiveness. This period is particularly significant due to the occurrence of the Hajj pilgrimage, the Day of Arafah, and Eid al-Adha, all of which are rich in religious significance and blessings.

Ibn 'Abbas (R:) reported that the Prophet (pbuh) said: "There are no days in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allah than these ten days." The people asked, "Not even jihad for the sake of Allah?" He said, "Not even jihad for the sake of Allah, except in the case of a man who went out to fight giving himself and his wealth up for the cause, and came back with nothing."  
(Reported by al-Bukhari, 2/457).



These ten days include Yawm 'Arafah (the Day of 'Arafah ), on which Allah perfected His Religion. Fasting on this day will expiate for the sins of two years. These days also include Yawm al-Nahar (the Day of Sacrifice), the greatest day of the entire year and the greatest day of Hajj, which combines acts of worship in a way unlike any other day. Additionally, these ten days include the days of sacrifice and of Hajj.

It is Sunnah to fast on the ninth day of Dhul-Hijjah, because the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) urged us to do good deeds during this time, and fasting is one of the best of deeds. Allah has chosen fasting for Himself, as is stated in the hadith qudsi: "Allah says: 'All the deeds of the son of Adam are for him, except for fasting, which is for Me and I am the One Who will reward him for it.'" (Reported by al-Bukhari, 1805).

Takbir, it is Sunnah to say Takbir ("Allahu akbar"), Tahmid ("Al-hamdu Lillah"), Tahlil ("La ilaha ill-Allah") and Tasbih ("Subhan Allah") during the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah, and to say it loudly in the mosque, the home, the street and every place where it is permitted to remember Allah and mention His name out loud, as an act of worship and as a proclamation of the greatness of Allah, may He be exalted. Men should recite these phrases out loud, and women should recite them quietly.

The Muslim should make sure that he does not miss any of these important occasions, because time is passing quickly. Let him prepare himself by doing good deeds which will bring him reward when he is most in need of it, for no matter how much reward he earns, he will find it is less than he needs; the time of departure is at hand, the journey is frightening, delusions are widespread, and the road is long, but Allah is ever watchful, and to Him will we return and render account. As the Quran says (interpretation of the meaning):

"So whosoever does good equal to the weight of an atom, shall see it,  
And whosoever does evil equal to the weight of an atom, shall see it."  
[ Surah al-Zalzalah 99:7-8]

There is much to be gained, so make the most of the opportunity afforded by these invaluable and irreplaceable ten days.



**5**

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

Alhamdulillah our Dr Khalid Sharif's son, Abraham Sharif, won the Gold Medal in the Long Jump in the South of England Athletics Championship. We pass our congratulations to Abraham and his family for this great achievement.



**6**

**JAZAKALLAH KHAIR & FURTHER INFORMATION**

Finally, Jazakallah Khair once again for your ongoing support, prayers, duas and donations. This project, and what we have achieved so far in a short period of time, would not have been possible without the collective effort of our community.

For any questions or further information, please contact us at [contact@basma.org.uk](mailto:contact@basma.org.uk).

May Allah (SWT) reward us all and continue to bless this initiative.

**Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh.**

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO DONATE GENEROUSLY  
JAZAKALLAH KHAIR**

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