

Eidgah Report: Musallâ of Eid al-Adh-Hâ 1435/2014

Once again, we begin by praising and thanking Allah for allowing the Muslims of Bolton to organise and be a part of the second *Eid Salâh* performed outdoors.

The importance of holding onto the *Sunnah* cannot be reiterated enough, and praying *Eid Salâh* at the *Musallâ* (and not in the Masjid) is a *Sunnah* which has been largely forgotten over the years. For more information, please visit <http://wellwishers.org.uk/blog/eid-salaah-musalla-forgotten-sunnah>.

Sayyidunâ Abû Sa'îd al-Khudrî RadhiyAllâhu 'anh says: "The Messenger of Allâh SallAllâhu 'alayhi wasallam would go out on the Day of Fitr and Adh-Hâ to the Musallâ ('Eidgâh)."

Eid al-Adh-Hâ (10th *Dhul-Hijjah* 1435 AH) was on Saturday 4th October 2014 and the venue of the *Eidgah* was left unchanged as Deane and Derby Cricket Club on Chelsea Road, Great Lever, Bolton. The time of the *Salâh*, however, was changed to 7.45 am to allow more time after the prayer for people to perform *UdhHiyah* (sacrifice) if they so wished. The *Salâh* was preceded by a speech which lasted approximately half an hour.



Figure 1: An external view of the twin-marquee, each one accommodating about 7 rows.

There was no need to find a new suitable location for the *Musallâ* and the task of obtaining permission from the Council was made easier for this *Eidgah* due to it already having been done once before. The owners of the Deane and Derby Cricket Club were again met with in person and they granted their approval. During the first few days of *Dhul-Hijjah*, meetings were organised for the volunteers to arrange themselves into groups, similar to last time, with an experienced individual taking charge of each respective group.

During this period, some of the community leaders around Bolton were also met with for their support of the *Eidgah* and their blessing. A new campaign was also formed in order to raise awareness amongst the local Muslims and once again, social media (namely Whatsapp, Twitter and Facebook) was the main tool utilised for this purpose. Posters were distributed to the local Muslim businesses and placed in shop windows in prominent locations around town.

The primary area of cost was the hiring of the marquee, double the size of the one hired for the previous *Eid Salâh*. Despite the adverse weather conditions, a great number of people still attended with the *tawfeeq* of Allah, which was a very promising sight. All of the attendees (about six hundred) thus prayed under the marquee.



Figure 2: Internal view of marquee

The total costs for the *Eidgah* amounted to £4200.00, a total which was covered by generous donations received before, on, and after the day, leaving no outstanding amounts. A more detailed account is given below, in both tabular and graphical form.

Income	(£)	Expenditure	(£)
Received beforehand	100	Council fees	100
On the day	1307.29	Marquee	3200
Afterwards	1272.67	PA System Hire	600
Online**	1267.54	Deane & Derby Fees/Costs	300
Gift aid	252.5	Plastic Bags+	0
		Black Bin Bags+	0
		Soil+	0
		Cones+	0
		Chairs+	0
		Poster printing/distribution+	0
		Hi-vis jackets+	0
		Cloth Rolls+	0
TOTAL	4200		4200

** 15p credit/debit card charge per donation

* One-off costs
+ Free/donated/borrowed

Figure 3: Account of income and expenditure including outstanding amounts.

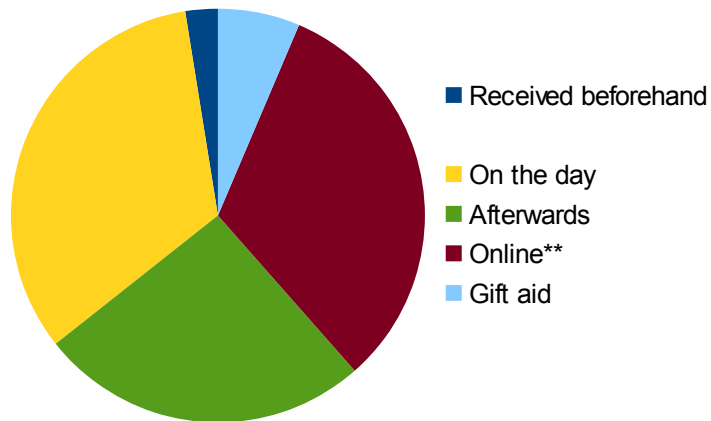


Figure 4: Income in graphical form

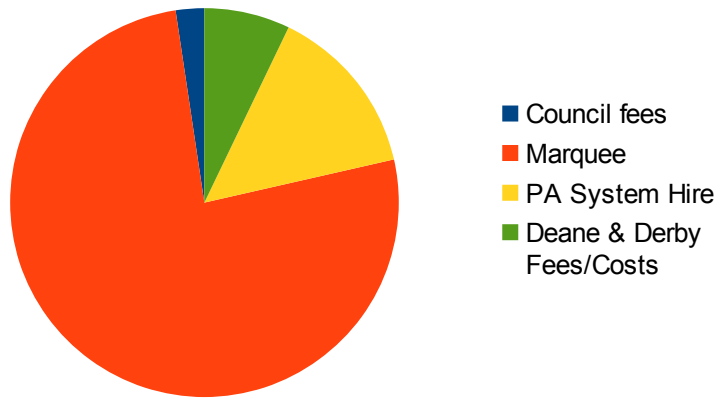


Figure 5: Expenditure in graphical form

As Muslims of Bolton, we must strive to ensure that *Eid Salâh* at the *Musallâ* is not a one-off thing that we attended for one year, only for it to be forgotten again thereafter. The act of attending should become a part and parcel of our *Eid* day, such that we do not remember *Eid* without being reminded of the *Eidgah* and its massive importance to us as Muslims.

Finally, we would like to thank all the volunteers who worked hard to make sure the event ran smoothly and as planned. Without their efforts through the *tawfeeq* given by Allah, the *Eidgah* would not have been the success that it was. Their efforts in keeping watch for the security of the installed systems overnight, coordinating the correct parking of cars and making suitable arrangements for the elderly and disabled, among other things, are much appreciated. We would like to thank all those who attended the *Musallâ* and we pray that Allah accepts our humble efforts and takes us from strength to strength in all aspects of the *deen*.

