

Eidgah Report: Musallâ of Eid al-Fitr 1435/2014

It is only through the grace of Allah that Muslims living in Bolton were able to witness and be a part of its first *Eid Salâh* performed outdoors in recent times.

It is only correct that we begin this report by re-emphasising the importance of carrying out this forgotten *Sunnah* with an excerpt from a previous article.

One thing is clear: Rasûlullâh SallAllâhu 'alayhi wasallam and the Khulafâ ar-Râshidoon (the rightly-guided Caliphs) used to perform the 'Eid Salâh in the Musallâ. Despite Masjid an-Nabawî being the second-most virtuous place to perform Salâh in, Rasûlullâh (SallAllâhu 'alayhi wasallam) left this blessed Masjid on the occasion of 'Eid and proceeded to the Musallâ for the 'Eid Salâh.

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)."

The complete article can be found at <http://wellwishers.org.uk/blog/eid-salaah-musalla-forgotten-sunnah>.

The *Eid Salâh* took place at 9.00 am on the morning of *Eid-ul-Fitr*, which fell on Monday 28th July 2014, at the Deane and Derby Cricket Club, which is located on Chelsea Road in the Great Lever area of Bolton. The turnout was very good as it is estimated that close to a thousand worshippers attended the congregational prayer.



Figure 1: Exterior view of the marquee at Deane and Derby Cricket Club

Before the actual *Eidgah* could be organised, a suitable location was required as well as permission from the Council as to whether it would be allowed at the chosen location. The owners of the Deane and Derby Cricket Club were met with in person and they gave their approval and permission from the Council was also granted. During the final days of *Ramadhân*, various

meetings took place with the volunteers to coordinate the programme on the day. This was done efficiently by separating them into groups to ensure that each volunteer knew their task.

It was essential that the *Eid Salâh* at the *Musallâ* had the support and blessing of local scholars and community leaders. Therefore, the Imâms of the *Masâjid* of Bolton were met and they, along with other eminent local scholars, gave their full support and backing.

A campaign was formed during the weeks leading up to *Eid* in order to raise awareness amongst the local Muslims of the importance of reviving this forgotten *Sunnah*. The most prominent tool used for spreading the message among the community was social media, namely Whatsapp, Twitter and Facebook. The organisation of the *Eid Salâh* at the *Musallâ* was not without costs and thus the campaign was also to raise funds to overcome the expenditure.

Bearing in mind the unpredictability of the weather, the first and foremost issue to be addressed was shelter, which was resolved by hiring a marquee, under which the majority of attendees prayed.

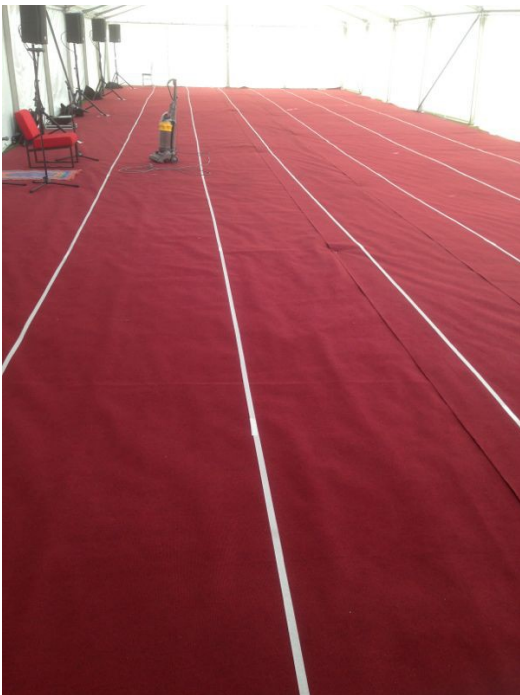


Figure 2: The marquee after installation of PA system and carpet

The total income from the generous donations amounted to £3346.70 and the total cost amounted to £3347.11. A full account of income and expenditure, including where and how the money was procured and spent, is given below.

Income		Outstanding	Total	Expenditure		Outstanding	Total
Online**	£64.37	£0.00	£64.37	Council fees	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00
Offline	£215.00	£0.00	£215.00	Marquee	£1,820.00	£0.00	£1,820.00
On the day	£1,183.30	£0.00	£1,183.30	9 buckets*	£9.00	£0.00	£9.00
Gift aid	£16.25	£0.00	£16.25	30M Measure*	£13.98	£0.00	£13.98
Donations received afterwards	£1,867.60	£0.00	£1,867.60	AA Batteries	£8.00	£0.00	£8.00
				Straight Line Laser*	£36.98	£0.00	£36.98
				45M Reel*	£31.98	£0.00	£31.98
				Walkie Talkies*	£209.98	£0.00	£209.98
				PA System Hire	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00
				Deane & Derby Fees/Costs	£400.00	£0.00	£400.00
				2000 Plastic Bags+	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
				Black Bin Bags+	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
				Poster printing/distribution+	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
				Markers x 5	£7.97	£0.00	£7.97
				Barrier Tape x 3	£24.24	£0.00	£24.24
				Container box*	£34.98	£0.00	£34.98
				Cones+	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
				Chairs+	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
				100M extension cable*	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00
				Soil+	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
TOTALS	£3,346.52	£-	£3,346.52		£3,347.11	£0.00	£3,347.11
						<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>£0.59</i>

** 15p credit/debit card charge per donation

* One-off costs

+ Free/donated/borrowed

Figure 3: A tabular account of income and expenditure including outstanding totals

Graph of Expenditure

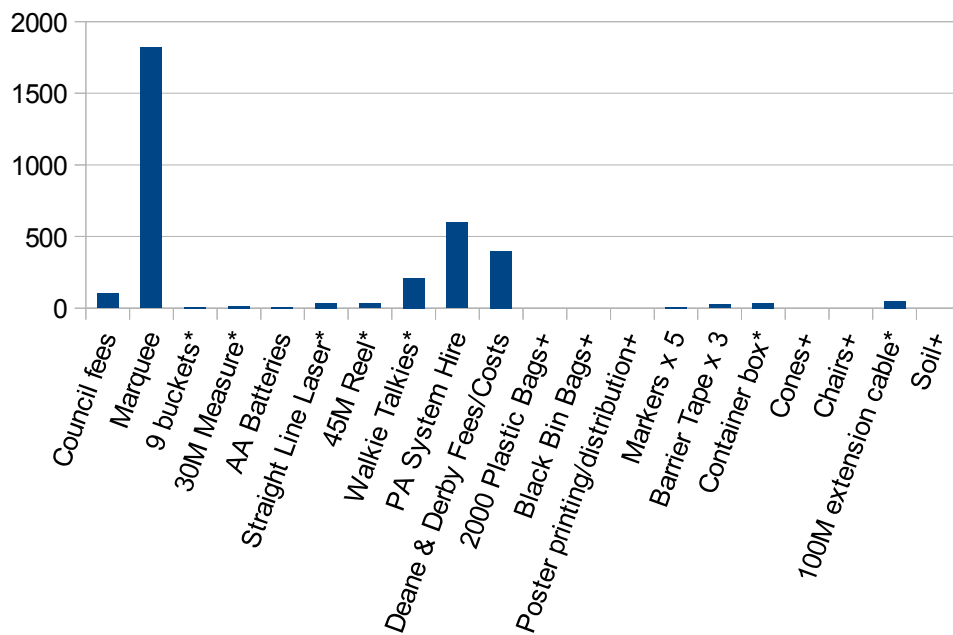


Figure 4: The expenditures in graph form

We hope that this is the first *Eidgah* of many in Bolton and that the Muslims continue to support this cause. It is well worth reminding ourselves and each other of the importance of praying *Eid Salâh* in the open; the fact that it is *Sunnah* to do so should be enough for us.

Finally, we would like to thank all the volunteers for their tireless efforts in ensuring the smooth running of the event from the correct parking of cars to the cleaning of the venue, with some even keeping watch overnight for the security of the equipment which was already installed. We would also like to thank all those who attended the prayer and we pray that Allâh accepts our efforts and the efforts of all those striving to revive the *Sunnah* around the world.

