

Eidgâh Report: Musallâ of Eid al-Fitr 1436/2015

Alhamdulillah, for the second year running, the Muslims of Bolton were given the ability by Allâh to participate in the Eid Salâh at the Musallâ for Eid al-Fitr.

Praying Eid Salâh at the Musallâ (and not in the Masjid) is an emphasised Sunnah, as can be clearly seen from various ahâdîth, one of which is reproduced below.

Sayyidunâ al-Barâ bin 'Âzib RadhiyAllâhu 'anh reports: "Rasûlullâh SallAllâhu 'alayhi wasallam went out on the Day of Adh-Hâ ('Eid) to al-Baqî' [and in another narration: to the Musallâ] and performed two raka'ât. Then he turned and faced us..."

During Ramadhân 1436, a campaign was initiated to raise awareness about the need for the Eid Salâh to take place at the Musallâ and the need for the Muslims of Bolton to be a part of the revival of this Sunnah. Social media platforms, such as Whatsapp, Facebook and Twitter were utilised for this purpose, and posters, including details of time and venue, were put up in shop windows in prominent locations around Bolton.



Figure 1: The campaign poster that was used prior to the Eidgâh

The venue of the Musallâ was left unchanged as Deane and Derby Cricket Club on Chelsea Road, BL3 3BA. Once again, the owners of the ground gave their full backing and approval. Permission was requested from the Bolton Council, under whose instructions leaflets were posted to the neighbouring residents of Deane and Derby Cricket Club before Eid, informing them of the Eidgâh and providing contact details should they have any queries or complaints. The police were also informed about the Eidgâh and they posted two PCSO officers, who patrolled the grounds and surrounding streets on the day, in case of any disturbance.



Figure 2: External view of the marquee. The sides would presently be lifted for the prayer

The marquee, under which the Salâh would take place, was set up at about 5.00 pm on Thursday 16th July. A twin marquee was used which could accommodate about fifteen rows and hence one thousand worshippers. Shortly after, the cloths with pre-marked rows were laid by volunteers and the sound system was also set up by a hired company.

Volunteers were organised into three groups; one for car parking, one on the grounds, and one in the marquee. Each group was assigned a leader and a meeting took place before Eid during which each person learnt their roles. Volunteers also helped with the distribution of leaflets and posters and keeping watch of the marquee and equipment from Thursday afternoon.



Figure 3: Internal view after the PA system and rows have been put in place

Eid al-Fitr was on Friday 17th July 2015 and the time of the Salâh was 8.15 am. The prayer was preceded by a speech lasting half an hour and followed by a Khutbah. Initially, the time of the Salâh was kept to be 8.45 am, but this was altered by request. It was estimated that well over one thousand Muslims attended the Eidgâh, with some rows spilling over to the sides, which was possible due to the pleasant weather and the walls of the marquee being raised.

Income	Amount	Expenditure	Amount
Received beforehand	£4,115.29	Council fees	£100.00
On the day	£2,079.03	Marquee	£3,100.00
Afterwards	£500.00	PA System Hire	£600.00
		Deane & Derby Fees/Costs	£300.00
TOTAL	£6,694.32		£4,100.00
		<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>-£2,594.32</i>

Figure 4: An account of the income and expenditure for the Eidgah

In terms of costs, the difference this time was that a large portion of it, specifically £4115.29, was covered before Eid by generous donations from a few kind individuals who took it upon themselves to raise specific amounts from family and friends. The rest of the cost was covered via collections at the Musallâ on Eid day and afterwards. The remaining amount of £2594.32 has since been put towards the cost of the next Eidgâh. Expenditures not shown in Figure 4 include items like leaflet/poster printing & distribution, washing cloths, plastic bags and bin liners among others, which were all either donated or provided free of charge.

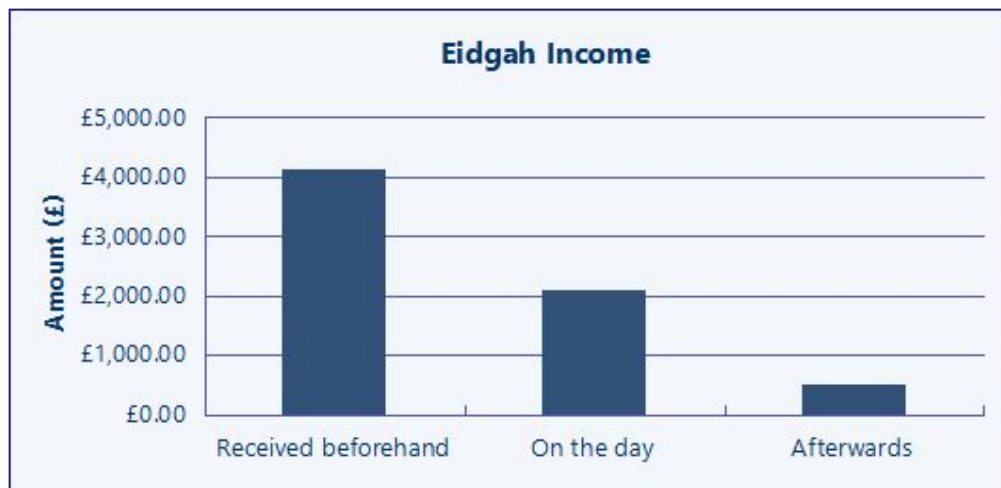


Figure 5: A chart to show the spread of donations for the Eidgah

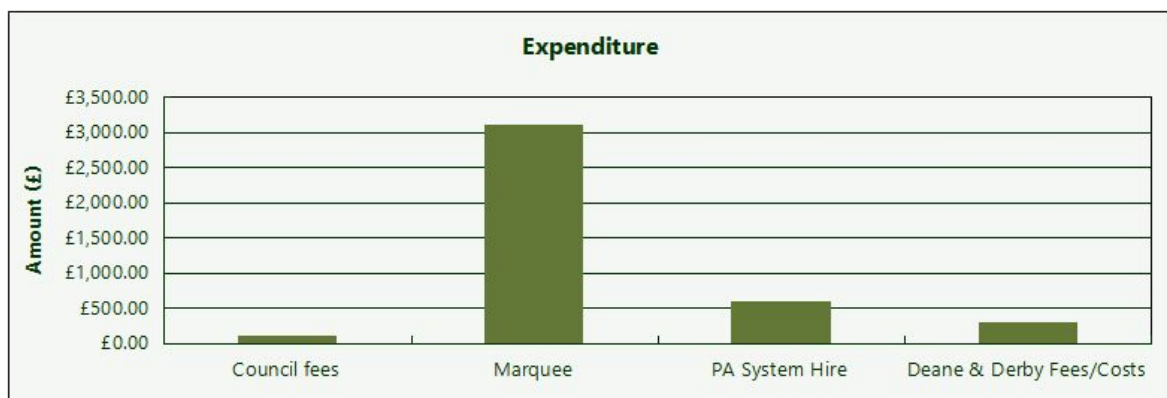


Figure 6: A chart to show the costs incurred



Figure 7: A night-time shot of the marquee

We must make an effort to be a part of the Eidgâh ourselves and also relay the importance of attending to others, so that each Eid Salâh attracts more Muslims than the one preceding it. Thanks are due to the volunteers who, with permission from Allah, gave their time and efforts to ensure everything ran smoothly. We pray that Allah accepts our humble efforts in participating in the revival of the Sunnah of performing Eid Salâh at the Musallâ, and that He allows it to continue for many years to come, not only in Bolton but in other towns and cities across the world.