

# *Secretary's Report*

Welcome to the Oshwal Elderly Welfare Association's Annual General Meeting for the year 2010 – 2011.

I have been a member of the Association for the last 5 years and was very proud when I was elected as a Secretary. I am constantly impressed by the enthusiasm, dedication and professionalism of my fellow members and the army of volunteers that help to run the Association.

Throughout the year Oshwal Elderly Welfare Association has continued to sustain its core activities and has developed new projects.

The Association continues to play a major part in the local agenda for older people, alongside our partners in the statutory, voluntary and independent sectors.

The Oshwal Elderly Welfare Association Website is running and has been very successfully used by members and well wishers at [www.oewa.org.uk](http://www.oewa.org.uk)

There are many key events and developments during the year and the following are a few of these:

- **Information and Advice Services**  
More than 58 members were provided with information and advice over telephone on an individual basis on various issues ranging from obtaining welfare benefits and healthcare and ways of securing accommodation in Social Care homes.
- **The Outreach Benefits Project**  
The Outreach Benefit Project provided assistance to 21 members, assisting them to claim benefits including Pension Credit, Attendance Allowance, Council Tax and Housing Benefits.
- **Health**  
The Association runs an Asian Cancer Support Group. The group is managed by four co-ordinators. The group has helped 5 cancer patients with moral and emotional support, sign posted about 15 patients/carers and our understanding volunteer councillors gave 3 patients one to one support.
- **The Luncheon Club**  
The Association runs a Luncheon Club once a week in Croydon and once every 8 to 10 weeks in Harrow. This club has been very successful due to the dedication of the volunteers and has also been the meeting point for many members.
- **Holidays**  
In February, a group of 42 members went to North India for 30 days. In October, 39 Members went to Tunisia for 7 days. All participants had a wonderful time on both the holidays.
- **Membership**  
88 new members were recruited during the year. The total membership for the year was 1,759 members. From year 2009, 26 members did not renew their membership.

- **Fund Raising**

Funding for Oshwal Elderly Welfare Association is a key to its sustainability and development. We appreciate the generosity of members and well-wishers who donated £4,894.00. (General Donation of £2,597.00, Luncheon Tithi of £350.00 and the Shradhanjali event raised £1,947.00). We also had a Luncheon Grant of £3,987.00 from the London Borough of Croydon.

- **Volunteers**

The Association is fortunate to have the commitment of over 27 volunteers, all carrying out different roles, which enables the Association to continue providing services for the benefit of members and those close to them. We have the equivalent of 5 full time members of staff in volunteering hours. We have an ongoing need for admin volunteers.

I would like to thank them and you for your continued support of the services that the Association provides.

On behalf of the Association, I would like to thank the following:

- Mr Keshavlal Nemchand Shah for allowing us to store our equipment at his address;
- The Management of The Oshwal Association of UK and Kadwa Patidar Samaj for use of their Centres at reduced rent;
- Kiritbhai, Marina and her group for lovely entertainment at reduced rates;
- Shobhagbhai of Roshan Mandap for transporting the utensils and shopping for the luncheons
- Khubi.com for donating and maintaining our website at a reduced rate.

Thank You,

*Bina Sobhagchand Shah*  
*Secretary*