The new Lord Mayor of the City of London, Michael Bear, accompanied by his wife Lady Mayoress Barbara Bear, visited the Osmani Trust on Monday 13 December 2010 to see some of the work of the organisation, meet with young people and lend their support for the new Osmani Centre being built at the corner of Vallance Road and Underwood Road. The Lord Mayor related the time he spent in the Spitalfields area as a young man and how he felt an attachment to the people of Tower Hamlets. After a tour of the current Centre and meeting with young people, he said ‘Young people need organisations like Osmani Trust, and the fantastic work they do. I urge everyone to support the development of the Centre. It could only serve to improve the lives of the people living here’.

Upon completion the new Osmani Centre will boast a community cafe, active studio, youth gym, youth club, education and employment, meeting room, training room, as well as a multi-purpose hall and roof garden.

The Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Lutfur Rahman, also came to show his support: ‘I know the fantastic work they do to take people off the streets, to develop the skills and capacity of local people. That is why I have and continue to support Osmani Trust and the building of a new community centre’, said the Mayor of Tower Hamlets. The current Mayors also heard from young people involved with Osmani Trust, including 2 candidates for Young Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Tabassum Noore and Nadeem Miah. Tabassum related her experience of participating in the Healthy Futures project: ‘Playing football and badminton on a weekly basis has helped me stay fit and healthy and inspired me to live an active lifestyle’.

Accompanying the Mayors were business leaders from the City of London and Canary Wharf as well as Stephen O’ Brien, Chairman of the Barts and the London NHS Trust, and Sir Trevor Chinn, Chairman of the Mayor’s Fund for London, who showed keen interest in the work of the Trust and a willingness to contribute to the development of young people and the local community.

The Lord Mayor and Stephen O’ Brien have agreed to become the patrons of the new centre.

Syed Tohel Ahmed, Chairman of Osmani Trust, thanked the visitors for taking time out of their busy schedules and inspiring staff, management and volunteers associated with the Trust to continue working hard for the community.

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Summer of Fun

The YCHP delivered a four weeks summer project from Osmani Centre. The programme had a variety of structured activities and training programmes to meet the needs and demands of the user group. These included the accredited young leader’s award course, workshop on young parenting, conflict mediation, and a 3 day residential to Kent.

The activities and workshops were designed through user consultation with emphasis on developing the capacity and skills of young people as well as to generally motivate the youth to continue to access youth services on a more regular basis. The youth workers engaged well with the young people to meet specific needs, such as low confidence, self esteem, knowledge, awareness and leadership skills. Much focus was also put on to reknowledge, awareness and leadership such as low confidence, self esteem, the young people to meet specific needs, and a day of outdoor fun at the Urban Adventure Base.

The summer activities provided opportunities for young women to build on their personal skills, explore creative ideas, thoughts and had the opportunity to meet at the programme aiding their social development. Furthermore young women were able to build new relationships with members they met at the programme aiding their social development. The girls visited girlS on KartS: The Girls visited Revolution Karring in Mile End where they spent they spend the day racing and trying to beat each other. For some, it was their first group session and had the opportunity to meet the staff, some of the volunteers and other young people on the programme. All-in-all, it was a great success as children and young people shared their experiences, ideas, thoughts and had the opportunity to further bond with the allocated mentors.

Job fair pulls hundreds

On Wednesday 3rd November 2010, the Training and Employment Fair witnessed over 2000 visitors to the Osmani Centre. The Fair is an annual event organised to offer the community at large first hand contact between potential employers and those seeking employment, the fair also provides opportunities for those seeking training or qualifications to up-skill themselves in order to find pathways to employment.

Forhad Hussain, 23 stated his experience with the following words, “This Fair is really beneficial, jobs are difficult to come by these days due to the recession and you find many that are available are unsuitable. This Fair however lets us speak directly with those holding vacancies and with that you can then tell if the post is suitable and whether to apply for such roles. This saves both time and disappointment.”

On the day several providers attended hosting information desks and stalls comprising of live vacancies in administration and customer service, training in fields of media, security and housing. Several providers that attended on the day included the Census, Skills Match, NHS, Recruitment R Us, Working Links, Tower Hamlets Council and many others.

Quit for Life

As a result of the Ramadan campaign, 23 people were supported to give up smoking and many more are on the list receiving advice and are on the verge of quitting. Since the campaign, the local mosques have committed to further health promotion activity with the Health Trainers including holding weekly stalls on a Wednesday during midday prayers in order to support more local residents mainly from the Muslim community. The Health Trainers are now planning towards the ‘New Years’ smoke cessation campaign which will come into effect during the Christmas and new year’s period. More community outreach sessions will be held from key locations such as the Whitechapel market, Idea Store, Sainsbury’s, one stop shop etc. The aim of the campaign is to encourage local residents and visitors of Tower Hamlets to make 2011 a smoke free year.

Active boys and girls

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS TRAINING

In September 2010, 19 members, staff and volunteers completed a full day of training on Child Protection and Emergency First Aid. Shaahi works with vulnerable children and young people and it is paramount to the safety and wellbeing of the clients as well as the staff and volunteers to be informed, aware and trained on how to protect themselves as well as their clients. These 2 courses have now become compulsory training for all volunteer mentors looking to mentor for Shaahi Mentoring Programme. The Child Protection Training enabled participants to develop awareness and understanding of safeguarding and child protection processes and relate these to their role and responsibilities within the project.

ACTIVE BOYS TO ACTIVITY CENTRE:
The boys visited Stubbs Adventure Centre in August to participate on a number of outdoor activities including Jet Skiing, Banana Ride, Raff Building and Kayaking. All the participants enjoyed themselves very much and look forward to the next outdoor activity excursion.

GIRLS ON KARTS: The Girls visited Revolution Karring in Mile End where they spent they spend the day racing and trying to beat each other. For some, it was their first group session and had the opportunity to meet the staff, some of the volunteers and other young people on the programme. All-in-all, it was a great success as children and young people shared their experiences, ideas, thoughts and had the opportunity to further bond with the allocated mentors.

SUMMER WAVE 2010

80 young women participated in Amna’s 4 week summer wave including sessions on hair and beauty, dance, choreography, canvas art, fruit carving, jewellery making, oil painting, flower arranging, clay modelling, kite making, planting, workshops on self harm, personal safety, relationships and drug misuse. 27 young women completed accredited training in AQA Cake decoration and AQA Beauty & Make up. Young women were rewarded with excursions and aQa Beauty & Make up. young women were rewarded with excursions and a day of outdoor fun at the Urban Adventure Base. The summer activities provided opportunities for young women to build on their personal skills, explore creative talents, gain new experiences and understand personal health and safety. Furthermore young women were able to build new relationships with members they met at the programme aiding their social development.

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In June 2010, a group of young people from Aasha took part in a life changing residential to the Smiling Coast of West Africa, The Gambia. The week long residential experience brought three groups of youth from differing backgrounds together. Their aim was to inspire young people from different territorial backgrounds to be all they could be, to awaken a sense of belonging and purpose, and to feel part of a global community that works together to make a difference. During their visit to The Gambia they took in many wonderful and inspirational experiences.

VISIT TO THE GAMBIAN NATIONAL YOUTH AND SPORTS COUNCILS
Set inside the National Stadium, the Youth Council and the Sports Council both hosted the visit of the Aasha Project. Although they may not have the same level of technology, building infrastructure or presentation as some organisations in London, they had great dedication, warmth and vision for the youth of their country.

A FRIENDLY MATCH WITH THE GAMBIAN GOVERNMENT
The two state departments of Youth and Sports Council put together an all star ‘Government Team’ that played the youth of Aasha in the heat of the Gambian sun. The Aasha youngsters took control of the game from early on and scored the first goal to take the lead within ten minutes. Unfortunately, it was all downhill from that point onwards! The Government Team played it careful defending aggressively. As time elapsed, the heat had its effect on the western lungs of the Aasha team and one by one players had to be substituted as they ran flat out of energy. In the end, the match ended 4-2 to the Gambian team but everyone was in high spirits. Wait until they come to Tower Hamlets!

VISIT OF A GRASS-ROOTS YOUTH PROJECT
Save the youth Action Group was set up by a former policeman who was affected by seeing people suffering from the effects of drugs, crime and poor circumstances. He set up this project that now works with a huge number of young and old to support people and help them to change their world. Aasha was met with a beautiful display of cultural song and activities, welcoming them into the village. It seemed as though the entire village had assembled to greet the visitors including young people, mothers and children as well as the elders.

One of the young people mentioned how the journey affected him: “I did not know the value of money until I came to Gambia. For example on the first day we went to a local school and there were about 30 students. The teacher told us that they pay 25 dalasi a month which is just over a pound! However, still the parents of those children can’t pay for some months.”

Aasha will be developing partnership with Save the youth Action Group amongst others so that a twinning process can take place that will provide even more inspirational experiences.
In July 2010 over 130 participants competed in Healthy Futures 2nd Annual Badminton Tournament.
Supported by Badminton England and the Middlesex Badminton Association, the majority of teams were from Tower Hamlets. The tournament was honoured with the guest presence of the England Women’s.

On Saturday 31st July FITC kick started the summer holidays by holding the fifth annual Tower Hamlets Community Cup. Over 60 teams took part in the Cup sponsored by Canary Wharf PLC.

Zakir Khan from Canary Wharf PLC said, “The Community Cup is a fantastic event. To see so many young people of Tower Hamlets in one place is very encouraging and something Canary Wharf Group is proud to support.”

Zubair Martin, Manager of STF from West London said, “Thanks for hosting such a well-organised event again this year, it was a really good day. The environment was safe and the football was hard fought but fair, we made a lot of new friends and contacts as well. We look forward to having teams play again next year.”

The overall winners and runners up of the Tower Hamlets Community Cup 2010 were as follows:

**Winners**

- U11 Lotus Sports
- U13 Victoria Pk Ltd
- U14 Elite Youth FC
- U16 Lotus Sports

**Runners-Up**

- Cannon FC
- Vallance FC
- MUL FC
- Clichy FC

QPR Trials for 3 talented boys

In early August of this year Sporting Equals in partnership with Queens Park Rangers Community Trust started a football talent ID programme for boys aged 8-11 years old. 10 young footballers from FITC represented the project at the three day trials held at the QPR training ground in Middlesex.

Out of the ten young players, three impressed the QPR coaches and have been invited to the Centre of Excellence to further develop their techniques and athleticism. Amir Hanza, Mohammed Lemon and Usamah Amin have all been involved with the FITC project for a year now. All three were extremely happy with their achievements. Mohammed Lemon said, “I am so excited about going training with the QPR Centre of Excellence, I hope I can do well.”

The environment was safe and the football was hard fought but fair, we made a lot of new friends and contacts as well.
Lord Mayor’s Show

Osmani Trust in partnership with CB Richard Ellis (CBRE), the world’s leading commercial real estate services adviser paraded in the annual Lord Mayor’s Show through the City of London on Saturday 13th November 2010.

The Lord Mayor’s Show, the world’s oldest civic procession saw City Alderman Michael Bear paraded as 683rd elected Lord Mayor parading in the Golden Coach through the three mile long journey which started at Mansion House to the Royal Courts of Justice and the return journey via Victoria Embankment. The new Lord Mayor will also be the Patron for the new Osmani Centre once completed in summer 2011.

40 young people, staff and volunteers joined military units, marching bands, businesses and other community groups marched through the City of London and be a part of the exciting atmosphere and a part of history.

One young person said “When I was asked to be part of this event I didn’t know anything about it, I didn’t even know there was a Lord Mayor, but I’m really happy I came as we’ve had a wicked time, our float was the best”!

The partnership between Osmani Trust and CB Richard Ellis will continue to grow over the next few months as the global company help plan to raise money for the new Osmani Centre. CB Richard Ellis is planning a cycle ride from London to Amsterdam later in the year and part of the money raised will be donated to Osmani Trust.

Abu Mumin, Senior Manager of Osmani Trust said “This is the type of partnership Osmani Trust is looking to build, fruitful and beneficial to both sides. I call other companies to take CB Richard Ellis as an example and come forward to help local centres and groups in Tower Hamlets.”

“When I was asked to be part of this event I didn’t know anything about it, I didn’t even know there was a Lord Mayor, but I’m really happy I came as we’ve had a wicked time, our float was the best”!
On 10th October 2010 two intrepid adventurers entered into the unknown. Over the next week or so their mission was to trek the Great Wall of China. For the last 12 months Abu Hassan and Muhammad Didar had worked tirelessly to raise in excess of £10,000 for the new Osmani Centre. This was coupled with intense training and preparation for trekking the Great Wall itself. Not knowing what to expect, they embarked on a journey with a determined mind not to let down their much appreciated supporters and well wishers. After ten days of trekking they returned home with tales of adventure and glory.
On Wednesday 24 November 2010 over 500 people attended the Osmani Trust Gala Awards held at the Waterlily, Whitechapel. This annual event recognised the commitment, dedication and hard work of local people who work towards making a difference in their lives and the lives of others. A total of 22 awards were given out on the night. The award for Outstanding Contribution to the Community went to Derek Cox, who has been serving the community for over 50 years and continues to do so. Derek worked for Avenues Unlimited in the Brick Lane area against a background of appalling and largely unreported racist violence. He organised English language classes for the elderly and minority groups, play activities for the young and continuously lobbied for better services for the community. Syed Tohel Ahmed, Chair of Osmani Trust, in presenting the award said “I have known Derek since I can remember; he has always been at the service of the community. He is an inspiration to us all.” The Gala was attended by notable guests including Chris Lovitt, Associate Director of Public Health, Tower Hamlets NHS; Arun Kang, CEO of Sporting Equals; Isabel Cattanmoile, Director for Children, Schools and Families, London Borough of Tower Hamlets; Cllr Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor of Tower Hamlets, and Lutfur Rahman, Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets. Mayor Rahman praised the achievements of the award winners, and then emphasised the support of the council for young people and their determination to put in the resources to enable young people and other members of the community to achieve their full potential. The awards presentations were complemented with light hearted entertainments, including a performance by Hadri Taekwondo that almost raised the roof with applause. Also on show was comedian ‘Prince Abdi’ who was a total hit and left the audience wanting more. The appetite of the audience was eventually satiated with a 3 course dinner that ended the day.
Since the beginning of August 2010 much progress has been made with the development of our new centre.

We have watched in earnest as our builders Bowmer and Kirkland have moved like the wind in building the new Centre. From the foundations being laid in August to the present erection of the concrete shell these are truly exciting times for Osmani Trust. The completion date for the building has been set for May 2011 with the landscaping scheduled for later on in the year.

Hats off to B & K Group!

Our Builders
Osmani Centre is being built by Bowmer & Kirkland on behalf of Osmani Trust, London Borough of Tower Hamlets and Tower Hamlets Schools Limited. Bowmer & Kirkland is a privately owned construction and development group with its head office in Derbyshire. Bowmer & Kirkland’s team at the construction site include a site based Project Manager, a Contracts Manager to oversee progress and a Quantity Surveyor to manage costs.

B&K Group companies have achieved exceptionally high standards in Health and Safety – recognised in this year’s Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) Awards. Gold Medals were awarded to six B&K Group companies. A Gold Medal is awarded when a company achieves five Gold Awards in succession and for every subsequent Gold Award achieved annually after that.

Bowmer & Kirkland has been ranked 53rd in the Sunday Times Top Track 100 most successful private UK Companies for 2010.

Words from the B&K Group Chair
Bowmer & Kirkland Ltd is committed to the Construction Skills Certification Scheme and almost all our companies now have 100 per cent of their staff accredited with the Scheme.

We have also created a Qualifying the Workforce website together with other partners. The website aims to inform staff in the industry about training initiatives, enabling them to encourage their organisations to get involved. It also gives information about on-site assessment and training packages, grants and other financial assistance and provides links to relevant sites such as CSCS, Health and Safety Executive, City and Guilds, Edexcel and the CITB.

We must respond to the construction skills needs in the industry and make sure that our training provision is of the highest quality for all our employees. Our reputations depend upon the ability of our staff and it is imperative that we attract good people and give them the training they need to be able to do their jobs efficiently, effectively and safely.

John Kirkland OBE
Bowmer & Kirkland Group Chairman

Considerate Constructors’ Scheme
Bowmer & Kirkland is an Associate Member of the Considerate Constructors’ Scheme - a national initiative, set up by the construction industry, to improve its image. Associate member companies are those who have proved their commitment to improving the image of the industry through a high number of registrations that have consistently performed to a high level. Sites registering with the scheme are monitored against a Code of Considerate Practice, designed to encourage best practice beyond statutory requirements.

If you have any queries relating to the project please contact:
Nick Ryall
Bowmer & Kirkland’s Contracts’ Manager, B&K Building Services, Vallance Road, E1 5AB
E: n.ryall@wkhouse.co.uk

KEY DATES
OCT 2010 Concrete columns & flooring to 1st & 2nd floors
NOV 2010 Concrete columns to 3rd floor & roof
DEC 2010 Scaffolding to the perimeter & metsec framing externally & brickwork
JAN 2011 Roofing installation
FEB 2011 Installation of windows & glazing, plant enclosure on roof. Internal finishes
MAR 2011 Roof walkways & mansafe system. Lift installation
APR 2011 Soft floor finishes & Gymnasium flooring. External paving
MAY 2011 Test & commission all services & handover
JUN 2011 Demolish existing youth centre
JULY 2011 External drainage, paths & paving
AUG 2011 Boundary wall & fencing
SEPT 2011 Multi-use games area, external furniture & landscaping

Osmani Centre
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This is an open invitation to the public to find out more about the proposed development of the Osmani Centre. Come and learn about this exciting community project; contribute towards the proposed scheme and share your ideas with the team!