



CUTCHI MUSLIM ASSOCIATION
BLACKBURN

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ In the name of Allah, the most Beneficent, the most Merciful

AUGUST 2025 EDITION – ISSUE NO 1

Welcome to the 1st Edition of our CMA Community Newsletter

Foreword

We are extremely proud to announce that our interim management committee has been working extremely hard to ensure that the work we do directly benefits our members and you will see from this newsletter that we have been very busy since taking up our roles. We have a fully functioning Interim Executive Management Committee in place, extended to incorporate a wider Advisory sub-committee with additional members who bring with them a variety of skills and abilities to ensure we represent our present-day society.

Our Objectives for the Year Ahead

Our objectives are the specific, measurable steps we will take to achieve our aims this year:

- Increase active and inclusive participation in community events and activities.
- Distribute this community newsletter quarterly and regularly provide updates on activities and upcoming events on a dedicated community website.
- Host workshops on topics identified and tailored to our own community needs.
- Organise Cutchi cultural and religious events showcasing our traditions, cuisine, and preserving our religious ethics and history.

Administration Updates

Our Executive Committee is undertaking an independent valuation of our hall to explore a suitable option based on the current market rentable value.

The key objective is to find a compromise that benefits our members, aligns with the cultural values of our founding elders and offers future financial stability.



The current members' list has been updated, and our management committee will be contacting our non-members soon. Current membership

fees are £30.00 per annum per family unit. Any membership enquiries can be sent to our CMA contact details. Admission to membership shall be at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

News

Our CMA women organised and participated in Majlis prayers to mark the holy month of Muharram. We gratefully acknowledge the contribution of our volunteer women who organised and led the prayers. A total amount of £550 was raised in donations to the community for good causes by the women.

May Allah Subhanahu wa ta'ala reward them all, their families and loved ones with good health and blessings.



To mark the end of the Majlis, our annual Niaz was organised on 13th July 2025 which was attended by our members and their families.

A recitation of the Holy Quran and a sermon on the significance of Muharram in Islam was given by Sayyed Osman Zuber Shirazi Bawa. This was followed by the Holy Quran recitation by some of our younger CMA stars. We hope to continue this practice at future events so that we can empower our younger generations to shine at our community events. If any of your children are interested in reciting a nasheed or a verse from the Holy Quran, please email or WhatsApp us so we can build this into future Niaz programmes.

A total amount of £436.40 was raised by the members for donation to the community for good causes. Any ideas from our members on how we use this charity will be welcomed.

Trip down memory lane

It has been clearly apparent that a lot of our elders and families have been involved in laying the foundation of our community ethos and spirit and there are a lot of emotive sentiments attached to this. We have been fortunate to be able to benefit from a vision created by our elders who have made significant sacrifices to lead us to where we are today.



To ensure that these sacrifices are not forgotten by our future generations, and based on the wishes of our elderly members, we are designing a remembrance plaque that will be displayed in our community hall.

Any families who wish to ensure their names are included can email or WhatsApp us.

Upcoming Events

- 2025 - Rabi-ul-Awal Niaz
- 2025 – Ghush Training for males and females
- 2025 - Ghous E Pak (Abdul Qadir Jilani) Niaz
- 2025 - Members General Meeting
- 2026 - Annual General Meeting and Election

Competition Time

We are inviting our CMA shiny stars aged between 4 and 10 years to help us design t-shirts for our junior CMA football team.



These entries can be a simple design or be as creative as possible.

The competition will close at 8pm on 31st August 2025 and the top 3 winning entries will receive:

- 1st prize - £50 Smyths toyshop voucher
- 2nd prize - £30 Smyths toyshop voucher
- 3rd prize - £20 Smyths toyshop voucher

The competition is only open to families of our CMA members.

Upcoming Activities

- Ladies-only Badminton sessions at Audley Community Sports Centre, Chester Street, Blackburn BB1 1DW. These sessions will start in September 2025. Please contact us if you wish to participate.
- CMA Juniors Football Club for boys aged 5 to 12 years old. Please contact us if you wish to participate.

Further details for both activities will be sent out via WhatsApp.

Our Contact Information

Cutchi Muslim Association Blackburn
Telephone or WhatsApp: (+44) 07737 640451
Email: Blackburncma@gmail.com

Community Funeral Services

1. Based on the wishes of our elderly community members, our management committee have negotiated funeral arrangements for the families of any deceased members in our community with Jamia Ghosia Mosque, 98 Chester Street, Blackburn BB1 1DW. This is only a temporary arrangement for our members until our funeral sub-committee comes up with potential plans that align with our members wishes.

In the event of a demise in the family, all our members can have full use of the mosque facilities including:

- Ghush facilities
- Separate prayer hall for men and women
- Imam services can be provided by the mosque on request.
- These services come at no cost to the families but they are welcome to donate a minimum amount of £200 as a charitable donation to the mosque should they wish to do so.
- Any arrangements for food to be served in the mosque will need to be undertaken by the family themselves.

The management committee can also support our members with catering arrangements.

To use the facilities at Jamia Ghosia Mosque, 98 Chester Street, Blackburn, please contact Rahim Bhatti on 07813 539872 or Mohammed Shafi (Muna) Kana on Tel 07519 021355

2. We are also funding the preparation of kafan (shroud covering the deceased) and ghush mayyit accessories packs aligned to our Islamic values to be made available to our member families in the event of a demise in their family.
3. We will be producing a register/database of all our Cutchi marhoom (upon whom mercy has been bestowed) who have passed away and are buried in Pleasington Cemetery in Blackburn.

This register will include the name, burial site number and the location on a map. This will enable us to assist with future maintenance of the graves, inform our future generations where their elders are buried so they can pay their respects and recite prayers for the marhoom and ensure that they are not forgotten.

4. Our management committee team are also volunteering to clean up the graves of any of our marhoom members who are buried in Blackburn Pleasington cemetery. This will be carried out on behalf of any elderly/disabled members, families living or working out of town, or who have no next of kin left in Blackburn and/or those who cannot physically do this for themselves. Please contact us with the details of the gravesite via email or WhatsApp and we will organise this on your behalf.

Ghush Training

We are in the process of organising workshops on how to carry out ghush for our deceased. The workshops will take place in Masjid-e-Raza, Randal Street, Blackburn, by an experienced Imam. This training is aimed at both our male and female members. Any members interested in participating can contact us.

Voluntary Activity

The management committee are also looking for volunteers to set up 2 sub-committees.

One of the sub-committees will lead on supporting our members with funeral arrangements and explore how CMA can support our members with the rising costs of funerals.

The 2nd sub-committee will be responsible for organising and co-ordinating catering arrangements for events at our community hall.

Any members who are interested in volunteering to set up these sub-committees can contact us.

In Islam volunteering for funeral services is highly encouraged and considered a meritorious act. Specifically assisting with the washing (ghush), shrouding (kafan) and burial (janaza) of a deceased Muslim is seen as a communal obligation (fard kifaya) and a source of great reward.