

Nelson Mandela Scottish Memorial Foundation

CHAIR'S REPORT to AGM

23 August 2023

Charity

The Nelson Mandela Scottish Memorial Foundation was established and registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 29 December 2016. Charity Number SC047067.
Principal address of the Foundation: 3 Rosevale Crescent, Hamilton, ML3 8NX.

The Board of Trustees has discussed and accepted the duties and responsibilities of trustees.

Trustees

The following are the Trustees of the Charity:

Brian Filling Chair
Jim Tait Vice-chair
John Nelson Secretary / Treasurer
Janis Carson
David Kenvyn
Brian Purdie
Lorraine Purdie
Isobel Tait

Trustee recruitment and appointment is constitutionally in the hands of the Board of Trustees. No external organisation is involved in any appointments.

Governing Document and Charitable Purposes

The Foundation's governing document is its Constitution, in which its charitable purposes are stated as:

The advancement of heritage and education, particularly through increasing knowledge and understanding of:

- (1) the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela;
- (2) his role in the struggle for freedom and human rights in South Africa;
- (3) the lessons of that struggle for continued active commitment to human rights, equality and racial harmony;
- (4) the historic role of Glasgow in particular and of Scotland more generally in the world-wide campaign for his release and for human rights in South Africa.
- (5) Scotland's strong historical connection with other leading South African figures and its wider links with South Africa's history.

Patrons

The Patrons of the Foundation are:

The Lord Provost of the City of Glasgow, Councillor Jacqueline McLaren.
His Excellency Jeremiah Nyamane Mamabolo, High Commissioner of South Africa to the UK.
Her Excellency Nomatamba Tambo, former High Commissioner of South Africa to the UK.

The living Freemen of the City of Glasgow:

Sir Billy Connolly
Sir Kenny Dalglish
Sir Alex Ferguson

Mongane Wally Serote, South African Poet Laureate
Marah Louw, South African singer and actor.

Death of our Trustee John Stevenson

It is with great regret that we have to report the death of one of our Trustees, John Stevenson. John played a very significant role for the Foundation. During the coronavirus pandemic in the absence of in-person events he produced videos for the Foundation's website which made a major contribution to the Foundation's fund-raising efforts as well as its educational activities. Even during his final days in hospital John continued to work for the Foundation. These videos remain accessible via the website and are a continuing reminder of John's invaluable contribution to the Foundation's work.

The Foundation sent a letter of condolence to his family and worked with his wife, Morag and the family, in preparation for his memorial event. The funds raised at the memorial event in celebration of his life were kindly donated to the Foundation.

Volunteers

A number of people have worked for the Foundation in a voluntary capacity this last year including James Tait (statue), Annie Shanahan (trade Unions coordination), Kate Ramsden (website), Kevin Buchanan (videos).

Nelson Mandela Foundation

The Nelson Mandela Scottish Memorial Foundation has links with the Nelson Mandela Foundation, South Africa, and has received approval for its logo and design of its website. NMSMF has been in contact with the Nelson Mandela Foundation at various times throughout the past year.

Finance and fund-raising

A bank account is held with the Royal Bank of Scotland. Registration with HMRC is established allowing Gift Aid to be collected from donations. Donations may be made online via the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) and PayPal. A deposit account was opened in May 2021 with the Nationwide Building Society and some funds were transferred into that account. A deposit account was opened with the Unity Trust Bank in April 2023 and some funds were transferred into that account.

Janis Carson, on behalf of the Nelson Mandela Scottish Memorial Foundation, applied for a grant to the Hugh Fraser Foundation. The bid was successful and the Hugh Fraser Foundation granted £4000 for educational work. This is shown in the accounts under restricted funds.

Bob Bruce arranged the donation of a bottle of Craigellachie whisky from Dan Sweeney to the Foundation, which was offered as the prize in a Prize Draw. The Draw raised £354.

David Kenvyn wrote to some celebrities asking them if they would be willing to donate memorabilia for an auction. Sylvester McCoy, the actor, donated a signed Dr Who umbrella. John Nelson arranged an auction through ebay and the umbrella was secured by a bid of £310.

A number of supporters including Sheila McGeoch, Isobel Tait, and Clare Dunphy undertook fund-raising activities for the Foundation.

Several walkers (Brian Filling, Janis Carson, Jane Carson, John Nelson and Hetty Nelson) took part in the 2022 Kiltwalk on 18 September 2022 and raised £10,619.10 including the top-up from the Tom Hunter Foundation.

The Crowdfunder, launched in September 2022 ran through Black History Month of October, and raised £12,180 when it officially closed.

At the same time as the Crowdfunder, Trade unions in responding to the Appeal circulated by the STUC donated some £3000.

The collection taken at the Celebration of John Stevenson's life was donated to the Foundation.

The collection taken on Nelson Mandela International Day was donated to the Foundation.

Standing Orders

A number of people continue to pay Standing Orders or pay by Direct Debit on a regular basis to the Foundation. Several people started regular donations during the Crowdfunder and these have continued.

Events

19-21 April 2022: STUC

A stall was provided at the STUC which helped to publicise the work of the Nelson Mandela Scottish Memorial Foundation

28 April 2022

Launch of the Exhibition on the Anti-Apartheid Movement in Dundee organised by Chris Fevre and Matt Graham of Dundee University. John Nelson of the Foundation and Christabel Gurney, AAM Archives Committee, spoke at the launch of the exhibition.

30 April 2022: John Stevenson: Celebration of his life

A handout commending John Stevenson's work for the Foundation was distributed at the event in Celebration of John's life. The collection was donated to the Foundation.

15 June 2022: STUC Book launch, 'Mon the workers.

The STUC book, 'Mon the Workers, edited by Daniel Gray and published by the Luath Press celebrated the 125th anniversary of the STUC. The book contained a chapter *Apartheid, Mandela and Scotland*, by Brian Filling.

18 July 2022: Nelson Mandela International Day

The event to celebrate Nelson Mandela International Day returned to being an in-person event following the coronavirus pandemic. There were some 120 guests in attendance.

The Depute Lord Provost, Christy Mearns, welcomed guests on behalf of the Lord Provost and Glasgow City Council. Brian Filling replied to the welcome, thanked the Depute Lord Provost and reported on the work of the Nelson Mandela Scottish Memorial Foundation.

Performances were given by the musical trio, Jig and Rumba, singers Arthur Johnstone, and Suzanne Bonnar.

The event was filmed by Brian Purdie and Kevin Buchanan edited and produced a video.

As in past years ACTSA Scotland received a grant from the Scottish Government for Nelson Mandela International Day. ACTSA Scotland commissioned NMSMF to produce the video and paid the fees of the contributors.

18 September 2022: Kiltwalk

The Foundation was represented by John Nelson, Hetty Nelson, Brian Filling, Jane and Janis Carson on the Kiltwalk. £10, 619 was raised for the Foundation.

The STUC circulated an appeal on behalf of the Foundation, which produced some £3000 in donations for the Foundations.

22 September 2022: Book launch, *Diverse Voices*

The book, *Diverse Voices, Challenging Injustice – Banner Tales from Glasgow*, published by the Scottish Labour History Society, was launched at an event in the STUC building. Brian Filling was one of the speakers.

28 September 2022: Ayrshire College podcast

Ayrshire College's Rockpool, broadcast an episode with Brian Filling and Janis Carson on Spotify. The podcast traced the history of apartheid, Scotland's solidarity with the anti-apartheid struggle, the educational work of the Foundation and its aim of creating a statue of Nelson Mandela in Nelson Mandela Place in Glasgow.

Black History Month October 2022

A Crowdfunder Appeal was launched during Black History Month and raised £12,076.

John Nelson ran a stall at the STUC Black Workers Conference.

On the anniversary of Mandela's visit to Glasgow in 1993 STV conducted an interview with South African author, Zoe Wicomb, and Brian Filling in Nelson Mandela Place. It was broadcast on the STV *News at 6* programme on 10 October.

January 2023

Trial trenches were dug at the proposed site for the statue in Nelson Mandela Place. The dig uncovered three utility pipes not picked up by previous radar checks. As a result of the trial trenches, the *Herald* and *Evening Times* published stories on the statue.

The BBC radio programme, *Morning Scotland*, covered the *Lost Tapes of Nelson Mandela* and featured Nadia Joseph and Brian Filling.

February 2023: anniversary of Mandela's release from prison

A video was produced for the Foundation by Kevin Buchanan to commemorate Nelson Mandela's release from prison on 11 February 1990. The video included an interview with Brian Filling in Nelson Mandela Place at the trial trenches, the proposed site for the statue.

March 2023: South African High Commissioner visits Scotland

The South African High Commissioner, Jeremiah Nyamane Mamabolo, paid his first visit to Scotland accompanied by First Secretary Solomzi Mhlana and Honorary Consul, Brian Filling.

The High Commissioner visited Nelson Mandela Place and was briefed on the proposed statue by Janis Carson and Brian Filling of the Foundation.

Meetings were also held with the following and in some cases included discussion of the objectives and reports of the Foundation's activities:

- Lord Provost of Glasgow.
- Senior management of Glasgow Caledonian University.
- Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary, Michael Matheson.
- Vice Principal James Smith, staff and students of Edinburgh University.
- Scotch Whisky Association.
- Adam Bruce, Head of Global Affairs at Mainstream Renewable Power plc.
- Net Zero Technology Centre and Energy Transition Zone in Aberdeen.
- University of Aberdeen.
- Offshore Energies Association.

April 2023

John Nelson ran a stall at the STUC and he and Annie Shanahan distributed handouts and organized a raffle for the Foundation.

Nelson Mandela International Day (18 July)

The annual event was held in the Merchant's House as the City Chambers was unavailable. Bailie Patricia Ferguson welcomed guests on behalf of the Lord Provost and spoke of Glasgow's long anti-apartheid connection and relationship to Nelson Mandela.

Brian Filling, on behalf of the Nelson Mandela Scottish Memorial Foundation and ACTSA Scotland, thanked Bailie Ferguson for hosting the event and the Lord Provost's office for securing the Merchants House for the reception as the City Chambers was unavailable on 18 July. He referred to the Merchants House's historical connection with slavery and thanked the institution for its grant to the Foundation, which partly atoned for that connection with slavery.

In his speech he talked about the current Undercover Policing Inquiry under the chairmanship of John Mitting investigating the work of undercover police officers including the penetration and surveillance of the Anti-Apartheid Movement. He noted that this year was the 30th anniversary of Nelson Mandela's visit to Glasgow to receive the Freedoms of 9 UK cities and he reported on the progress with the creation of a statue.

Arthur Johnstone, who sang at the rally in George Square thirty years ago, sang and was followed by Suzanne Bonnar, who ended the event with a rendition of Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika.

The Lord Provost and Glasgow City Council and the Scottish Government sponsored the event.

Kevin Buchanan and Brian Purdie filmed the event. Kevin produced a video of the occasion.

Communications

John Stevenson designed and managed the Foundation's website, Facebook and twitter accounts including from his hospital bed. John made an outstanding contribution to the work of the Foundation.

Following John's death, Kate Ramsden kindly agreed to maintain the Foundation's website although she was in full-time work, a member of the UNISON National Executive and had many other commitments.

Website

From April 2022 to July 2023 there were 67,746 visitors to the website.

During this period the highest numbers were in June and July 2023. From 1-30 June 2023 there were 7,392 visitors and from 1-31 July there were 6,823 visitors associated with Nelson Mandela International Day.

The next highest number of visitors during the year under review was July 2022 when the number of visitors was 5,459.

Facebook

We have 777 followers on Facebook, 29 more since last year's report. Our followers come from a number of countries, with the vast majority (76%) being in the UK, Followers based in other

countries include South Africa (6.2%) and Bangladesh (9.4%). 56% identified as men and 44% women.

The largest number of people who saw a post was 3739 for the initial one posted about the Crowdfunder 'Make it Happen' on 29 Sept 2022 - 314 people interacted with it further. Next highest was the post about the auction of the Sylvester McCoy umbrella, with 709 people reached and 70 interactions. The next two highest were the post about John Stevenson's death (reached 483) and the photo and info about the trenches in Nelson Mandela Place. (reached 476).

Media

Following the passing of John Stevenson there have been less media releases by the Foundation. However, there has been some media coverage including pieces in the *Herald*, *Glasgow Times*, BBC radio and television, and STV.

Publications

The STUC published a book, *'Mon the Workers*, celebrating the 125th anniversary of the foundation of the Scottish Trades Union Congress. The book included a chapter, *Apartheid, Mandela and Scotland*, by Brian Filling. The book was launched at the STUC on 15 June 2022.

The Scottish Labour History Society held a launch of their publication, "Diverse Voices, Challenging Injustice -Banner tales from Glasgow" which included pieces by Suganya Chetty, Brian Filling and John Nelson. The book was launched at an event in the STUC building on 22 September 2022 with Brian Filling as one of the speakers.

Education

The Foundation has continued to work with the West of Scotland Development Education Centre (WoSDEC), which had previously been commissioned by the Foundation to produce the resource pack, "When Mandela danced in the Square", available on-line. The current work involves producing the educational material to accompany the public signage of the statue. Discussions with Glasgow Caledonian University Archives Centre have been held about the hosting of the on-line educational materials to be produced by WoSDEC and the Foundation.

Statue

The proposed site for the statue of Nelson Mandela is Nelson Mandela Place in Glasgow's city centre.

An application to extend Planning Permission to create a statue was lodged in 2021 with Glasgow City Council by James Tait, architect, on behalf of the Foundation and was approved allowing an extension until April 2024.

Sir Robert McAlpine (SRM) in consultation with James Tait, architect, and Nixon, structural engineers, organised the digging of trial trenches in January 2023 to check for any impediments not discovered by previous radar checks. The trial trenches uncovered three utility pipes. The utility pipes Protection Officers have been contacted by SRM with a proposed design solution for

the foundations of the statue to accommodate the utility pipes. FES have been chasing this up. We are awaiting agreement from the Utility Protection Officers.

Janis Carson, on behalf of the Foundation, has been working with Fyfe Glenrock over the supply of granite for the statue plinth. A block of granite has been procured from South Africa and will be transported to Old Meldrum, Aberdeenshire for finishing by Fyfe Glenrock. It will then be transported by the company to the site in Nelson Mandela Place.

Meetings

Meetings to seek advice and secure support for the Foundation have been held during the course of the year with a variety of organisations including:

- South African High Commission
- Glasgow City Council
- Lord Provost of the City of Glasgow
- Glasgow School of Art
- Fyfe Glenrock
- Sir Robert McAlpine
- Nixons
- FES
- John McBlain of Rockpool Podcast, Ayrshire College
- Caroline Kamana, Director, Anti-Apartheid Legacy: Centre of Memory and Learning
- Glasgow Caledonian University
- WoSDEC

Policies

1 Reserves

The Trustees believe a formal policy is not appropriate at this stage. The Board of Trustees will endeavour to exercise prudent management of the charity's cash-flow and consider the question in the near future. For the foreseeable future the building of a large capital sum required for the creation of the statue is the main task.

2 Other Policies

The Foundation has developed policy statements covering the following key areas. These are kept under regular review:

- Safeguarding and the Protection of Vulnerable Groups.
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
- Notifiable Events.

In addition, the Board has developed and approved a GDPR Compliance Action Plan.

The Board reviewed the Risk Register at each of its meetings during 2022-2023.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 23rd August, 2023 and signed on their behalf

John C. Nelson (Secretary)
24th August, 2023