



CHAIR'S REPORT to AGM

28 August 2024

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.

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), Emma Quinn (Mandela-Tambo lecture brochure), Stephen Wright (Oran Mor event) and Kevin Buchanan (videos). In addition, several people have contributed their services pro-bono in work related to the creation of a statue of Nelson Mandela including Martin Reilly of Hawthorn Boyle and David D'Arcy of Woolgar Hunter.

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.

Over £170,000 has now been raised by the Foundation.

Events

George Johannes Memorial

A Memorial Committee, with Jan Clements and Brian Filling as joint chairs, was established to organise a memorial event in honour of George Johannes. Sponsorship was received from UNITE the Union, ACTSA Scotland and the George Johannes family. ACTSA Scotland handled the Memorial Committee's finances.

The memorial event was held on 12 September 2023 at the South African High Commission. The Deputy High Commissioner welcomed guests as the High Commissioner was out of the country. Speeches were given by Nad Pillay (replacing Brian Filling who was unable to attend), Lord Peter Hain and Daniel Johannes. There was a musical contribution from a group of South African singers. Around 100 people attended. A donation from the collection at the event of £829 was made to NMSMF. The event was filmed, and the video is on the NMSMF website.

30th anniversary Mandela's visit to Glasgow

Nelson Mandela visited Glasgow on 8-10 October 1993. He received the Freedoms of 9 UK cities at a special ceremony in the City Chambers on 9 October. Afterwards he addressed a huge crowd in George Square and then spoke at an Assembly of Local Authority Action Against Apartheid in Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

On 8 October 2023, 30th anniversary of Mandela's visit, an event was held at Oran Mor with a variety of musicians and comedians. Stephen Wright of Fairpley in association with Brian Filling organised the event. A collection of £600 was donated to NMSMF.

Mandela-Tambo lecture

On 5 December 2023 a lecture as part of the Mandela-Tambo Lecture series was held in St George's Tron Church in Nelson Mandela Place.

Brian Filling introduced the High Commissioner Kingsley Mamabolo who delivered the lecture, "The Sun must not set - reflections on thirty years of South Africa's Freedom". Following the lecture the High Commissioner took part in a Q&A.

The lecture was filmed by Brian Purdie and an audio recording was made by Janis Carson. An edited video of the event is on the NMSMF website.

The lecture was published as a pamphlet, designed by Emma Quinn, edited by Brian Filling and sponsored by ACTSA Scotland. The pamphlet was distributed widely, sold on the stall and is available on ebay.

STUC

A stall was run at the STUC in April by John Nelson and a raffle was organised by Annie Shanahan with the proceeds going to NMSMF.

30th anniversary Mandela Inauguration

On 10 May 2024 a Reception was held in the Satinwood Room of the City Chambers to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the first democratic election in South Africa (27 April 1994) and the inauguration of Nelson Mandela as President of the Republic (10 May 1994).

The Lord Provost welcomed guests and passed over to Jim Tait who introduced the speakers. John Nelson spoke about the 30th anniversary and Janis Carson outlined developments with the statue of Mandela.

Service of Thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey

On 16 July 2024 a Service of Thanksgiving for the 30th anniversary of the first democratic election in South Africa was held in Westminster Abbey. Speakers at the event included Ronald Lamola, South African Foreign Secretary; Christine McAnea, UNISON General Secretary; and Lord Paul Boateng. John Nelson and David Kenvyn of NMSMF attended the event.

ACTSA UK produced a commemorative brochure for the event which included contributions by David Kenvyn and Brian Filling.

Nelson Mandela International Day

On 18 July the annual Civic Reception for Nelson Mandela International Day event was held in the Banqueting Hall of the City Chambers.

Bailie Hussain welcomed guests and Jim Tait read the speech of Brian Filling, who was unable to attend. Jim introduced the singer-songwriter, Calum Baird, followed by Suzanne Bonnar who was accompanied on guitar by Gavin Williamson. Suzanne concluded proceedings with a rendition of Nkosi Sikalel i' Afrika.

Communications

Website

There were 32,995 individual visitors to the website between 1 Aug 2023 and 1 Aug 2024. That's down by 28.10% over the previous year probably because we have put less material on the website. However the pages visited per session are up by 17.60% to 1.85 per visitor.

There were increases in particular periods including those associated with the Mandela-Tambo lecture (December 2023) and Mandela Day (July 2024).

Facebook

We have 837 followers on Facebook, 60 more than at the time of last year's report. Our followers come from a number of countries, with the vast majority (75%) being in the UK. Followers based in other countries include South Africa (6%) and Bangladesh (8%),

with 2% in each of India and the US. 56% identified as men and 44% women - the same percentages as last year.

In terms of posts, the most recent (about the anniversary of Glasgow becoming the first city to award its Freedom to Nelson Mandela in 1981) reached 177 people and generated 16 reactions/shares. In the past year we have also shared posts providing information about the event to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Mandela's arrival in Scotland to receive in person the freedom of 9 UK cities (which reached over 200 people), celebrating the casting of the first votes in South Africa's first non-racial elections (115 people) and advertising the Mandela-Tambo lecture (again reaching over 200 people) and our stall at the Scottish Trades Union Congress. Comments were generally positive and many of the posts were shared on.

Publications

The Mandela-Tambo lecture, delivered by the South African High Commissioner, Kingsley Mamabolo, entitled, "The Sun must not set - reflections on thirty years of South Africa's Freedom" was published by ACTSA Scotland in association with the Foundation.

The brochure was designed by Emma Quinn and edited by Brian Filling, and was distributed widely, sold on the stall and is available on ebay.

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. WoSDEC through their work with schools have produced audio files of children talking about Nelson Mandela and racism. Discussions with Glasgow Caledonian University Archives Centre have continued about the hosting of the on-line educational materials to be produced by WoSDEC and the Foundation.

Statue

Over the last year work has continued on the technical aspects for the creation of the statue. A design for the foundations of the statue was developed following the digging of trial trenches and the discovery of underground utility pipes at the proposed site.

The utility services were contacted with the proposed design for the foundations of the statue. However, their responses indicated that the services would require to be diverted and quotes were provided for this work. The total costs of the work are estimated to be £20,000-£25,000.

Given the costs and the considerable time it would take for each of the services' providers to do the necessary work the Foundation wrote to GCC's Planning department to ask if they would consider an alternative site within Nelson Mandela Place. The Planning department in response has asked to be provided with a plan of the proposed alternative site which they would then consider including any implications such as any procedural/updated plan requirements.

A new site, if and when agreed, would require trial trenches to be dug to ascertain if there were any underground impediments to the creation of the foundations for the statue at the new site.

The difficulties encountered in selecting a site for the statue are currently under discussion.

An extension of Planning Permission for the original proposed site for the statue was applied for in March 2024 and was acknowledged prior to the most recent communications with the Planning Department.

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

Lord Provost of the City of Glasgow

Glasgow City Council Planning

ACTSA UK

STUC

Liliesleaf Trust UK: Anti-Apartheid Legacy: Centre of Memory and Learning

Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU)

West of Scotland Development Education Centre (WoSDEC)

Fyfe Glenrock

Hawthorn Boyle

Woolgar Hunter

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 2023-2024.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 28th August, 2024 and signed on their behalf.

John C. Nelson (Secretary)

29th August, 2024