

Developing awareness of South Africa's history of apartheid and of the struggle for liberation, and the continuing effects of both, has been part of ACTSA's role since its foundation, and that aspect of our work has been to the fore again this year. As we look towards next year's centenary of Nelson Mandela's birth, serious work has started on the campaign to ensure that the sacrifices of the liberation struggle in South Africa, the lessons of Nelson Mandela's life and work, and the links of Scotland with that struggle, are commemorated both in the permanent form of a statue in Glasgow and through a related programme of education and information, for which the statue will act as a visual aid and reminder into the indefinite future.

Mandela Scottish Memorial: As all those present at the AGM will be aware, the establishment of the Nelson Mandela Scottish Memorial Foundation has been our main preoccupation all through this year, and will continue to be so. The official registration of the Foundation as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation came through on 29th December. The Foundation is, of course, legally independent and under the control of its Trustees, who are very aware of their legal responsibilities. However, it was set up as the most efficient way to meet objectives identified by ACTSA, continues work already begun by ACTSA, and depends very largely on ACTSA members and supporters and on the wider goodwill generated by ACTSA and AAM activities over the past several decades, so its work is still integral to that of ACTSA. It has certainly impacted on ACTSA's other work, but that is inevitable when such a major task needs to be undertaken in a limited timescale with finite human resources.

The ACTSA Scottish Committee formally agreed in April to assist the NMSMF in any way possible, including use of the office, help with producing materials and help in other ways as appropriate. An interest-free loan of up to £5000 was also agreed, though so far only a tenth of that amount has been needed.

The registration came at the end of what seemed a long period of preparation, but was just the beginning of another long period of setting up banking arrangements, tax registration and fundraising channels, all of which had to be done consecutively. A website has been set up, a logo designed, a planning application researched, drawn up and lodged, and publicity material produced, all by committed volunteers with the necessary skills, and all leading up to the final Press and public launch on 9th October this year, the 24th anniversary of Mandela's visit to Glasgow.

A change of political control of Glasgow City Council meant new discussions with the new administration, but the support received from the Council has remained as strong as before, across all the parties.

We now need to do much more about fundraising, on a scale we haven't tried before, since erecting a statue of Nelson Mandela is a key and costly objective, and the most publicly visible outcome if and when it is achieved.

The underlying educational theme will also take much work in both the short and long term. The website has made a strong start on some aspects of this, with a number of videos and accounts of Mandela's connections with Glasgow in particular, and a link to Brian Filling's e-book history of the Glasgow-Mandela connection. We have held one meeting with the Museums Department about a display in the Kelvin Hall, and another is planned to look at the relevant materials in their collection, and we have a meeting arranged with the West of Scotland Development Education Centre about producing material for schools. Continuing work on the AAM archives is also closely related to what the Foundation is doing.

I suspect (and hope) that there will be much more to report at next year's AGM.

Kronendal: Last year's AGM fell right at the beginning of a UK tour by Dwyn Griesel, Founder and Director of the Kronendal Music Academy, where she hoped to make contacts and raise funds for KMA's brilliant work with young people from all the communities in Hout Bay, near Cape Town, where Denis Goldberg also has his home. Denis is a great enthusiast and ambassador for the school. We were able to take Dwyn to meet the Edinburgh Jazz Festival, the Paisley Year of Culture bid Director, the Stirling Big Noise youth orchestra, and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, as well as holding an open meeting immediately following our AGM. The Jazz Festival was very keen to

encourage and assist with a visit to Scotland in 2018 by KMA's 12-piece jazz band, to coincide with the Nelson Mandela centenary as well as Scotland's Year of Youth. Dwyn has been in touch to say she is actively seeking funding from South Africa's Department of Arts and Culture for this, and we hope very much that this will be successful. An ACTSA member has offered the use of two flats in Edinburgh, which would accommodate most of the group and help reduce costs substantially. The Paisley Year of Culture bid is also keen to assist with the tour, whether or not their bid is successful. Stirling Big Noise and the Royal Conservatoire were interested in ongoing contacts.

Largely due to the short notice for Dwyn's trip, the fundraising aspect was less successful than she had hoped, though there were some generous contributions and a hopeful-looking contact in London when she moved on there. ACTSA UK kindly invited her to their annual dinner, to help her make connections.

Information and Solidarity: Our programme of stalls continued this year, selling crafts from community groups in Southern Africa and distributing information about Swaziland and about other aspects of our work, especially, this year, the Mandela memorial. The move of the Ethical Christmas Fair to Dundee last December worked wonderfully well, with a greatly increased response compared with previous years. The 16-day length made it hard going, but sales in that fortnight were about two thirds of the year's total so it was well worth the effort. This year's is even longer, by 4 days, so we'll see how interest from the public holds up in a second year. A stall at a Lenzie Fair Trade event was new this year, and we kept up our usual round of conferences, as well as Fair Trade on the Fringe which also did better than the previous year, partly due to less disruption by gales.

Marah Louw got in touch about selling copies of her new autobiography, of which we ordered 50 copies, all of which she signed.

Other Events: Our annual ANC anniversary social took place in January as usual, with George Reid and his band giving their services as always.

There was no Mandela/Tambo lecture this year, but there have been discussions with the University of the West of Scotland, who are keen to take a turn hosting the event, and Glasgow City Council which is anxious to host the Mandela centenary one.

We celebrated Mandela Day again on 18th July, in collaboration with the Scottish Government, the STUC and Glasgow City Council. The Mandela Foundation had changed the focus of the year from 67 minutes of voluntary service to celebrating Mandela's legacy in preparation for the centenary year, which fitted very well with our emphasis on the night on setting out the plans for the Mandela Scottish Memorial in advance of the public launch later in the year. The Whistlebinkies supplied the music.

AAM Archives: There was a major problem with the cataloguing of the Scottish AAM archives at Glasgow Caledonian University, which should have been completed earlier this year. Due to long-term sick-leave the cataloguing was not completed by the time the grant money ran out, leaving the University Archivist with the task of completing the job among all her other duties.

Future ACTSA Structures: ACTSA UK has been seeking for some time to obtain charitable status, and at its AGM in March this year some changes in the constitution were agreed which it was hoped would meet the concerns of the Charity Commission. The Scottish Committee discussed this at its April meeting, where members felt reassured that some of their own earlier concerns about possible effects on ACTSA's work had been answered. It was still very unclear, however, how any change of status at UK level would affect ACTSA Scotland with its different charity regulator, but discussion was postponed until prospects for London's application became clearer.

In everything we do we are dependent both on committed volunteers and on a much wider circle of friends who wish us well and help from time to time, and we could not function without them. We are going to need all help possible from an even wider circle of friends and supporters to get through the work we need to do over the coming period.

John C. Nelson (Secretary)