



# Sandymount Regeneration Project

10 Cranmer Court, Wickliffe Avenue, London N3 3HG

Tel: 020 8346 0936    [www.sandymount.org.uk](http://www.sandymount.org.uk)    Fax: 020 8346 6555

e-mail: [stanley.coorsh@sandymount.org.uk](mailto:stanley.coorsh@sandymount.org.uk)

NEWSLETTER No. 4

January, 2008

Dear Friend,

The activities of the Charity have progressed well, and a lot has been achieved since my Newsletter in January, 2007.

With the help of a generous donation from the Queen's Park Charitable Trust, and further financial support from the community and friends to supplement a very substantial funding grant of £24,000, received from Forward Scotland, a start on Phase 2 of the project was made on 26 February, 2007, covering Rows 9-13, at cost of £48,000.

This work was carried out with the prior approval of the Land & Environmental Services Department at Glasgow City Council. The required relevant notification was also submitted to the Health & Safety Executive by our project Chartered Surveyor, in advance of the work proceeding on site.

As in previous years, a contribution to the project was received from HM Revenue and Customs as a result of having submitted a Charity Repayment Claim, following donations made by individual UK tax payers.

Project Meeting No. 17 was held on 20 March in conjunction with our colleagues from Glasgow City Council, when discussion took place on a range of subjects, including the stepped entrance from Hallhill Road, the uneven condition of the existing footpaths, and public funding for the project.

Phase 2 was completed at the end of April 2007. We were also able to extend this Phase to include Row 14 within the Phase 2 budget due to the amount earmarked for contingencies not being required for that purpose.

An article was published in the Jewish Telegraph on 5 April, advising readers that Phase 2 was under way, with a similar article appearing in the Jewish Chronicle on April 13, 2007, subsequent to the combination of a grant from Forward Scotland and many generous donations received from individuals and Charitable Trusts. Grateful appreciation was passed from the Trustees to the Scottish correspondents of these newspapers in having their articles published.

On 10 May, the Trustees received a Statement of Final Account from the project surveyor following completion of Phase 2, showing completion within the allocated budget, and thereby approved.

At the request of the Trustees, Andrew Syme Associates wrote to Glasgow City Council on 13 June 2007, requesting their approval for a Design Competition embracing improvements to the dilapidated, stepped entrance to the Hebrew Burial Ground from Hallhill Road. We proposed that a design brief should be prepared by our project surveyor, taking account of improvements to the existing pedestrian access, together with a new vehicular entrance to Sandymount cemetery. The proposals to include a provision under existing legislation in the form of the Disability Discrimination Act, for wheel chair access.

Following approval of our design brief by Glasgow City Council, the Trustees intend to approach relevant personnel at the MacIntosh School of Architecture in Glasgow, seeking their support for our Design Competition. It is proposed that such a competition would be open to eligible, senior architectural students, requiring their presentation of drawings and cost estimates, all based upon our design criteria.

Significant, recent advances have been achieved in the fundraising efforts of the Trustees and others, in support of the Project. An opportunity arose for us to approach our colleagues in Glasgow City Council: Land Services for a contribution towards the regeneration of the Hebrew section at Sandymount Cemetery, resulting in a donation to the Project from GCC.

At our Project Meeting No. 18 held with our contacts in GCC: Land & Environmental Services on Monday 3 December, we were delighted to receive the excellent news that the Glasgow City Council would make a financial contribution to the Project, in the sum of £10,000. We would also record sincere gratitude to our friends at both the Jewish Telegraph and Jewish Chronicle for publishing articles on this newsworthy item in their respective editions on 21 December, 2007.

Following receipt of a cheque from Glasgow City Council, the balance in the project bank account has been boosted to over £16,000. It is most gratifying to those who have contributed to the Project that their efforts, together with the efforts of relatives of the deceased, have been duly recognised and generously supplemented by Glasgow City Council.

Ms Lucille Furie, Bereavement Services Manager at Glasgow City Council, mentioned at our recent meeting that the Council has increased its interest in the condition of the many cemeteries for which the Council is responsible. As the City of Glasgow will host the Commonwealth Games in 2014, a substantial influx of visitors from Commonwealth countries is anticipated, some of whom may have heritage links with Glasgow, which they may take the opportunity to explore.

There still remains considerable work ahead to restore the Hebrew section at Sandymount Cemetery to a respectable and dignified condition for the loved ones resting there, and further support from the Glasgow Jewish community and from those who have supported the Project previously, is required to achieve the objective of the Trustees. It is hoped that sufficient funds in the region of £45,000 will be accumulated to allow a start on Phase 3, covering the next five Rows 15-19, to be made in the fourth quarter of 2008.

In expressing our grateful appreciation of the help and assistance of everyone involved in the successful completion of Phases 1 and 2, we would observe that the job is not yet over. Completion of Phase 3 will achieve the repair and repositioning of a further 173 headstones, bringing us past half way towards the overall completion of thirty five rows, and a total of approximately 1,200 memorial stones.

We would now acknowledge and show our grateful appreciation for the ground maintenance work carried out by GCC: Land & Environmental Services within the Hebrew section at Sandymount Cemetery. Our further appreciation is extended to the Burial Society for the ground maintenance undertaken within the completed Phases by their team from Glenduffhill cemetery in advance of a visit to Sandymount by Dr. Susan Buckham, Director of the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland, in October 2007. The Trustees are extremely grateful to Dr. Buckham for visiting Sandymount and showing an interest in the work being done in the Hebrew section.

The Trustees also wish to record their appreciation for the expertise provided by our Chartered Surveyors, Andrew Syme Associates, in their supervision of the site work in progress, and regular liaison with our colleagues at Glasgow City Council. It is as a result of these physical contributions and the financial contributions by everyone involved that is helping to transform the Hebrew section of Sandymount.

Talking about financial contributions, we now look ahead towards Phase 3, and, having come this far, the enthusiasm of the Trustees and others towards completion of the Project remains as strong as when the Project was established in November 2004. Any possible financial contribution by you this year, towards the ongoing progress of the Project, would be most gratefully received.

The Phase 1 and 2 photographs and Newsletter No. 3 can be viewed on our Project website at [www.sandymount.org.uk](http://www.sandymount.org.uk),

On behalf of the Trustees, may I thank you for the interest you have shown in our Project.

That's it for now,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stanley C Coorsh', with a small flourish at the end.

Stanley C Coorsh  
Chair of the Trustees