

PROJECTS REPORT ON ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH ASIA 2017

AFGHANISTAN

Mark Whitehouse reported that he had re-established contact with the British Embassy who confirmed that it coordinates the management and maintenance of the Kabul Cemetery. The Embassy was looking into the condition of the cemetery in Kandahar.

PAKISTAN

Lahore, Mian Mir Cemetery. A second grant of Rs 126,900 (£950) to continue work on the boundary wall.

Multan, the old British Christian Cemetery. The Remedy, Welfare and Development Organisation (RWDO) received a grant of £4,357 towards repairs to the boundary wall and tombs.

INDIA

Himachal Pradesh: St Patrick's RC Church, Dagshai. This project was completed.

Delhi (William Crawley)

Nicholson Cemetery. A grant of Rs 870,150 (£10,200) was made for phase one of a conservation project in association with the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH). Work is due to start shortly.

St James's Church, the tomb of William Fraser. A £190 grant towards restoration in association with the Fraser family.

The Gordon Highlanders' memorial at Badli-Si-Sarai. BACSA sought the support of INTACH and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to find a solution to protect the site. The British High Commission kept an eye on the site.

Rajasthan (Valerie Robinson).

Kotah Cemetery. The annual maintenance grant paid for labour and the repair of a monument crushed by a fallen tree.

Mount Abu Cemetery. A grant of £1,153 was withdrawn due to a lack of response from the applicant.

Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Saugor (Sagar): Haig Road Cemetery. £5,000 were granted towards repairing the boundary wall. The parish had undertaken to raise the balance.

West Bengal, Calcutta.

The Scottish Cemetery. A grant of £5,000 was made to the Kolkata Scottish Heritage Trust for its continuing conservation work.

St. John's Church, Lady Canning's Memorial. A grant of £2,489 provided a bird-proof canopy to protect the memorial.

BACSA will transcribe the church's burial registers.

Telangana and Andhra Pradesh (Tom Inglis)

Telangana, Hyderabad: the cemetery at the former British Residency. The first phase of the project, for which £10,759 were granted to the Deccan Heritage Foundation, is complete. A grant of £13,092 has been agreed for the second phase to restore the cemetery wall and three particularly vulnerable graves. Work is proceeding well.

Telangana, Trimulgherry: Mornington Road cemetery. Tom Inglis reported that the Indian army maintained the cemetery with the support of Trimulgherry Church.

Andhra Pradesh, Vizagapatam (Visakhapatnam): Regimental Lines (Mors Janua Vitae) cemetery.

Tom Inglis heard from INTACH's Vizag Chapter that vegetation had been cleared.

Karnataka, Bangalore (David Barnabas).

A grant of £6,254 paid for photographing the pre-1947 graves at the Hosur Road Cemeteries 1 and 2. The monumental inscriptions (MI) will be transcribed.

Tamil Nadu

The Baillie Memorial and the Garrison Cemetery at Seringapatam (Srirangapatna). Phillida Purvis reported that the local authority was asked to remove an unsightly wall recently built around the memorial and to consent to restoration work at the cemetery funded by the De Meuron family whose ancestors lie in the graveyard. A teacher and pupils from a nearby school were engaged in regular cleanup activities and were exploring ways to attract more visitors to the cemetery. A most welcome initiative.

Tamil Nadu, Nilgiris: The Lawrence School, Lovedale Cemetery.

A grant of £5,000 to the school for restoration supported by the Old Lawrencian Association. Phillida Purvis reported that the aim was complete the project in the first half of 2018.

Tamil Nadu, Coonoor: All Saints' Church. A grant of £3,711 to conserve the Tiger Hill cemetery was rescinded because the parish could not provide a caretaker.

Tamil Nadu, Madras: St. Mary's Church (William Pettigrew). The executive committee was minded to grant up to £10,000 to match funds from other sources for a proposal to conserve the cemetery from the University of Kent. We hope that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission will support the project.

Annual maintenance grants

In addition to Kotah, grants were made to cemeteries in Calcutta, Agra, Dehradun, Jhansi, and Meerut.

BANGLADESH (Waqar A Khan)

Chittagong: Protestant Cemetery. £552 were granted for boundary wall repairs.

BURMA (MYANMAR)

Rangoon (Yangon), Mingaladon: Yay Way Cemetery (Adam Foucar).

A grant of £4,500 was agreed to conserve the former Rangoon Cantonment graves at Yay Way. Adam Foucar was optimistic work would begin in 2018. There is an opportunity to conduct further work in St. Patrick's cemetery, Moulmein, to improve access to graves, and three potential projects awaited feasibility studies.

Note: BACSA pays the bank charges for the overseas transfers.

Plans

PAKISTAN

Punjab, Faisalabad: Gora Qabristan (Christian Cemetery). A grant to repair the boundary wall and entrance archway was under consideration.

Murree. BACSA is in touch with a local resident active in protecting cemeteries in the Murree hills.

INDIA

South Park Street Cemetery, Calcutta. Maintaining BACSA's support for conserving monuments here, the executive committee identified two tombs to fulfill the terms of the Bishop Weekes legacy and three to be funded by the 'Calcutta Old Boys'. The Association for the Preservation of Historic Cemeteries in India (APHCI) will supervise the work.