

## **ABDULLAH QUILLIAM MOSQUE AND HERITAGE CENTRE PROGRESS REPORT 13<sup>TH</sup> August 2012**

The Abdullah Quilliam Society has two main areas of project work that it is trying to develop. The progress to date is set out under each heading.

### **1. Building Refurbishment Project**

The building handed to the Abdullah Quilliam Society by Liverpool Council consists of the three terraces, numbers 8,9,10 Brougham Terrace, which were owned originally by Sheikh Abdullah Quilliam and the Muslim community. The Mosque building is located in the rear of number 8. From 1908 onwards the buildings were used as Council registry for births deaths and marriages. The mosque building was used for storage of copies of certificates of birth, death and marriage and the walls were reinforced with concrete and steel to prevent fire, theft and other damage. When the building was handed over to the society it was in a very bad state with dry rot in the roof and much of the building. Also all there had been break-ins where lead and other metals in the building had been stolen.

The AQS has had no public grants to help with this work to date, and has spent over £300,000 (almost all from public donations). This has been to eliminate dry rot from the building and roof. We have renewed the roof including the mosque roof. The reinforced concrete and steel from the Mosque has also been removed back to the wall and some of the original arches are now visible. This was phase one.

Phase two is now planned and we want to raise up to £50,000-£100,000 to do just the ground floor from terrace one straight into the mosque, including creating wudu areas for men and women and disabled access into the mosque. This will enable us to make sure the mosque is usable and allow for visits and hence make further fundraising easier.

Phase three requires around £2M this will create the Heritage Centre in the rest of the building, as shown in the artists drawings. This will include renovation of upstairs of number 8 and all of numbers 9, and 10. It will restore the original features of the mosque create all the exhibition and seminar rooms, café and Islamic gardens. This will allow us to open up building as an international heritage centre. We have approached a number of international donors for this part of the work.

As well as public donations we are applying for grants and seeking funding from international donors.

Fundraising is slow due to a number of factors; Government cutbacks in funding have made it very competitive to get grant funding on this scale. Almost everyone is confusing us with the Government funded Quilliam Foundation (we have no link with them at all) who have hijacked and misrepresented Sheikh Abdullh Quilliams good name. Our experience is that the community and international donors and governments view this organisation as suspect, and have been reluctant to fund us because they think we are part of them. Equally our community has not been made fully aware of this amazing history and is slow to appreciate the Dawah potential of this heritage project.

The building is in constant need of repair due to ongoing deterioration, leaks vandalism and emergence of new areas of rot.

## **2. The Sheikh Abdullah Abdullah Quilliam Project**

This part of the project is about raising the profile of Sheikh Abdullah Quilliam, and promoting his life, works, and that of his followers. By doing this we will also increase our fundraising. Most Muslims sadly still don't know about or appreciate this history. In the last 12 months we have done the following:-

- Given talks to schools and societies – You can help by arranging talks and events
- Produced updated information for brochures and website.
- Launched new website with updated information – You can help by promoting this.
- Launched and held the first Annual Abdullah Quilliam Memorial lecture in April 2012.
- Obtained and translated the unique 1928 speech which sheds new light on AQ and his works
- Launched the Abdullah Quilliam communication and engagement awards and presented two honorary awards.

Nominations are open and you can help by promoting this and nominating and attending event in October.

- Numerous media and press interviews and press releases leading to coverage and documentary.
- Produced brochures of our plans in English and Arabic for donors

### **WORK TIMELINE AND HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED**

- AQS - Working with Turkish TV and film companies to further research Quilliam's life in UK and Turkey and make a blockbuster movie on Quilliam.
  - Script by written by mid 2014 £25K needed.
  - Ask investors to invest in film £1.5M- good returns, a movie can make £300M -2016 film launch.
- AQS – establish local history group to do further research on Quilliam and his followers. Invest in movie when time is right.
  - Establish history group and convene March 2013
- YOU- help with any research and information on Quilliam and his followers, be part of history group. Invest in the movie when the time comes.
- AQS -First Award ceremony and fundraising dinner 2<sup>nd</sup> week of October 2012 and prepare for 2013 awards as well.
- YOU –promote and attend event, purchase tickets, publicise.

- AQS -Plan and hold Abdullah Quilliam Annual Lecture 2013.
- YOU- suggest theme of lecture, venue and speaker for 2013, promote event.
  - Finalise plans by Jan 2013
- AQS Seminar in Saudi Arabia - We have a volunteer who is going to arrange this – end of 2013.
- AQS - Raise 50,000 by December 2012 to make Mosque usable.
- You – encourage people to donate hold a fundraising event in your area for us to speak.
- You – become AQS champion –help promote AQ and further research and fundraising in you area.
- AQS -Application to a number of grant funders for Number 8 £500,000 decision by Sept 2013.
- AQS- Application to a number of overseas governments for £2.5M decisions by end of 2013
- You - suggestions and contacts for other donors you may know including wealthy business people.
- Ongoing media campaign to distinguish us from QF and ensure maximum profile for AQ.

These are just many of the things we are doing. Please remember we have no paid staff and need as many volunteers as possible to help us accomplish this unique project. This is your project as well as ours.