

Cross-Party Group on St. Andrew's Day

Wed. 20 Nov. 6pm

Minute

Present

MSPs : Michelle Thomson, Pam Gosal

Invited guests : None

Non-MSP Group Members (asterisk denotes on-line) :

Joe Goldblatt, Dennis Canavan, Callum MacLeod, Ahmad Mourad, Ryan Brown,

Grace Franklin*, Tanveer Parneez*, Gerry McGarvey*, Jalal Choudry*

Apologies: David Lonsdale, Michael Veitch, Anthony Horan, Ian Sirrell, Craig Hoy, Philip Bale, Ash Regan MSP, Else Kek

Agenda item 1

The meeting expressed condolences re. the death of Alex Salmond, former First Minister, who was a member of the CPG and did so much to promote the celebration of St. Andrew's Day.

Agenda item 2

Minutes of meeting (AGM) of 18 Sept. approved

Agenda item 3

Event organised by Scottish Parliament Events Team : Debate for School Students on 26 Nov.

DC welcomed the debate for young people but expressed disappointment that the SP Events Team had not also organised a bigger, more inclusive event for a multi-cultural, multi-faith celebration of St. Andrew's Day along the line of previous events organised by the CPG. We may wish to consider reverting to previous arrangements in future. JG agreed,

MT referred to workload on her limited number of staff. Some outside organisation (e.g. EventScotland or St. Andrew's University) might be persuaded to do/help with the organisation of future event.

Agenda item 4

Other events for St. Andrew's Day 2024:

MT reported that there is to be a Parliamentary Debate on or around St. Andrew's Day. Dec reported on the dearth of St. Andrew's Day events on the Scottish Government website and the fact that there seemed to be more St. Andrew's Day events at overseas venues compared with in Scotland.

GF and AM reported on an inter-cultural event being arranged jointly by their organisations, the Wellington Church International Welcome Club and the Scottish Inter-cultural Association.

Agenda item 5

Future Programme:

Concern was expressed about no replies re. invitations to Scottish Government and COSLA to address today's meeting and disappointment about general lack of SG action to promote and celebrate St. Andrew's Day. TP referred to negative effect of SG cut in Winter Festivals Budget.

PG referred to importance of relations between India and Scotland, including the promotion of St. Andrew's Day in other countries, including India.

MT to write to FM and to re-issue invitation to Cab Sec Angus Robertson to speak to CPG at a Wednesday 6pm meeting in February or March to suit CabSec's diary.

JG to invite VisitScotland to speak to CPG.

DC to invite EventScotland to speak to CPG

GM and DC to collaborate on drawing up a strategy for promotion of St. Andrew's Day.

Agenda item 6

Research :

JM spoke about his analysis of questionnaire responses and referred to potential further research for his post-graduate dissertation. Agreed that JM's paper be circulated to all CPG members. He also invited ideas from CPG members.

Agenda item 7 Date of next meeting: see highlight under item 5