

Cross-Party Group on St. Andrew's Day

23 April 2024 at 6pm

Minute

Present

MSPs

Michelle Thomson (Convener), Alex Rowley (Deputy Convener) *

Invited guests

John Martin

Non-MSP Group Members

Joe Goldblatt, Roger Mullin, Dennis Canavan, Kirsten Gray, Gerry McGarvey *,
Else Kek *

(*denotes attendance on-line)

Apologies

Callum MacLeod, Michael Veitch, David Lonsdale, Tanveer Parnez, Christina Hendry, Jalal Chaudry
Rev. Neil Galbraith, Fraser Thompson, Phil Bale, Liza Boffen-Yordanov

Agenda item 1

Minutes of meeting held on 7 Feb. approved and all decisions taken at that inquorate meeting were ratified, including approval of Treasurer's Report .

Agenda item 2

Event planned for 27 November 2024 at Scottish Parliament:
MT had discussion with Scottish Parliament officials who will soon announce plans for event(s) to celebrate St. Andrew's Day. This would replace CPG event planned for 27 November. SP officials will organise event(s) but CPG will be involved . JG pointed out that Sally Mapstone, Principal of St. Andrew's University, had already accepted

invitation to speak at CPG event previously planned for 27 November and it is therefore very important for her to be involved in some way.

Agenda item 3

Possible event at SP Festival of Politics:

MT reported that agreement had been reached with SP officials and details would be announced soon, possibly next week. Festival to be held 9-13 August.

Agenda item 4

Report on responses to Questionnaire on promoting celebration of St. Andrew's Day: John Martin, who agreed to become a member of the CPG, introduced his report, which has been circulated to all members. There followed a discussion on various points including :

Importance of Community.

International Dimension.

Inclusivity.

Link with Winter Festivals

Education: school curriculum, essay competition, debating competition

Wider recognition of holiday on or around St. Andrew's Day

More action by Scottish Government and Local Government

Event about St. Andrew during Scottish inter-Faith Week

Need for further research

RM agreed to take forward suggestions and produce paper re. further action. MT will discuss with RM. JG and JM also willing to help.

Agenda item 5

Date of next meeting : Tuesday 18 June at 6pm