

Cross-Party Group on St. Andrew's Day

Date and Time : 18 September 23024 at 6pm

Minute

Present (* denotes on-line)

MSPs

Michelle Thomson, Alex Rowley, Pam Gosal*

Invited guests

Members of the St. Andrew's Society of Maine, USA: James Roddan (President), Shari Roddan, George Newell, Edward McComber, Karen McComber, Joshua Mackintosh, Jennifer McKintosh, Kai McKintosh, Kelley True, Alissa True.

Non-MSP Group Members

Joe Goldblatt, Callum MacLeod, Dennis Canavan, Kirstin Gray, Diane Macintyre, Ryan Brown, Ryan Brown, Else Kek*

Apologies

Gerry McGarvey, Michael Veitch, David Lonsdale

Agenda item 1

Minutes of 2023 AGM approved. No matters arising

Agenda item 2

Minutes of ordinary meeting held on 23 April 2024 approved. No matters arising.

Agenda item 3

Treasurer JG reported £299.51 in bank account

Agenda item 4

Michelle Thomson re-elected Convener unanimously.
Alex Rowley re-elected Deputy Convener unanimously.
Pam Gosal elected Deputy Convener unanimously.
Dennis Canavan re-elected Secretary unanimously.
Joe Goldblatt re-elected Treasurer unanimously.

Agenda item 5

MT welcomed delegation from St. Andrew's Society, Maine , USA, who addressed the meeting, followed by a general discussion on various points including :

14% of population of Maine of Scottish ancestry.

Importance Highland Games organise by Maine St. Andrew's Socy.. Highland Games very popular in USA. World Championships to be held in Maine next year. Focus on heavy events.

Importance of St. Andrew's day for Scottish culture and heritage.

Festival of Politics Event at Scottish Parlaiment.

Potential for twinning arrangements between Scotland and USA, e.g. involving schools.

Linking St. Andrew's Day with Thanksgiving Day.

High proportion of young Scots participate in Camp America.

Agenda item 6

Suggestions for future programme:

Invite speakers from Scottish Govt., Event Scotland, COSLA to encourage organisation of St. Andrew's Day events and wider recognition of holiday.

Scottish Parliament to have Parliamentary debate in Chamber on or around St. Andrew's Day.

St. Andrew's Day Debate for school students.

Invite rep. from Education Scotland to encourage more inclusion of St. Andrew in curriculum.

Speaker from Creative Scotland to discuss cultural events linked to St. Andrew's Day.

Agenda item 7

Date of next meeting: : 20 November at 6pm

