

# **Cross-Party Group on St. Andrew's Day**

Date and Time : 3 September 2025 at 6pm

Minute

## **Agenda item 1**

Convener welcomed all to the meeting

## **Agenda item 2**

Present ( \* denotes on-line)

MSPs

Michelle Thomson\*, Alex Rowley, Pam Gosal, Paul McLennan

Invited guests

Lezley Marion Cameron, Deputy Lord Provost of City of Edinburgh

## **Non-MSP Group Members**

Joe Goldblatt, Callum MacLeod, Dennis Canavan, Kirstin Gray , Else Kek\*, John Martin, Gerry McGarvey, Callum MacLeod, Lynn Davies, Colin Gray, Eric Milligan, Ahmad Chukri Mourad \*, Jalal Chaudry

## **Apologies**

Michael Veitch, David Lonsdale, Ash Regan MSP, Grace Franklin

## **Agenda item 3**

Minutes of 2024 AGM approved. No matters arising

## Agenda item 4

Treasurer JG reported £278 in bank account but bank charges are £4.80 per month. CPG will decide later what to do with money which is a surplus from previous events held at the Scottish Parliament

## Agenda item 5

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

## Agenda item 6

As Cabinet Secretary Angus Robertson was no longer able to attend, there was a general discussion on the strategy paper.

As co-authors, DC and GM introduced the paper, followed by a discussion by those attending. Points raised included:

Need for social cohesion in view of recent activity by the far right protesting about asylum seekers.

Deplore the abuse of the Saltire by some of the above protesters.

International comparisons: Many St. Andrew's Day events in USA, although Tartan Day and Burns Day seem to attract more participants. Tartan Day Parade in New York. Parade in Alexandria(USA) around St. Andrew's Day. Similar parades could be held in Scotland on or around 30 November, especially in Edinburgh, our capital city. Compare Australia Day-national holiday, celebrations, business opportunities.

Member's Debate in Scottish Parliament around St.Andrew's Day ( 27 November ?) with Cabinet Secretary Angus Robertson being asked to respond.

All party leaders to be asked to include in Manifesto for 22026 Scottish Parliament elections a reference to the promotion of St. Andrew's Day, including wider recognition of holiday.

Important role of local government, especially civic office. Although only 3 local councils have a St. Andrew's Day holiday , there are a few others which have a schools in-service day on or around St. Andrew's Day.

Story-telling events

Add Scottish Youth Parliament as a potentially interested body.

Need to prioritise action bearing in mind limited resources.

The strategy paper was agreed in principle. DC and GM will up-date .

MT has written to Cab Sec Angus Robertson asking for alternative date to meet CPG

## Agenda item 7

Suggestions for future programme:

Parliamentary Debate on or around St. Andrew's Day.

Taking forward actions out-lined in strategy paper

## Agenda item 7

Date of next meeting: to be decided after response from Angus Robertson about available date(s)

