

# **Cross-Party Group on Nordic Countries**

## **Guest Lecture**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 6pm**

**CR1**

### **MEETING AGENDA**

**1. Welcome**

**2. Apologies**

**3. Future Meetings**

**4. Speaker Introduction**

**Professor Donna Heddle**

*Professor of Northern Studies; Director, Institute for Northern Studies, University of the Highlands and Islands*

**5. Guest Lecture: 'From the fury of the Northmen, good Lord, deliver us?': The Norse legacy in Scotland'**

**6. Q&A**

**7. AOB**

#### **ATTENDEES:**

Liam McArthur MSP

Finlay Carson MSP

Maurice Golden MSP

Gillian Martin MSP

#### **OTHER ATTENDEES:**

Amy Craib, Secretariat

Councillor James Stockan

Mona Røhne

David Windmill

Dr Jack Dyce

Jules Sheridan

Rose Sheridan

Michelle Robertson

James K. Puchowski

Alex Sanmark

Jules Sheridan

Rose Sheridan

Michelle Robertson

Dr Gillian Beattie-Smith

Professor Donna Heddle

Njal Heddle

Kat Ward

Dr Arne Kruse

Dr Guy Puzey

Dr Alan Macniven

Dawn Aslop

Fiona Stephen

Annabella Stephen

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **1. Welcome**

Maurice Golden MSP welcomed attendees and thanked Professor Donna Heddle for taking the time to prepare the lecture presentation.

### **2. Apologies**

N/A

### **3. Future Meetings**

Convenor called for ideas / themes for future meetings.

### **4. Speaker Introduction**

#### **Professor Donna Heddle**

*Professor of Northern Studies; Director, Institute for Northern Studies, University of the Highlands and Islands*

- PhD in Scottish Renaissance Literature from the University of Edinburgh and arrived in Orkney to set up the Cultural Studies department in June 1999.
- She is also an adviser to the Education and Culture Committee, Scottish Government and an adviser and contributor to the Oxford English Dictionary on Scots and Nordic lexis.
- She was the Academic Coordinator for the Northern Heritage project across Scandinavia.

### **5. Guest Lecture: ‘From the fury of the Northmen, good Lord, deliver us?’: The Norse legacy in Scotland’**

#### **6. Q&A**

**Q.** Why did the Norse people settle in Orkney compared to other regions?

**A.** Lots of islands and flat fertile land – perfect combination for their fishing and farming focus.

**Q.** Did Norse women ‘work’?

**A.** Unknown but is likely as women had very progressive rights for the time in history.

**Q.** Is there evidence of influence of Norse culture on Scottish Politics today?

**A.** Influential judicial system; gave us the word ‘law’. They had unique focus on communities which is reflected in modern-day Scottish civil society.

#### **7. AOB**

N/A. Meeting adjourned.