

A Meenit o the Cross Pairty Group on the Scots Leid

16th November, 2022

Virtual Collogue

Praisent: Emma Harper MSP
Jackie Dunbar MSP
Arianne Burgess MSP
Joe Fitzpatrick MSP
Michael Dempster
Carol Dew
Scott McElvanney
Martin travers
Neil Kirk
Emma Guinness
Sarah Buchanan
Steve Byrne
John Hodgart
Stuart Pescodd
Bruce Eunson
Susi Briggs
Sylvia Warnecke
Sarah Mackie
Neill Martin
Emma Grae
Dawn Leslie
Joanna Kopaczyk
Len Pennie
Alice Heywood
Laura Green
William Hershaw

Apologies: Sarah Boyack MSP

Item ane: **Emma Harper** walcomed aabody tae the Collogue.

Item twaa: **Michael Dempster** updatit the meenit o the last collogue: a leet o attendees and apologies wad be gien.

Item three: **Stuart Pescodd** an **Sarah Buchanan** fae the *Education Reform Directorate (Gaelic and Scots Deivision)* spoke anent their consultation darg tae provide the Scottish Government wi feedback and wittins fae aa interestit pairties regairdin the Gaelic and Scots Languages' Bill.

The Scottish Government had made fowerteen commitments tae Gaelic and Scots. Stuart Pescodd explenned that the consultation process had taen place atween Septemmer 2022 and Novemmer 17th November. This had been debatit in the Scottish Pairliament on 15t o November. There wis fower pairs tae this, three o them tae dae wi Gaelic. The Directorate had ettled tae gae about the consultation in a wey that wisnae prescriptive. They had lent a lug and were takkin tent o whit ilka stakehauder thocht and thir conversations had an infuit o the content o the feinished consultation.

Sarah Buchanan gied faurth detail o whit had been discussed: the need for a Scots leid body sic as the Bòrd na Gàidhlig; the threip for Scots tae be taught in

schuils in a mair wyce-like, systemised and mandatory wey; the caa for the public norrae anent the status o Scots tae be heezed.

In repon, **Sylvia Warnecke** said that there had tae be mair siller and resources for the teaching Scots and a collaborative approach was needit fae aa pairties concernid.

William Hershaw said that the eimage o Scots as a dwynin minority leid had tae be challenged. Scots is a majority leid in Scotland. It was thrang in monie airts as the 2011 census pruived. Although baith leids needit support and faced a sair fecht aheid, Scots and Gaelic werenae sib and shuidnae be treatit as sich.

John Hodgart believed that there should be legal status for Scots and an act tae prohibit discrimination against Scots speikers - anely recognition in law could mak a stert tae contering this.

Emma Grae baith tuik up the theme o mair proveision and resources in education for teaching and lairning Scots wi mair recognition forby for the specific needs o dialect speikers.

Neill Martin, speikin on behauf o *Edinburgh University Depairtment o Celtic Studies*, spoke anent the darg o 'normalising' Scots. The Depairtment had a muckle archive o materials relating tae folklore, sang and leir that could be made available and shared amang aabody.

Neil Kirk fae *Abertay University* spoke anent the perceptions amang baith speikers and non-speikers o Scots. Resairch had suggestit that forby the lave o fowk wha identified as Scots speikers, he jaloused that there were a wheen mair wha unnerstuid and kent Scots leid and useage but for their ain reasons walit no tae uiss or recognise it. His resairch was tae speir intil the causes o this. Even mair fowk were likely tae ken and unnerstaun Scots than was recognised in offeicial figures.

Ariane Burgess MSP speirt hou Scots micht be destigmatised.

Sylvia Warnecke said the best wey ta embed Scots teaching in the clessroom was wi strang role modelling fae teachers. Forby that the needs o Scots lairners wha had come fae ither linguistic culturs needit tae be addressed.

Steve Byrne recommendut the uiss o archival materials tae heeze the profile o Scots in the media and education. This wad lend a haund tae the normalisation o Scots. The soun and souch o it was importantant for fowk tae hear. Smaa grants fae bodies sic as the Doric Board were helpfou in kittlin up individuals and groups tae tak on Scots leid projecks and ploys.

Item fower: **Michael Dempster** gied a fowthsome praisentation on the wark and history o The Scots Language Centre, foundit in 1993 and wha's hame is at the AK Bell Library in Perth.

Michael ruisit the wark and commitment o the staff, wha as weill as himsel, includes Dauvit Horsbroch, Information Officer, Sarah Mackie, Social Media Officer, Chris Third the blate wabsteid designer, Laura Green, Education Officer, Carla Woodburn, Poetry Officer, and Len Pennie, Engagement Officer.

The Scots Language Centre deals wi aa maitters pertaining tae Scots and this includes aa forms o Scots and aa Scots speikers as weill as fowk wi speirs or an interest in the leid. It is representit at linguistic colloques internationally and at

hame on sic bodies as The Scots Language Resource Network and The Cross Pairty Group. It provides educational resources for the lairnin o Scots.

The wabsteid is the public face o the Centre and ettles tae publicise wittins, publications and ongauns in Scots. The Centre facilitates and publishes initiatives sic as the recent consultation on Scots for the Scottish Government and collogues and trysts wi bodies sic as the Committtie of Experts on European Charter for Regional and Minority languages (wha it screivit a 36 page report for).

A muckle pairt o the Centre's darg is dealing wi the Press and Media - maistly in the form o fending the Scots Leid fae flytin. Anither aspeck is speikin wi fowk and gien advice efter they hae had tae thole discrimination and abuse for speikin Scots.

Faurther ensaumles o The Scots Language Centre's infuit were explenned by Michael and Sarah and includit:

- Support for individuals and organisations
- Pairtnerships wi ither bodies
- Sharing wittins
- Supporting teachers/provision o lairning materials fae year three - echteen.
- Fechtan for the destigmatisation o Scots
- Campaigning for a National apology tae Scots speikers
- Heezin the wabsteid and social media
- Publishing and publicising Scots Warks
- Biggin projecks sic as "Aye Can" .

Bruce Eunson thankit Michael for his talk..

Item five: **Jackie Dunbar** gied a Perliamentary update: Jackie Dunbar and Emma Harper had attendit a meeting o the Standard Procedures and Public Appointments Committee tae offeicially establish and win approval fae the Committee for the forming o the Scots Leid Cross Pairty Group. This had been grantit and the wark o the group complimentit sae we were nou able tae caw faurrit.

Dawn Leslie had been puit faurrit as a Scots speiker for the "Time for Reflection" in Parliament (Billy Kay had previously duin this in Scots).

QR codes airtin fowk tae the Scots Language Centre had been puit up in the Parliament.

Michael Dempster's anual Scotstober event participants wis commendit.

The wurd o the week in Parliament was "barly-bree".

The Chief Executive was eydent for Scots tae be gien its place attour the Parliament biggin.

Item sax: AGM: nou that permission had been gien tae daud on, it was nou necessary tae apynt office-bearers. The follaein were agreed:

Emma Harper: Co-Convenor
Proponed by Joe Fitzpatrick
Secondit by Ariane Burgess

Jackie Dunbar : Co-convenor

Proposed by Emma Harper
Seconded by: Ariane Burgess

Ariane Burgess: Deputy Co-Convenor
Proposed by Jackie Dunbar
Seconded by Joe Fitzpatrick

Sarah Boyack: Deputy Co-Convenor
Proposed by Joe Fitzpatrick
Seconded by Ariane Burgess

Scots Language Centre/Michael Dempster: Secretar
Proposed by: William Hershaw
Seconded by: Susi Briggs

At the time o the colloque a treasurar wasnae needit.

Item seivin: Screiver and makar Susi Briggs gied a cantie and gleg makar's turn o stories and sangs in the Scots Leid. She explenned her ain backgroun in Scots and her teaching approaches tae it: see www.theweefolk.co.uk The group fair enjoyed Susi's Scots.

Item echt: Onie ither business:

Neil Martin was speirt gin he micht gie a speil anent the Celtic Studies archive at Edinburgh University.

Alice Heywood fae the National Library asked gin Chae Strachan their new Screiver in Residence micht be invitit tae speik at a future colloque. This was agreed.

Emma Harper said there should be faurthier discussion at this Cross Pairty Group anent a national apology fir the centuries' lang ill treatment o Scots speakers.

Bruce Eunson suggestit that Professor Jennifer Smith fae Glesga University should speik anent her "Speik for Yersel" projeck and resource.

Action pynts:

Future praisentations.

Wirds o the week.

Makar's Turn.

Repone tae the Consultation's findings efter its publication.

Discussion o weys faurrit in the licht o the consultation report.

Neist colloque: It was howped tae haud the neist colloque, circumstances allouin, sometime in Februar or Mairch 2023.

Emma Harper weished aabody a guid Yuill.