

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

Wed. 31 May 2023

Minute

Present

MSPs

Michelle Thomson, Craig Hoy

Non-MSP Group Members

Rev. Neil Galbraith, Ela Kossakowska , Joe Goldblatt, David Lonsdale,  
Liza Boffen-Yordanov, Gerry McGarvey, Pat Kelly, Philip Bale, Dennis Canavan

Apologies

Alex Rowley MSP, Callum MacLeod, Jalal Chaudry, Maurice Corry, Michael Veitch

## Agenda item 1

Minutes of previous meeting held on 7 February were approved

## Agenda item 2

JG, as Treasurer, reported that there was £120 in the CPG bank account but that sum includes an outstanding loan to the CPG amounting to £100.

## Agenda item 3

The Group had a general discussion on the draft paper from MT, circulated to members, regarding a call for evidence with a view to producing a strategy for the celebration of St. Andrew's Day.

There was general agreement with the contents of the draft paper. Points raised during the discussion included:

Importance of international connections with Scottish diaspora and resultant opportunities. Particular reference to USA( e.g.TartanDay), Hong Kong, Canada,Australia, New Zealand, Italy (e.g. Barga). Network of St. Andrew's Societies (e.g.Chicago, which has world's largest St. Andrew's Society).

Contact with Scottish universities and their alumni. Universities Scotland interested.

Private sector commercial opportunities, especially in retail, leisure and entertainment.

Engagement with local authorities.

It was agreed to take this forward for further discussion at next meeting. In the meantime, MT to consult with DC and members were encouraged to email any further comments/suggestions to DC.

## Agenda item 4

It was decided that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 27 June 2023 at 6pm