

Cross-Party Group on St. Andrew's Day

Minutes of virtual meeting held on 8 September at 6pm

1. Attendance

Paul McLennan MSP, Craig Hoy MSP, Murdo Fraser MSP, Alex Rowley MSP, Michele Thomson MSP, Ian Sirrell (Scottish Govt.), Rev. Neil Galbraith, Dave Moxham (STUC), Christina, Hendry, David Williamson, Jordi Albareda (Fair Saturday Foundation), David Williamson, Dennis Canavan. (all CPG members except Ian Sirrell, guest speaker)

2. Apologies

Ephraim Borowski (SCOJEC), Anthony Horan, David Lonsdale (Scottish Retail Consortium), Richard Walker

3. Intro.

4. Paul McLennan welcomed those attending.

5. Election of Office-bearers:

Convener : Paul McLennan

Vice-Convener: Craig Hoy

Secretary: Dennis Canavan

6. Ian Sirrell outlined the Scottish Government's programme of 81 events for the Winter Festivals 2020-21. No specific sum had been ring-fenced for St. Andrew's Day but a total of 400,000 had been allocated for the three festivals: St. Andrew's Day, Hogmanay and Burns Day. Partners included EventScotland, Fair Saturday Foundation and BEMIS. Other events included : a St. Andrew's Day Debate in the Scottish Parliament Chamber with 21 schools participating; a campaign to encourage people to send messages of kindness, particularly to vulnerable people on or around St. Andrew's Day. Organisations wishing to organise events can apply to EventScotland for funding. Ian also offered to up-date us in late October or early November on Scottish Government plans for 2021-22.

7. Paul McLennan agreed to re-register the Group with the appropriate Parliamentary authorities.

8. Future Programme. Suggestions included:

Invite COSLA to a future meeting to discuss wider recognition of a St. Andrew's Day holiday and also events to celebrate St. Andrew's Day.

Identify potential partners with Involvement of iconic Scottish brands to promote commercial opportunities.

Continuation and expansion of Fair Saturday events.

Invite Scottish Youth Parliament to discuss more involvement of young people.

Using St. Andrew's Day to send out a strong message to welcome refugees.

Ask Dave Moxham to discuss STUC plans for St. Andrew's Day event to promote multi-culturalism and anti-racism.

Contact Lord Jim Wallace, Moderator of the General assembly of the Church of Scotland, about a national Inter-Faith event on or around St. Andrew's Day with a possible venue being the Chamber of the Scottish Parliament.

Contact Angus Robertson, Cabinet Secretary with responsibility for Culture, re. promotion of St. Andrew's Day.

9. Next meeting to be held on Wed. 3 November at 6pm.