

# Parliamentary Patter



November 2011 Issue 4 Parliamentary Report: John Mason MSP

## **JOHN OPTIMISTIC ABOUT 2014 GAMES**

Scottish National Party Member of the Scottish Parliament for Glasgow Shettleston, John Mason, has tabled a parliamentary motion in Holyrood to mark 1000 days until the opening of the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

The MSP who represents Parkhead, Dalmarnock, Tollcross, and Glasgow Green where the bulk of the competition will take place, lodged the motion as the 1000 day mark passed with news that the Commonwealth Games facilities are on time and on budget.

Speaking from the East End, John Mason MSP, said:

“I am very enthusiastic about the Commonwealth Games coming to Glasgow. This is a great opportunity for us to showcase the East End to the rest of the world and I have every confidence that we will do that well.



*Local MSP John Mason recently enjoyed a site visit at the Commonwealth Games village*

“It is particularly encouraging to hear that the facilities currently being built are on-time and on-budget. It is already clear from walking around the East End that the building work is coming along well. I myself recently visited the velodrome and indoor sports arena in Parkhead and was very impressed with the progress.

“The 2014 Commonwealth Games will be a real boost to the economy of Glasgow and will provide a lasting legacy for East End folk. Over the next few months I want to pin down

more details as to how East End residents will benefit directly from the games. For example, I want to know what using the facilities will actually cost local residents.

“The Commonwealth Games – which are 80% funded by the SNP Government – is just the latest in a number of projects which will regenerate the East End. These capital projects come in addition to the recently completed M74 motorway extension and the new Edinburgh rail link via Airdrie, both of which were on time and on budget.

“It’s an exciting time to live in the East End and that excitement will only continue to grow as we approach 2014”.

-----  
*The competition to design the mascot for the 2014 Commonwealth Games has opened. For more information, please visit: [www.glasgow2014.com/news/latest\\_news/competition\\_to\\_design\\_mascot.aspx](http://www.glasgow2014.com/news/latest_news/competition_to_design_mascot.aspx)*

## MSP SPEAKS IN CELEBRATION OF BIBLE ANNIVERSARY DEBATE

John Mason, recently took part in a Scottish Parliament debate to commemorate the People's Bible which has been making its way around Scotland.

The Glasgow MSP was speaking in a Members' debate, secured by his SNP colleague, Dave Thompson, MSP for the Highland constituency of Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch.

The motion for debate recognised that the People's Bible has travelled over 5,500 miles since June 2011 and recorded 18,320 verses in over 60 towns and cities in Scotland, which included Glasgow.

Commenting, John Mason MSP, said:

"This debate was a good opportunity to talk about faith, the Bible and our own personal experience of God's word.

"In contrast to Westminster where the proceedings start with prayers, the Scottish Parliament is pretty secular and it's unusual to get the opportunity to speak about my faith quite so openly, so I enjoyed the opportunity to reflect on my own experience of the Bible and how I take encouragement from it.

"Faith, interpretation of the Bible and one's relationship with God is something that has been the subject of much discussion in Scottish politics recently, particularly with topics such as gay marriage and the Sectarianism Bill being discussed, so I felt this was a good opportunity to dispel some of the myths about the Bible.

"It was, however, a little disappointing that no Labour or Liberal Democrat MSPs even attended the debate let alone spoke. Surely there are some in these parties who consider the Christian faith to be important? As it was, only SNP and Conservative MSPs attended and spoke in the debate which marked a hugely significant milestone for Scotland's Christian community.

"That said, Wednesday's debate was timely and rightly recognised the fantastic achievement of the People's Bible".

## REIDVALE RECEIVES OVER £5K DONATION

Reidvale Neighbourhood Centre in Glasgow's East End has received a donation of £5,680 from the Bank of Scotland Foundation.

SNP MSP for the East Eend, John Mason, took the opportunity to meet Reidvale Youth 'N' Action to find out more about how they will use the award to develop areas of the community and its youth programme.

The MSP for Glasgow Shettleston, John Mason, said:

"Paul McIlvenny and his team already do a lot of great work in the community and this donation will help them to continue to provide invaluable support."

The Bank of Scotland Foundation is an independent charity working with charities across Scotland supporting people and their local communities.

Kate Guthrie, Chair of the Foundation's Board of Trustees and HR Director, Insurance, Lloyds Banking Group said:

"We've had a fantastic response to the Small Grants Programme and are delighted to make these awards to very deserving organisations such as the Reidvale Neighbourhood Centre."

The Foundation receives an annual donation of £1m from Lloyds Banking Group to fund the Foundation's Small Grants Programme and Employee Matched Giving Scheme.



Parliamentary Patter is published by John Mason MSP to give members of the community a window into his parliamentary and constituency work. This newsletter is distributed monthly to those who have asked for an opportunity to read what their Member of the Scottish Parliament does and thinks. For further information and distribution enquiries, contact David Linden on 0141 550 4327 or write to 1335 Gallowgate, Parkhead, Glasgow, G31 4DN.

PUBLISHED BY THE GLASGOW SHETTLESTON PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE