

Committee Visit To Islay

As part of his role as a member of the Equal Opportunities Committee, Glasgow Shettleston MSP John Mason recently pitched up a tent on the island of Islay. Commenting on the experience, John said;

"We are undertaking a study into loneliness and isolation. We've already met with younger and older people in the East End of Glasgow and now we are looking at what it is like for people living in rural island communities.

"Given my choice of accommodation I am grateful that the weather has held up!"



Contact John Mason MSP directly...

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New Autism Group

John Mason MSP was recently invited to the inaugural meeting of **Parents and Carers Together for Autism** in Shettleston.

Concerned parents and carers had decided to become an officially constituted organisation in order to campaign on behalf of those looking after autistic children in the East End of Glasgow. The group asked John to chair their first meeting in order to help make their transition to a constituted organisation run as smoothly as possible. Commenting on the event, John said;

"I was pleased to support the formation of this new group by chairing its first meeting. It is clear that families are not getting all of the educational support that they require for their children. I am hopeful that these motivated parents and carers will be able to achieve their goals and bring about reform to the way in which Glaswegian children with autism are allocated schools.

"I was particularly impressed by their enthusiasm and commitment to this important cause which affects many families throughout the constituency. I have been involved in a number of cases in which children with special needs are not adequately catered to and I will do everything that I can to support this new initiative."

Armenian Argument

John recently put forward a motion which noted with sadness the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. The Armenian Genocide is said to have caused the deaths of 1.5 million people. In response to this motion the Turkish Consulate got in touch with John and raised their objections, suggesting that the genocide never took place.

Do you have a view on this subject? If so, John would be happy to hear it!

 The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba	<h1>Parliamentary Patter</h1>	Parliamentary Report John Mason MSP
		May 2015

John Mason MSP Calls For Economic Rethink

John achieved cross party support this month when he put forward a motion in the Scottish Parliament calling for an economic rethink. The motion stated that reducing low pay and unemployment, not welfare, is the best way to ensure that communities like Glasgow Shettleston also benefit from any economic recovery.

John's motion noted the recent **Whose Recovery?** report by the Industrial Communities Alliance. The report highlighted the fact that recent economic growth in the UK has not been experienced equally in every community and offered a number of solutions to help address the problem.

Commenting on his motion, John said;

"It is clear from this report that the economic recovery is not being felt by people in communities throughout Scotland who have experienced the absolute worst of austerity. I believe that in order to make sure the benefits of a growing economy reach places like the East End we must act to reduce low pay.

*"One way we could achieve this would be to replace the **Minimum Wage of £6.50** with the **Living Wage of £7.85**. Not only would this help to improve economic activity in the East End, it would also make sure that in a country as wealthy as Scotland people would be making enough to actually live on!"*



John Welcomes New MPs

On May 7th the people of Glasgow Shettleston went to the polls and elected MPs to represent them in Westminster. On this occasion three new MPs were elected in the three different Westminster constituencies that share geography with John's Glasgow Shettleston Scottish Parliament constituency.

The new local MPs are Natalie McGarry in Glasgow East, Alison Thewliss in Glasgow Central and Anne McLaughlin in Glasgow North East.

Commenting on the election, John said;

"I am looking forward to working with all three of the new local MPs. I am hopeful that we will be able to constructively come together and push ahead with local issues that require a particularly joined up approach."

Motions lodged at Parliament in April:

- ♦ **S4M-I3032: First International Women's Conference Centennial** — Remembering the women from many countries who tried to stop the war in 1915.
- ♦ **S4M-I2940: Keep Scotland Beautiful** — Welcoming the report from Keep Scotland Beautiful which highlights the success of the plastic bag charge in reducing consumption by 90%.
- ♦ **S4M-I2870: E-Cigarettes Warning** — Noting with concern recent research which suggests that the use of e-cigarettes by 14-17 year olds is growing and that it can lead to actual smoking.

The full text of all motions can be viewed at <http://www.john-mason.org/category/motions/>