

Caring Christmas trees

John Mason MSP met the Caring Christmas Trees group outside the Parliament this month.

Buying a Christmas tree from the campaign is a great way to celebrate Christmas while helping homeless people.

All trees come from sustainable tree farms and can be recycled by kerbside collection or at your local recycling point.

All money raised by the sale of trees will go to Bethany Christian Trust and be used to help local people who are in need over the Christmas period and beyond.

You can buy a Christmas tree and find out more on the website at : <https://www.caringchristmastrees.com/glasgow>



Contact John Mason MSP directly...

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Youthlink Scotland

John Mason MSP was recently visited by young people taking part in Youthlink Scotland's Youthbank project.

The young volunteers spoke to John about the work they performed in vetting other youth groups who apply to the youth bank.

Speaking about the visit John Mason MSP said :

"It is always great to see such enthusiastic young people being given opportunities to push themselves and learn new skills."

"The Glasgow North East Youthbank not only gives funding for youth organisations in the area it also provides a sense of responsibility and confidence to those who take part in organising the project."

Impact of addiction

John Mason MSP hosted an event for Scottish Families affected by Alcohol and Drugs at the Scottish Parliament on the 12th November.

The event was an opportunity to present the findings and recommendations of a recent study carried out in collaboration with the University of Edinburgh called "*Exploring the impact and harms on families of those experiencing substance misuse: anxiety, depression and mental wellbeing*".

Regarding the event John Mason MSP said :

"I was more than happy to host SFADs event in light of the extremely important work they do to help those who families who are affected by addiction"

Christmas Fairs

It is getting closer to Christmas and it shows!

John Mason MSP has so far visited Caledonia primary school, St Margaret's Church and Mount Vernon Community Hall for the Christmas Fair and picked up all manner of useful things, such as cakes, tablet and all other types of sugary sweets.

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

E-Cigs: The Good and the Bad

John Mason MSP spoke on a debate about tobacco and nicotine use in Scotland earlier this month.

He highlighted the positive impact that e-cigarettes can have on those attempting to give up smoking.

However he also noted that e-cigarettes can often be used as a way to entice people onto cigarettes, in particular young people.

Another issue brought up was regarding the use of e-cigarettes to allow tobacco companies to effectively circumvent advertising restrictions on cigarettes.

Academics discuss refugee crisis

Academics from Queen Margaret University held a briefing on the best way for Scotland to handle the refugee crisis.

The event was held in the Scottish Parliament and hosted by John Mason MSP.

It was a great opportunity for many different organisations who are involved to come together and plan ahead for the future.



Trip to Dublin with Committee

It was John Mason's MSP first parliamentary visit outside Scotland.

The trip was a chance for the members of the Finance Committee to find out more about the role of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council which independently assesses the financial forecasts of the Irish government.

Motions and Questions lodged by John at Parliament :

- ♦ **Motion S4M-14915 : 175th Anniversary of Muirhead & Son leather producers—** Congratulating Muirhead and Son of Dalmarnock on their 175th anniversary and notes high quality of leather produced by the family.
- ♦ **Question S4O-04896 : Has the government spoken with First Bus about the impact, if any, of the planned closure of Parkhead bus depot on jobs —** Asking the government if the recent news of the closure of the Firstbus Parkhead depot should be a cause for concern in terms of the possibility of job losses and impact on the quality of bus service for residents of the East End of Glasgow.

The full text of all motions , questions and answers can be viewed at
<http://www.johnmason.org/category/motions/>