

SNP

Helensburgh Branch

STRONGER FOR SCOTLAND

DECEMBER 2017

The Shape of Things to Come?

by Patrick Johnstone (Political Education Officer)

Well it has been quite an eventful year with Article 50 triggered, Council Elections and a snap General Election.

Austerity remains the primary policy of the not so strong and stable Conservative/DUP unionist alliance of sorts.

The Brexit iceberg will continue to loom large in 2018 as the Tories will no doubt continue to play their reckless game of chicken with the EU.

One thing is for sure the party of sound economic management is clearly not the one that is clinging desperately on to power at Westminster.

Our Scottish Government faces some

challenging economic conditions ahead

that are largely of dysfunctional Westminster parliament's making.

Though there are no elections planned for next year, but it is not too difficult to see this changing at short notice.

Another snap General Election is likely once the Tories sort out who can replace the electorally tarnished Theresa May.

And then of course there is that unfinished business of a second Independence Referendum.

With the Growth Commission reporting in the not too distant future it could be game on sooner than we all think!

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URGENT! Christmas Food Needed by the Foodbank



These items are for our special Christmas bags. Any of them welcome!
Please NO BAGS OF PASTA - we have LOTS in stock just now.

Tins of Chicken or Turkey Breast	Boxes of Christmas Biscuits
Tins of Ham	Boxes of Mince Pies
Tins Stewed Steak/Minced Beef	Boxes of Shortbread
Tins of Fruit Cocktail	Boxes of Breadsticks
Large Packets Crisps etc	After Dinner Mints
Christmas Food Treat for Children	Fruit Jelly

Wishing you a happy Christmas and thanking you for all your support this past year.

HELENSBURGH SNP
Christmas Social 2017
 Thurs 14th December @7.30
Raffle
Name-the-Bear
Festive drink & catch-up
 Civic Centre, East Clyde Street

Christmas Social

by Kevin Johnstone (Convener)

I wish to thank all our members for their support & contributions to the Branch in 2017.

We have had a busy year with a snap General election, re-electing our MP Brendan O'Hara for Argyll & Bute, well done everyone.

Also, the Councils Elections with two Councilors elected, Mr. Richard Trail (Re-elected) & Mrs. Lorna Douglas (New Councilor).

We hope to have a more fun year for 2018 but by the way things are going with the current Conservative Government we could be having a busier year ahead than planned.

We are holding a social event after the Branch Meeting on the 14th December 2017 at 7:30pm at the Civic Centre on East Clyde Street.

All are welcome for free nibbles and a drink and a chat.

We are also having a raffle (Prizes - Food Hamper, Bottles of Spirits, etc.) & name the Bear competition to win a Charlie Bear and Christmas Music.

I would like to wish all our members Seasonal Greetings and all the best in the New Year.



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A budget for a fairer Scotland

by Derek Mackay, 10/12/17



Ahead of this week's Scottish budget, Finance Secretary Derek Mackay sets out how, despite challenging circumstances, he will deliver a budget for a fairer Scotland.

This week I will set out Scotland's budget for the year ahead. But I will do so in the most challenging circumstances we have faced since devolution.

It's now seven years since the Westminster government began its programme of austerity cuts. By end of the decade, the money made available to Scotland for public services will have been cut by £2.6 billion in real terms since 2010.

Last month's UK budget confirmed that the funding we can spend on things like schools and hospitals will fall by half a billion in real terms over two years.

And that's before the damaging impact of Brexit.

The reckless Tory decision to leave the Single Market will see funding

available for public services in Scotland fall by up to £3.7 billion per year. To put that in context, that's more than double the annual budget for our universities and colleges.

We've seen just this week that the UK government is preparing to spend up to £40 billion just to leave the EU. Scotland's schools and hospitals shouldn't have to pay the price for a damaging Brexit we didn't vote for.

The price of a bad deal, or no deal at all, won't just be paid by the public purse – it'll hit household budgets too. Prices are going up and the UK faces the longest fall in living standards since records began.

In this context, we will act to protect Scotland.

The budget I will present to parliament this week will invest in public services, protect our economy and deliver greater fairness.


It'll be a budget that puts more money into our NHS, provides new support for businesses and raises public sector pay.


A budget to deliver a better future for our children by raising attainment in our schools and transforming early years' education.

And a budget that shows global leadership on climate change, protecting our environment for generations to come.

The challenges we face in achieving our ambitions for Scotland are considerable, but I am determined

that we will rise to them and deliver the fairer country we all want to see.



The cost of Tory irresponsibility: 
as much as **£11.2 billion** per year for Scotland's economy post-Brexit



The Scottish Government has announced a **£100 million** post-Brexit stimulus package and fresh support for business




Employment in Scotland is amongst the highest on record and is higher than the rate across the UK

The UK budget: what it means for you

by Liam Furby, 22/11/17

The Chancellor, Philip Hammond, has delivered another Tory austerity budget that cuts funding for public services but protects the super-rich.

As Brexit begins to bite, the cost of living is going up. Yet the Chancellor has pledged no new money for public sector pay increases or any halt to the disastrous roll-out of Universal Credit that is causing misery for thousands.

On the cost of living, jobs and public services, this is a budget that fails to deliver for people in Scotland. Here's what you need to know.

The budget available for Scotland's public services will be cut by over £200 million in real terms.

After seven years of austerity, inequality is rising and more people are being forced to rely on foodbanks than ever before. But the Tory government remains committed to their failed austerity agenda.

And while Scotland faces a further real terms cut in it's budget, the UK government has managed to find £1 billion for the DUP to keep themselves in power.

No new money has been announced to lift the 1 per cent public sector pay cap.

The SNP Scottish Government is committed to ending the 1 per cent cap on public sector pay increases. We will deliver pay increases that are affordable but that reflect the real life circumstances of those who deliver our vital public services. By offering no new money to deliver pay increases, the Chancellor has failed to support our commitment to raising pay.

The budget short changes our NHS.

The Chancellor announced an extra £350 million for the NHS in England. Under the Barnett formula we should receive an extra £30 million in funding, but cuts elsewhere in the budget mean that there is only £8 million more for our health service.

The UK government is still doing too little to tackle the super-rich tax dodgers.

The Paradise Papers revealed that on tax, there is still one rule for the super-rich and another for everyone else. According to HMRC, £6.9 billion was lost in 2015 due to tax avoidance and evasion.

The plans outlined by the Chancellor don't go far enough. We're calling for real action to ensure the wealthiest in society and the biggest corporations pay the taxes they owe. Say you're with us by signing our petition today.

The budget continues to fail young people on pay.

With no change to National Living Wage rules, young workers will continue to be paid less than their older colleagues. We back a transition to payment of the real Living wage as a new minimum legal requirement for all adults above the age of 18.

The roll-out of Universal Credit will continue, meaning misery for thousands of people this Christmas.

While we welcome the reduction in the waiting time for people to receive their first payment of Universal Credit to four weeks, other serious issues have not been addressed. We will continue to call for the roll-out of Universal Credit to be halted to allow the fundamental flaws in its design to be fixed.

This is a budget that fails to support jobs in Scotland.

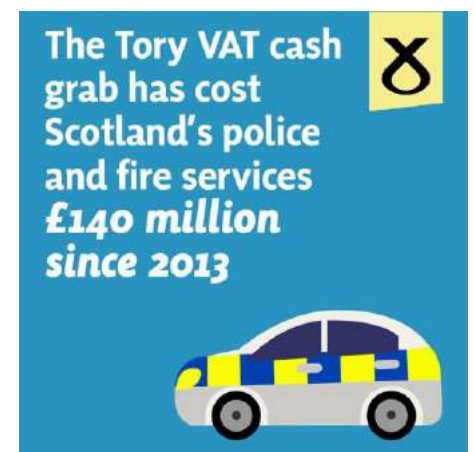
The UK government has failed to match Scottish Government support for manufacturing through an investment of £40 million in a National Manufacturing Institute for Scotland.

Proposed changes to oil and gas taxation are welcome but don't go far enough to maximise economic recovery and support new exploration.

And it fails to provide the certainty our vital renewables sector needs to support investment.

After 139 SNP calls over five years for an end to VAT charges for our police and fire services, the Chancellor has finally relented.

Scotland's police and fire services have been forced to pay VAT since 2013 - the only UK emergency services to do so. The decision to end this injustice is long-overdue but it doesn't go far enough. It's now time to refund the £140 million charged and allow that money to be invested in Scotland's emergency services.



China Business Summit

by <http://www.brendanoharamp.scot>



Brendan O'Hara MP giving opening address



James Brodie, Scottish Director and China Business Advisor of the China-British-Business Council



Huishan Chapman, Scottish Development International

Over two days last week, along with the China-British Business Council, Highland and Islands Enterprise, Scottish Development International and The Bank of China, Mr. O'Hara

engaged with over 70 local businesses in Oban, Inveraray and Campbeltown.

Brendan O'Hara MP said:

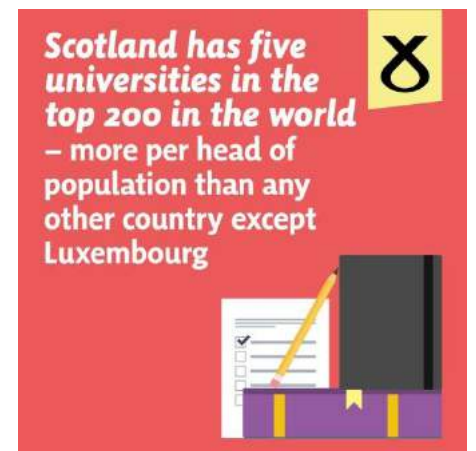
"The China Business Summits have been an overwhelming success. In the space of two days, we held three events at which over 70 businesses in Argyll and Bute took part. We have a great story to tell here in Argyll and Bute and we have wonderful products and services to sell. As far as I'm concerned, the relationship we are building with China is just the start of it and working with our partners in Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Argyll and Bute Council, Scottish Development International and China-Britain Business Council, we look forward to doing a great deal more in the future."

Businesses as diverse as marine science, salmon producers, gin distillers and dairy farmers came together to explore the export opportunities available to our businesses, while learning about how to navigate the cultural and bureaucratic complexities of exporting to China, and exploding some of the myths that surround it.

Commenting: Brendan O'Hara said:

"The opportunities that exist in the vast high-growth, high-value markets in Asia make these events a must for those considering branching out into the Chinese markets. I would be delighted for local businesses across Argyll and Bute to take advantage of the fantastic opportunities that exist in the rapidly expanding and highly lucrative Chinese market."

The events were held as part of Argyll Enterprise Week on Wednesday 8th November in the Corran Halls, Oban, and the Loch Fyne Hotel Inveraray and on at Campbeltown Town Hall on Thursday 9th November.



Local Development Plan Feedback

by John Scullion (Branch Secretary)



I have sent this off to the council as feedback for their presentation at the Victoria Halls. Having taken the time last month to visit the Victoria Halls in Helensburgh to view and question the Local Development Plans 2 with regards to Helensburgh, imagine my disappointment when I found out the whole presentation was about everywhere else but Helensburgh.

I questioned one of the "advisers" present about this and he told me there was a Helensburgh section. Therefore, along with 4 other visitors I scoured the displays to see where he was indicating. The board he was indicating as Helensburgh was in fact something to do with Taynuilt and Dalmally, the other board he pointed to was the feeder Loch above the Cruachan Power Station on Loch Awe.

So, we asked ourselves, was this farce deliberate? Was this layout designed deliberately to prevent any negativity toward the plans for Helensburgh?

Did any of the "advisers" know where on the planet they were at that point in time?

It would seem, that not only were they not aware of where they were on the planet, but were they aware of what planet they were on?

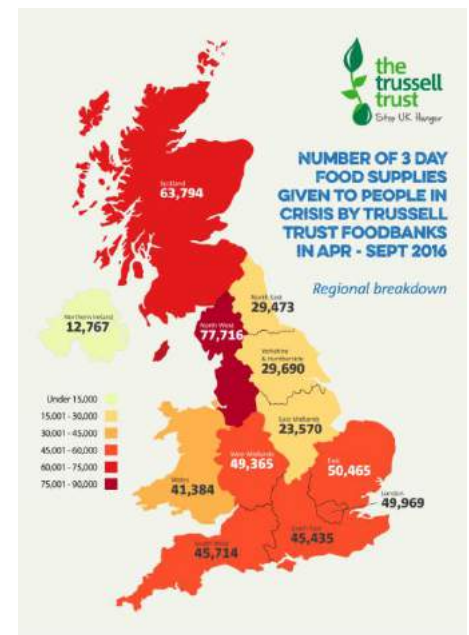
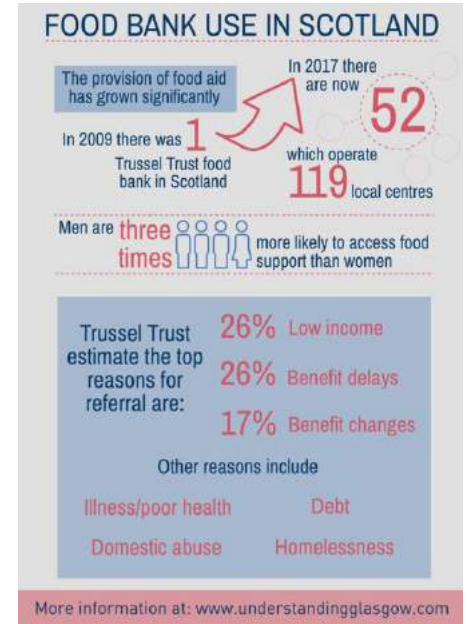
It was an absolute sham and a complete and utter waste of the public's time, which fortunately for A&B Council, they don't have to pay for.

I suspect that this LDP2 is yet another concoction of Argyll & Bute Council pretending that they are actually going to listen to the people residing in their County.

If A&B Council's track record is anything to go by, then any recommendations or objections made by the public will be discussed in secret behind closed doors and if the public's views differ from the Council then they will, as they have been in the past, be swiftly consigned to the waste paper bin, a bin that will no doubt be emptied daily in contrast to when the public get their refuse collection i.e. bi-monthly/monthly and up to 10pm at night.

I eagerly await the Council proclaiming this pantomime as a "Resounding Success" similar to the "Resounding Success" they claimed the online budget survey was which attracted comments from about 800 people in the whole of Argyll & Bute. A "Resounding Success" such as that should ring alarm bells in the Council, it should not be a cause of celebration.

Helensburgh & Lomond Foodbank		
Year End	Food Bags	Increase
31/10/15	968	Base
31/10/16	1169	20.8%
31/10/17	1596	36.5%



National Council Reports

The National Council was held on Saturday 2 December 2017 at the Gannochy Suite, Dewar's Centre, Glover Street, Perth

Standing Orders and Agenda Committee

SOAC met on Saturday November 4th immediately after the first meeting of the new NEC to discuss resolutions. There were twenty-three resolutions submitted, with seven chosen for the provisional agenda. Only one amendment was submitted, but this was not selected by SOAC as it was felt to deviate from the substance of the resolution itself.

As resolutions cannot be submitted directly by parliamentarians, all accepted resolutions received were from branches, CAs, elected members of National Council and affiliated organisations.

The directly elected members of SOAC this year are:

- [Ivan McKee MSP](#)
- [Joan McAlpine MSP](#)
- [Lorraine Alexander](#)
- [Patrick Grady MP](#)
- [Rosemary Hunter](#)
- [Stewart Stevenson MSP](#)

Those appointed from the members of NEC are:

- [Angus MacLeod \(Convener\)](#)
- [Doug Daniel](#)
- [Kirsten Oswald](#)
- [Roz Currie](#)
- [Stewart McDonald MP](#)

All SOAC members are happy to advise on the drafting of resolutions either in advance of the submission deadlines or to provide feedback on unsuccessful resolutions.

[Angus MacLeod \(SOAC Convener\)](#)

National Secretary Report

Off the back of a successful conference, my work as National Secretary continues to be busy, with a number of local branch issues requiring assistance.

In the wake of the various ongoing issues in the media, I would take this opportunity to stress to National Council that there is not, and there must never be any tolerance of workplace sexual harassment in the SNP. All staff across each parliament and SNP HQ have been advised of the independent legal advice-line the party has set up to provide any issues in confidence and receive specialist advice, alongside the normal reporting route for internal matters, through the Corporate Governance and Compliance Manager, Ian McCann. I will not hesitate to use the full range of disciplinary mechanisms at my disposal should the occasion arise. All complaints are treated seriously and confidentially.

Turning to policy development, I have continued to provide feedback on both draft and unsuccessful resolutions and am happy to do so, as are my SOAC colleagues.

With regards the ongoing internal reforms, I believe the expanded delegate's choice mechanism proved a success at conference. Thank you to those who provided constructive feedback.

More broadly, the new NEC has agreed to look at a wider set of reforms as part of our constitutional review, including regional staff support, and agreed a way forward at the most recent meeting. We will meet again before Christmas to discuss building on the work on these matters over the last year.

Emilie-Louise Purdie was reappointed Assistant National Secretary at the meeting of the new NEC - and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her on behalf of the party for her continued support at Council and Conference.

[Angus MacLeod \(National Secretary\)](#)

The remaining Reports are available online via My SNP, and include the following:

- [Local Government Convener](#)
- [Political Education Convener](#)
- [Organisation Convener](#)
- [Association of Nationalist Councillors \(ANC\)](#)
- [European Parliamentary Group](#)
- [SNP Students](#)
- [Trade Union Group](#)

National Council Developments

Some pretty interesting things came out of National Council yesterday, some of which I'll highlight here in case your branch's NC delegates weren't able to get along:

- Rather than a spring National Conference and summer National Council, we'll be having a **Spring National Council**, and, in May/June, there will be a **"Constitutional Conference"**, to deal with the extensive changes to the party's constitution that are expected to come out of the **Internal Review**.

- NEC will be meeting in a fortnight to go over the work done so far into the Internal Review, where we'll put together proposals to present to branches in the new year

- The party is going to look towards **regular vetting**, rather than simply waiting for elections

- Nicola announced there will be an **updated Brexit impact assessment** to look at how Brexit is damaging the Scottish economy - this will be released in 2018 Q1

- Also released in 2018 Q1 will be the **Growth Commission report** - and she made it pretty clear this will kick-start the next phase of the independence campaign where we get back to making the case for independence ("but I've never stopped making it", I hear you cry!)

[Doug Daniel \(Political Education Convener\)](#)

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY?

Fringe Meeting, Tuesday 10 October 2017 hosted by Heriot-Watt Universityby **Trudi Tompson (Members Officer)****Moderator: Ivan McKee MSP****Speakers:**

Professor Patrick Corbett, BG Group Professor of Petroleum Geoengineering, Heriot-Watt University

Graeme Dickson, Former Director General Enterprise, Environment and Innovation in Scottish Government, now School of Geosciences, University of Edinburgh

Ian Phillips, CEO Oil & Gas innovation Centre, Scotland (OGIC)

Patrick Corbett:

- 497 oil & gas discoveries in the North Sea as yet undeveloped but 250 were too expensive to produce from, even at 60\$ per barrel.
- The industry was spending £59 billion a year managing rust on oil and gas platforms every year.
- 75% of our energy comes from natural gas. Fracking was very small in the whole context of oil & gas and

would provide between 3 days and 3 months' worth of production. The ban on fracking was a good thing. They were monitoring the outcome in Lancashire regarding success and yields. On the other hand, fracking was of major importance in the US. The gas produced was transforming the US chemical industry giving them new materials to make products from. Gas was too precious to burn there.

- Disused mines in the Clyde gateway were full of water. This water was naturally heated by geothermal energy so there was a source of heat/hot water for about 2 million people if it could be harnessed productively.

Graeme Dickson:

- 3 statistics to remember: 2/600/heat
- A global average warm of 2 degrees would result in a rising sea level of 30-40cm and frequent storm surges in Scotland by 2050
- to keep to a 2 degrees increase in average global temperature, no more than 1,000 gigatons of CO₂ should be released into the atmosphere globally. 400 gigatons have been released already so we have 600 gigatons left in the budget. Global current production of CO₂ is 30-35 gigatons annually so we have less than 20 years to sort out the CO₂ problem.
- Scotland's electricity production has mostly been decarbonised with only

one generator near Peterhead still CO₂.

- Cost of offshore wind turbine electricity production had plummeted by 90%. Floating wind farms in the North Sea could be a way forward.
- To change over to electric vehicles from petrol/diesel would require 1.5 times the electricity currently produced
- Heating - Scotland burns 4 times as much gas in December than electricity. All-electric home heating in Scotland would need 7 times as much as we currently produce. Obviously, better insulated buildings can reduce energy consumption dramatically but retrofitting the real estate of Scotland was a major and expensive undertaking.

Ian Phillips:

- Carbon capture and storage were becoming major issues to prevent the 600 gigaton CO₂ budget from being used up too quickly.
- Current methods of carbon capture took about 20% of generated energy to deliver so they are not energy efficient and very expensive to undertake. Cheap, new technologies are needed. This is at a government level initiative because of the scale of the problem.
- New technology is being developed for robotic inspections of current oil & gas rigs to enable their longer-term use and safety. The original oil

rigs had a 25-year life so they are well past that and the conditions of the North Sea are no less harsh. Smaller oil companies want another 15+ years out of them as they can't afford to replace them as yields get less productive.

- There's about 40 - 50 years life still left in the current oilfields and maybe more with new discoveries out to the west
- His innovation centre is funding 47 projects delivered by universities to benefit business. 125 projects are still in the pipeline. Scotland has the brains and means to generate new technology to find solutions. Aberdeen city deal for the OGIC helping to develop home grown technology rather than implement others' form around the globe.

From questions/ discussion time:

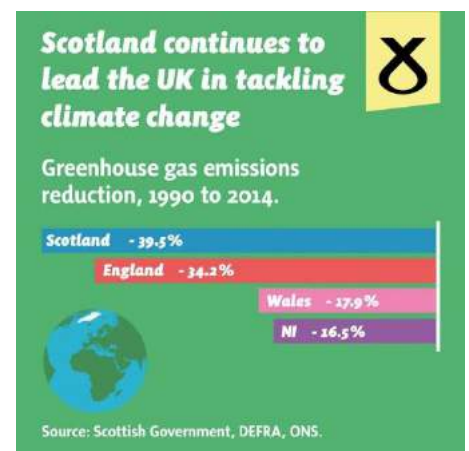
- Brexit is a big issue for university oil & gas and STEM subjects. 60% of foreign students are going home and new applications from Europe are not happening.
- Whereas they viewed tidal electricity generation as a very good technology for Scotland because we have strong tides, the panel did not believe there was a market worldwide. (This author disagrees)
- Hydrogen-powered buses have been running in Sao Paulo, Brazil for 10 years. They considered pumping hydrogen down natural gas pipelines as energy for Campbeltown.

- The Swedes have many combined heat and power stations which burn all combustible domestic rubbish as fuel, thus preventing it going to landfill. Therefore, they kill two birds with one stone: get rid of rubbish and generate electricity and heat. The power stations filter out toxic chemicals from the exhaust gases, such as dioxins and furans, so the emissions are clean and meet air quality standards. These plants still produce too much CO₂ (some on a par with coal) so were a local community issue, not a national strategy.

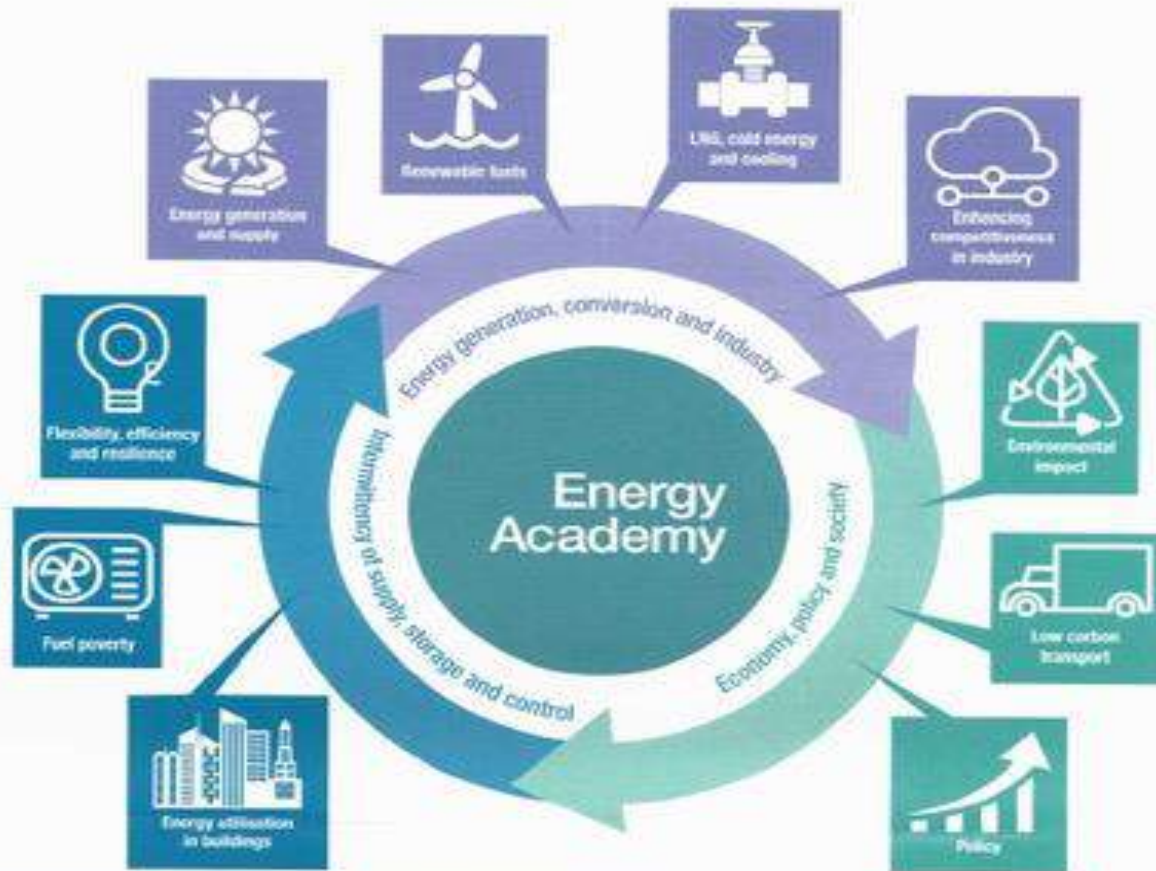
Conclusion:

These points were all vital to keep CO₂ emissions to the 2 degrees budget

- Reduced energy consumption
- Cleaner energy production including a move away from fossil fuels
- Major investment into carbon capture technologies



Fringe Flyer 1



33

SPIN-OUTS TO DATE

1000

HERIOT-WATT RESEARCH PARK EMPLOYING 1000 ERP STAFF

164

164 RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WITH SCOTTISH SMEs



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Fringe Flyer 2



UK | DUBAI | MALAYSIA

LEADERS IN
IDEAS AND
SOLUTIONS

Providing solutions to global energy challenges

Heriot-Watt University: Research to Support People and Economic Growth

Heriot-Watt is a university that remains true to its heritage of creating and exchanging knowledge for the benefit of society. A key distinction is our international activity, in research and education of students on our campuses or with partner institutions. Our world-class research and teaching have always been professionally relevant and so produce highly employable and innovative graduates who have a distinctive and strong professional orientation. Much of our research is undertaken in collaboration with business and industry; delivering innovation and transformational research. We are an organisation with strong values that are owned by the whole of the Heriot-Watt community. We continue to grow and develop our agenda and demonstrate our success through increased student applications from across the globe, high levels of student satisfaction, increases in research funding and step changes in our partnerships world-wide.

Heriot-Watt Highlights

Heriot-Watt's Global Distinctiveness

Heriot-Watt has five campuses in three countries: the United Kingdom (Edinburgh, Orkney, Scottish Borders), Malaysia (Putrajaya) and United Arab Emirates (Dubai). We have over 30,000 students studying in these locations and through off-campus supported learning. This includes over 9,000 at our United Kingdom campuses, 4,000 at our United Arab Emirates campus and 1,200 at our Malaysia campus. We have almost 16,000 students studying through our educational partnerships or via supported learning.

Heriot-Watt Global Research Initiative

Heriot-Watt is a leader in ideas and solutions, a specialist, pioneering University, with a global presence and world-renowned innovative research.

We are developing three main challenge-led research themes where we have the expertise and capacity to contribute to global research, these include:

- Sustainable Energy
- Digital Transition
- Resilient Communities

Sustainable Energy

Energy is central to nearly every major challenge and opportunity the world faces today - economic growth, clean water, food production and national security. As a result global demand for energy has risen rapidly and is predicted to continue to rise by at least 50% by 2035. The rate of growth is particularly acute in developing countries seeking to achieve economic growth and provide opportunities for their growing populations. Providing the energy needed to support development at an acceptable cost, and ensuring that it is used efficiently, is a huge challenge, especially if we also wish to transition to a low-carbon energy system necessary to contain global surface temperature rise to 2°C. Achieving this requires recognising the continuing role of fossil fuels in the energy mix but working steadily to reduce their use as a primary source from today's 85% to 60%

by 2035, sharply reducing domestic and industrial demand, through energy efficient construction and industrial processes, rapid scale up and deployment of zero carbon technologies and the development of very large CO2 capture technologies.

We are truly multidisciplinary, capitalising on the wide industrial and academic expertise among our researchers across our Energy Academy, Institute of Petroleum Engineering, Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) in Oil & Gas and Institute of Mechanical, Process and Energy Engineering.

Our energy harvesting and conversion research focuses on the integration of energy micro-technologies into macro-systems. This includes innovations in smart materials, smart devices with the exploitation of their applications in smart vehicles, smart buildings, smart cities, smart grids up to complete smart infrastructure. We develop the science and engineering of extracting, converting and conserving energy from novel sources in novel ways. Sources of energy encompass traditional renewables from solar and wind to novel technologies such as bacteria and biomass including newer and exotic thermoelectric conversion processes; storage of energy through electrochemical and solar thermal routes and exploring energy efficiency schemes through front line research efforts.

We are also researching an orchestrated approach to the exploitation of renewable energy at a neighbourhood level with the intention of increasing the uptake of renewably generated electricity. This research involves synchronising local electricity demand to the availability of low-carbon energy via advanced demand prediction algorithms and state-of-the-art energy monitoring and control.

Future-proofing is crucial, particularly in energy, and this is the aim of our pioneering role in the delivery of Clean Cold.

Heriot-Watt Innovation Ecosystem

Heriot-Watt has a long tradition in innovation, working closely with business and industry to address challenges and drive social and economic change. These relationships take many forms, from strategic alliances with international companies to partnerships with SMEs. Heriot-Watt encourages innovation and the creation of new spin-out companies.

SAINT ANDREW



St Andrew has been celebrated in Scotland for over a thousand years, with feasts being held in his honour as far back as the year 1000 AD. However, it wasn't until 1320, when Scotland's independence was declared with the signing of **The Declaration of Arbroath**, that he officially became Scotland's patron saint. Since then St Andrew has become tied up in so much of Scotland. The flag of Scotland, the St Andrew's Cross, was chosen in honour of him. Also, the ancient town of St Andrews was named due to its claim of being the final resting place of St Andrew.

With so many different connections to our country, it's worth considering how he came to be so important to Scotland. The answer is surprisingly simple, and sums up some of the most prominent characteristics that you can find in Scots both at home and abroad. Despite his relatively humble upbringing, St Andrew was known throughout his life for being a generous man. When we talk of him today we specifically look at these traits that made him so saintly (figuratively and, later, literally). **St Andrew's philosophy was incredibly simple: take what you have and share it with those less fortunate!** He became known as a strong and fair man who took every opportunity to help others whenever he could.

Following his lead

His fairness and generosity have always struck a chord with the Scots for thousands of years and to this day they still remain important aspects of how we treat others. Anyone who has visited Scotland can vouch that this co-operative spirit is still alive here today. If you're lost, there's always someone there happy to point you in the right direction. **In fact, Scotland is known around the world for its incredibly warm welcome and friendliness.** It's one of the many things that keeps people coming back to visit.

His desire to help those who are less fortunate is also embodied in the many social enterprises that are thriving across Scotland.

You only have to look at the amazing success of companies like **Social Bite**, who are pioneering charitable causes in an unprecedented way. They're not the only ones, as Scotland is home to more than 5,600 social enterprises, with approximately 300 new enterprises starting up every year. All these incredible companies are dedicated to providing an ethical and more sustainable way of doing business and working towards helping those less fortunate and creating a fairer world.

Popularisation of St Andrew's Day

Despite the fact that St Andrew has stood as Scotland's patron saint for so many years, it wasn't until the 18th century that the popular celebration of his day became commonplace. What might surprise you even more is that **the tradition of celebrating on November 30th was not even technically started in Scotland, but by a group of ex-pats in the USA who were keen to reconnect with their Scottish roots.**

It all began with the creation of the '**St Andrew's Society of Charleston**' in South Carolina was founded in 1729 by a group of wealthy Scottish immigrants. The organisation is actually the oldest Scottish society of its type in the world and was set up with one simple premise. **Their goal was to adhere to St Andrew's philanthropic beliefs and they became famous throughout the region for their work assisting orphans and widows in that area.**

This was followed by another society, this time in New York, which was founded in 1756. '**The St Andrew's Society of the State of New York**' is the oldest charity of any kind registered in New York and was founded by Scotsmen who were looking to relieve the poor and distressed in the town. From these seeds, St Andrew's societies have spread around the world as Scots have travelled and settled in the far reaches of the globe. They have taken with them the ideals that are all too evident in their homeland and helped spread this kindness and goodwill that St Andrew was known for.

More recently, St Andrew's Day has become more and more special to Scots and ranks as one of three major dates during the winter period. Starting off Scotland's Winter Festival each year on November 30, people across the country gather together to celebrate St Andrew and share good times. The day is usually marked with a celebration of Scottish culture, including dancing, music, food and drink, with parties going on long into the cold winter night.

<https://www.scotland.org/events/st-andrews-day/who-was-st-andrew>

INDYPOSTERBOY

National debt: £1.6 Trillion
 £25,000 debt for every man, woman & child in the UK

National surplus: £538 Billion
 £107,600 for every man, woman & child in Norway

Both countries struck oil in the 1970s. Guess which one set up an oil fund.



“My guess is that if we vote to stay, we will be in the beady position of the spouse who looked like walking out, but decided to give things one last go. I doubt whether we will ever have been more popular, or in a better position to dictate terms, than if we vote to stay.”

J. K. Rowling 2014

Sadly, some fairytales don't come true . .



52 UK murder victims per month

80 DWP 'fit for work' deaths per month



Better Together

POOLING & SHARING

Westminster to stop 'subsidising' Scottish Renewable energy

Scotland to continue 'subsidising' England-only HS2, Crossrail and London Sewage system



'The Vow' delivered!

POWER OVER TAX CREDITS

POWER OVER EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

POWER TO CALL A REFERENDUM

POWER OVER TRAFFIC LIGHTS



“Oil reserves secure for decades to come”

4th November 2015

Isn't it amazing how dwindling oil reserves can miraculously renew themselves after an independence referendum?



USEFUL LINKS

SNP Sites

<https://www.snp.org/>

<http://www.helensburghsnp.scot/>

<http://www.brendanoharamp.scot/>

Parliamentary Sites

<http://www.parliament.scot/>

<http://www.gov.scot/Home#slide/2>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/commons/>

<http://www.euoparl.europa.eu/portal/en>

Independence Sites

<http://www.businessforscotland.com/>

<http://www.indyposterboy.scot/>

<http://bellacaledonia.org.uk>

<https://wingoverscotland.com/>

<http://www.independentscotland.org>

News Media Sites

<http://www.thenational.scot/>

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/>

<http://www.helensburghadvertiser.co.uk/opinion/>

Council Sites

<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/home>

https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/councillor_list

<http://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/>

Community Council Sites

<http://www.helensburghcommunitycouncil.co.uk/>

<http://www.rhuandshandoncommunity.org/>

Causes

<http://www.allofusfirst.org/>

<http://www.banthebomb.org/>

Other Sites

<https://www.gov.uk/make-a-freedom-of-information-request>

<http://whatscotlandthinks.org/ssa>

<http://scotcen.org.uk/>

<http://www.un.org/en/index.html>

FEEDBACK & COMMENTS

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