



STEWART MAXWELL MSP

Representing you in the West of Scotland

December 2006

Merry Christmas

Merry Christmas and a Guid New Year.

Once again Christmas is almost upon us and I am looking forward to spending time with my family.

The constituency office will be closed over the holiday period but will reopen on Wednesday 3rd January 2007.

2006 has been an interesting year with

many different pieces of legislation passing through Parliament or coming into force this year. The smoking ban is the law that has the potential to have the biggest impact on the future health of Scots. To grow up and go out to work and play in a smoke free atmosphere is the best present that the next generation of Scots could have had.

Other new initiatives, such as my amendment to a government bill which resulted in the doubling of the maximum sentence for carrying a knife in public, will also have an impact in the years ahead.

I hope that we will see a decline in the number of people carrying a knife in the months and years to come. Two of my anti-knife proposals

are being piloted at the moment and I hope that the use of metal detectors and the reporting of knife incidents by hospitals to the police will be rolled out before too long.

2007 will be a busy and exciting year and I hope to carry on my work as an MSP during next year.

Play Fair with Scottish Authors, Maxwell tells WH Smith

Shadow Minister for Sport, Culture and Media, Stewart Maxwell MSP, recently demanded that WH Smith play fair with Scottish authors.

Mr Maxwell, said

“Since John Menzies was taken over by WH Smith the Scottish publishing industry has faced increasing difficulty in selling any local

Scottish or national Scottish interest titles into WH Smith. There is very little variety of choice for the reader and the selection in the newly formed Scottish Top 30 appears to mainly consist of humour, crime and sports and to come from two Scottish publishers.

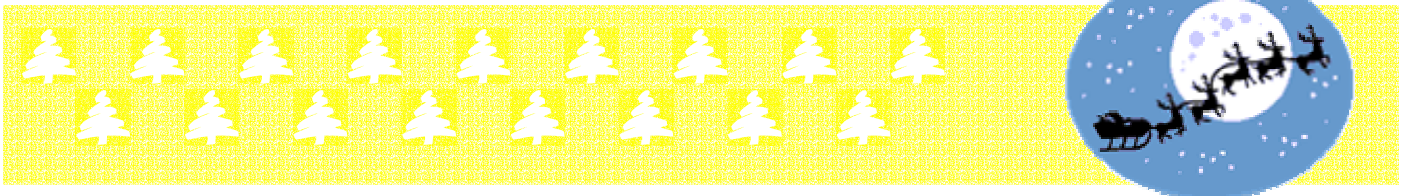
“Scotland has a wide variety of talented authors who deserve to have their books

on display in bookstores throughout the country, including WH Smith, who claim 20% of the retail sales in Scotland for books, and their unwillingness to expand on their narrow selection does neither the authors nor WH Smith justice.

“This centralised anti-Scottish

behaviour must end and I will be writing to WH Smith to demand that they give Scottish authors a fair chance to display their impressive talents on the bookshelves of their Scottish stores.”





Three Ceilidhs and an Ice Show Scotland Needs to Think Bigger for National Celebration

After the recent passing of the St Andrew's Day Bill in the Scottish Parliament, Shadow Minister for Sport, Culture and Media, Stewart Maxwell MSP, called for St Andrew's Day to be a real celebration for Scotland after it emerged that the Scottish government's plans for celebrating our national day did not involve all of the country, with nothing at all planned for Aberdeen or Dundee.

Mr Maxwell said:

"St Andrew's Day should be a national celebration for all of Scotland, but it seems that the

current Scottish government don't appear to be fully committed to this idea. "While the St Patrick's Day celebrations in Ireland included a parade watched by four hundred thousand people and major cultural events across every large city in the country, the current Scottish government seems content with organising three ceilidhs and an ice show, with nothing at all happening in the major cities of Dundee and Aberdeen.

"Given that they have been embarrassed into supporting our national day it's hardly surprising that these feeble efforts are the best they can do.

"Scotland deserves an opportunity for us all to celebrate our successes together, but these plans just don't cut it. We need to invest in promoting St Andrew's Day across the country as a real national celebration. St Andrew's Day should be a public holiday devoted to celebrating Scotland, our history, culture, the arts and sport, and part of a wider Scottish Winter Festival stretching from St Andrew's Day to Burns Night

"Scotland should be emulating the success of other countries such as Ireland, rather than hiding our light under a bushel."

Ethical Investments

West of Scotland MSP and Shadow Minister for Sports, Culture and Media, Stewart Maxwell, recently put down a Parliamentary motion calling on the pension fund for MSPs to be invested ethically. Stewart said,

"I was appalled to hear that, despite the introduction of the smoking ban, the pension fund

for MSPs is still being invested in tobacco firms. After discovering earlier this year that some of the MSPs pension fund money was being invested in tobacco companies I wrote to the Presiding Officer and the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) asking them to withdraw these investments immediately. The response I received stated that

their hands were tied and they could not change this. I refused to accept this and therefore I have put down a motion to Parliament to ask the SPCB to investigate ways to amend pension fund rules to ensure that the pension fund is ethically invested. I look forward to the support of my colleagues on this matter."

Maxwell Becomes Vice President

Earlier this month I was delighted to accept the post of Honorary Vice-President of the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland. The REHIS is a registered charity which promotes the advancement of public health.

I was given this award due to my work on the smoking ban and I was honoured to be invited to follow in the footsteps of previous past Honorary Vice-Presidents such as the well known environmentalist David Bellamy.

