



Union day 18 Sept. 2015

What a difference a day makes. One year on from the day we voted on Scottish Independence seven lonely figures carrying Union flags entered George Square in Glasgow to celebrate their victory, albeit a day early (victory was official 19th). As you can see from the photo (right) they certainly didn't look that happy. Now some might say it is because it was a bleak day - it wasn't, some might say they are disappointed at the turnout - I would be if I was a supporter of the Union, I personally hope it is because they know they made a big mistake and are now wishing they had voted Yes. But, for whatever reason is used to explain away the glum faces there can be no denying the fact that they whole thing was a wee bit of a damp squib.



Hope Over 19 Sept. 2015

Contrast the event above to the one held in George (Freedom) Square just 24 hours later on the actual anniversary of the result. You may have read in the papers or heard on the radio or TV that Independence Supporters gathered in Glasgow to protest and demonstrate against the result and the Westminster Government and that we numbered as few as 1500.

I can assure you, though there was protest against the Tory Governments attack on the Welfare State and the Working poor, the day was a celebration of the YES movement and how far we have come in the 12 months since the defeat in the Scottish Independence Referendum. Organised by Hope Over Fear, the day marked the anniversary of the referendum result with smiles, laughter, love and compassion.

10,000 plus showed up throughout the day to celebrate the continued fight towards Scotlands "rightful" Independence to listen to speakers and entertainers from all over Scotland. Young and old enjoyed songs from the Twa Tenors, Eddie Reader, Gerry Cinnamon, Tom Urie and Griogair Labhruidh, the children and some of the adults enjoyed free face-painting, rides and a bouncy slide.

The day was a huge success for all and showed not only those of us present at the rally that the Scottish Independence question is not going away and if even just one enth of the compassion, determination and love for one another is show in a free Scotland we will be a fruitful and successful Nation.

On the morning of 19 September 2104 just over one year ago, David Cameron addressed the UK as a the leader who saved the Union, but the minute he opened his mouth he undid all the work done by his team of MP's, Activists, Mainstream Media and the BBC. Rather than release a sigh of relief and welcome the result in Scotland with dignity and honour David Cameron used the victory to launch English Votes for English Laws, effectively giving a big F&*# You to Scotland, Yes and No voters alike.

By comparison Alex Salmond was, although distraught, dignified and respectful. 1,617,989 of us were heartbroken and still are to this day, but to a man, woman and child we have all accepted the result and like Alex, the SNP, the Greens, SSP, RIC and many many more we have moved on. But, it could have been so different.

Earlier this week Alex Salmond released the speech he would have given Scotland had it won the referendum, as you will read it is poles apart from the one delivered by Cameron (see Cameron's speech here; <http://preview.tinyurl.com/k3fwe9ma>).

In the early hours of this morning, Scotland voted Yes. We are a Nation reborn. *The community of this realm has spoken. Scotland shall be independent once again. To those who voted No, I extend an immediate hand of friendship. I do so with respect for our difference, with admiration for the passion and principle of an opposing view strongly held, and with the recognition that the joy of the majority be tempered by the disappointment of the minority.*

We are One nation. One Scotland. Let us shape the future together. This campaign reclaimed from politicians and parties the monopoly of power and decision-making. This must be the start of new politics - a time when the voices of the many will be heard. A time when the dispossessed and the forgotten assert their rights as citizens. A time of empowerment and participation.

To our friends and families across these isles waking to our new democracy, we say this; know that, in Scotland, you will always have your closest friend, greatest ally and most steadfast partner. Independence is about equality and mutual respect. Those principles will define our new and unbreakable relationship.

It is, however, important that the people of Scotland remember this; today, tomorrow and for the next 18 months our lives, businesses, shops, schools and hospitals continue exactly as before. The dialogue to resolve any differences with the Westminster government will continue in that period, and will smooth the transition to independence.

Finally, I know that the eyes of the world are today on Scotland. We will use the unprecedented attention to make clear that Scotland fully intends to be a constructive and progressive member of the international community. Our friends in Europe should understand with total clarity that Scotland's future lies as a fully-engaged participant in the European Union. Our path is towards inclusion and co-operation, not isolation. But those matters are for another day.

This morning, I want every person, Yes voters, No voters, everyone in this proud and ancient nation to pause, reflect upon and remember this greatest day in Scotland's history. We did this. We made it happen. We believed. We trusted ourselves and trusted each other. A country reborn. A democracy reclaimed. We reach towards the future. What we have done this day will inspire and empower not just this generation but the many yet unborn. They will learn of this momentous day and thank you for investing your trust in each other. And in them."

It won't be Alex Salmond delivering the speech when Scotland gains her Independence but whoever it is I am sure it will be just as respectful and welcoming as the one Alex, and 1,617,989 of those who voted Yes last September, hoped to make.

Schizophrenic Labours New Leader. Labours in two minds about its new leader. In fact Labours been in two minds since 1997 when it elected its first posh boy leader.

Tony Blair was the antithesis of the principled and argumentative old Labour party. In fact he wasn't really even a socialist at all. Rather, he was a public school boy with good looks and an electric guitar. Strangely for that time, this posh, Electric guitar playing Cheshire Cat didn't ring any alarm bells amongst the red party.

Compared to the shock horror and gnashing of privately laminated teeth at Labour HQ this week which has greeted an actual socialist Labour leader, Blair entered the political scene like a messianic toothpaste commercial. His blinding smile eclipsing the entire raison d'être of British socialism. So, for two terms the Blair spell was sustained and the dazzle of his dentures continued to blind Labour voters to bank deregulation, borrowing and the bedroom tax. Not to mention the massive expansion and legitimisation of gambling across the nation. That should have sounded some alarm bells in the Labour drones - but no, not a single flicker of worry. ...

Then it all went pear shaped. The glare of Blair overcame the ray bans of Westminster and he manufactured a convenient war in some place we didn't care about. Except it was a disaster. In fact it still is. I think the fact that Labours flirtation with spin and Tory party emulation, as a means to get power has just shown us why we should not ever give power to religious nuts who crave it. God knows there's enough religious nuts out there already.

So now the people have chosen a lowly back bench pacifist, who wants to end wars and nuclear weapons. A man who wants to nationalise utilities and bring back our railways, a man who claims he is actually a "Labour" Politician how did Labours sitting front bench react? They instantly distance themselves from him. **Jamie Reid** (Shadow Health Minister) Tweeted "*Congratulations to Jeremy Corbyn. My resignation letter @uklabour front bench*" with a link to a copy of his resignation letter. Shadow Works and Pensions Secretary **Rachael Reeves** said she won't return to the front bench after maternity leave. **Ed Miliband** has ruled out working in Corbyn's Cabinet as have Shadow Education Secretary **Tristram Hunt**, **Liz Kendall**, Shadow Communities Secretary **Emma Reynolds**, Shadow Energy Secretary **Caroline Flint**, **Yvette Cooper**, **Chris Leslie** and **Chuka Umunna**.

If that wasn't enough to get the press excited Corbyn goes and appoints the unelected Peer Lord Watson to his Cabinet, not only is he unelected he is a convicted arsonist, having spent 6 months in prison for setting curtains on fire at Edinburgh's Prestonfield House Hotel. In another questionable appointment he has chosen vegetarian Kerry McCarthy as his shadow secretary for environment, food and rural affairs, a vegetarian dealing with farmers?

How will Mr Corbyn fare in Scotland? A powerful Labour/SNP alliance could help put Labour back in power, in exchange for helping Scotland leave the Union peacefully. A Labour Party in an Independent Scotland could play a big role in redesigning the Scottish economy and its government. The SNP are pragmatic, and far from the "Miliband controlled by SNP" scenario used to scare English voters, there could be a tag team of Corbyn and Sturgeon, fighting and disrupting Tory plans for more debt and more poverty.

He has another option of course, if he were to end Labours opposition to Independence or at least declare he is open minded to a second referendum, then some respect would be due. But, he is a supporter of the Union, or is he? Corbyn believes in a unified Ireland, why should he believe in Northern Ireland leaving the Union but not Scotland?

He also has the difficulty of the branch leader here in Scotland, Ms Dugdale. The woman who believed a few weeks before Corbyn's win that he would leave Labour "*carping from the sidelines for years to come*" to declaring him the saviour of Labour on his victory but insists that any saving of Labour in Scotland will be done by her and Jim Murphy's, oops sorry, her cabinet because up here she is the boss. I'm sure it won't take Jeremy Corbyn long to put Kezia Dugdale in her place as a branch manager, just like Chuka Umunna did to Mr Murphy not so long ago.

Please remember if you read in the Newspaper, hear in on the radio or watch it on the nightly news, dont instantly believe what they are telling you. Go research everything for yourself, you will be surprised at what you will find out.

If you would like to contribute an article please contact us via the email address at bottom of this newsletter.

There is an election on 2016 for the Holyrood Parliament – Are you registered to vote?

The system of registration has been changed, so that it is no longer possible for the main householder to register everyone who lives in the house. Each member of the public is responsible for ensuring that they are registered.

It is worth taking the time to check that you are still registered – even if you have voted previously at your current address. And, even those who have registered recently should be keeping watch.

A teenage girl let me know that she recently registered as she has turned 16 and wanted to be able to vote at the Holyrood election. She dutifully completed her registration online, and received a letter from the Electoral Registration Officer stating that she had been added.

Imagine her surprise when she got a letter at the weekend asking her to re-register to confirm her eligibility!

If you have any doubts at all, then contact your Electoral Registration Office and verify that you are indeed registered. Don't leave it to see if you receive a Polling Card – by then it is too late. Don't be left without a voice in the upcoming elections – make sure that your registration is up to date – NOW.

Also, remember children who turn sixteen before May 5th 2015 can register to vote right now.

Register online at: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or contact your local electoral office, usually the Local Authority HQ.

Next Issue: 7 October

Have a look at our website at www.freedomofinformation.scot Request bulletins by email; FOInews@virginmedia.com