



NEWSLETTER

SNP Dumfriesshire Constituency Association

January 2012

Issue 12.01

From the Editor

Dear Members

Welcome to our first edition of the SNP Dumfries Branch newsletter. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a *Guid New Year*.

I hope this newsletter will prove to be helpful in our endeavors to keep everyone informed of all that is taking place at our next meeting as well as what is happening in our area.

I would like to stress that this is your newsletter and therefore hope you will all contribute to it.

If any member has something they wish to say I will be happy to include it in the newsletter.

If you wish to inform other members about events taking place in your area then this is the place to advertise them. Editor

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All reports, letters and items to be included in the next newsletter must be submitted to the editor at the latest by the **17th of February 2012** in order to get the newsletter to all members in time for the next meeting.

**Please note that SNP, organisers and editors of this Newsletter take no responsibility on any material sent for publication. The liability remains with the author or sender at all times*

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AGENDA

SNP Dumfries Constituency Association Meeting

Monday, 30.1.2012, 7pm

Moreig Hotel, Annan Road, Dumfries

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Introduction of new members
4. Minutes of previous meeting
 - Delegate list for spring conference
 - Attendance to Constituency Association Meetings
 - Progress in Newsletter publication
5. Office bearers reports
 - Convener
 - Vice-convener
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Organiser
 - Political Education Officer
6. Feedback from Liaison Committee meeting in Castle Douglas. Key dates and election strategy.
7. Sale of SNP publicity merchandise and gifts.
8. Fund raising.
9. Progress in setting up a new SNP Branch in Annan.
10. Activate participation and volunteers.
11. Articles of Union & Midsteeple
12. Councillors Reports and Local Issues.
13. AOCB
14. Close

Further Scheduled Meetings

27th Feb - 26th March – 30th April – 28th May – 25th June
30th July 2012, Moreig Hotel, 7pm

Annual General Meeting: 26th March 2012

REPORTS

All the Office Bearers' Reports will be available at the monthly meetings.

Councillor's reports:

Alastair Witts: Since the beginning of the New Year there have been two meetings of the Police and Fire Committee mainly dealing with the arrangements for a single Police Force. I've also attended a couple of community council meetings, Loreburn and Caerlaverock. Loreburn are concerned and therefore asking officials questions on the Common Good assets. Held monthly surgeries, attended education committee seminar regarding Curriculum for excellence. Gave talk to Georgetown Secondary pupils on the work of a councillor.

Andrew Wood: David Cameron's interference in Scottish affairs has increased our membership by 1,000 in the first week. Keep it up David.

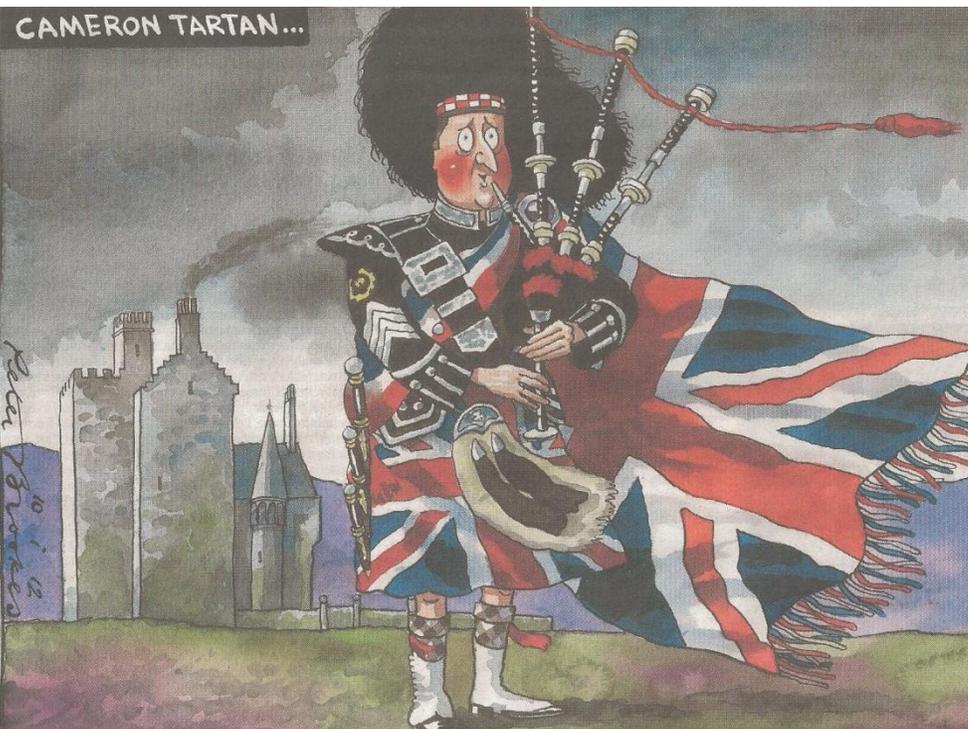
D&G council budgetary debate discussions continue with Labour continuing to demand more info at the same time leaking info. Russell Brown was voting for further privatization of the NHS while saying the opposite.

Good job this is a devolved issue. So nothing new with the labour lot.

I challenged the winter road service after the routes being extend at an extra cost to the annual bill of £70k without any appreciable improvements to the snow and icy conditions.

At long last new bus shelter without the lay-by which makes no sense for Courthill Caravan Park has been agreed.

As chair of the BBC Trust, may I remind all members that the Big Burns Supper Festival, kicks off at 4pm on Friday at the Midsteeple with Fiona Hyslop raising the "year of Creative Scotland flag" from the Steeple.



SNP MEMBERSHIP SOARES - 800 JOIN IN 5 DAYS

Source: www.snp.org

Sat, 14/01/2012 - 09:12

The SNP has this week seen an unprecedented surge in party membership following David Cameron's blundering intervention into Scottish politics on Sunday.

Party chiefs confirmed that 784 new members had joined the SNP since last weekend, boosting party membership by 4% in just 5 days.

Following the revelation that the Tory government plan to dictate the terms of the independence referendum from London, new members have been joining the SNP at a rate of one new member every nine minutes.

Source: The Times, Tuesday, 10 January 2012

GIVE YOUR VIEWS – ONLINE CONSULTATION

The full details of the consultation document, 'Your Scotland, Your Referendum', can be found here –

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/scotreferendum>

Our Favorite receipts:

Blueberry Muffins

This receipt is easy to make and is a great favorite with children.



Ingredients:

225g Self-raising flour
1tsp baking powder
Pinch salt
150g light brown sugar
50g porridge oats (rolled)
1 egg lightly beaten
300ml semi-skimmed milk
1tsp vanilla extract
6tbsp sunflower oil
150g fresh blueberries
2tsp icing sugar

Cooking time: 20 minutes

Makes: 9 Muffins

Method: Preheat oven to 190°C/375°F Gas mark 5. Lightly grease a 9-cup muffin tin or line with paper muffin cases.

Put flour, baking powder, salt and brown sugar in a large bowl and stir together. In another bowl, mix together the oats, egg, milk, vanilla extract and oil, and leave to soak for at least 10 minutes (oats will absorb some of the liquid and thicken the mixture), or soak overnight in refrigerator if preferred.

When ready to bake, stir the blueberries into the wet ingredients, then add this mixture to the dry ingredients and stir briefly until just mixed together but still a little lumpy.

Divide between muffin cups or cases, and then bake for about 20 minutes, or until well-risen, golden brown and firm. Allow muffins to cool in tin for 10 minutes. Lightly dust with icing sugar and serve warm.

You can make up ingredients the night before and just mix together when ready to bake. No hard work involved even the kids can make them.

Weird Law



Don't drink while in possession of a cow in Scotland.

In Scotland it is still illegal to be drunk while in possession of a cow. It is not clear why this law was introduced but it could have been due to many farmers getting drunk at the time! *It was not specified what type of cow!!!*

Did You Know?



The **River Nith** (Scottish Gaelic: Abhainn Nid) rises in the hills of East Ayrshire between Pickeny hill and Enoch hill 7 mile East of Dalmellington. The territory through which it flows is called Nithsdale (historically known as “Stranit” from Scottish Gaelic: Strath Nid “Valley of the Nith”). At low tide the river is extended to 70.7 miles making it Scotland’s 7th longest river.

It has 13 tributaries and 8 settlements.

Robert Burns wrote a few poems about the Nith.

The Banks of Nith

The Thames flows proudly to the sea,
Where royal cities stand;
But *sweeter* flows the Nith to me,
Where Comyns ance had high command;
When shall I see that honour'd land,
That winding stream I love so dear!
Must wayward fortune's adverse hand
For ever, ever keep me here?

SNP Information Page

DUMFRIESSHIRE CONSTITUENCY Association Office Bearers

Convener:	Alistair Witts
Vice-convener:	Ahsan Khan
Secretary:	Sitki Nalci
Treasurer:	June Witts
Organiser:	Iain A Rogers
Political Education Officer:	Hongmei Jin

Have you got any announcements to make or news to give? Birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, sales and wants?

WANTED - committed fund raising ideas.

ARE YOU READY TO USE THE ACTIVATE?

If you are not, please get in touch with Sitki for a short 2 hours training course. You will be amazed with the power of ACTIVATE. Email: sitkinalci@hotmail.co.uk

SNP Dumfriesshire Constituency Association Councillor Candidates for the 2012 Council Elections

Candidate:	Ward:
Alistair Witts	Nith
Yen Hongmei Jin	Lochar
Ron Welsh	Annandale East & Eskdale
Andrew Wood	Mid & Upper Nithsdale

In the next issue of Newsletter all the candidates will have a photograph plus a short paragraph about each published. This I hope will make members more familiar with their candidates.

ACHIEVEMENTS 100

National Achievements since the SNP have been in government. Compiled by Hongmei Jin

1. We have frozen Council Tax for four years, saving the average family more than £300.
2. We've slashed or abolished business rates for some 80,000 small firms and local employers, protecting jobs in tough times.
3. We've put 1,000 more police on Scotland's streets, helping drive crime down to its lowest level in 32 years.
4. We've abolished prescription charges, saving people with long-term illnesses an average of more than £180.
5. We've restored free higher education by ruling out upfront fees and abolishing the £2,300 graduate endowment.
6. We've removed tolls on the Forth and Tay Bridges, saving commuters £184 a year on the Tay, and £207 a year on crossing the Forth
7. We've provided extra funding for Scotland's veteran charities, and ensured our ex-service men and women receive priority treatment in the NHS and other services.
8. We've delivered a record-breaking 25,000 modern apprenticeships in the year ahead – a two-thirds increase on 2007.
9. We've abolished charges at all NHS-run hospital car parks.
10. One million more Scots are registered with the NHS dentist under the SNP Government.

10 MORE ON THE NEXT ISSUE