

Gordon Craigie




An independent mind...

This month, I'm waiting ...

PROCRASTINATION – I've been meaning to write about this for a while, but I've kept putting it off! In everyday life it's usually simply dismissed as time-wasting or laziness, but procrastination is actually much more complex than that. Dictionary definitions range from the basic "to put off or defer (an action) until a later time" to the more judgemental "the act of delaying something that you should do, usually because you do not want to do it".

Often there can be good reasons for putting something off, as the old truism or cliché "act in haste, repent at leisure" warns us. But it is generally accepted that procrastination tends not to be a positive trait, especially when your editor is sending you ever-more urgent smoke signals demanding your copy for the next issue! In my defence, I've always been more of a "just in time" rather than a "just in case" person but I'm also acutely aware of the need to be prepared well in advance of certain situations and then, well, just get on with it.

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The
Procrastinator's
Meeting
Has Been
Postponed.

Which brings me – finally, after another piece of procrastination! – to the point of this month's musings... what am I waiting for? Well, like everyone else with an interest in Scotland's constitutional future – and that should be all of us – I'm waiting for several things to happen, or to be made clear by those elected to represent our interests. I'm particularly interested in



what will come out of the SNP conference in October, especially as the “no ifs, no buts, no maybes” commitment to a referendum on 19 October has apparently been wiped from the leadership’s collective memory. I’m waiting, anxiously, to see what happens in the upcoming Rutherglen and Hamilton West by-election and I’m waiting, impatiently, to hear some positive mood music emanating from the current SNP leadership regarding working collaboratively with other independence-supporting political parties and organisations – and I’m not entirely confident of good news from any of these.

It’s important to remember that, in addition to the “no ifs, no buts, no maybes” October date, we were also promised a definitive “Democracy Conference” to be held in March this year, a full 4 months after the ill-conceived UK Supreme Court case had apparently stymied the original referendum plan, and 4 months is some heavy-duty procrastination, by the way! Then, after that was cancelled in the wake of Nicola Sturgeon’s unexpected resignation, we’ve been left hanging for another 7 months to the upcoming October conference... procrastination is beginning to sound like a rush-job! Oh, but let’s not forget the June “Independence Convention” talking shop... no, me neither.

In the absence of positive action on independence other factors start to fill the gaps opened up by this procrastination. The UK parties have ramped up their preparations for the next General Election and, with the invaluable assistance of their media stooges, have amplified the SNP-bad stories, sought to sow division both within the SNP and between the SNP and other independence-supporting individuals, parties, and organisations. They have alternately love-bombed (albeit patronisingly!) and threatened (Project Fear II) Scotland while continuing to refuse to acknowledge our rights to... well, just about anything really. There is absolutely no doubt that the Treaty of Union has been breached on so many occasions – and in increasingly more obvious, and sinister, ways – that it is simply no longer valid... as if it ever really was! And the fact that



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our Scottish Government has accepted, indeed invited, the UK Supreme Court to apply English law to a Scottish matter gives me the absolute fear, as does their blithe acceptance of English parliamentary regulations – Henry VIII powers anyone? – that have no relevance to Scotland as they predate the Union.

So, we wait, while our politicians procrastinate and various self-serving, allegedly independence-supporting, commentators pontificate and surreptitiously promote a case for the Scottish branch of the British Labour party to be the answer to our dilemma when their only positive attribute appears to be that they’re not actually (not quite yet anyway!) full-blown Tories.

For me, nothing much has changed from last month. I still hope that Humza Yousaf will make peace with Alex Salmond, though the likelihood of that seems to recede every day despite the occasional glimmer of hope. And I still hope that the SNP will come up with a definitive, coherent, and bold strategy that includes the whole of the independence movement and is prepared to enact that strategy the day after their conference in October. Only then can we be free of this accursed procrastination and bring an end to this interminable waiting. Ah hae ma doots! But, for sure – and with absolutely no ifs, buts, or maybes – Scotland needs to regain her independence at the earliest opportunity and return to being a normal nation state. So, to our politicians I say, please, no more procrastination, just get on with it.

- LATER
- TOMORROW
- NOW