

# There's a love- in Downing

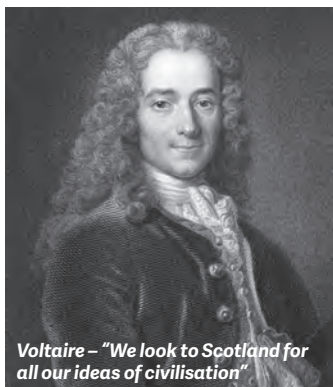


Queensferry Crossing – The bridge unionist politicians love to hate... except when they're claiming credit for it!

MANY FRENCH philosophers were heavily influenced by Scots – Voltaire, for example, is credited with saying, “We look to Scotland for all our ideas of civilisation.” So it’s interesting, to me at least, how often another classic French quotation, by Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr, so accurately sums up the kind of *Groundhog Day* experience that we independistas seem to permanently live in – **“Plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose.”** Aye, the more things change, the more they stay the same...

That’s precisely the feeling that set me off on a wee rant in last month’s issue – *When is enough really enough?* – and

*Aye, the more things change, the more they stay the same...*



Voltaire – “We look to Scotland for all our ideas of civilisation”



Karr – “Plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose”

it reminded me of another couple of things which I wrote away back in 2011 – 9 years ago! – the gists of which are still relevant. To paraphrase Neil Diamond “*Well except for the names and a few other changes, if you’re talking about now, the story’s the same one*”...

## The State broadcaster

*BBC Scotland annoys me! There are many reasons for this, one being that it consistently misses our fine city of Dundee off the weather map. We’ll always see Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen, usually Inverness, and regular appearances from apparently important outposts like Kelso – no disrespect Kelso! Why is that? Is there a conspiracy against Dundee? Actually, there may well be but that’s another rant for another day. No, what’s exercising my ire right now is a rapidly growing dislike of the inaccuracies, spin and unsolicited, thinly disguised opinionated slants contained within their news reporting.*

*Take Reporting Scotland last week as an example, and their feature on the (then) upcoming public sector ‘Day of Action’. Newsworthy, certainly, but presented in a very sinister way didn’t you think? For me, it certainly didn’t help that it was presented by David Henderson, you know, the one who’s far too posh for his own good and with a delivery style that’s way too contrived even by BBC Scotland standards. As an aside, just exactly why do they keep choosing presenters with appalling presentational styles – think Bob Wylie, or his extreme (and extremely irritating) disciple Seonag MacKinnon? And, why are we usually no better informed at the end of one of their tedious pieces than we were at the beginning?*

*Anyway, back to last week and what really irritated me was*