

June 2012

# Keeping In Touch

The Newsletter of Argyll & Bute Conservative and Unionists



Local councillors **Maurice Corry** (Lomond North), **Gary Mulvaney** (Helensburgh Central) and **David Kinniburgh** (Helensburgh and Lomond South).

Gary Mulvaney says, "On behalf of the three of us I would like to say a huge thank you to all members and activists who helped in the recent Local Government elections, whether it be by delivering leaflets, stuffing envelopes, contacting local residents or making a donations to the campaign here in Argyll and Bute - we are so grateful to you. It is only through the hard work of individuals such as yourselves that we can push forward our message of localism into the heart of local government, and make all the communities in this diverse constituency a better place in which to live and work.

## A MESSAGE FROM BILL HANBURY

I would like to echo Gary's message of thanks to all who helped in our campaign over the past few months. We now face the prospect of making headway to build up our Party and widen our membership and activity.

In her New Year speech, Ruth Davidson MSP, our Party Leader, said: *"Our purpose is to decisively shift the balance of power from the hands of politicians into the hands of people and local communities. We believe in people, not in the state and we believe that the bigger the size of the state, the smaller the role left for the individual citizen."*

She added, *"Decades of socialism have dampened our natural capacity for enterprise and hard work but the flame still burns. We can rise again if we learn from recent events and decide that we are determined to make Scotland work."*

We will now fight one of the biggest battles that

Scotland has faced in 300 years. The separatists want to rip Scotland out of the heart of the United Kingdom, and all members and supporters will have an opportunity to get involved in the referendum campaign. I promise you, that as Chairman, I will ensure that Argyll and Bute Conservative and Unionist Association plays its part to ensure we win this battle.

I thank you again, wholeheartedly, for what you already do for the Association and Party locally. The financial generosity and hard work of members never ceases to amaze me. A similar effort will be needed to build our campaigning funds up in the run up to the autumn of 2014 and to that end I enclose some Draw tickets, which I hope you will be able to purchase. I can assure you that all funds raised from this Draw will go towards our campaigning activity.

*Prof. Bill Hanbury, Chairman  
Argyll and Bute Conservative & Unionist Association*

It's time for us to think about what kind of a country we want Scotland to be. Do we want Scotland to continue in the most successful union of nations the world has ever seen - opening doors through the relationships we have built, the treaties we have signed and the alliances that we have forged across the globe? Or do you want Alex Salmond to scrap our union with Wales, England and Northern Ireland - and replace it with a Euro union of 27 nations who don't share our language, our culture, our history, or our currency.

So this referendum **is** a big decision - it's not like an election where you can change your mind five years later. The decision we make here, and now, could change the face of our country forever. So, we are rising to this challenge. The **Conservative Friends of the Union** is open to all who believe, as we believe, that Scotland contributes so much to the United Kingdom and benefits so much in return.

It's not just for our members, our activists or our supporters. It's for anyone in Scotland who wants to help the cause. And yes, work is going on with Labour and the Liberal Democrats, with academics, business leaders, and wider civic Scotland to bring all those who want to champion the United Kingdom together under one banner. We will be a willing partner in that campaign because we know the cause



## Ruth Davidson MSP launches the Conservative Friends of the Union

is greater than all of us and the support we receive will be greater than the sum of its parts.

This debate is about much more than just the pounds in our pocket, although we know the economics are on our side. This debate is as much about our future as our past - although both are on our side. And this debate is about more than our security, safety and influence - although all three are on our side. At its simplest, this debate is about who we are, and who we want to be. It's about nationality, identity and belonging. It's about being Scottish **and** British - and not having to choose between the two, about not letting Alex Salmond take one of them away.

Our task is to take our positive message to people right across our country. To help the silent majority - and it is a majority - to find its voice. To stand up proud of who we are. Because we **are** a United Kingdom, and Scotland **is** better off in Britain. I hope you can all play your part in the coming months, and you can start now by logging on to our website below and registering your support. Together, we can win.

[www.conservativefriendsoftheunion.com](http://www.conservativefriendsoftheunion.com)

### CONTACT THE ASSOCIATION

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### MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Ruth Davidson has set about revitalising the Party, including launching a new approach to policy making which will give every member the opportunity to take part.

Ruth has also launched a new members campaign and all members have been sent a request to assist in recruiting new members. If you could each persuade **one** person to join us, what a difference that would make, both towards our campaigning ability and our financial resources. Please contact the office if you are able to help us recruit new members.