
Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by dws - 2007/08/22 10:33

The Herald

So Wendy's kicking against Westminster and made the big U-turn perhaps towards fiscal autonomy - or is it merely posturing to calm the mob?

Personally I hope it's the former - if Ms Alexander is indeed prepared to discuss matters fiscal it's a refreshing change from the previous Labour position of denial.

I know she's one of Gordons favourites but will she escape his wrath because of that? To have a "Scottish Labour Party" as opposed to a "Labour Party in Scotland" is more than a play on words - it gives the scope of Labour in Holyrood breaking from the Westminster party line - something that Jack McConnell either couldn't or wouldn't do. I don't know if she'll live up to the "Genius" tag foisted upon her by some - and her opening "caterpillar" speech was an embarrassment - but it would be healthy to have a strong opposition in Holyrood.

If Wendy Alexander is indeed serious then she has her work cut out - but fair play to her and I sincerely wish her luck.

Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by Robin T Cox - 2007/08/23 16:52

Wendy seems like a very nice lady: but is she a credible leader for the horny handed sons and daughters of toil in Scotland? Does she possess the clout? Can she kick ass?

Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by dws - 2007/08/24 19:20

Robin T Cox wrote:

Wendy seems like a very nice lady: but is she a credible leader for the horny handed sons and daughters of toil in Scotland? Does she possess the clout? Can she kick ass?

Time will tell - but she'll have to sort her own party out before turning on the SNP - they'll drop her like a hot brick if they sense an opportunity in it.

Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by Ebb - 2007/08/31 08:52

Hmmmm, I'm not so sure, When I get the feeling of sincerity and honesty from her then perhaps she'll have a chance but the whole of her party just comes across as unbelievable at the moment. they say she is very clever, she'll need to be a magician I reckon.

Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by TLJ - 2007/09/01 09:30

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article2364419.ece>

She's now arguing for independence for London :laugh: !!!

Post edited by: TLJ, at: 2007/09/01 10:30

Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by The Laird - 2007/09/01 09:37

Nice one:lol:

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Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by dws - 2007/09/14 11:22

{youtube}3I0bCTMsm2g{/youtube}

Oh dear! Who didn't read the document then?:laugh:

Also check out her coupon at the end - priceless!:laugh:

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Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by Kinghob - 2007/09/16 22:10

Wendy Alexander appeared unable to even breathe fresh air, let alone actually be described as "a breath of fresh air" (presumably for labour in Scotland rather than for Scotland herself) or at least that is the impression given judging by the expression on her face when a half decent politician representing Scottish interests gave a retort.

I remain unconvinced that she, or the Labour scottish branch of Westminster are going to be in a position to actually do much than blatantly fail to represent Scottish interests in their chosen method of opposition.

I wondered if there was a way that this site could have an area where all the youtube or other internet broadcasting systems could be available on this site exclusively (warts and all, nothing sycophantic as I believe the host would adhere to anyway having a bit of knowledge on his nature).

There is no proper collection of interviews, political programs or other such information in the media of film footage readily available that I am aware of.

We could even have a special section where George Foulkes' words of wisdom could be available to apply some coherent and rational counter-balance to what the new Scottish Government are about. :woohoo:

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Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by TLJ - 2007/09/17 07:08

Kinghob wrote:

I wondered if there was a way that this site could have an area where all the youtube or other internet broadcasting systems could be available on this site exclusively (warts and all, nothing sycophantic as I believe the host would adhere to anyway having a bit of knowledge on his nature).

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I think you are going along a line I had been thinking about - having a sort of virtual reference library of publicly available documents (which, of course could include video/audio recordings). It's easily enough done.

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Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by Ebb - 2007/09/18 20:45

superb idea Kinghob, I'd like to see that.

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Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by Kinghob - 2007/09/19 22:23

I reckon it would be well hit by those looking for such things. Personally i have to trawl all over the shop to get footage of stuff, particularly political highlights such as Wendy Alexander on Newsnight last night, her ineptness obviously makes sure that some media type makes it difficult to find for all to see and have an opinion on.

I particularly find that Newsnight is a Newsnightmare when it comes to finding the Scottish program, and some of the interviews have been the best for years!

Same with that politics now programme, it is much more difficult for the union brigade to drone on and hog the news nowadays, but no easier to access the information or footage after the fact.

If I can help in any manner i would LJ, even if it was some dosh, as I believe it would be innovative, and pput this site on the map.

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Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by dws - 2007/09/24 11:05

Alexander will go on attack, but without naming names

So the Herald's gone from "Wendy" to "Alexander"? Interesting....

In the draft of her speech...

We will return to being a party of principle and energy - a party committed to changing itself and to changing Scotland, and a party fit to fight and fit to govern.

So, by implication, she is admitting that Labour were not a party of principle and energy?:blink:

Back in the 1990s, Labour had to modernise to win....There were a few in our party north of the border who thought modernisation wasn't for us. They were wrong.

What Labour realised in England a decade ago, we need to face up to in Scotland today.

To regain the trust of the Scottish people, Labour in Scotland needs to change and needs to reform.

Translation:- To all you Old Labour - you've been rumbled by the plebs. Get with the program and appear to be upbeat and full of empathy. Do as I say and stop stabbing me in the back.

It won't work, I'm afraid. The electorate are already sick of New Labour...been there, done that, seen through them....so giving us an updated version of 1997 "Things can only get better" is grasping at straws. Perhaps if you tried the socialist values of the original party you just might get somewhere....but I doubt it.

Blaming everything on the previous incumbents of your position won't wash either. You may want to give the impression of independent thought from Westminster but you're one of Gordon Brown's proteges and everyone knows it. You're fooling no-one.

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Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by Levenax - 2007/09/25 15:38

dws wrote: The electorate are already sick of New Labour...

Well I'm not so sure. If Gordy called an election next month I think he would have a fair chance of winning even if, as seems likely, Labour took a pasting in Scotland because of the popularity of the SNP. The downside for Wendy and her chums is that ranks of Labour's mostly deadleg Westminster MPs would be reduced and the calls for Scots MPs to reduce their voting powers would increase. The opposition in England is in disarray with Cameron making a hash of being Mr Niceguy and the Lib Dems descending even further into farce so Labour are gaining ground by default and not by merit.

Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by dws - 2007/09/25 16:37

Levenax wrote:

The opposition in England is in disarray with Cameron making a hash of being Mr Niceguy and the Lib Dems descending even further into farce so Labour are gaining ground by default and not by merit.

You're right of course, Gordon Brown has no viable opposition at Westminster. I was referring to Wendy Alexander's anticipated fiefdom of Scotland, where the voter's have got an alternative, and it showed in May. Despite the negative campaign of doom and gloom by Labour, despite the unbelievably biased media coverage against the SNP, Labour were crow-barred out of power.

More of the same won't get them back in - quite the reverse.

Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by Kinghob - 2007/09/26 20:27

Absolutely true dws.

Brown would win an election, but the public of the British Isles are aware that they are choosing between two bowls of shite.

In Scotland it would be different, but in the time-scale of a snap election it would be difficult to make as big an impact than if we wait a while.

Still reckon Brown might get a few surprising kickings UK wide, let alone in Scotland and personally, speaking as a mere pleb, I'd wait a while if I were UK Labour. That's why they were crapping their pants to announce such a thing as a snap election when they have the best opportunity ever in their bloody UK conference!

But waiting is good for Scotland.

What a dilemma, who would have thought that Scottish politics could be at last interesting, and who would have thought that being a gravy train Westminster type, or even Holyrood type could be shown clearly as being for an average future in Scotland when it comes to gaining votes.

Well, I have thought this would happen for a few years now, and 'fruition' does indeed come to mind. None of what occurs being particularly detrimental to the current Scottish Government unless they start attending sex clubs for a nipple tweaking they can get all too easily from their wives or husbands should the need arise.

Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by dws - 2007/10/03 20:03

Alexander allowance 'too small'

Wee Wendy thinks she can't cope on her allowance in opposition:laugh: :laugh:

I didn't hear her moan that much in power, in fact was she not a strong critic of opposition having more funds?
{youtube}RKdxprjVsnk&NR=1{/youtube}
You couldn't make it up.:lol: :lol: :lol:

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Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by dws - 2007/10/04 09:14

Here she is apologising at conference ("The bare-faced cheek...they voted us out") - and claiming the Tories and the SNP are in cahoots. I wonder what her new-found friend Annabel Goldie would have to say to that?:dry:

{youtube}JCng5wtal1o{/youtube}

Keep it up, Wendy...you're playing a blinder!:silly:

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Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by Kinghob - 2007/10/07 20:22

DWS: Here she is apologising at conference ("The bare-faced cheek...they voted us out") - and claiming the Tories and the SNP are in cahoots.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/graphics/2007/09/13/nbrown313.jpg>
The reality of who is in cahoots with the tories, a fervent admirer is Gordon

http://stovebend.us/fark/bag_thatcher_large.jpg
The same picture in the rose tinted mind of Wendy Alexander

Bet Broon wishes the second image was the recorded version now!

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Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by dws - 2007/10/12 12:32

In light of the recent controversy pertaining to the Foot & Mouth aid (or lack of), Defra, Mr. Benn. et al where is wee Wendy?

She's not usually as backward at coming forward but as yet her silence is deafening. Could it be she's been told to haud her wheesht by her bosses dpwn south - or, as I suspect, been told "If you can't disagree with Alex Salmond, say nothing at all."

Well, Wendy?

Hello.....:dry:

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Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by dws - 2007/10/17 16:29

Thought I'd share this wee gem that appeared on youtube (Footage of Ms Alexander's gaffe's are hard to come by)

{youtube}NIGjr0h2wvQ{/youtube}

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Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by dws - 2007/10/23 13:08

And here's Wendy's position on Trident.

{youtube}Rtucsgl0UFU{/youtube}

No. I still don't know what her position is, either.:dry:

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Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by Kinghob - 2007/10/25 21:42

I wish these videos could be collated and accesible in one thread appropriately titled-warts and all of course including the SNP where they fail or are ineffective, and obviously not just Wendy wearing a reject romper room pyjama set straight from the 1950's on live tv.

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Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by dws - 2007/10/26 19:20

Kinghob wrote:

I wish these videos could be collated and accesible in one thread appropriately titled-warts and all of course including the SNP where they fail or are ineffective, and obviously not just Wendy wearing a reject romper room pyjama set straight from the 1950's on live tv.

I'm all for that, Kinghob. I don't blindly support a party and am under no illusion that anyone is beyond reproach. However, despite the media coverage Alex Salmond has so far played a blinder. Should he (ever) be up against a decent opposition perhaps any weakness he has will be put under scrutiny; but the constant "broken promise" mantra is becoming so repetitive and tiresome I fear that if he ever does fall on his arse, no one will believe it after the deluge of crying wolf.

Wendy Alexander however is not doing herself any favours. In repeating the Westminster party line ad nauseum she is digging herself a hole which, should the winds of change ever sweep over New Labour, will leave her dead and buried.

If media coverage were more balanced, I might be more critical of the SNP. But attitude breeds attitude and action, reaction. If the SNP continues to have no support in the media, then fairminded folk will be more inclined to redress the balance on forums such as these.

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Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by Kinghob - 2007/10/26 23:39

Political videos could easily be given their own section on the Scotsgait site, hopefully in a very obvious and prominent position.

A public service and a half if it was advertised imaginatively.

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Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by dws - 2007/11/13 17:21

In today's Herald.

U-turn claims on pledge of extra police

I won't belabour (no pun intended) the obvious bias in the headline, but we have quotes from all in sundry.

Kenny MacAskill said:

What matters to the public is the ability of the police to respond to local problems and the key to the police service's ability to respond is not its overall size, but its capacity - the right people with the right skills in the right place at the right time.

That is why this government's approach is based on building the capacity of the police service in Scotland to respond.

Pauline Macneill said:

Before the election the SNP said very clearly that they would recruit an extra 1000 police officers. Less than six months into government, they admit they will only hire half of this

Bill Aitken said:

They have finally admitted this key manifesto pledge was nothing more than a con. Protection of the public should be the first duty of any government. For the SNP, it is the first promise they have broken. That is shameful

Nicol Stephen said:

...complete sham (on a) crystal clear (election promise)

Wendy Alexander said:

That's right, no "broken promises", nothing.

Why, you may ask, is she not rushing to condemn such a travesty? Mmmm. Oh, wait a minute, here's a clue:

Alex Salmond is Robin Hood in reverse by a certain David Cairns, Labour MP for Inverclyde and Minister of State at the Scotland office, taken from the Guardian, November 7th 2007

Spending on police is 25% lower per head in Scotland. The losers? Working-class communities, such as the ones I represent in Inverclyde, who suffer from a higher rate of crime.

So, unless Mr Cairns expects us to believe that this state of affairs came about in the last six months, this is an admission that the previous administration policing policy was woefully inadequate.

"We botched it but you're not doing enough to rectify it."

Rank hypocrisy? The joy of politics....dry:

Macavity Brown has trained his protege well - when you know your party's going to fall on its ears, keep schtum and distance yourself.

You can then deny all when all Hell breaks loose.

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Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by dws - 2007/12/18 22:15

Well, she's shown her true colours, hasn't she?

She's now hiding under the duvet, throwing up a few bullets for Nicol Stephen to fire and hoping the Scottish media blackout will see her through. Despite the fact that certain members of the electoral commission have given her donations and therefore hardly impartial, I think she'll still get her comeuppance for such behaviour (as will those who are in the quagmire with her).

P.S. To whomever is smiting my karma:- fill your boots but at least have the guts to post your argument (that is, if you

have one).

Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by woodysdad - 2007/12/18 22:51

Funny the change in this thread since it was started, eh?:laugh:

Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by dws - 2007/12/18 23:22

woodysdad wrote:

Funny the change in this thread since it was started, eh?:laugh:

Woodysdad, the truth will out!;)

Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by Jimbo - 2007/12/19 00:15

I've been away for a few days and haven't seen a Scottish (?) paper since last Thursday. I'm getting snippets that there's been another Wendy scandal about handing over taxpayers money to a Labour friendly company but can't find anything about this in the Herald.

Has anybody got a link or update for this story please?

Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by Levenax - 2007/12/19 00:34

Yup, it was discussed on the Herald Forum

<http://forum.theherald.co.uk/viewtopic.php?t=580&postdays=0&postorder=asc&start=45>

IMO this is just as reprehensible as being in a muddle about donations from overseas. This time they were giving OUR money to a wholly owned Labour Party company for a service that all MSPs already have access to that WE already pay for via the Parliament. This is great for CfL because it helps their cashflow but really bad for Scottish taxpayers and disastrous for the already tattered reputation of shambolic labour in Scotland.

Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by Jimbo - 2007/12/19 00:43

Levenax wrote:

Yup it was discussed on the Herald Forum

<http://forum.theherald.co.uk/viewtopic.php?t=580&postdays=0&postorder=asc&start=45>

Thanks for the link Levenax, much obliged to you.

I see it was DWS who was right in there with the news. As he points out, if this was good enough for the Sunday Times, how come it didn't rate a mention up here? Our so called Scottish press is a joke.

Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

Posted by Jimbo - 2007/12/21 23:44

dws wrote:

P.S. To whomever is smiting my karma:- fill your boots but at least have the guts to post your argument (that is, if you have one).

Hi DWS,

I wouldn't bother too much about it. On the contrary I'd look on it as a badge that you're getting up some unionist's nose. Let's keep it up and see who can get the worst karma (Kinghob's got a great start though).

I notice that it is only those with a nationalist bent who are having their karma smitten. Probably the likes of councillor Braveheart or one of that ilk is on this forum under one of their many guises.

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Re:Wendy Alexander - a breath of fresh air?

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dws wrote:

Robin T Cox wrote:

Wendy seems like a very nice lady: but is she a credible leader for the horny handed sons and daughters of toil in Scotland? Does she possess the clout? Can she kick ass?

Time will tell - but she'll have to sort her own party out before turning on the SNP - they'll drop her like a hot brick if they sense an opportunity in it.

And all this time later, with more daggers in her back than Julius Caesar, she stumbles off to the back benches...

Nice try but no cigar.:dry:

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