Jeff to Ruth

Vote indeed Ruth. And register. Otherwise there is not much can be done when faced with EDL-type protests organised by, and through, social media. They do have BNP/PUP edging with Willie Frazer nipping in hoping to take up the Nigel Farage/UKIP mantle but that does not seem predominant.  
  
The PUP of course had a 'designated days' policy for flags until last November, while the Protestant paramilitary leaders' widows are recommending respectively learning the Irish language (Mrs Ervine) and witchcraft (Mrs McMichael). Yes I haven't made it up.  
  
The Unionist Forum which is Peter Robinson releasing a fraction of his hegemonic position in unionism is a good try.  
  
However the place where we need leadership is from the Alliance Party who have never had to make a hard decision until now, and then fluffed it.   
  
On gay marriage they managed to split 50:50 in the Assembly despite the party policy favouring it. No discipline ensued and few liberals complained.   
  
Instead of hectoring us on the airwaves, Naomi Long should announce a review of their flag decision. The party view on flags as expressed by former leader Lord and his brother David Alderdice is depressingly naive (see attachment).  
  
They had no electoral mandate to vote to change the Belfast policy and tried foolishly to triangulate because they have no Unionist instincts. They are more Corrymeela than political. The LibDem third is outvoted by the Protestant Protestants (not unionist), and the Catholic Catholics (not nationalists). Significantly Alliance has no presence in nationalist majority areas which is indicative of their 'transitional' role.  
  
Alliance hangers-on are dominating the upper end of the social media and the minds of most journalists but only display an unconscionable snobbery about under-educated loyalists. Chav chasing is a new Olympic sport, and this from those who are normally shroud-waving about working class deprivation. When they are not being snooty, they and nationalists are recommending hang'em and flog'em measures by the PSNI with dawn raids and the like.  
  
OK, the Belfast Agreement maintained the union and institutionalised consent in the south. That never meant Republicanism was not continuing down the long road to a united Ireland, best effected by further decimating the Protestant proportion of the population, through demoralisation and subsequent emigration.   
  
The only obstacle the census showed up was the huge and continuing increase in the immigrant population. Parts of South Belfast now are more Somali and Romanian  - more Mogadishu and Bucharest than Protestant or Catholic - not quite Southall or Hackney level yet.  
  
Sinn Fein, ably assisted by the SDLP, are about neutralising, neutering, and then deracination. In Newry, they went past and through their interim 'bare walls' policy by naming a play park after the Kingsmill killer. That was for the future but the future has arrived. (No Alliance condemnation that I recall).   
  
This may be an ethnic view and a reaction to witless moderates but it is accurate.  
  
Jeff