

new Labour for Britain

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The place that is most special to me is probably the beach in Fife where I proposed to Sarah on the first day of the Millennium. My choice of words may not have been perfect ('I'd like to get married soon. Please'), my ring even less so (in fact I didn't have one, as I'd been too nervous about it getting into the papers and ruining the surprise if I bought one) – but my location choice was perfect.

We went back to that same beach and took the kids there, ten years to the day, on our Christmas break this year. I have since made it up to Sarah with an eternity ring, and the boys loved seeing where the story of our family began.

I've always loved the Fife coastline – and whenever I walk along it I think about Adam Smith, the great son of Kirkcaldy, looking out on the same view and thinking through his theories of trade while watching goods leave Fife by the sea. I did my own thinking about economics in the towns and villages of Fife – seeing their industries decimated by Tory policies in the 80s, yet seeing how well communities took care of one another even in the darkest times. It was those memories I turned to when dealing with the financial crisis and the lessons of those days that told me unemployment is never a price worth paying.

Fife is not just where I grew up, or the area I represent in parliament. It is my inspiration and my home – and I am proud that it is one of the most beautiful places on earth.

Gordon Brown

Rt Hon Gordon Brown
Prime Minister and Leader of the Labour Party