

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 7 – April 2019



## Editorial

Spring is here and welcome too. Our first cuckoo was first heard in late March – rather a croak than the usual warble. Whilst the idle and tax-funded Members recess - what an archaic word to use for what many would call a holiday from Westminster – VAPP are soon to hold their first Annual General Meeting. This event we hope will be the springboard to energise the Party and members.

This issue will feature further recently appointed Party candidate bios: Richard Pearse (Devon), Martyn Kenyon (Salford), George Reid (Lincolnshire), Guy Wilson (Portsmouth) and Alex Savage (Peterborough), with a campaign statement by Julie Cooper (Stockton on Tees). We also have an article on the recent government initiative on the NHS – a 10-year Long Term Plan.

Come the 26<sup>th</sup>, my colleagues and I very much look forward to meeting and talking to as many of you as the day will allow, and a report on the day's proceedings will appear in May's Newsletter.

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### It's competition time!

A bottle of wine is on offer to the person who can come up with a suitable title for the Newsletter. A good title has eluded your editorial team.

Give it a go!

You can email your suggestions by clicking [here](#).

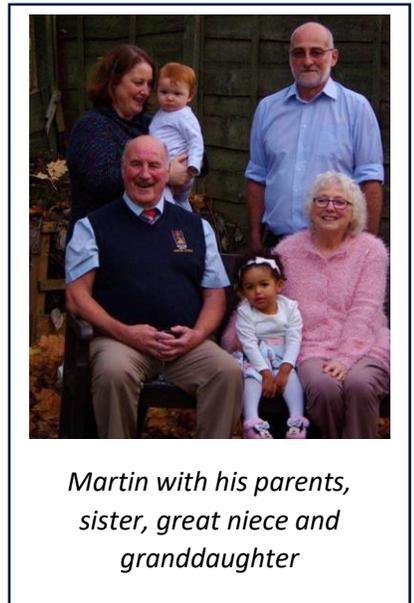


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## Candidate Biographies

### 1. *Martin Kenyon*

Born 21 July 1966 in Bolton, Lancashire.



*Martin with his parents, sister, great niece and granddaughter*

I attended the local Comprehensive school, where I gained 9 GCEs ('O' Levels), captained the school rugby team and played for the town school boys team.

I then went on to study Polymer Science and Technology at Manchester Polytechnic (now Manchester Metropolitan University) followed by approximately 20 years working

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in the polymer processing industry. I am now a Technical and Product Training Manager within the waterproofing industry, working overseas, mainly in mainland Europe.

A committed evangelical Christian, I studied for a Bachelor's degree in Biblical & Applied Theology. I am a frequent Biblical teacher and lay preacher in local churches. Also, I have been church Treasurer and Deacon.

Born and raised in a socialist home and family, from an early adult age, I defied family convention and supported the Conservative Party for many years, volunteering and campaigning at Local and General elections - always the Bridesmaid, never the Bride. Although often encouraged by Party officials and members to become their candidate; the timing was never quite right.

Married, for the second time, I have three adult children and three adult step children, and a granddaughter. I live in Salford, Greater Manchester with my tireless supporter and wife, Alison, a senior manager within the NHS.

I would describe myself as patriotic, honest and hard-working, with a desire to see a society based on mutual respect, courage and integrity.

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## 2. Richard Pearse MBA BA [Hons] CMgr FCMI FIC



I am now retired, age 61, living in Brimley, Bovey Tracey. I have been happily married to Cathy for 25 years in July and we have 4 grown children, all following their dreams, studying their chosen paths for their futures. Like many of us, I am grateful to live safely In Bovey Tracey with my family with easy access to some of the most beautiful countryside South Devon has to offer.

I am a Chartered Manager [CMgr] and a Chartered Fellow [FCMI] of the Chartered Management Institute UK. I am also a Fellow [FIC] of the Institute of Consulting UK. As a former Managing Director of a Wealth Management Company, I was awarded 5 Regional Business Awards and shortlisted for [2 National Business Awards](#)

I have worked as a University Business Management lecturer teaching on the MBA and MSc Business Management and Finance degrees. I have also worked as a Business Management Consultant and I continue to volunteer as a Lay Minister to the local community. This means I can draw from experience gained from the Private, Public and Charity Sectors in serving you if elected.

Why serve in Local Politics? I believe Local Politics presents an exciting and demanding opportunity for the right person, like me, who is strongly motivated to serve by using my talents and time to benefit my local community. I accept it will take time to learn the duties of the office and also to know the challenges we all face in our local community lives.

Thankfully, we have some good Town Councillors who do their utmost to serve us and I am grateful for their efforts. I believe, in joining that group of Town Councillors, I can bring new strength and fight for those things for which our local community feel they are lacking support.

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### ***Become a Volunteer***

*We can achieve far more together than we can apart.*

*Please click [here](#) to apply to become a UKVPP volunteer.*

### 3. George Reid



I live in Algarkirk, Boston, Lincolnshire with my partner of 14 years and two of my three children (the eldest being married and expecting her first child).

I have worked in public services since the age of 17 in the Army, Police, Education, local government and the NHS. My varied career gives me a unique insight into the lives of the people of the United Kingdom; their fears, aspirations and needs.

I have grown tired of self-serving politicians and the big political parties, who only serve their own agenda and shun the needs and ambitions of the electorate.

Finding VAPP has given me focus. I desire to be part of a team that wants to make a difference in British politics and for the people of the United Kingdom, offering them a party

that has morals, integrity and values with which they can identify.

Being selected as a candidate is a great honour for me. I am excited to be at the forefront of the party's fight to build a better and brighter future for all of us.

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### 4. Guy Wilson



Guy Wilson is standing as VAPP's candidate for the Paulsgrove Ward, an area of northern Portsmouth, Hampshire,

He is a retired Royal Naval veteran who served for 24 years. He reached the rank of Petty Officer and specialised in weapons. He became an instructor teaching different ranks in weapon handling.

Guy served on HMS Sheffield on 1982 in the Falklands war and fortunately escaped physical injury but suffered many years later through PTSD.

Since he retired, he has enjoyed helping other veterans and people through their mental traumas and is a hobbyist designer in digital art and uses his talent to support many military charities.

Guy loves dogs, and enjoys walking his dog, films and writing. He has had a book and some of his poetry published.

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### 5. Alex Savage



My name is Alex Savage, I live with my wife of 35 years in the Dogsthorpe area of Peterborough and I am 65 years old. We have 6 children, 7 grandchildren and one great grandchild, most of who live in the area as well. I am a manager of a public house in the town centre and a member of the British Institute of Inn-keeping. I am a military veteran with 17 years' service in the Royal Air Force.

I believe that local politics can be an exciting and demanding place to be, with those who serve giving their time to learn the needs of the community while fighting to make good those areas where things have failed.

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### Campaign Statement by Julie Cooper, Stockton on Tees

#### My Story, My Aims



Raised in Stockton, I moved out of the UK at twenty-five and returned 8 years ago to open a business in my home town. What I was about to learn was upsetting: my once thriving hometown, now standing with belittled markets, empty shops, failing businesses, an ever-increasing crime rate with not enough police to tackle this, and cut backs where we cannot take cut backs.

I am not about to make promises I cannot keep, I will

however try, with the help of the public, to make small lasting changes. I would firstly concentrate on our youths – those who are currently vandalising, bullying, growing up on the streets, I get to see this first hand; see them moving to drugs and drinking at such a young age. I want to look at where we can make sensible, adjusted, cut backs and provide a space to allocate funded youth clubs. Also, to look at rolling out more education on underage drinking and bring in harsher fines and penalties for serving children.

I intend to initiate a plan to rejuvenate empty spaces on the high street; to bring back local retailers, resourcing ways to assist small businesses so that they can step back onto the high street. I want to work in unison of current spends on our high street to bring footfall back.

I propose to work with Tees Valley support providers to tackle to the rising issue of homelessness, sign posting people to safety and secure placements.

#### Julie "The Voice of the People"

- ❖ *Looking to bring our youths off the streets*
- ❖ *Working on bringing small local businesses back to the high street*
- ❖ *Securing safe signposting procedures for our homeless*

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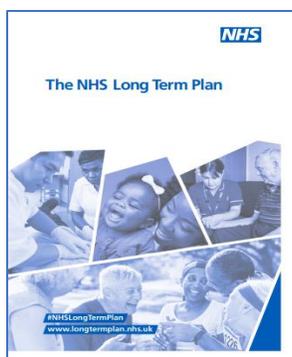
## The National Health Service Long-Term (10 Year) Plan -2019

by Tony Duignan

Earlier this year the government revealed their [10-year NHS Long Term Plan](#) (LTP). An ambitious project which they hope will ease the present burden placed on services and ensure sustainability well into future years. A principle thrust of the Plan is to keep people healthier for longer, recognising that good healthcare does not stop with healthcare itself. To work successfully, governments need to work in harmony and closer with local governments, charities, fitness and sporting organisations. There are many key public points, including: smoking, diabetes, obesity, antimicrobial resistance, mental health, gambling (many people suffer from the effects and side-effects of serious gambling addiction impacting on their families). In the latter, the government could and perhaps should cap the amount and frequency of gambling adverts particularly on Sky sports programmes – it is over-kill and very tempting to vulnerable gamblers.

It will come as no surprise to learn that the Plan received a mixed reception as the focus on

good health and well-being should jolt many from their sedentary lifestyles, but more needs and must be done particularly with the elderly and disabled. Come on government, don your tracksuits and lead by example. Nearly all Far East countries have essential government programmes to encourage 'fitness' regimes. Many will have seen or experienced these whilst on holiday; for example, the early morning mass exercises of Tai Chi in China, Vietnam, etc.



The Plan is some 134 pages long and, if delivered as outlined, will undoubtedly improve and enhance the lives of many. However, problems exist in many sectors: the NHS workforce, staffing of the Plan, bureaucracy, funding, efficiency savings and outsourcing mentality of some Ministers based on the false god of 'cost-cutting'. Scant proof exists to support the Department of Health claims on the latter. That said, the government should

rightly be applauded on their focus of improving external hospital/clinical services with joined-up personal and preventative care for their patients.

There is still much to do to improve the Service and get the most out of funding for the NHS and many of the focus or key areas are really no-brainers: cancer prevention and treatments, mental health improvements, smoking, alcohol addictions. The public must not harbour any illusions about the huge task ahead and the scale and scope of future challenges, but this is an initiative that the Party could welcome and support. The workforce challenge is at the worst manning level for decades; according to some reports there is a shortage of up to 100,000 staff throughout the NHS.

Lastly, it now appears that for any government initiative there is a contra somewhere along the line. Prior to last Christmas the government sneaked through some £85 million cuts to local health public grants. Then they have the nerve to ask the NHS 'sickness service' to take on public health commitments, despite displaying no interest or experience in prevention. This smacks of sheer incompetency and stupidity at ministerial level.

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**P.S.**

Can all who receive this Newsletter share it with friends, family and those who share the same aims and objectives of the Party.

*Spread the word!*

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**Support VAPP**

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