

NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 – July 2018



Editorial

Welcome to the Party's official Newsletter. The purpose of the letter is to be informative in supporting our Party, political agenda, and to reflect just what and who we are as a Party.

It is our intention to have a regular publishing schedule bringing you news of the Party, policies, events and up and down the country. We also want to hear from the membership at large, after all it is your Newsletter.

A regular feature will be letters to the editor – we want to hear your views, suggestions and local events of note, so please [drop us a line](#).

Become a Member today.
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Why I started the Veterans' and People's Party

by *Damian McAndrew*

The party was started after a discussion on Facebook, I took the initiative to create a group after others didn't seem prepared to take the first step, despite there being a large number of people agreeing that it would be a good idea and a good thing for the nation.

Initially the group on Facebook was created to test whether there was enough interest in there being a political party created by veterans, sharing it among the veterans' groups I was in.

Within a matter of days, I had amassed the first thousand group members.

I knew that it would be a viable option if we could keep that growth going and also get members of the public interested in the party,



knowing that a party only voted for by veterans had no chance of being elected. I made the first public post asking for people to volunteer and help the group grow into the political force that I know the party can be.

Where the idea for the party came from

The idea for the party came from a post on a veterans group on Facebook on the run-up to the 2017 general election.

We were discussing how unsuitable the main parties were and that we really needed a new party the nation could get behind and show MPs that we had had enough of their self-serving ways.

Editors:

Helen Wemyss

Tony Duignan

all queries to: communications@ukveteransandpeoplesparty.org

My vision for the party

My vision was to create a political party which, instead of being either a left or right leaning party, would be a true centralist party using ideas from both sides. This would see a political party working from those areas that people most wanted to see happen, building a nation that people could once again be proud of, and be the political envy of major parties around the world as it had once been.

How I moved the party forward to where it is today

After my first post asking for volunteers to help with the party I found that I had people willing to help, that were happy helping in different areas, and getting people interested in the party by spreading the message further afield, becoming known among people. Sadly, some of these were in it for their own gain and not the best interests of the party so I needed to find new volunteers to help turn what seemed like only a pipe dream at this point into a real political party that could effect change for the nation. Thankfully I found such people who were happy to help and within a matter of months we managed to do just that, going from being just an idea on a Facebook

group to being a fully registered political party.

Where I would like to see the party in the future

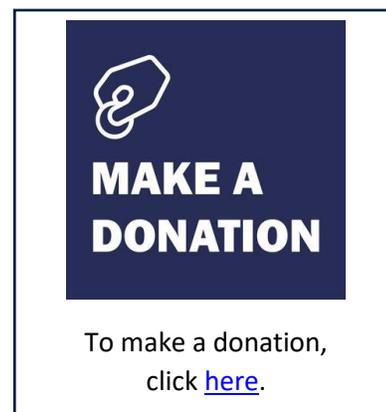
I would like to see the party being not only in power but being revolutionary in how it does things, from ending the reign of the career politician to having people in office not just on their merit but on the fact that they have experience in that area of expertise, for example a Health Secretary that actually has front line experience of working in the NHS and knows exactly where its strengths and weaknesses lie and what needs to be done to improve them.

I believe that with the correct people working for the party we can do just that. I don't want a party that makes decisions on what it **thinks** people want but actually goes out and **asks** them what they want, at a grass roots level alongside a national and international level. Thus, creating a unique political party that listens to what the electorate want and showing them that we are a party with new thinking and that we are there to serve them and not ourselves unlike most of the career politicians currently in power.

Final note

I would like to also take a moment to thank everyone who has shown their support for the party financially as we are so far funded on small donations, memberships and merchandise sales, as the Veterans' and People's Party receive no state funding and, unlike the Labour Party, we do not receive large donations from the trade unions, similarly, unlike the Conservative Party, we receive no large donations from large multi-national corporations.

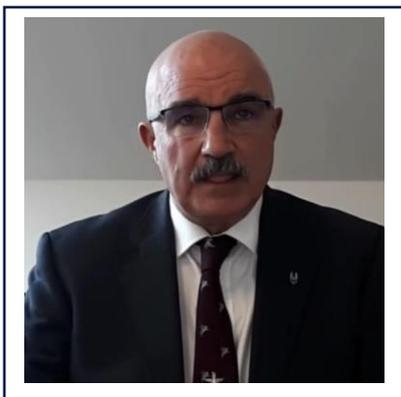
I would also like to thank everyone who has volunteered whatever little time they have had while working around their employment schedule and/or their other commitments to help change my 'idea' for a political party into a genuine political party that can change people's views and lives through the politics of our great nation.



Party Leader Announced

Robin Horsfall named The Veterans' and People's Party's interim leader

Published in the [London Post](#),
May 23, 2018



The Veterans' and People's Party have today announced the appointment of Robin Horsfall to the position of Interim Party Leader. Robin takes up his role with immediate effect.

Robin started following the Party before it became officially registered and has seen it grow and develop with a strong foundation that matches his views.

Robin regards British Politics as 'going through a period of decline and decay'. He wants

the opportunity to affect changes that will benefit the weakest in society.

Many veterans will be aware that Robin served with the Parachute Regiment and Special Air Service and has an extensive service history. A qualified Paramedic he ran clinics all over the world and in 1991 built a hospital in Guyana. He has been involved in many veteran related activities over the years, publicly speaking up and out on injustices.

What made me join VAPP?

Caryn Partis, Candidate Office Administrator

I'm married to a RAF veteran, but totally civvy, although husband thinks I'm his sergeant sometimes, so I have the best of both worlds within this party.

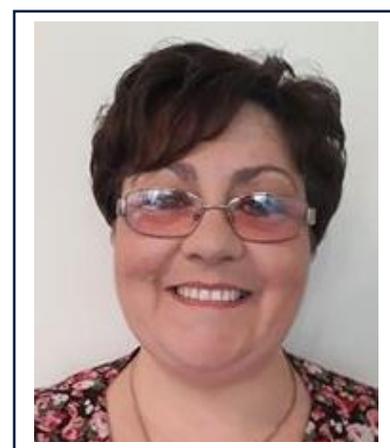
As a family, we followed another party for a few years and, as most, we got very disillusioned with the route they had taken. For instance, my daughter is gay and I have lots of gay friends.

My father came here on a work permit 55 years ago. So, when you voted for someone who suddenly says your daughter is dirty/wrong or your father shouldn't be here anymore, we stepped away from them, quickly.

When I came across the Veterans' and People's Party (VAPP) by accident, I liked what I saw; it was like a mirror image of what I and my family believe in.

With Robin at our helm, I truly believe that this party is the one to bring back the great for Britain.

We need someone to show the others that this is how democracy works, and if VAPP is the party to do that, then I'm 100% behind them.



HOT TOPIC

This is the first in a series of topics we will print in each issue. We will be concentrating on subjects that are of particular public interest.

Our hope is that that they will either inform, create discussion or perhaps help you in some way.

If you have any particular subjects in mind that you would like to see here, please [let us know](#).

Breaking News

Mystery Illness Kills Many Hundreds...

Thousands More Believed to Be At Risk and are Suffering Severe Symptoms!

If you saw a headline like this wouldn't it stop you in your tracks?

The headline is based on fact and the "mystery illness" is called Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, better known as PTSD. Although many people believe that this is a military

service acquired condition, many more people are silently suffering from it, such as the people who have to cope with trauma on a daily basis: Police Officers, Ambulance and Fire Service personnel, to name a few.

The number of suicides caused explicitly by PTSD runs into the hundreds each year. Due to the way records are kept, the real figure can never be known but is believed to be much higher. These figures shame our nation.

What is PTSD?

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder is a severely debilitating mental health condition that can develop in anyone after witnessing or experiencing a severely stressful life-threatening or distressing event. Cases of PTSD were first documented during the First World War when soldiers developed what was then called "shell shock" as a result of

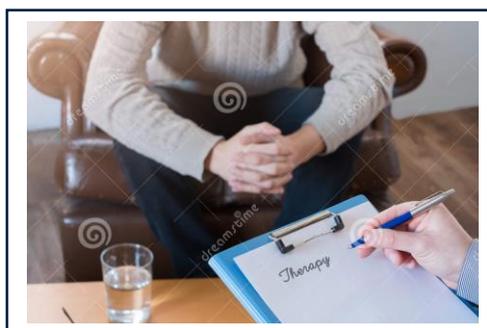
harrowing sights and conditions. PTSD can develop immediately after a traumatic event but can also occur at some point later; even years after.

Sufferers from PTSD often relive their traumatic event through flashbacks, nightmares and many experience feelings of irritability, isolation and guilt. Concentration and sleep are also severely affected, leaving the individual unable to cope with life on a daily basis.

There is a slow awakening of the severity of this condition, with appropriate help options remaining few and far between. Often, sufferers have to wait months to receive proper treatment after diagnosis. Meanwhile, whole families and friends continue to suffer the consequences of PTSD along with its victims.

As well as available help from the NHS, many charities are now offering proper treatments, but still, there remain unacceptable waiting lists and continuing suicides.

Much more funding must be spent on research, not only for much better and effective treatments but also for prevention.



If we, as a country, expect our military forces and others to protect and safeguard us, then we owe it to them to protect and care for them. One suicide caused by PTSD is just one too many.

If you need help coping with PTSD, or you know someone who is suffering from it, please reach out for help...before it's too late!

**by Helen Wemyss,
Social Media
Monitoring/Research**

Helen is an Army veteran having served with the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps (QARANC) and is a former Police Officer.

Links:

[Help for Heroes](#)

[Combat Stress](#)

[Mind](#)

[Samaritans](#)

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