

European Movement UK
2021 Elections
CANDIDATE STATEMENTS



CHAIR

Lord Andrew Adonis ran for re-election as Chair of the European Movement UK unopposed, and is hereby re-elected to the role.

His statement explaining why he went for re-election can be found below.

"It is with a deep sense of duty and obligation that I offer to continue chairing the European Movement UK.

Brexit is a historic mistake and we have a shared mission to reverse it, step by step. The European Movement UK has a date with destiny to help make that happen and I will dedicate the next two years to the task, working with you all as actively and collaboratively as possible, locally and nationally. We also need to make the cause of Europe attractive and fun!

I hope you will use your votes and participate in this election. The new "Council of 100" is intended to drive our cause forward with real energy and passion, and I am delighted we have so many excellent volunteers for the job."

You can either register your support for Andrew as Chair, or indicate that you do not support him, as part of the elections.

Andrew was nominated for the role as Chair by the following members of the European Movement National Council.

- Charlotte Mbali
- Clare Moody
- George Longstaff
- Jo Pye
- John Gaskell
- Mark Lazarowicz
- Philip Dore
- Richard Morris
- Richard Wilson
- Yvonne Wancke

VICE CHAIR

There are 4 people competing for two Vice Chair positions. These people are:

Name	Nominated by
Molly Scott Cato	Aliss Moss Andrew Adonis Charlotte Mbali Fiona McAndrew George Longstaff Ian Morris Jane Thomas Philip Dore Richard Wilson Yvonne Wancke
Nick Hopkinson	Aliss Moss Ann Lawson Lucas George Smid Graham Bishop Graham Jones Ian Morris John Bland Sajjad Karim Tim Beyer Helm Wiebke Ruterjans
Richard Wilson	Andrew Adonis Ann Lawson Lucas Charlotte Mbali George Longstaff Giulia Savini Jo Pye John Gaskell Julius Lajtha Martin Penov Molly Scott Cato Philip Dore Scott Hunter Yvonne Wancke
Sajjad Karim	Ann Lawson Lucas Dominic Grieve George Smid Graham Bishop Graham Jones Ian Morris John Bland Nick Hopkinson Tim Beyer Helm Wiebke Ruterjans

The candidate statements written by the people listed above can be found on the following pages.

Molly Scott Cato

I am putting myself forward for the honour of becoming vice-chair of the European Movement. I firmly believe that EM is the organisation that will mobilise public opinion and coordinate a successful campaign for us to rejoin the EU and I am committing my time to making that a reality.

For those who don't know me, I was a Green MEP representing South West England and Gibraltar from 2014 to 2020. I was very actively involved in the 2016 referendum campaign and then fought Brexit tooth and nail until the bitter end. As an economist I also began the campaign to have the Brexit impact studies made public and helped to expose the fraud and deceit that typified the campaigns of the Brexiteers.

The European Movement is a campaigning organisation but we are also an organisation that needs to be strategic and thoughtful. This is a long game and we need to build our credibility and our strength. I was glad to be part of the committee that has appointed our high-level communications staff and am looking forward to working with them and our campaigns staff to build up these parts of our work.

Our strength is in our members and our branches. The disappointment of missing out on the People's Vote – by a whisker – has led to some demoralisation but it's time now to capitalise on the manifest failings of Brexit Reality to share resources, messages and campaign ideas to energise the remobilisation that will lead to our rejoining the EU.

Another key priority for me would be to develop a credible pathway back to EU membership. There are a number of logical steps to remain to a stronger relationship but we have to be clear about what the legal route looks like and strategic about the order of the steps we should take. We need a concrete plan that can then inform our strategic communications and our grassroots campaigning.

And a personal commitment is the need to build our Movement into a truly representative movement, one whose members look like the people of the UK who will make the decision to rejoin. We need to think about expanding beyond our own cultural and ethnic circles and use our communications strategically to achieve this. I was delighted to accept Andrew Adonis's request that I undertake a diversity review of the Movement. The constitutional amendments we proposed have been adopted but we still need to follow through on further recommendations for change, something I would ensure if elected as vice chair.

Thirdly I think we have a role in keeping strong diplomatic relationships open with with EU capitals. The government has been burning bridges but I think that, as a Movement, we have the capacity, the skills and the people to perform an important role here in the best interests of the UK.

I see huge opportunities for the European Movement so long as we become genuinely inclusive and unified. I hope you will support me and that together we fulfil our potential.

Nick Hopkinson

When David Cameron gave his January 2013 Bloomberg speech, I knew we would lose any in/out referendum. We had 40 years of fake news. Pro-European forces were weak. The European Movement (EM) had barely 4% of our current members. Yet we valiant 500 resolved to strengthen it. Today the EM remains our best vehicle to rejoin the EU.

UK membership of the EU is in our national interest. We are more prosperous, equal, safer and greener in the EU. While Director of the Foreign Office policy forum for almost 25 years, I helped the UK stand tall championing the Single Market and enlargement. Since as founding chair of the first 4 Europe group, London4Europe (L4E), I pioneered engagement programmes with the Sikh and Pakistani communities, gave 50 talks and edited and wrote hundreds of blogs https://www.london4europe.co.uk/if_we_don_t_join_up_we_ll_never_rejoin.

As Branches Forum Chair from 2016-19, I was instrumental in bringing in 90 local groups into the EM family. Sadly, in the past two years, EM officers have attracted few new local groups.

We need to learn the lessons of the People's Vote debacle at Millbank. We need to focus on strengthening the one organisation which has a chance of making a real impact. But we need to embrace other groups and respect their independence. We need discipline and strategy, not isolated actions. We need teamwork, good governance and a movement for members and branches, not just a movement for the politicians. We also need to rise above party tribal loyalties – we shall never win if we marginalise 6 million Conservative pro-Europeans. We need to build the EM into a force that will win for us all.

The EM needs a Vice-Chair dedicated to building up the EM rather than organisations outside it. Our renewed emphasis on diversity is welcome, but we also need to respect rules, processes and codes of conduct to attract the mass movement we want. If elected, I shall focus on developing these areas. Strategies and targets need to be transparent and regularly reviewed against plan. The new National Council needs orientation briefs to empower them. We need coherent national structures, not an uncoordinated patchwork of groups with different brands communicating different messages.

See my article:

<https://www.theneweuropean.co.uk/brexit-news-britains-road-to-rejoin-the-eu-6356586/>

We need better volunteer and community engagement. Pro-Europeanism should become a way of life, not just protests https://www.london4europe.co.uk/protest_at_parliament and picnics. Look at the Greening groups sprouting up everywhere. They organise regular green drinks, talks, cafes, protests, green you name it. The EM needs to dedicate more resources to doing the same. As part of a compelling membership offer and strategy, every day needs to be Europe day.

I therefore urge you to give me and Saj Karim your preference votes. We stand together to build up the European Movement as the leading pro-European force to rejoin step by step.

Richard Wilson

I have been proud to hold the post of Vice Chair of EMUK for the past two years – a period of unprecedented change and growth for our organisation.

I see my role as being the voice of ordinary members and affiliated groups at the highest level of our movement. I am full of respect and admiration for the effort and sacrifices that our grassroots campaigners have made. I want to see EM UK use its considerable resources to support, encourage and grow our groups – they are the lifeblood of our movement and fundamental to achievement of our long-term aim of rejoining the European mainstream.

I also want to see EM grow to be the UK's mass-membership pro-European organisation, with at least 100,000 members. I am delighted that we have doubled our membership while I have been Vice Chair, but we need to go much further.

Growing like this will enable us to gain more of a hearing in the corridors of power and the mainstream media. We must strengthen links with politicians of all parties, key journalists and other influencers. I am ready to play a full part in this effort, building upon the many connections I have made.

I was one of the founder members of Leeds for Europe in 2017 and am its Chair. Our branch has grown to become one of EM's largest, and continues to campaign intensively, holding regular street stalls and writing frequent letters to the press - many of them promoting EM UK. We have achieved our success by relentless effort and by having a wonderful team whose members are mutually supportive. I want to see this ethos of friendship, respect and inclusion replicated up to the highest levels of our movement.

I strongly support our strategy of "Step by Step to Rejoin". It is vital that EM spreads the message that "Brexit Isn't Working" and that the positive solution is for the UK to move into much closer alignment with our European neighbours, with whom we share values, economic interests and a yearning for peace and cooperation over rivalry and conflict.

I believe that collaboration between EM and other pro-EU organisations is vital, which is why I am proud also to be Chair of Grassroots for Europe, with whom I have worked tirelessly to strengthen links between EM affiliated and non-affiliated groups and between the various national bodies. In this spirit, I am also involved with the Festival of Europe, the pro-European Round Table, the joint GfE/EM town/city twinning project and the Erasmus+ Alliance.

We will only succeed if we are outward-looking and willing to collaborate with people of all political persuasions and affiliations who share our aim of returning the UK to the European mainstream. The time for introspection is over: we will prevail in our struggle, but only if we commit all of our effort to communicating with the public, politicians and media with a clear, consistent and strong message based on our values of internationalism, democracy, compassion and optimism!

Sajjad Karim

The 9th November 1989 changed my life.

As, from my living room in Lancashire, I watched people tear down the Berlin Wall with their bare hands, I began to realise that a better world was available. One where identity and arbitrary borders built on historic division and hate were no longer reasons to limit potential.

For me, the European Union, with its fundamental role as a peace keeper and Single Market, provided the basis for that world I wanted to see. Shared values, development, economic growth, innovation and so much more allowed us to aim so much higher than ever before.

And we progressed as a country and people.

2004 brought 10 new member states into the EU – and me into the European Parliament as an MEP. For the next 15 years, I helped to build positive engagement and delivery with our closest neighbours and friends, including negotiating complex EU Trade agreements and running to be President of the European Parliament.

Then came Brexit. I am proud to say that, like the European Movement, I fought Brexit all the way. We refused to accept that we should change our minds and just go with it as "the people had decided." We stood against the thrust of political thought in the UK.

The effects are now becoming clear: regression; the rise of populism; the very real risk of fragmenting the UK.

Our coming generations don't deserve this and, together, we can stop it.

But to do so, we need to change ourselves. That is why I have been so pleased to support Andrew as he has sought to bring diversity to our movement. It is why I agreed to serve on the Executive and why I wish to be one of its two Vice Chairs.

Because diversity, whilst it starts at the top has to reach out. I could see during the Brexit campaigns that we were simply not reaching those communities in my home town that should have been natural supporters of a Movement dedicated to international cooperation and the breaking down of barriers.

I want to get out there and ensure that never happens again. So that when, as it will be, the question is asked again, the European Movement will be truly representative, and part of, every community across our great nation.

You can keep in touch with me and what I would like to accomplish as your Vice Chair by following me on Twitter (@Saj4InclusiveEM) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Sajjad-Karim-for-Vice-Chair-European-Movement-102100965599077>)

Please support me and elect me to be your Vice Chair and your voice.

MEMBERS REPS (NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND)

The following people are standing for election as Members Rep for the North West of England. Only people in the North West of England may vote for these candidates.

You must vote for a minimum of 1 candidate and can vote for a maximum of 6.

Anthony John Bridge

I believe that a united Europe, one joined by shared values, is essential to our collective future, and that I can help the Council by providing a fierce voice for that unity.

Chris Stern

The British electorate were misled over many years by anti-Europe politicians and the right wing media into believing that membership of the EU was bad for the country and bad for themselves. Ultimately the ego of Farage and the ambition of Johnson and the associated lies and distortions pushed the referendum result over the line.

This is the worst decision this country has taken in my lifetime and has made us a laughing stock around the world. We have to act quickly to restore confidence and our respected position as one of the leading democracies. The effects of Brexit are being felt enormously as I write with shortages of fuel, food and workers and even arch Brexiteers are calling for change.

The disgraceful hard Brexit agreement needs to be renegotiated to allow reciprocal agreements and to restore Erasmus and free movement. I bitterly resent the fact that my children have lost the automatic right to work in 27 other countries and the hideous small island mentality that prevails. A proud European, I have a BSc from the OU focused on economics and politics. I am a former Vice President of the, now merged, Inland Revenue Staff Federation.

George Taylor

I believe that the issue of working more closely with the EU as an organisation and with all the member states with a view initially to aligning the UK with the Single Market, then joining it and in due course the EU is the most important issue in British politics today.

It is important because:

1 There is a very strong need for Europe to speak with as much strength as it can muster and to act as a counterpoise to the power of the Russian Federation, China and the USA.

2 The economy of the UK is already declining relative to that of the EU - about 5% or 6% since 2016 - we need to at least be in the Single Market to redress that difference.

3 We need to be part of the EU to influence its international policies so that the European voice is heard - the British voice will continue to decline - we are too small.

4 We need the free movement of people to enable our young people to live a life with full opportunity to work internationally.

In summary, we should look to a staged re-entry to full membership of the EU.

Georgina McBride

I am British, originally from the North West, but now live in France.

I have always identified as a European. I remain shocked by the way the UK is being destroyed economically and culturally. By the way in which young people have had their futures jeopardised by a single referendum where the turnout was so low that it would have been invalidated in any other EU democracy. I remain shocked by the lies that were told in order to win the leave vote at the referendum and the ongoing lying not only to the British public but in the UK parliament.

I am bilingual English/French and am well placed to know what is really happening and being said in the EU. I was a teacher of French and German and headed up a Specialist Language College and was immensely proud of the open minded European aspect of the Education we offered. We offered as well as French and German, Russian, Spanish and Japanese. My working life is a testimony in action rather than words, to my commitment as a European in outlook and in Realpolitik.

Ian James

It is my view that the present government is openly leading us as a country into what I would describe as an isolationist position in the world. Completely refusing to accept the advantages of forming close relationships with our European neighbours. I consider it of extreme importance that as large a forceful group as possible to be created to monitor and oppose such destructive governance.

Maura Rose

I would like to be considered to stand as a member of the European Movement National Council as I have many strong links with the EU and have benefited through the freedom to travel and work across Europe. I have also worked on projects funded by the EU and seen first hand the benefit the EU had on deprived communities.

I was devastated by the result of the Referendum and the ensuing result of disjointed communities. I feel the referendum tore a whole in our Communities and created divide at a time when we need to support each other. Witnessing the real life result of Covid and Brexit after January 2021 it feels like I am in a disaster movie. I have felt helpless and unmotivated as a response and would like an opportunity to fight for this very important part of our lives to be reinstated.

I currently work as a Mediator and Family Group Conference Coordinator and I am self employed. I want to support the UK in coming together and finding a way forward. I have no political experience, however, I am willing to be guided and trained and will commit where possible.

Sajjad Karim

Existing member of both Council and Executive and wish to remain a contributing member of both.

Stephen Sanderson CBE

I built links between schools internationally and still do from places such as Belarus. China, Africa and within Europe. We need greater links, not less. Our opportunities to pass on to our children are being diminished. I have a great deal of experience as a former Head teacher, Advisor to Government and British Council External Expert.

I already have extensive contacts in Europe especially in Education and Sport. I'm sure this would be useful.

Wiebke Rueterjans

I am member of the NC representing EM UK members in the North West of England since 2019. During this time I am pleased that we tackled the problem of gender balance in both the Exec and NC, and opened up the latter to greater participation of our members to reflect the diverse population of the UK.

Over the past year EM UK has lead the reporting of the government's Brexit politics shortcomings. We have detailed the damage Brexit has done to our economy and society, but we need to add to this. My vision of a future direction for EM UK involves advocacy of EU principles and values, mainly discussion with ordinary people about the value of EU-citizenship and how it empowers the individual citizen to make his/her/their voice heard. Such citizenship has rights and obligations, and this lies at the heart of all EU-thinking and democracy. To be a part of this citizenship, EM UK now needs to take a lead and promote enlightenment through factual knowledge sharing that empowers people to think independently. Bringing this concept to all corners of the UK can help and remind people that democracy can be used to shape our fate within a wider supportive society.

William Russell Dunn

I want to be proactive & participate in policy making as well as assisting with manifesto writing and take a role in our movements leadership. I want to be considered for a role on the European Movement National council driving our movement forward in these difficult post Brexit times. I would love to assist in getting the UK back into full EU membership.

MEMBERS REPS (NORTH EAST OF ENGLAND)

The following people are standing for election as Members Rep for the North East of England. Only people in the North East of England may vote for these candidates.

You must vote for a minimum of 1 candidate and can vote for a maximum of 5.

Anne Greaves

Because I greatly regret the UK's decision to leave the EU. I feel it was a shortsighted, retrograde step, and our future should be in Europe. I wanted to do something positive to help bring this about.

Jack Croft

To increase the progress of this movement and get us more involved on the streets and doorsteps, showing the regular people on the street, who may of even voted for Brexit, that rejoining is not only possible but necessary. I also offer an alternative view to, what I believe to be, the mainstream of the European Movement UK in that I am still a member of the UK Conservative Party and I constantly push pro-European views and beliefs day in, day out and try to break the current narrative that all Tories are Brexit supporting loons who care more about the UK flag than actually helping the people.

James Sheerin

It is important that those of us who want to keep the UK close to Europe and Rejoin the EU at the earliest possibility have a strong organisation to put forward our case to political parties and the people of the UK.

An important part of this is to ensure that all pro-EU regional groups communicate, cooperate and contribute to forming a strong resource and pressure group to achieve our aims

Janet Sheerin

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An important part of this is to ensure that all pro-EU regional groups communicate, cooperate and contribute to forming a strong resource and pressure group to achieve our aims

Paula Smart

All of my life I have been proud to be European and I want to be part of a voice that is raising awareness of the benefits of a close relationship with the EU, ultimately working towards rejoining as soon as is humanly possible.

In the meantime I believe the European Movement must be active in highlighting the disastrous impact of the trade deal that our Government rushed through parliament. We need to awaken people to the fact that the Government have actively chosen to make the UK economy weaker, and most of its people more poor. We must also campaign for far greater scrutiny and democratic accountability of the government than we currently have.

Robina Jacobson

I am not going to 'get over' being stripped of European Union citizenship against my will, and have my sights fixed on the day that England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (with the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands) re-join the EU.

Be that day in a few years or many decades, I would like to do what I can to contribute to the EM combined effort to make it happen as soon as possible, because I believe that membership of, and collaboration with the EU will forge the best future for us all. By sharing talents and expertise we will together solve the problems that afflict us.

My career was in Nursing. I have lived in Scotland, Bermuda, St Helena, the Philippines, Romania and Slovakia; was a Labour Councillor on Northumberland County Council 1993-7; graduated with a degree in Politics from Durham University in 1997; joined North East for Europe when my husband and I found them after the 2016 referendum and with them have marched, written many letters of protest, taken minutes of meetings and more recently acted as Police liaison for our planned activities. If I can, I would like to be useful to the EM.

MEMBERS REPS (WEST MIDLANDS)

The following people are standing for election as Members Rep for the West Midlands. Only people in the West Midlands may vote for these candidates.

You must vote for a minimum of 1 candidate and can vote for a maximum of 6.

Anthony Lowe

I want to "make the argument" for the closest possible cooperation with EU27 and see the role of the EM becoming ever more important. It's a "numbers game" because only by building up our membership and our finances will we achieve any cut-through. HM Opposition is falling down on the job and the minor parties remain peripheral in the post-Brexit reality, so we have to build our audience and marshall our arguments to "hit the spot" by effective communication.

EM must achieve media exposure by advertising as well as by getting copy, radio and TV slots.

We may be a minority pressure group today but must lift our eyes to our agreed horizon. To do less would be an abnegation of our responsibilities to present and future generations.

Carolyn Pickering

I believe strongly and passionately that the UK should rejoin the EU as soon as is practically possible, and therefore I am very interested in taking part in the decision making of the National Council, in order to achieve this goal as soon and as well as we can.

Charles Bradshaw-Smith

I've seen the best of Britain and Europe. While working in Germany as a member of a multinational climate change team, the London Olympics took place with an explosion of pro-British sentiment as our culture and creativity were seen to be leading Europe in many sectors. Europeans embraced our influence and co-opted me to support every aspect of our carbon saving programmes.

I've seen the best of international cooperation in Brussels as the elected President of The European MicroPower Council, using industrial and political networks to share standards and create policy. I'm determined the UK returns to that collaborative position of influence so our young have the opportunity to lead fulfilling lives bringing sustainable prosperity to all society.

25 years ago I was an eco campaigner leading an alliance of resident groups and councils opposing environmental destruction. I'm now deploying what I learned in life, innovating UK based community energy schemes. I offer my experience and campaigning skills to the European Movement to support its transformation to the diverse mass movement it must become. I've been fortunate enough to witness and grow the creativity and resilience that diversity brings. I'd love to do the same again for our movement.

Elizabeth Baker

I've been a European Movement member since shortly after the EU Referendum and was a founder member of the Staffs for Europe (North) branch.

During the People's Vote campaign I was very active, representing the branch at the West Midlands regional level, helping set up local groups, organising & running street stalls, leafleting & planning events.

After GE2019 when many activists gave up a few of us thought it important to keep going so we merged the remnants of the local groups into EM Staffordshire which, adapting to Covid, is now at the heart of many on-line campaigns.

EM is growing, signing on many new members and supporters. Few actively engage with their local branches but it doesn't mean they have nothing to contribute.

I would like to become a National Council member to help EM engage with its membership and vice versa. I believe that every EM member is a potential ambassador for the European cause whether or not they are active within a branch. To meet the Movement's objectives of bringing the UK closer to Europe, eventually to rejoin the EU, it first needs to make every member feel part of an organisation that can make a difference.

Helen Arthur

I was raised a European and it is at the heart of my identity. Campaigning for better access to the rest of Europe and to preserve our European values is vital: our voices need to be heard at a time when government are whitewashing their ill-planned Brexit and thwarting democratic debate. As a mother, I am keenly disappointed that my school-age children, unlike their French cousins, are no longer members of the EU with all the benefits and value that brings to young people's lives. I also feel deeply concerned that the UK economy is in chaos and that irreparable damage is being done, especially to the small business community. We can start by fighting to rejoin the single market in the near future with a long term goal to rejoin the union. I would value the opportunity to have an active role in the European Movement, building support across the UK and in Herefordshire.

Isobel (Izzy) Knowles

I am a retired Police Officer and a core member of EU in Brum since 2016. I led the organisation of the Bin Brexit in Brum rally to the Conservative conference in 2018. In July 2019 I gave a speech at the Peoples Vote rally in Birmingham. In October 2019, whilst working for MEP Phil Bennion, I organised a visit of 50 people to the European Parliament where we took our protest onto the streets of Brussels. In December 2019 I stood in the general election. From Jan 2020 I have volunteered with Settled, the charity helping EU citizens obtain Settled Status. I have strong organisational and communication skills and I am passionate about our fight to re join the EU. In 2021 I was elected to the council of Grassroots 4 Europe and I am now the treasurer. I strongly believe in collaborative politics and that like minded pro EU groups need to work together. I would use my skills to encourage and strengthen those ties.

Nigel Higgs

I strongly believe that we need to reforge bonds between the political and social factions within the UK, through listening, discussion and discovery. There is a need for the EM to be a repository and resource of what is good and valuable within the EU. Allowing us to provide rationale arguments for those ready to hear them, and emotional messages for those who need them. We also need to face up to what doesn't work in the EU, so we can make inroads with EU politicians to change that which doesn't work.

We need to be the connection between the UK and the EU through which stronger bonds are forged, ready for when we can – step-by-step – move back to being a key member.

I believe that this will come about through the EM being transparent about its objectives, but also being truthful about how we can exist outside of the EU, so we can become a stronger society, allowing us to fight for a better form of government, a more representative voting system, and a fairer society.

Peter Corkill

My awakening to the EU came when, aged 19, I decided to learn Spanish by moving to Spain. Freedom of movement made this easy, and it changed the course of my life. I want UK citizens to be able to enjoy again the freedoms and opportunities I had, and the increased prosperity we will have when we rejoin.

I have been involved in voluntary groups all my life. I set up an Oxfam society at university, I was involved in the Anglo-Bolivian Society for many years, including as Chair (our events included talks by government ministers, and UK diplomats). My first job was as National Organiser of the Conservative Group for Europe, under John Gummer, and then Leon Brittan.

I have been Chair of Warwick District 4 Europe since April 2018. On the National Council I would I stress the need for the EM to be outward looking. We need to be focussed on our core mission and to campaign to change public opinion. I believe the EM needs to provide branches with practical and financial help.

People of all political parties and none are pro-European, we need to work together to achieve our re-entry into the European Union.

Saffron Rainey

I joined the European Movement because I began to help out at the regular Brexitometer that was a regular part of life on the streets of Oswestry, N Shropshire. We felt a great connection to the many people who hoped for a People's Vote and enjoyed many excellent conversation with committed Leavers. I am passionate about promoting healthy discourse where objectivity and evidence can be allowed to inform and guide the debate.

Since May of 2020 I have been the chair of European Movement Shropshire (EMS), which is a countywide affiliate/branch represented at the committee level by people from all the five Shropshire Constituencies. As the branch chair I've set up the EMS website, I am the editor of a monthly newsletter and have organised online public events. Last month we took to the streets with the N Shropshire Brexitometer to coincide with a local food festival to highlight the stresses being felt across the food production sector. I was an early Erasmus Student (Valladolid, Spain 1993) and believe we should be lobbying for manifesto commitments by the opposition parties to

return to the Erasmus + scheme. Shropshire and Herefordshire 4 EU have been working in collaboration at a pilot program to highlight the loss of Erasmus+.

I am urban economist and feel we as a movement could do more to highlight the economic impact on places that the blind commitment to a hard Brexit by Johnsons' Tory's has had. The impact on the West Midlands, the NW and NE is particularly acute as many SME's are part of Just-in-Time production systems that link manufacturers across the continent, and are now hampered by increased bureaucracy, increases in transport costs and the need for greater inventory, all impact the viability of these firms.

The journey back to EU membership will be long and it will be achieved by incremental steps of rejoining the institutions and practices that have bonded us for the past 40 years. There is a growing unease to our new status as outsiders. I was speaking to a friend at the weekend who teaches economics at a local school. He used this example to his class at to what they have lost. "Next year on your summer holiday before going to university you could be in Ibiza, you are having a great time, someone offers you a holiday job for the season, before Brexit you could of stayed the summer in Spain, you can't now." He said this struck a cord with his whole class. This is where we need to build a consensus from. I see our role and creating a groundswell of demands for our nation to be connected to the EU as a good neighbour not an adversary.

We need to be campaigning, and pushing the facts that Brexit is at the heart of so much that is not working in the country right now. As an organisation EM are uniquely placed to ensure that the 'Brexit is not Working' message is heard.

Simon Apana Agey

Unity is strength. The Anglo-Saxon values are part and parcel of the EU fabric. Brexit is an illusion.

Ted Anderson

As a proud European, I have always been positive about UK participation within European Organisations – both Council of Europe and European Union. Which have positively shaped our recent history.

The UK is culturally, commercially, and even though it does not feel like it at present, politically, aligned with, and together with our friends, within the heart of the European area.

I have had the opportunity to travel, live and work, within other European lands. It has fostered within me a strong understanding of the damage now being inflicted on the UK, by the current political (mis)direction. These opportunities are now being denied to our younger generation, who, for the most part will not understand what has been taken away from them.

If elected I wish to ensure that the case for positive engagement with Europe is undiminished and is strengthened, which over the medium to longer term, I would hope, crystallises the case, as a first step, for joining the Single Market and later to retake our position, once again, as a full member of the European Union. This process will not be easy, or achieved within a short time, which is why engagement with our youth is essential.

I hope I can count on your vote.

MEMBERS REPS (EAST MIDLANDS)

The following people are standing for election as Members Rep for the East Midlands. Only people in the East Midlands may vote for these candidates.

You must vote for a minimum of 1 candidate and can vote for a maximum of 6.

Anna Wotherspoon

I would like to be able to add my voice. I have always had a gut feeling in support of the wider goals of the EU and the UK involvement in it. During the referendum campaign I spent many Saturdays engage in debate with the public on the subjects. I think I can add a practical voice to the national debate.

I work in IT, in professional services. My role is to get the customers able to use our product. I am pragmatic in reaching for goals and also diligent it making sure that we meet the exact terms of our commitment. I think these skills will fit well in a national council role.

I would like to see the EM using it resources and talents to pool and share our knowledge and expertise to create a rebuttal service for anyone in support of our aims.

Carole Hagan

Because I believe the UK benefitted from EU membership of a community of 28 countries and I believe the UK should rejoin as soon as possible as "Brexit" is causing serious trading and economic difficulties. The EU is on our doorstep and is progressive and dempcratic.

Clare Choubey

Like probably many of the members of the European Movement, I am a proud European who has utilised the opportunities granted by EU membership to study, work and travel in the EU. While no longer in the EU, we are still European, and it is important for us to band together to cherish and celebrate our European identity.

Moreover, the abundant failures of the "oven ready" Brexit show that there is still potential to influence UK politics, and us back to a closer relationship with our nearest neighbours.

I would like to join the European Movement National Council because we need representation from all areas of the country including those areas that voted Brexit. We have all been made poorer in countless ways by our exit from the EU, and we are now seeing the material consequences of leaving the Single Market and the Customs Union.

The European Movement has to work to show both the true costs of Brexit, and the tangible day-to-day benefits of EU membership, and we need to do this now, while the wheels are so spectacularly falling off the Brexit bus.

Dr Carol Weaver

When joining the European Movement in 2005, it was easy to get involved nationally as an academic and political researcher in politics, IR and European security. So, I found myself representing the EMUK and EMI in Brussels, Spain, Romania, the S Caucasus and Ukraine, often involved in peace building or fact finding. We were also involved in giving talks in UK schools. Debates against Brexiters became more essential after 2015. I became chair of Leics & Rutland EM from 2018 until earlier this year. We became one of the most active groups.

As a member of the NC, I'd like to work with others to help EMUK reflect the politics of the EU which is a rule-based organisation with consensus politics. Much of the current chaos is down to a lack of clarity and we need to create a sensible structure which will free us all from the problems of the last year.

I'd also like to see the EMUK return to its roots as well as being an anti-Brexit campaigning organisation i.e. to be an organisation that includes experts and looks outwards to Europe and beyond – to Europe's place in the world.

Graham Johnson

I am passionate about the benefits that membership of the EU brings to citizens. It is heart-breaking that we British citizens have had our freedom of movement, and I want to do everything I can to get back the benefits of EU membership for us: the right to live, work, study, and retire across Europe, free roaming, the EHIC card, and Erasmus.

Samuel Orman-Chan

The East Midlands is a major centre of Manufacturing, with Toyota, Rolls Royce and Bombardier/Alstom in Derby alone. Additionally, with Leave winning by 58.8% share of the vote, the East Midlands would and should require a strategy that suited the demographics of the region. And with some areas surpassing 60% leave within the region, an approach that understands the post-industrial grievances of the area is vital, as well as one that explains the benefits of EU membership as opposed to the rhetoric of the Eurosceptic press.

Youth participation is equally important, and showing that the youth have lost so many opportunities that prior generations enjoyed, such as the Four Freedoms of Work, Live, Study and Move within the EU as well as mutual recognition of documents & qualifications, which are highly beneficial in an increasing globalised world.

I honestly believe that the effective destruction of opportunities that had been enjoyed through EU membership are one of the largest injustices in a generation. And therefore, if I were a member of the National Council, I would strive to ensure that both the youth voice and the voice of the East Midlands are heard.

Stewart Tolley

I am an active member of the European movement and was one of the founders of the European Movement's branch in Northamptonshire, where I still serve as the secretary. I am committed to the ideals and values of the European Movement and have been at the forefront of campaigning for a closer relationship between Britain and Europe/EU. I have written numerous articles on the subject, been involved with the by-lines times movement and have worked with a range of different groups including Conservatives for Europe and the Young European Movement (where I was a speaker at a hustings hosted by them). I strongly believe that reaching out to a range of stakeholders is the best way of achieving a change in attitudes and policy rather than just speaking to people who agree with us. I hope to be able to bring some insight to the National Council, particularly in terms of young people and how we can engage with them.

MEMBERS REPS (EAST OF ENGLAND)

The following people are standing for election as Members Rep for the East of England. Only people in the East of England may vote for these candidates.

You must vote for a minimum of 1 candidate and can vote for a maximum of 6.

Chris Berry

Recent events have shown clearly how much of what we value is European and what we have lost be leaving the EU. After a career in development planning in both the public and private sectors in the UK and overseas, and involvement in local and national politics as a borough councillor and parliamentary candidate, I bring commitment and enthusiasm to the causes I support. As the director of a community arts venue I am also seeing the havoc wrought on our creative and performing arts by the continuing rupture in our relations with the rest of Europe. The movement is growing for rejoining the community and I want to be an active part of it.

Daniel Beck

I have always supported the EM, In fact, I was briefly on the National Executive about 50 years ago, with Ernest Wistrich in charge. (I resigned to pursue professional studies). I fought against Brexit, from 2016 to 2019 inc, demonstrating on ten occasions (including a small march etc in Ipswich, with Cambridge 4 Europe). I attend the EM AGMs, on Zoom of late, but previously in person. I have a degree in French and lived in Brittany for several years after retiring. People need reminding not all oldies are Brexiters!

David L Edwards

I have been a strong supporter for UK to remain in the EU and believe it is the country's best interest to re join and work closer with European neighbours whom we share common values and beliefs.

I have much experience in facilitating and improving financial reporting systems and processes and believe I can bring this experience to help improve the way by which the NC operate and overview the operations of the movement. In particular I believe the NC should focus on reviewing potential future financial expenditure on campaigns and other events and are thus better aligned to support future goals as well meet the movements financial obligations. Changing focus would give greater confidence to the operating teams to work with clear authority on more immediate expenditure targets on campaigns.

Diane Lee

I am Secretary of Watford 4 Europe which has had an interesting few years. Watford voted almost exactly 50/50% in the Referendum which made our campaigning in the town both encouraging and challenging in equal measure. I believe this has given me a useful perspective to bring to the Council, if elected.

Freddie Poser

I got involved in politics back in 2016 - the morning after the referendum result. I was desperate that we find a way to keep as close a relationship as ever with the EU.

Through volunteering for numerous pro-EU movements and working & campaigning for the Liberal Democrats I never stopped believing that Britain's rightful place is inside the EU. I have a wealth of experience running campaigning organisations, including having been chair of the Cambridge University Liberal Association and head of OFOC's Cambridge branch.

Richard Anthony Gilbert

I believe we cannot hope to re-join the EU by attempting to overturn the 2016 referendum result. To do so would imply that we are telling 17.4m people they were wrong, ill-informed or less intelligent than us. That will not work anymore than wearing a T-shirt proclaiming ""Don't Blame me, I voted Remain"" will.

As a NC member I will work to align the UK in every way possible - economically, socially, politically, via education and cultural exchange. By doing so it will become clear that we are so closely aligned that re-joining is natural and more importantly a decision owned by a large majority of the citizens of the UK.

The current situation with the NI Protocol is a case in point - at a time when the rest of the UK suffered fuel and food shortages NI enjoyed the benefits of the Single Market and 80% of Businesses want it to stay that way.

I believe the EM must also avoid the trap that UKIP and the Brexit Party fell into by being single-issue organisations. We must engage with Europe and the wider world on a broad spectrum of issues.

Sandra Joy Lawman

I have a long lifetime interest in the European project and have been a European candidate. I helped the Central remain campaign in 2016 and on a personal level have been very close to European issues for nearly 20 years. I was also inclined in my capacity as a Liberal Democrat for 27 years until 2012. I joined the SDP in 1985, on moving to London after my return from Japan.

I have lived in Hertfordshire now for nearly 6 years, where the brexit divide is more evenly balanced than it was in Lambeth. I would like to play a core part in maintaining a constructive relationship with our European partners, and with mitigating the effects of Brexit. I was a leading local Councillor for 11 years and have for many years sat on a number of boards, so I am used to the kind of work.

My political campaigning and policy experience would also stand me in good stead, and I am also a fundraiser, grantmaker and accountant. I have worked across the public, private and voluntary sector at all levels. My history of having multiple disabilities brings empathy with all kinds of people, and I am committed to the cause.

William Simpson

I am in my late 50s, recently retired from a career in the financial sector. I want to 'give back' in a cause I believe in - a belief underlaid by a European outlook having spent 23 years in the Republic of Ireland. East Anglia feels solidly Brexit so it would be good to have a proactive voice to give an alternative view in the region. My financial background gives ability to counter some of the more spurious Brexit supporter claims.

MEMBERS REPS (LONDON)

The following people are standing for election as Members Rep for London. Only people in London may vote for these candidates.

You must vote for a minimum of 1 candidate and can vote for a maximum of 6.

Amanda Jacobs

As a passionate pro-European, I want to scrutinise and hold accountable the Executive Committee's work to make sure it's the best it can be. Central to this, I want to improve diversity and inclusion by making what we do more accessible to a wider range of members. Only then will we reflect the aspirations and harness the energy of all those people we need on side to return the UK to where it should be - as an integral member of the European family.

My voluntary sector experience encompasses research, administration, fundraising, budgeting, project development, staff management, operational and strategic planning and trusteeship of two national charities. As the City of London Access Group's Chair, I collaborate with developers, senior City staff and disabled and older people to pursue accessible and inclusive buildings, streetscapes and transportation strategies. As a member of the Green Party's Disability Group Committee, I helped develop and propose a major accessibility motion passed at the Party's 2021 Spring Conference. I now advise senior Party staff and non-executive members comprising the Party's constitutional working group on accessibility issues.

Please vote for me as a Members Rep to apply my valuable experience on National Council. Thank you.

Ben Jones

It would be a privilege to represent members on the National Council, and do what I can to help advance the aims of the European Movement. I am impressed by the renewed vitality and energy of the EM and I am sure it will play a vital role in making the case for a closer U.K. relationship with the EU and an eventual return to membership.

I have useful experience of EU institutions and policies, and of campaigning on EU affairs in the U.K. I worked for Britain in Europe/European Movement around the time of the EU's 'Constitutional Treaty', and as an adviser to the Liberal Democrat's, both in the European Parliament and at Westminster. I was Chair of the Liberal Democrat Working Group on Europe, which presented its policy proposals in 2013. I am currently Teaching Fellow in European Foreign Policy at King's College, London.

David Keys

If elected to the National Council to help represent EM members in London, I will work with fellow Council members to try to achieve four objectives:

(1) To help increase EM's engagement with and influence with the general public, parliamentarians, civil society and the media. There are 73 MPs in our London region – and I want to develop new ways of increasing our ability to influence them.

(2) To help increase EM's branch network. Sadly, in London Region, almost half the 32 London boroughs have no local EM groups. I want to try to improve that situation.

(3) To help ensure that EM develops policies that are effective, clear and inspirational;

(4) To help ensure that we remain united in our commitment to democracy, transparency, accountability and participation.

I am Secretary of Harrow and Hillingdon European Movement - and have been responsible for organising street campaigns, large-scale recruitment operations, demonstration mobilisation campaigns and local press publicity.

I believe that, for geopolitical, cultural, political and economic reasons, our country needs to move closer to the rest of our continent and to eventually rejoin the EU - and that EM has a central role to play in that process.

Dick Taverne (Lord Taverne)

Dick Taverne, Baron Taverne, QC (born 18 October 1928) is an English Liberal Democrat politician and life peer in the House of Lords.

Educated at Charterhouse School, and then Balliol College, Oxford, he graduated in Philosophy and Ancient History, qualified as a barrister in 1954 and became a Queen's Counsel (QC) in 1965.

He was MP for Lincoln from 1962 - 1974.

Lord Taverne did not submit a candidate statement, but the above is a summary taken from his page on Wikipedia.

Dr Ian Fairlie

In my view, the UK should never have left the European Union (EU), and, as soon as it is politically possible, it should apply to rejoin it. The precursor to the EU was established after WW2 mainly to ensure that another land war would recur in Europe. Churchill wrote "...those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it." Mr Johnson should pay heed to what his hero stated. My family suffered grievously during the war, and I am determined to do everything I can for us to return to the EU family of nations.

Jo Pye

A movement's success depends on its members and supporters. Whether active or not-so active, we are EM's "gold dust" and, through sharing pro-European aspirations, we are its reason for being and, as the recent past has demonstrated, we represent a broad church. Every member and supporter matters. Our individual voices matter. Often voicing uncomfortable themes, that is what makes us strong.

I sincerely hope that my track record as an outgoing Regional Representative (Members) demonstrates that I am a grassrooter - an activist, happy to campaign on the streets and a thinker, content to beaver in the background, helping to build a successful mass movement.

With me, what you see is what you get. I wear my anti-Brexit/pro-European heart on my sleeve with pride. Most importantly, I endeavour to work without fear or favour. Cliques and factions are not my thing. I pledge to do my best to make your individual voices heard in the most appropriate parts of our national movement.

Lucy Marsden

I am keen to be a member of the EMNC in order to represent the perspective of young people and the challenges Brexit poses for them. When I was younger I valued the opportunity to work in Germany and broaden my experience of industry, so I am dismayed to see young people now losing the opportunities I had before Brexit. I am particularly keen to fight for a better Brexit deal that will allow young people to enjoy more freedom to work in Europe and for students to be able to partake in the Erasmus scheme once again.

Having grown up in Dorset I am also keen to represent the needs of the rural parts. I would like to campaign for farmers to have greater access to the European labour forces required to keep their farms running and to prevent them from falling victim to poorly negotiated trade deals.

Finally, I would like to use the experience I have gained from campaigning for a People's Vote and campaigning for a better Brexit deal to help the European Movement become a more effective force for campaigning for a better relationship with Europe.

Nicholas Heenan

I would like to help the European Movement focus on what is important and to build momentum.

Firstly it urgently needs to drive forward based on its new constitution, to put an end to its introspective discussion and to focus instead on influencing decisions on issues of national importance.

Secondly, the many pro-European individuals, organisations and initiatives within the UK urgently need to find the coherence, common voice and the strong leadership necessary to have a real impact on political debates, and to become a mass movement. The European Movement could potentially fulfill this unifying role but has yet to gain the respect it needs to lead from the front.

Nicola Claire

I am a committed European. I have lived and worked in several EU countries, and travelled in many more. I can't see a single advantage in coming out of the EU, but the disadvantages are legion. I want my grandchildren to have the same freedom I had, to live, study and work anywhere in the EU. I also think that the UK is very much the poorer for having 'lost' so many of our EU residents, I want to welcome them back again.

I have years of experience in education, management and administration, and am a confident public speaker. I am not in a position to donate money, but I can donate my time and passion, to work for something that I believe in - the UK within the EU.

Nigel Collard

I believe in the spirit and ethos of the European Project. Flawed as he was, Churchill was right in his vision for "a European group which could give a sense of enlarged patriotism and common citizenship to the distracted peoples of this mighty continent"".

A United Europe governed and tempered by The Rule of Law, Human Rights, Employee Rights - and emphasis on Civil Society and a Fairness that removes discrimination on the basis of Sex, Race, Creed, Colour - and, I would add, Age.

Freedom of Movement is intrinsic for exchange of ideas, learning, trade, finance and commerce. Europe has seen the longest peace in its existence.

Politics and Society based on nationalism, racism, homophobia, misogyny, bigotry, religious hatred and exceptionalism must be consigned to the history books - but never forgotten, The European Project gives us Hope for a Peaceful future, based on Tolerance and Fairness. A Civilisation is ultimately judged by how its treats its weakest and most vulnerable.

Let this be the Legacy we create by Britain rejoining the EU again, and participating as a full member of the European community of nations - sovereign and united by Common values and ideals for the betterment of all.

Nigel Grey

I believe that Brexit is the biggest mistake in this countries long history. We have to fight for a closer relationship with the EU and inevitably this will lead to us rejoining.

I'm currently Social Media Officer for the Harrow and Hillingdon branch but have spent a lot of time since 2016 working across all constituencies on SM to try to organise people into groups. I believe we are yet to really exploit the synergies possible if we were to coordinate and structure ourselves as a really National organisation. The way we have grown the largest Pro EU network anywhere in Europe and managed to put over 1M people on the street just shows what is possible.

As the dreadful reality of Brexit becomes more and more apparent, we need to position ourselves to set the narrative and ensure cause and effect are clearly understood by the public, as this will greatly help us to achieve our goal. We can only achieve all this if we have a strong, truly representative, National Council which I believe I can significantly contribute to.

Norman Harris

I believe passionately that we should be part of Europe for peace and economic strength. I want the European Movement to be the strongest pro Europe non politically aligned voice. We should try to get the other pressure groups to speak in unison.

Paul Bond

I am a committed European, I am a London Taxi Driver and therefore not stereotypical of perceptions which are mostly accurate, I campaign on such issues as FOI, social justice & transparency. I have no intention of standing by whilst this country turns into a backwater plundered by a so called elite.

Paul Bowers

I wish to bring my political research background to EM.

I support a Rejoin campaign that appeals directly to economic necessity, linking this to policies that share the benefits of EU membership more widely than before, and that address Leaver concerns more effectively and constructively than Brexit has done.

I worked for 26 years as a Senior Researcher in the House of Commons Library, covering international affairs and UK constitutional matters. I briefed MPs of all parties from Maastricht to Brexit, observing first-hand the full range of views and tactics for and against EU membership.

Since 2018 I have blogged about Brexit (my blog on the EU accession process has over 2,000 views), sharing informed analysis on Twitter and in ReBoot Britain, where I have coordinated a letter-writing campaign asking MPs to set up an EU APPG. I also work with the coordinators of the Round Table initiative.

I am a Liberal Democrat council candidate.

I have a PhD in social anthropology (fieldwork in Jamaica), I come from a working class family, and I have lived on council estates for 21 years of my adult life. I have insight into the motivations of a proportion of Leave voters, many of whom feel marginalised from progressive political discourse.

Peter McLoughlin

I passionately believe in the European project for peace, human rights, democracy and trade. I've been an active member of my local group helping to organise street demonstrations, contact activity with unions and will work to see the widening of the membership involving as many other organisations and individuals as possible. An active democratic branch network will be essential in our campaigning.

I want to see the European movement as an active democratic and open campaigning organisation which reaches out to as many sections of society as possible. European collaboration and cooperation is vital to see us combat the rise of nativism and xenophobic nationalism. To these ends rejoining European Union must be our ultimate goal.

I hope to be able to use my academic background in politics and the European Union to make a constructive and positive cross party contribution to the wider movement.

Sam Murray

I am running to be elected to the European Movement National council to bring a variety of perspectives to help the movement grow and flourish in our key campaigns. As a Green I'm keen to see the movement took about how a federal Europe can take cross-border action on climate change and the importance of working with our European neighbours not just at events like the COP but also in creating shared infrastructural approaches to protecting the planet.

I am also a touring musician and Musicians' Union member and would like to inform and help campaigning on touring visas for musicians and other artists and explore how we can support more cross cultural exchange. As a university lecturer I have seen the impact of Brexit on student opportunities and would be keen to connect the EM with the work YEM are doing around Erasmus and the new Turing scheme to ensure equity of education opportunity.

I am the former co-chair of the Young Greens of England and Wales and currently sit on the amendments committee of the European Green Party so feel I have a lot of relevant experience to bring to the role.

Samuel Willis

The referendum was the first time I was old enough to vote in a national poll. I was devastated by the result — by the loss of my European citizenship. The rights that came with citizenship were a source of hope in an increasingly dark world.

I am training to be a barrister. During my studies, I have been exposed to the ways our membership of the EC and EU contributed to the development of our rights: equality between men and women at work; workers' rights; consumer rights; environmental rights; etc. I have only become more convinced since 2016 of the benefits of EU membership.

But I have also learnt from my legal studies that we are not going lawyer our way back in. We need to fight for it through political mobilisation.

We need to learn from the tactics of the Eurosceptics. We need to build up a presence in at least one of the major parties, to the point where they cannot ignore us.

I have ideas, energy, and specialist knowledge of EU and UK constitutional law. It would be my honour to put these qualities at the service of the Movement.

I hope you will vote for me.

Sanjay Ravndran

I am an ardent Remainer who believes that Brexit was the wrong "solution" to the problems that Britain faces. The economic and cultural benefits we gained as a member of the EU were vast and irreplaceable. As a father of two teenagers, I believe it is a travesty that the opportunities to live and work within the EU have been lost. The European Movement is central to leading Britain back to full membership of the EU.

Within my local community, I have worked as part of EM's Harrow & Hillingdon branch for several years and have been instrumental in building and maintaining our website - <https://www.harrowhillingdonforeurope.uk/>.

Professionally, I work in technology and operations – and have therefore helped provide guidance to my EM branch on data privacy, online event organisation and on building websites. I am also very keen to help increase civil society - including ethnic minority - support for EM.

I know the path back to full EU membership will be long and challenging. If elected to the National Council I would seek to work with colleagues to find (and campaign for) a practical step-by-step pathway back into full membership of the EU.

Scott Ainslie

I was the former Green MEP for London. Lambeth, where I am a local councillor, had the largest remain vote in the UK (apart from Gibraltar).

Leaving the EU has felt like my core identity has been ripped away from me - stolen in fact - by liars who were afraid of the EU clamping down on their tax havens.

There is no doubt in my mind that the power of 28 nations, working together, keeping the peace, remains the beacon of hope to leverage the rest of the world to face the unique challenges of the 21st Century. Brexit unravelling is a disaster and we must look to begin the journey back. That can start by carrying on with twinning towns, erasmus, being part of the customs union.

MEMBERS REPS (SOUTH WEST ENGLAND)

The following people are standing for election as Members Rep for the South West of England. Only people in the South West of England may vote for these candidates.

You must vote for a minimum of 1 candidate and can vote for a maximum of 6.

Beverley Haigh-Jones

There is strength in numbers and it makes much sense for the various pro Europe groups around the country to be working in collaboration towards their goals. However, not everyone has exactly the same ideas as to how we should best proceed, or how those goals should be prioritised. I was passionate about attempting to prevent Brexit - marching, standing on street stalls with Brexitometers, writing innumerable letters and taking part in other appropriate campaigns.

Now, as a dedicated member of Cornwall for Europe, I am just as passionate about doing everything I can to reverse the disastrous action forced upon us by this government.

To that end, I think that it is really important that the grassroots groups are fully represented in policy and campaign decisions that the European Movement might make, in order that the greatest impact can be achieved with future actions. I should very much like to be a part of shaping those decisions in the future, ensuring that the opinions and aims of members are presented to council and then supported during any debate, or voting process.

Bryan Jackson

As one of the more atypical supporters as I'm 65 and retired my presence would remind the members that strong support for the European Movement goes across all ages. I have ample time and energy to devote to the cause which I believe is at the point where it will now start to be seen and heard as the principle voice of reason in the pickle this lovely country currently finds itself in. The only way is up!

Criostoir O'Mongain

I feel very strongly that it was a huge mistake for the U.K. to leave the E.U. While the E.U. is not perfect it is far better than the hateful intolerant methodology being used by the Government. We need standards for food, environment etc. and we are much stronger together than apart. Outside the E.U. we have no say in the direction of the E.U. Political parties in the U.K. must see the need to be involved with our neighbours rather than countries across the oceans. The E.U. is a force for good - a sharp contrast to the right wing philosophy of the Conservative party.

Gillian Davy-Bowker

I believe very strongly that the UK should never have left the EU, which has been the basis for peace, understanding, resource sharing, human and workers' rights ever since its inception in the 1950s. The Good Friday Agreement would not have been possible without the borderless nature of the EU.

I have been very worried about Brexit ever since the Referendum and my worries have certainly not been allayed as time has progressed.

I am female and disabled. I am a writer and enjoy being with people. I have time, motivation and skills to devote to a cause which I think is of paramount importance to the people, ecology and integrity of the UK. There has never been a period where European unity and unity across all peoples of the world has been more crucial.

Judith Ann Jensen Morris

I fervently believe my country is part of Europe, its culture, its history its shared beliefs. It is tragic that we have made the retrogressive step of turning our back on Europe. This must not be the end of an enriching relationship. We must do all in our power to help people understand the importance of rejoining our European friends and relations within the Union.

Richard Tye

I am 76 years old and hold the degrees of B.Sc. and Ph.D. I have lived and working in several countries including Scotland, the USA and the Philippines. I believe in the equality of all human beings no matter what colour, race, sexual orientation or religion. I am a socialist with knowledge of the German system of government. I would bring this experience to to European Movement.

I fervently believe in the goals and aspirations of the European Union and wish to make a significant contribution to the cause of bringing the UK back into the European family as a permanent and productive member. I consider the European Movement to be the only vehicle by which this might happen.

I believe, in due course, a political party will need to be registered in order to field candidates in future elections. I am certain the only way to achieve the media recognition required is through the democratic institution of the ballot box. I have carefully studied parties such as the UKIP which, from small beginnings, certainly have altered the history of the UK.

I thus offer myself as a candidate for the National Council.

Richard Walford

On 1st January I lost my citizenship as a European Citizen and my rights to live, work or retire anywhere I chose to across the whole of the European Union. Friends and members of my family who were born in the United Kingdom and hold passports which describe them as ""British Citizen"" lost their right to live here with their spouses. I am angry and I want these rights restored.

I am, of course, concerned about the predicted and inevitable financial consequences of my country walking away from the best trade deal in the whole world - the EU - but the honest answer is that I want us all to have our rights as European Citizens restored.

I would like to offer to the European Movement National Council the benefit of my passion to be a European Citizen along with my skills as a practising solicitor running a law firm and as someone who has been committed to the twinning of EU communities at a grass roots level as a former chair of my village twinning committee bringing together people from communities in France and Belgium to enjoy the unity of our diversity.

Steve Rouse

Various people have suggested I should. I've been very active in anti Brexit last 5 years. Founded and run Swindon for Europe. I never stop campaigning, outdoors and indoors.

William McCoid

I believe the European Movement is hugely important to maintain peace in Europe.

The whole thrust of countries working together in a democratic institution I believe to be the future for the world.

MEMBERS REPS (SOUTH EAST ENGLAND)

The following people are standing for election as Members Rep for the South East of England. Only people in the South East of England may vote for these candidates.

You must vote for a minimum of 1 candidate and can vote for a maximum of 6.

Aiden Walsh

Because over the next few years we will see again and again the impact of Brexit. We as a movement need to not look back but forward to find solutions and lobby UK parliament to re connect with Europe.

Alan Burgos-Roda

I believe I can contribute and make a difference.

Alison Biden

Apathy is the biggest enemy of democracy, so I am prepared to take action instead of just complaining. I am passionate about being 'European.' I want to dispel the sense of 'us' and 'them' which has prevailed in Britain's relationship with our nearest neighbours, and fight against the trend towards greater isolation.

I have been a pro-Europe activist in my region since 2015, contributing to an increase in local groups, and believe I can bring my experience to strengthen the EM's campaigning. I see being a member of Council as an opportunity to channel my ideas and activity.

The EM has a triple role: to unite the various pro-European entities in our country; to educate the British public about Europe, and to build closer ties with our geographical neighbour. It needs committed, active members who can share its vision and inspire others to join the campaigns. Having reached its current size, it needs good communications with its 'grass roots', and how they function on a local level, as well as the contribution they can make nationally.

I believe I can do this.

Angela Dickinson

As the organiser of a busy and energised grassroots 'remain' group for 4 years, I have developed a deep commitment to the European project and grassroots support movement. I have demonstrated this through co-ordinating the efforts of my local group but also when invited to take part in the wider conversation. I am currently working with a European cultural project for the South East, with the IMOS foundation.

I am a person of vision and energy, and have experience with trusteeship, with a sound legal and administrative background. I feel I can add a great deal to the conversation about our movement.

As an independent local councillor (in a coalition-led majority grouping) I am experienced with cross-party efforts and I am a dedicated advocate for progressive alliances and democratic reform.

Briony Kapoor

I have been pro Europe from my schooldays and have been actively engaged for years. I was responsible for the Portrait of Europe and Still Lives of Europe exhibitions through the IMOS Foundation arts charity and am now developing a Sculpture Park on the Romney Marsh containing major figures from Europe who have benefited humanity. In addition I have recently begun arrangements for a European Cultural Centre (ECC) following the conduct of a European Weekend in Canterbury called From BREXIT To Future. I arranged that for the East Kent European Movement. It brought together many and varied areas of UK/Europe activity including Twinning, Football, Archaeology, Education, Pilgrimage, Business and Politics. It was successful in creating a positive, constructive and forward looking mood. Three new projects have already begun with the ECC and the IMOS Foundation thanks to ongoing close relationships built up with EU organisations over the years. I expect to be a player the proposed Festival of Europe and am active in bringing together several different pro Europe groups in our East Kent area.

Charles House

The best future for Britain, for our public services and for our families lies within a union with our closest neighbours. I believe passionately that closer friendship and collaboration is essential. I am dismayed by the anti-immigration agenda our country has adopted. I am a doctor and have been a member of European Movement for some time. I have written an article in The New European (2017) and social media/blogs, but have not otherwise previously been active.

Chris Hill

I've been a vociferous supporter of EU membership, seeing it as crucial to our future well-being, international influence and reputation, since well before Cameron's flawed referendum announcement.

I've marched and written numerous times to MP(s)/key politicians. I'm very active on social and other media, incl the Times online comments facility, taking care to ensure opportunity to argue points across a spectrum of opinions.

I predicted that a 'leave' win would, aside from an epic international disaster, usher in an inept, dangerous government, evidenced by key leave supporting characters.

I'm devastated to see my prediction come, not just true, but lead to a government that is far worse than even I thought probable.

I see direct evidence that, while global supply chain issues exist, 6 EU nations of which I have direct knowledge are not suffering real impacts as the Single Market can better manage such logistics issues across numerous states.

This, as well as those numerous other well-rehearsed, but oft-denied, problems, is a direct result of fraudulently persuading many voters to commit 'national suicide'.

I'm passionate about EU membership benefits, and incredulous at the sheer ineptitude, corruption and self-interest of this Johnson government.

Chris Ward

I believe that we should include British people living in the EU in the European Movement, They are the group of people likely to suffer the most because of the loss of freedom of movement. I am prepared to represent those people.

Clive Watson

I believe that the UK's interest lie in us being at the heart of Europe helping our European allies to forge a strong relationship in maintaining peace and prosperity.

By being part of a strong and United Europe we can promote more trade - collaborate on how to address climate change - undertake medical research together and have joint security and defence policies to keep everyone safe.

We need to promote why it's so important that Britain and Europe are united so we can look after all the peoples across Europe. Already we are seeing arguments over fishing rights, asylum seekers, the Northern Ireland protocol undermining our friendship with our European allies.

Step by step we need to build on our Free Trade deal to establish closer economic and political ties. It will take time and patience but we will succeed.

Colin Gordon

I believe I can help make EM-UK a more dynamic and effective campaign to guide the UK back into EU membership. I have experience of campaign and movement organisation at local, regional and national levels. I have worked to support a pro-Rejoin EM-UK campaign agenda, opposing moves which would establish discrimination among branches, and advocating grassroots-friendly organisation which is inclusive, diverse and united. Exposing and ending the gross harms of Brexit is now inseparable from a struggle to save our democracy, defeating oligarchic interests whose agenda is inimical to the common good. We must always be a cross-party Movement but we must be clear that our pro-European agenda absolutely requires the removal of the current political regime, and the establishment in its place of a stable pro-European majority. This cannot be achieved without commitments to fair voting and a progressive alliance. We must not allow our activism to be constrained by political parties and our campaigning mission as a public actor must engage the whole of civil society, not just Westminster lobbying, but the latter has its necessary place and we must be a friend, ally and inspiration of pro-democratic and pro-European action and values within all progressive parties.

David Boxen

Culturally and of course geographically we are part of the European continent and have benefited enormously from the closer economic and political ties that have been formed with our European neighbours over these last 45 years.

As a young person growing up in Loughborough, my early visits to our twin towns of Epinal (France) and Schwaebisch Hall (Germany) were life-changing experiences which led directly to my Modern Language studies at Oxford. As a young businessman and export salesman, I witnessed directly the positive benefits of the effective extension of our domestic market to encompass the markets of 27 other countries. I also witnessed the emergence of London as a vibrant world capital, attracting the talent and enriching diversity of a whole continent.

We have thrown all this way in pursuit of the pipe-dream of “Global Britain”.

The UK is a great nation, with much to offer the world, but it is one of many great nations and in global terms a medium-sized country. It is far better placed to play a leading role with our near neighbours

I wish to play my small part to restore our rightful place at the heart of Europe.

David Reid

Active since ' Fanfare for Europe ' and before that in Freedom from Hunger campaigns. Worked with groups of teen-agers to and from Europe since 1965. Gold Duke of Edinburgh and Interact in schools across South East. I would like to encourage a Schools sub section titled Young European Society (YES) along the lines of an earlier attempt for Kent schools KAFÉ LINK ,(Kent, Artois, Flandres Électronique Link.

Dr Lucio Fumi

I am an Italian doctor, semi-retired, have lived in this country (in Oxfordshire) for 29 years, and have been a British Citizen for 20 (with dual citizenship). I was the president of the Italian Medical Society of Great Britain (representing over 4,000 Italian doctors working in the UK at the time) for the term 2014-16.

I am a European, a liberal, and in my twenties I spent 8 years fighting in the civil rights movements in Italy and in Europe. I am frustrated at this government's foolish and irresponsible approach to (among all the rest!) the European issue.

My major concern is that the pro-European front is very divided; I want to do everything in my power to unite the various groups under the umbrella of the European Movement. I am a member of the Lib-Dems and was their candidate at the county elections twice in the past five years.

I am particularly interested in Constitutional issues and can give a solid contribution in that area.

Eleanor Bell

I have been a European and internationalist all my adult life. I studied French and English at Edinburgh University in 1966-71, spending a year as Assistante d'Anglais in a lycee in Annecy. After graduating I completed a PGCE at Cambridge University, and then took up a post with VSO as a volunteer teacher trainer in Sri Lanka. Returning home overland, I then spent a year as Lectrice d'Anglais at Rouen University where I also studied for a Maitrise d'Histoire.

I taught Modern Languages (French, Italian and ESL) at South Downs College of Further Education, including an exchange year in Quebec Canada. I then moved to LSU College of HE in Southampton, where I taught French to BA European Studies and Combined Studies degree programmes and also BEd French and In service training for the then flourishing Primary Languages programme in Southampton. I developed a new programme La Francophonie (French speaking world studies) and organised annual sixth form conferences for students from all over the central southern region. I also organised hustings events for each of the European Parliamentary elections for Central South Hampshire, and in 1992 organised a city wide event on 'The Single market: what

does this mean for me, my college, my city'. I became BA Programmes Director, and was nominated as Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Linguists.

In my last years at LSU I was invited to become European Projects Director, expanding our Erasmus programmes to include Leonardo as well as staff exchanges for our Librarians and Science technicians. I invited the Irish and Danish ambassadors (both female) to come and speak to us at the time of their referendums on EU membership. In 1990, I answered the call of Olomouc University in Czechoslovakia to help them retrain their school teachers of Russian to become teachers of English, and we organised three successive and immensely rewarding summer programmes there, with funding assistance from the British Council.

In 2007 I was elected as a Winchester City Councillor for the Liberal Democrats and was also approved as both English and European Parliamentary candidate. I stood as PPC for Southampton Itchen in 2015 and 2017 and campaigned hard in the run up to the 2016 Referendum - and ever since!

I believe the European Movement has had a renaissance in recent years and is stronger now than it was during the Referendum. It brings together a wide range of skills, backgrounds, ethnicities and political affiliations. I would like to be part of its continued and important role to keep EU membership as a realistic ideal and work for UK re-entry to the Single Market and Customs Union.

Geraldine Coggins

I believe very strongly in the European Union as a project for peace. I want to work with the European Movement (EM) to change the mood of the country, so that Rejoining the EU is seen as being in the interests of both the UK and the wider world.

I campaigned for Remain before the Referendum and have been involved with the very active grassroots group, Oxford for Europe, since 2017, helping to run stalls, organise coaches to the big marches in London, and to run a series of public meetings with high profile speakers both live and, in recent times, on Zoom. I also organised a group trip to Brussels to visit the EU Parliament. I write the Oxford group newsletter highlighting current debates, worthwhile petitions and upcoming events. It reaches over 1000 supporters and is regularly shared beyond our group. My skills and experience would be very useful to the EM Council.

I am pleased that the EM is moving forward with its constitution and aiming to broaden its membership so that it reflects modern British society, and I will continue, elected to the Council or not, to be an enthusiastic supporter of the movement to Rejoin.

Gordon de la Mare

Though retired I spent the last twenty years of my career in the computer industry working across Europe with direct reporting staff in Germany, France, Denmark as well as the UK. I could never do that job now as a result of Brexit.

I am a passionate European and feel sorry for this generation of upcoming British business people who will be limited in what they can do and what they can achieve.

My aim now to to encourage people to consider how we can align ourselves more favourably with other EU countries whilst recognising that Brexit is done for quite some years and it will be a long time before any approach to re-join can be made.

The UK is damaging our relationships with our neighbours and we must act to bring a sense of normality and trust back into play.

My expertise in working across the EU for such a long time is a key offering that I bring to the table.

Graham Jones

I've been an active member of the European Movement since the 1990s and an active campaigner for European unity and UK leadership in Europe all my adult life.

I believe EM International and its UK arm are as relevant and necessary now as when our movement was created after the 1948 Hague Congress to be the civil society counterpart to the Council of Europe. The coming together of Europe's peoples in peace and prosperity was conceived in the ashes of war. Today the mission is to hold our peoples together in the face of existential challenges, not least instability and conflict risks on our eastern borders. Others range from climate change to population displacement, to energy union, to the defence of human rights, to the fight against international crime.

The central role of European Movement UK has been to inform and educate on the benefits of European unity and UK leadership at the heart of Europe. As we expose and seek to repair the damage of Brexit, that role is again crucial to the building of a settled will across society that EU membership, indeed full participation in Europe in all its iterations, is entirely in our national interest.

Howard Aiken

I have been campaigning against Brexit since before the 2016 referendum, initially via social media. Through my activity on social media I met other Remainers in the Oxford area and joined our activist group, Oxford for Europe as a founder member. We organised local demonstrations and took groups to large demonstrations in London.

I joined the European Movement's Oxford branch and was part of the European Movement grassroots campaigns team working on the development of effective pro – European campaign materials in 2020.

I am a member of the Liberal Democrat Party and an ex-member of the Labour Party.

My main role at present is to grow the Oxford for Europe audience on Facebook. Our Facebook page has grown from a reach of about 25k / month in January 2021 to a current figure of over 130k/ month. This growth has been overwhelmingly 'organic' as we use a separate page (The Truth about Brexit) for our paid advertising.

I would like to see the European Movement take a leading role as popular mass movement in bringing the UK back to a closer relationship with the EU within the next few years. To do this the Movement needs to build a wider base of support across all sections of society and its current commitment to diversity and inclusiveness is a welcome step in the right direction. As one of the

European Movement's BAME members I would like to contribute to the development and implementation of this strategy.

James Stanger

I was an active member of the people's vote campaign, promoting the cause and I attended many protests and marches.

I still believe passionately in the UK being part of the EU. The public was ill informed and lied to about the true damage to our country and economy.

We need to build a broad movement that brings the whole country together and holds the people to account who created this terrible situation.

As we see more of the awful results of the decision to leave the EU, we need to highlight these and the damage it is doing to our lives and the country as a whole.

John Evans

In the past, I have managed and led many different ""free movement"" exchanges for vocational students - indeed, led the first three visits by such students to Eastern Europe with Tempus money 1990-93. I observed how profound the impact of ""free movement"" on young people was, and see it as the greatest 'theft' from young people in the future.

I have been a Committee member and leader of two international voluntary organisations connected with education and sport. Of the four freedoms, it must be the most important to pursue, and is what motivates me in wanting to develop this back into 'normal running' for all the people of the EU. Exchange of people and ideas is as important as the exchange of goods and services. It is also the most challenging, due to its entanglement with the emotional aspects of "immigration" which so corrupted the Referendum.

The European Movement must not be afraid to voice this important element of European interaction to give young people the courage and opportunity to experience as wide a perception of the world around them, as possible, with their nearest neighbours, while recognising that the free movement of skills and experience is a sure route to continued prosperity for individuals and states.

John Gaskell

I was a founder member of SW Surrey branch of EM, and have been on the National Council for two years. During this time I have worked with staff at head office to improve and maximise our investment in NationBuilder. If re-elected I will continue this work, which is of particular benefit to newer and smaller groups.

Our groups vary by size, geography, history, and in other ways. This diversity is a strength we should value. We may disagree on details and tactics, but must all work together. In particular, smaller groups need support, and expertise exists in groups but is dotted patchily around them. We can and should help each other.

We need to be steadfast and united in our aim - that the UK should once again be at the heart of Europe. We need to remain open and welcoming to members and supporters 'of all parties, and none', and at the same time be willing to criticise the current policies of all party leaders on the subject of Europe.

If re-elected I will encourage the European Movement to pay more attention to developing the emotional response too. There are far too many heart-rending stories not being told - from dreams dashed, to careers ruined, to families torn apart.

I have worked in IT all my life, and have achieved an MBA. I established my career in Europe and am devastated that young people will no longer have the same opportunities. I look forward to your support.

Keith Adrian Harrap

As a research scientist who had many professional connections in Europe and provided scientific policy advice to the European Commission over several years from 1983 I want to make a contribution to rebuilding links with European endeavours. I share the ideals of European collaboration and the free and open movement of people, services and goods that all lead to the strengthening of European culture and the quality of life. I want to understand why these profound benefits are so little understood by many in the United Kingdom and what needs to be done to change this attitude and contribute to that effort.

Lynne Armstrong

I am standing for election to the European Movement Council because I must do everything I can to help Britain return to the EU, to share again in the peace and prosperity built by cooperative partnership between European Member States.

My life and career were focussed on European union and Brexit has destroyed everything I tried to achieve. I am an economist who worked for EFTA and the European Parliament, and in the 1990s I helped ensure that the UK introduced PR for its EP elections, after being a candidate.

My son lives in France with his French partner and two teenage sons, so I share the grief of anyone whose family is split by the end of freedom of movement, and the barriers Brexit has raised, turning our country into a pariah state.

I have served as an elected member of town and district councils, and a Mencap National Councillor for twelve years.

I belong to Labour for a European Future and the Labour Movement for Europe, and would liaise with them to pressure the Labour Party to back rejoin.

The European Movement must lead a regenerated campaign to restore the UK's natural place at the heart of Europe.

Magdalena Williams

Having campaigned for the U.K. to remain in the EU, and after Brexit to stay as closely aligned to our closest neighbours and allies Europe, I want to be an active participant in the European Movement.

I am and always will be European to the core. Born in Hungary, which my family fled in 1956, I moved to England from Austria more than fifty years ago and love my adopted country. It is devastating for me to watch how lies and misconceptions have led to the decision to isolate the U.K. from 27 countries who have joined in a union in order to protect peace in Europe. I am a former child refugee who experienced a bloody revolution aged eight. My family fled across mine fields to flee tyranny and find sanctuary in a Democratic system. Maybe that makes me more aware of the fragility of peace and democracy and passionate about precious, hard won achievements. There is no place for complacency.

It is time for the U.K. to realise that Unity is vital to address global challenges we are all facing. Nobody can succeed in addressing climate change, pandemics and ever increasing populist trends on their own. It is time for the U.K. to commit to Europe. This is our Continent and I want to contribute as best as I can to the Future of Europe. Being aware of imperfections and the need to constantly review the functioning of the European Union, I want to play a role in the process. I feel that we must grab the opportunity to contribute to exciting changes being forged.

The European Movement is vital in informing people about what Europe means to all of us. It is vital to counter lies and continue to keep the message alive: we are European and history should have taught us that together we can achieve so much more. For our children's future, for the future of the planet, a United Europe is the only way forward.

Martin Rimmer

Living in both France and UK, with business and political interests on both sides of the Channel and currently Executive Committee member of Lib Dems in France and a member of the Lib Dems Fairness Panel, Martin has the bandwidth and experience to make a positive contribution to the European Movement. In the past he was a two times Parliamentary Candidate, Councillor, Royal Borough Windsor and Maidenhead, chair of a number of Council Committees plus a member Lib Dem Conference Committee. He was also the Vice Chair of LDEG (Lib Dem European Group), where he led several awareness delegations to Brussels for prospective MPs. Martin campaigned strongly for Remain and is currently a member/supporter of a number of anti-Brexit organisations and will be campaigning to re-join the EU as soon as the time is right.

Mike Cashman

I aim to bring passion and creativity to this role. I would like to see the European Movement welcomed for insightful, witty and telling contributions.

I have authored political satire books & music CDs, "Brexit's a Trick not a Treat", "Brexit's a Musical Trick", "I Don't Beg Pardon, I'm Talking Bollocks From the Rose Garden".

I run a YouTube channel "Britannia Waives the Rules" with 100+ anti-Brexit videos, 4000+ Subscribers, some fictional characters to assist with the satire, and some lures for Brexiters - ironic titles include "The EU has not accepted Brexit".

I believe we need to appeal to the whole UK, across geography, background, class, educational level and voting history.

To quote myself from the Channel

“We shall challenge the lies on the streets, and on the social media landing grounds.

We shall challenge with growing confidence in the air of fact-checking.

We shall defend the truth.

We shall challenge the lies on the buses and in the pubs.

We shall challenge with facts and with satire.

We shall challenge with humour and with song.

We shall challenge in the Press and in the media.

We shall challenge at the polls.

We shall never surrender”.

Richard B Young

I am a long standing member of the European Movement, as well as the Labour Movement for Europe (LME). In the past I have served on the executive of the LME, and acted as a liaison point between LME and the Coalition for the Reform Treaty, way back in the good old days during the UK Lisbon ratification process. I campaigned for remain in the Referendum locally in Epsom & Ewell, with various groups, including Epsom & Ewell Labour Party, of which I am a member. I am also now involved with NE Surrey for Europe.

I currently work for a leading financial news and data company in the City of London, and I have extensive knowledge of EU financial regulation, and the EU legislative process. I am married with a daughter, who is fluent in German and French, and wants her European future back!

I am keen to play an active role in the European Movement National Council, as the European Movement will be central to helping move public opinion further against this disastrous Brexit.

Saul Clackson

I believe that the 2016 Brexit referendum was deeply flawed and failed to meet the highest standards of democracy this country is widely respected for. There is no doubt in my mind that if we had been able to secure a confirmatory vote on the current Brexit ‘deal’ and remaining in the EU, we would still be EU members.

I want to work to educate voters on what the benefits of EU Citizenship and Membership are. I believe we can make the case very quickly to bring membership of the Single Market back into political consideration.

I also want to ensure that young people are fully engaged in the campaign to rejoin the EU - and that we represent their views and aspirations fully.

Sir Bryan Carsberg

I feel a deep sense of personal loss as well as sadness for the U.K. at being deprived of being part of the European Community. I am a European. I have worked with the European Commission in several different capacities over a period of more than twenty years and I have a high regard for its work. I want to play a part in restoring the best possible relations with the EU and its member states, with a view to positioning the U.K. to rejoin when it becomes feasible to do so; and I want to contribute to discussions about how to achieve the best possible preparedness in the British population to enjoy the benefits of membership and be good members when the time comes. I was the first head of Oftel, the telecoms regulator, and have been Director General of Fair Trading and Secretary General of the International Accounting Standards Committee, whose standards have been adopted for use by the EU.

Veronica Stiastry

After a professional career spanning the Foreign Office, the British Embassy in Vienna, the University of Toronto, and a photographic studio in London, I became involved in Conservative politics. Elected in 1997 as a Surrey County Councillor, I was Chairman of the Environment and Economy Select Committee, and Vice-Chairman of the Guildford Local Committee.

When the Party's views diverged with mine on the subject of Europe, I left and became an Independent.

I was a founder member of the European Movement's Surrey Branch in 2002, Vice-Chairman of the EM/UK, from 2009 to 2014, and Board member of the EMI from 2009- 2012, as Vice-Chairman of the Political Committee on 'The Future of Europe'. I still keep up my links to the EMI and attend their Zoom meetings.

Over many years, I was a regular invitee to the European Ideas Network, the European Economic & Social Committee, European Citizens' Advisory Service, and other EU seminars in Brussels, so I believe my knowledge gathered will be useful to EM/UK and hope I could continue to make a real contribution to its future.

I strongly believe that the Movement needs to fight to return the UK to its rightful place in EU, by our ability to influence the wider public, by our links to politicians of all parties, and with our campaigning skills.

Will Dry

I co-founded the youth organisation Our Future Our Choice, and was one of the lead campaigners for a People's Vote in 2018/9, regularly speaking live at rallies, marches, and in the media.

I remain passionate about trying to this country having a strong and productive relationship with Europe.

MEMBERS REPS (YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER)

The following people are standing for election as Members Rep for the Yorkshire and The Humber region. Only people in the that region may vote for these candidates.

You must vote for a minimum of 1 candidate and can vote for a maximum of 6.

Clare Pickerden

I am a passionate European, always have been, always will be. Brexit, an epic act of self-harm, has social, cultural, political and economic impacts that must be reversed. It is incredibly divisive: between UK nations, generations, communities, and between us and our neighbours in Europe. I fully support the European Movement's objective that "the UK needs to play its full part in furthering the aims of European unity" and against division.

As a member of the National Council, I would work to support the membership and seek to galvanise their talents, passion, skills and knowledge into building a clear message about why being part of the EU is of such value to us all. Public opinion is changing. We must talk to our neighbours, colleagues and communities. This is about our values of inclusion, integrity, friendship and co-operation. For me, the European Movement represents hope, vision and aspiration for all our futures.

My background is in gender equality and higher education, working with academics presenting research to the European Parliament – work I loved and valued that no longer exists, which continues to make me both sad and infuriated. Time to put that energy into making a difference.

Dr Ann Lawson Lucas

I have always been European. Widespread travels - from Spain to Yugoslavia - with my parents from the age of 10 led to lifelong friendships in France and Italy and the beginnings of political awareness. Following studies in Italy and at Edinburgh University in Italian and French, I taught Italian language and literature to university students, hoping to encourage also a European understanding and sensibility. My own research took me to libraries and conferences all over Italy and many of my articles and books have been published in Italian. My academic and publisher friends in Florence and Turin are all aghast at Brexit.

At the time of the 2016 Referendum, I lobbied as many MPs and peers as I could, maintaining those contacts throughout the Brexit deal debates in Parliament. At the same time I joined as many pro-European organizations as possible, including the European Movement. I have served for two years on the National Council and seek a second term: I will always do all in my power to promote pro-European attitudes and the return of the UK to the European family.

Jane Thomas

I wish to use my campaigning skills and expertise to further help support the work of the movement. Over the last 20 years I have organised campaigns nationally and as Head of the England team for Friends of the Earth gained specific experience of working for a large NGO with an active local groups base. Before that I worked on PR and devolution campaigns.

More recently I've done a lot around alliance building, especially in the nations and regions running the Brexit Civil Society Alliance to support, inform and educate civil society groups to address the woeful inadequacies of the Brexit legislation.

I ran the Remain campaign in Sheffield in the 2016 referendum and then helped establish Sheffield for Europe. I have been an active Committee member ever since leading campaigns such as the GreatBritishBikeOff (when we biked from Sheffield to Brussels to deliver a love letter to the EU).

I'm a former university politics lecturer and currently the Commissioning Editor for Yorkshire Bylines and about to help launch a Bylines radio show.

The next 18 months are crucial in the run up to the general election and I want us to campaign smarter across all parts of the UK.

Jasbinder Kaur Olak

I wish to be a member of the National Council as I believe I will bring a unique perspective, having a background that differs from the vast majority of the current membership, including those in leadership and Council roles. Whilst I do not, and never would, claim to speak for all ethnic minorities, personal experiences are powerful, and a start on diversifying will hopefully encourage people from a variety of backgrounds to come forward and join.

All that withstanding, I strongly believe that any one elected should be done so based on their commitment to the pro - EU cause, and a belief that our nation is stronger standing together with our closest neighbours in a Union that is admired the world over. I've been an active committee member of Leeds for Europe for a number of years, attending many street stalls and marches along the way and I am currently the Vice Chair. Strong committed voices are needed more than ever and these must come from all communities if we are to convince people across all sections of society of the benefits of being at the heart of Europe.

Jon Johnson

As the nation descends further into chaos, it's vital that we have a plan to cope with the situation when it deteriorates and society begins to break down. The European movement, as one of the leading groups in seeking our future strategy as a country will be key in making that plan, working alongside other groups. I wish to be part of that process, helping to persuade people of the urgency, gravity and the society to act decisively.

Juliet Lodge

I am European and a grass roots campaigner inspired to bring new voices to the movement from across society. I believe that the EM has got into a rut and needs to be bolder in its work. I strongly believe that women are under represented and pigeon-holed and that we/they have ways of getting across the European message and spirit that has not been mobilised or adequately heard across the generations as well as across the deeply divided UK. A European voice to enthuse and unite in common endeavours and one that is direct and connects is what I wish to support. As the UK's Women for Europe years back, I know we can mobilise by being more engaged and direct, open and involved with our Euro counterparts. I want to see the UK rejoin the EU. And that is where my energies go.

Lilian McCobb

I believe passionately in the benefits of membership of the European Union and its potential for peace, harmony and co-operation. I find the direction being taken by the present government of our country deeply worrying, as it is rapidly moving away from those three ideals. I have been visiting France for most of my life, taught European languages, French, Spanish and German and have considerable and long-term interest in politics. I am a campaigner and have worked hard for local and national campaigns over many years. Like all institutions, the European Union needs to move forward and address the contemporary concerns and needs of its member states and their citizens. I hope that through being a member of The EM National Council I could help to keep our country as close as possible to Europe. My ultimate wish is to see the UK rejoin and play a full and positive role in the Europe of the future.

Mike Cattlin

I have been campaigning on my own against Brexit and for the EU since the referendum. I never expected to lose that vote and now recognise the dangers of that laissez-faire approach. I am the author of a fictional book ("The Cafe with Five Faces") which documented the period 2018-2019 with several chapters dedicated to anti-Brexit and anti-Trump rationale. I'd like to continue with that work.

Nicholas Allon

To help get as inclusive approach to expand the membership of European movement so that we form an effective lobbying organisation with aims that are mutually agreed by the council.

Pauline Allon

Because I am passionate about Europe and the European Union. I want to be part of an organisation whose aim is to promote a deeper longstanding relationship with our European partners. To represent the views of members: to enable the organisation to be more inclusive and representative of everyone with the aim of creating a diverse membership and Movement that is forward thinking: The EM needs new ideas to enable it to increase in size to influence.

Peter Packham

I consider myself a European and am committed to actively campaigning for the U.K. to rejoin the EU. I currently run the Leeds for Europe Facebook page and have grown the following from about 5,000 to 28,500. I am active in Leeds for Europe attending street stalls, speaking at protests and attending protests in Leeds, London and Manchester. I have experience in project management, managing people, public speaking, designing propositions and communicating them effectively and enhancing key messages. I believe these skills can be used to add value to the EM National Council. I am enthusiastic and want to do whatever I can to achieve the goal of a return to the EU and I think that enthusiasm and commitment can also add value to the council.

Tony McCobb

To work with like-minded people, to campaign for and promote the means of rejoining the EU. To combat the propaganda and disinformation about Europe emanating from the government and its media allies. To present a positive vision of Europe, but also to contribute via the Conference of Europe to the improvement of the EU. To fight against the impending removal of our Human Rights. With a Dutch mother and Irish grandfather, having taught German language and culture, and having visited France for long periods I feel, like many others, that we need to recover our stolen identity.

SCOTLAND

Reps from Scotland are nominated by our partner organisation in Scotland – EmiS (European Movement in Scotland)

WALES

Reps from Wales are nominated by our partner organisation in Wales – Wales for Europe.

BRANCHES REPS

The branches reps have already been elected. Please see the news page on the European Movement UK website for details.