

Pirate Party UK Press Statement:

Pirate Party UK Announces Parliamentary Candidates

Tuesday 30 March 2010

The Pirate Party UK is pleased to announce its line-up of parliamentary candidates for this year's General Election. The party intends to put forward a total of ten candidates across England and Scotland. Andrew Robinson, the party leader, said, "We have a strong team, who want to stand up for your rights, for your freedoms, for your interests, but we desperately need to raise funds. This is the only chance we will have in the next few years to get our voices heard. Help us get these candidates on to the ballot papers."

The ratified PPCs are:

- **Andrew Robinson - Worcester**

Andrew Robinson (41) is the leader of the Pirate Party UK, and a professional graphic designer. Andrew has long been involved in the pirate movement, and has lead the party since its formation in July 2009. Andrew believes that "politicians need to learn that blindly doing everything they are told by 'rights holders' has consequences at the ballot box. Voting pirate is the best way to remind them that we hold some rights too."

- **Finlay Archibald - Glasgow Central**

A maths student at Strathclyde University, Finlay Archibald (19) has been heavily involved in running the vibrant Scottish branch of the Pirate Party UK. Since joining the party, Finlay has founded the first Pirate student society in the UK. Finlay wants to engage with the people of Glasgow to give them an MP that they can be proud of, something which Labour has proven they cannot provide.

- **Tim Dobson - Manchester Gorton**

Tim Dobson (19) is a systems engineer who helped set up Digital Freedom in Education and Youth, an organisation dedicated to supporting digital rights in education. As a founding member of the Manchester Free Software group, Tim is also heavily involved in the free and open source software movement.



- **Shaun Dyer - Leicester West**

Working as an IT systems auditor, Shaun Dyer (26) has lived in Leicester for almost a decade. As an experienced computer security professional, he is ideally situated to bring to parliament a real understanding of the challenges and opportunities presented by Digital Britain.

- **David Geraghty - Derby North**

David Geraghty (19) is a student and avid music fan. He believes in supporting artists without penalising fans, something that the record labels have demonstrated an unwillingness to do. David believes that the music industry does not currently give adequate support to upcoming artists, and wants to prevent the abuse of fans by this industry.

- **Graeme Lambert - Bury North**

A keen local campaigner and sportsman, Graeme Lambert (18) hopes to run a campaign based on transparency after charges were brought against Bury North's current MP regarding his expenses claims. Announcing his candidacy, Graeme said, "The people of Bury North deserve an honest MP that will represent them properly after the disgraceful actions of David Chaytor, and that person is me."

- **Luke Leighton - South West Surrey**

Luke Leighton (40) is a free software developer with extensive experience in project management and software engineering. He understands the importance of the increasing impact that the Internet and software are making on our way of life, and is acutely aware of the problems inherent in handing control over to multi-national corporations, through the innocuous right to enforce "intellectual property".

- **Jack Nunn - London Region** (constituency to be announced)

Jack Nunn is a semi-professional musician who has previously worked with the Pirate Parties internationally and believes that the Pirate movement "is fundamentally a civil rights movement, working to protect the human rights and basic freedoms of individuals". To this end he has recently contacted the Joint Committee on Human Rights about the impact of the Digital Economy Bill.



- **Mark Sims - East Ham**

As an ICT teacher, Mark Sims (37) has a strong appreciation of the implications of copyright, patents, privacy and freedom of speech in the digital world. Mark feels that this understanding has been poorly demonstrated by Stephen Timms, Minister for Digital Britain, one of his opponents in East Ham.

- **Alexander van Terheyden - Bethnal Green and Bow**

A financial expert with a long history of political campaigning, Alexander van Terheyden (29) has a strong understanding of both the social and economic impacts of copyright and patent law. Mr van Terheyden wishes to reign-in the "big brother state" and defend civil liberties and freedom of speech.

The party still needs to raise a considerable amount of money to fund their campaigns. Peter Brett, the party's Deputy Campaigns Officer, explained:

"We'd love to give as many people as possible the opportunity to 'Vote Pirate' in the election. Unfortunately, this means we need to raise just over £9000 in addition to the funds previously raised through member subscriptions. This will be just enough for all our candidates to pay their deposits and to have a reasonable amount for publicity materials."

Donations can be made through the Party website¹.

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The Pirate Party UK is a political organisation registered with the electoral commission. It campaigns for significant reform to copyright and patent law, protection for personal privacy and government transparency, and greater freedoms of speech and communication. For more information contact the Press Office via press@pirateparty.org.uk or visit the website.²

1 <http://www.pirateparty.org.uk/party/donate/>

2 <http://www.pirateparty.org.uk>

