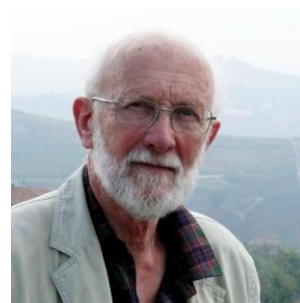


John Weaver:

Liberal Democrat candidate

About me

Born 24th December 1938 in Warwickshire yes 1938.
Lived in Olney 1977 -1988, Milton Keynes 1988 - 2008.
Moved to Wellingborough 2008.



Retired Chartered Engineer; (Member of the IET - formerly "Institution of Electrical Engineers")
Last 18 years worked as a Railway Safety and Reliability Engineer.

Community activities

Town Councillor, Olney (Bucks) 1980 to 1988.

Buckinghamshire County Councillor 1985 to 1989;

- member of Policy and Resources Committee (the 'Senior Committee' of the Council)

- member of Public Protection Committee

Chairman of Management Committee of Newport Pagnell Adult Education Centre 1988 - 94.

Milton Keynes Community Health Council 1987 - 92, Chairman 1991 - 92.

Member of Board of Governors of Milton Keynes College 1985 - 89

- Chairman of Science and Education Consultative Committee.

Member of Board of Governors of Stantonbury Campus 1985 – 94 and 2001 – 2005

Trustee of a Church and Community Centre in Milton Keynes 1992 - 2014...

Church Warden 1995 - 98 and 2007 - 2010...

Other activities

Singing (Bass 2 - or 3) - Wellingborough Orpheus Choir and Wellingborough Singers.

Previously with Milton Keynes Chorale; and 'Quorum', a 16-voice 'Tudor' *a cappella* choir in MK, and briefly with London Philharmonic Choir, York Musical Society and York University Choir. (Very occasional solos).

Studying wines

Author of the first articles in English on Barbaresco and Barolo in national magazines 1973, 1978:
and other articles in *Wine*, *Decanter* and *Wine and Spirit Trade* in the 1980s.

The only British member of the wine 'confraternities' in Barolo (at least to 2000 - the last list published):

L'Ordine dei Cavalieri del Tartufo e dei Vini di Alba (since 1986) and the
Compagnia dei Vignaioli di La Morra (1992).

Speaking on wine, and teaching 'wine appreciation' at an adult education centre.

Secretary of the "Wine Appreciation Special Interest Group" of Mensa.

Photography - a few photos published, mainly about wine. A number on web-site www.barol.org.uk

Dog breeding and showing - qualified a dog for Crufts every year 1979 to 1988.

§

I am 'standing' rather than 'running' - I can not get to see you all on the doorstep. There is confidence that I would be an effective Councillor (as I was in Bucks) but not that I am favourite to win. Well let's see.

It is important that people who share our values have the chance to record their support at the ballot box. Please do; it provides a lot of information for the future, even if it does not get the liberal or democratic attitudes you want in elected representatives just now.

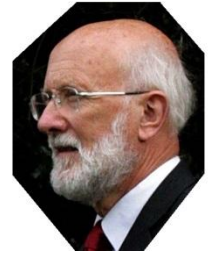
I have provided information about me, just to tell you factually what is on offer.

Equally important is what I believe and feel about things, so I show my abbreviated analysis of a few situations. If these turn people away from voting for me that is fine - I don't want you to vote for me by mistake. For instance: I, and the Party, have been unswervingly in favour of a United Europe for 60 years. They are my thoughts, not those of the Party - but close enough for me to be a member.

It will be no surprise - given my Party allegiance - that fairness ranks highly in my assessment of any policy.

Aphorisms - personal snapshots

These oddments sketch what I think and feel. They are not the views of any Party, but they are pretty close to the Liberal Democrat philosophy. I of course hope you share these attitudes, but mostly I want you to know what moves me.



Spending cuts do not just risk adding to recession, they *are* recession when they reduce the work being done. The 'logic' of cutting is "If you cannot afford seed corn, then don't buy any until you have had a good harvest".

To respond to the problem of benefit dependency by penalising all the people whom the system was designed to save from suffering is savagely cruel, and depends on dishonest assumptions. It seeks the lynch-mob vote.

So the government will "get people off 'dependency' into jobs". That can only be in place of some of the hundreds of thousands currently hunting for jobs that don't exist. It is then easier to blame the unemployed for unemployment.

And if you are one of those many who really desires a job, just how encouraging is it for you if vast numbers without that desire - or fitness - are forced by a headline-seeking government to compete for each one?

UK citizens do not deserve lower human rights than those of other European countries. To reduce human rights 'in order to gain competitive advantage' means impoverishing the British in order to cheat the rest of Europe.

60 years ago I was delighted that the Liberal Party proposed that the UK join a United Europe. The other Parties were opposed. Only this Party has been consistent in its support of this, uniquely peaceful, coming together of nations.

Sigmund Freud said we are all motivated by sex; Milton Friedman that it is by money. Desiring either - in a little more than moderation - is healthy enough, but either can become a damaging depraved obsession. From the Christian point of view (St Paul: "... *the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil*") it seems that the money motive is the more immoral. That is not to resent adequate payment to someone who really does create wealth!

The UK makes itself a nation of scroungers by relying heavily on the taxes paid by 'investing' bankers, who gain money by 'dealing' rather than in exchange for work. It weakens the desire of lazy governments to achieve a brain-driven wealth-creating economy, rather than just 'make' money at the expense of less cunning people.

Lack of regulation did not cause the banking collapse. But those who promoted it knew that they were dealing with personally ambitious people with scant regard for the community they lived off. If they did not foresee disaster they were utterly incompetent - if they did, and still 'de-regulated', they were far far worse.

Everyone working to numerical targets cheats; they (we) bend the priorities to the target rather than to the job. The professional's judgement as to how a task is performed is put second to what an inexperienced administrator decides is profitable in the short-term. Applying the principle in the NHS has directly and predictably caused deaths.

When targets are set there need to be a *de-targeting* study and a *fiddlability* study - to list the activities whose priority is lowered because other activities are targeted, and to list all the ways a target could be met without improving the output. These lists should be studied frequently by very 'senior' people.

The First Past the Post electoral system will indeed elect someone whom most voters want to win. It will often fail to reject a candidate that a clear majority of voters want to lose. Rejecting a bad candidate is essential to democracy; we do not have that right. (Over half the votes will of course still win under a 'transferable' (alternative) vote system).

"I've done nothing wrong, I haven't broken the rules" is a particularly sick attitude. Complaints at MPs fiddling expenses, or companies actively avoiding taxes are not remotely referring to the law. We are simply saying that an action is entirely wrong. Laws get cynically used as just a list of those dishonest actions that we cannot get away with.

We suffer today from Margaret Thatcher's attempt to reduce civilized behaviour to the submission to rules, and her apparent crass belief that wealth creation could be replaced by 'making' money. Society remains damaged, and the economy was broken by the people she released from any responsibility.

Blair's proclaimed 'meritocracy' has simply become a 'meretrocracy' - government for those flaunting what they have gained rather than for those who contribute to the society or the economy. Merit has no visible place. (no the word doesn't exist - well it didn't).

People 'working hard' and people 'getting on'; two negative images of a sad society. Blindly working hard and taking reward - both without a thought for producing something good, let alone in enjoying doing it, which is the purpose of work as part of a happy fulfilled life. I think I would simply be sorry for a 'hard working family' if I knew what it meant; and someone 'getting on' usually means what they have taken, rather than what they have put in to the economy.