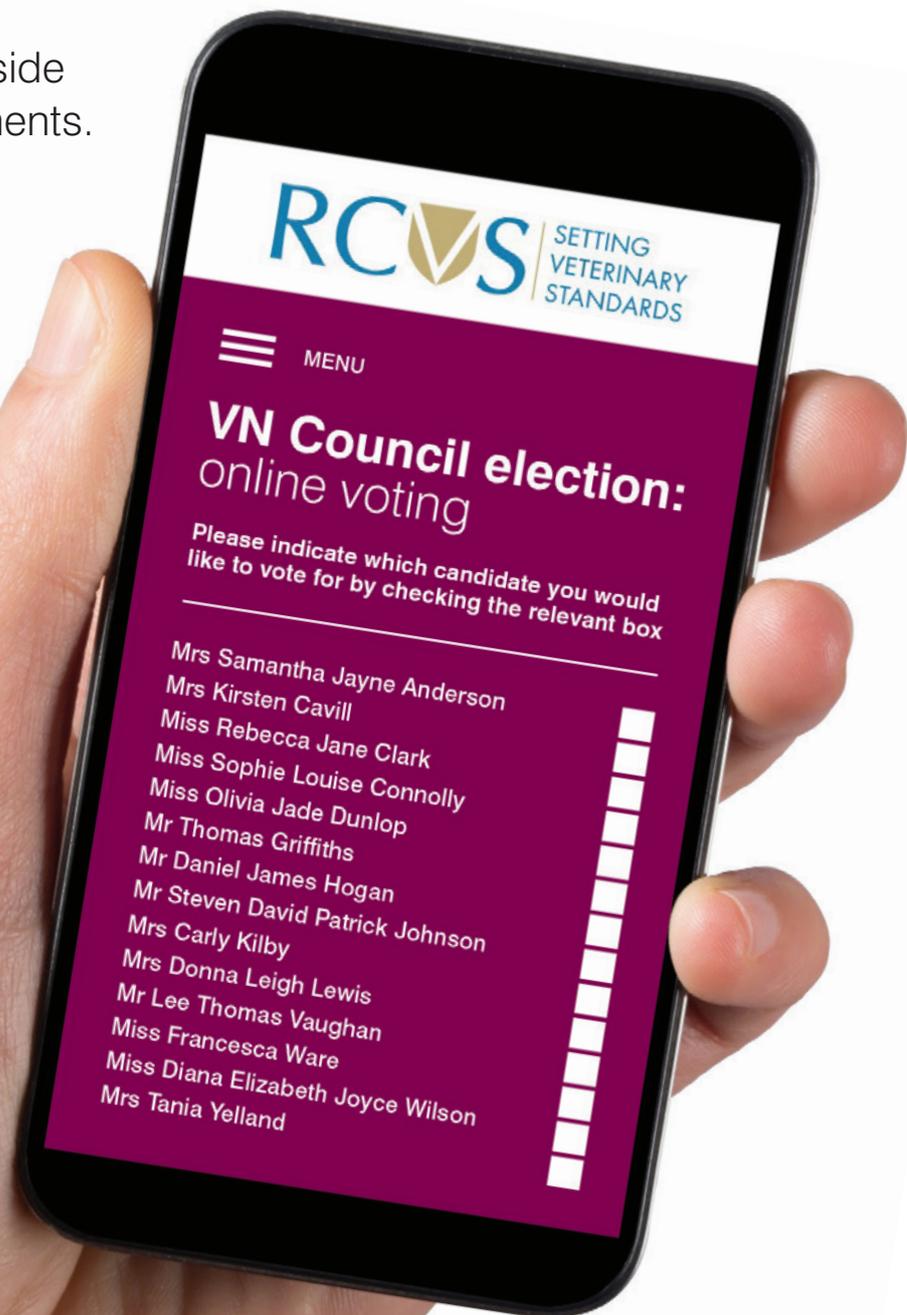




VN Council election: vote online

- **14 candidates standing in this year's election** – see inside for candidate bios and statements.
- Voting closes at 5pm on **Friday, 23 April 2021.**



VN Council election 2021

There are 14 candidates standing in this year's election, none of whom are currently members of VN Council. You can find details of each candidate, including their biographies and manifesto statements, in this booklet.

As current VN Council member Susan Howarth RVN was the only candidate to come forward before the original deadline of 31 January 2021, she has automatically been re-elected to VN Council for a further three-year term. This means that only one remaining elected place is now available on VN Council.

How to vote

Due to the coronavirus pandemic and the issues that it has caused regarding disruption to the postal service, this year we have gained permission from the Privy Council to temporarily amend our Election Scheme to allow voting in the VN Council election to take place entirely online this year. This means that physical ballot papers will not be distributed to veterinary nurses eligible to vote this year.

The small number of veterinary nurses for whom we do not hold an email address will receive a letter with instructions on how to vote online, in addition to their unique code for the voting website.

Voting opens on the **week commencing 15 March** when Civica Election Services (formerly Electoral Reform Services), which runs the election on our behalf, sends emails to all veterinary nurses eligible to vote with a secure link to a unique voting website.

All votes must be cast by **5pm on Friday, 23 April 2021**.

Candidate videos

This year we have given each candidate the option to produce a short video of themselves talking about some of the important issues affecting the veterinary nursing profession.

The candidates' videos will be published in due course on their individual profile pages at www.rcvs.org.uk/vnvote21 as well as the RCVS YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/rcvsvideos

RCVS Council Election 2021

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Proposers: Zoe Meads, Sairead Wild

MRS SAMANTHA JAYNE ANDERSON – CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY

My vet nursing journey started as a student in mixed practice in Hampshire, culminating in being Head Nurse. I am of the Green Book generation and trained through both correspondence course in conjunction with PDSA and local technical college. After spending ten years in the same practice, I then moved into teaching, setting up animal care courses at a college where I also gained my teaching qualifications.

As a mum with a growing family, we decided to relocate to Norfolk. I remained in further education now with significant input into veterinary nurse training for the next eleven years, progressing to the role of Curriculum Manager. My career then moved into practice management level as a result of redundancy, overseeing several veterinary practices for one of the veterinary groups.

After four years, I briefly transitioned to practice director for a large veterinary referral hospital before returning to education in 2019, I am currently working as a Practice Manager in a large practice in Norfolk. Outside of work I am usually found on my yoga mat, practicing, not very well I might add or walking my dog. Yoga has simply helped my personal wellbeing and mental health.



MRS SAMANTHA JAYNE ANDERSON – CANDIDATE STATEMENT

2021 sees me in my thirtieth year in the profession and working to my own personal mantra of 'wanting to make a difference' putting myself forward to be a VN council member seemed to be a natural step for me, having missed out on election last year.

I have spent most of my working career training the nurses of the future, I absolutely love teaching, it has brought me many joys and challenges, but I ultimately love seeing student's flourish. My overarching aim of teaching is to produce nurses that are confident, empowered and reflective practitioners. They should feel able to have input into practice and be recognised and fully utilised as they move into their professional status. Through discussion with the students and peers, I am aware that not all veterinary nurses feel they are fully recognised or have a rewarding career path. Once qualified, I believe veterinary nurses should be proud of their profession and be able to maximise their potential and skills in their professional careers through post registration training and qualifications. It shouldn't stop when we become an RVN and we should have a choice on how this can be achieved.

My veterinary nursing qualification has always been at the basis of my career path, I remain very passionate about vet nurse training but equally I am also an advocate for mental wellbeing having faced my own personal challenges. It is important as a profession that our own wellbeing is managed, that we create a supported profession and get an important life balance.

Despite not being elected last year I remain resolute and reasons for putting myself forward for election remain the same, I would like to have the opportunity to utilise the skills that I have gained to represent the profession on the VN Council.





Mrs Kirsten Cavill

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Proposers: Tanya Whipps, Joanna Godfrey

MRS KIRSTEN CAVILL – CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY

After starting my career in mixed practice in Somerset, I qualified as a veterinary nurse in 1991.

I worked for the PDSA in Plymouth from 1991–2000. Between, 2007–2018

I volunteered within a zoological environment, gaining comprehensive knowledge of exotic species and wildlife conservation.

In 2013 I started working for The Vet Connection where I am currently a Head Nurse. In 2016 I graduated with an honours degree in Natural and Environmental Sciences and in 2018 I achieved a Diploma in Canine Clinical Myotherapy.

Through my longstanding interest in the management and rehabilitation of senior dogs, I started my own canine rehabilitation business in 2018 working under veterinary referral. I am currently a registered member of the International Association of Animal Therapists (IAAT) and hold a one paw accreditation with the Veterinary Osteoarthritis Alliance (VOA).

I am a volunteer StreetNurse Team Lead and committee member with the veterinary charity StreetVet. In addition, for the past four years I have volunteered as a Veterinary Nurse Advisor with Canine Arthritis Management (CAM). I regularly lecture, write articles for publication and enjoy public speaking.



MRS KIRSTEN CAVILL – CANDIDATE STATEMENT

We have just come through, what is probably the most challenging year the profession has faced for a very long time! I am incredibly proud at the way RVN's and the profession overall, have risen to the unenviable challenge, Covid has thrown at us.

I passionately believe that the career of a veterinary nurse should be rewarding, exciting, challenging and fulfilling. The reality of the role should reflect the years of study, dedication and hard work required to qualify as a RVN.

Nurses are highly skilled co-professionals and should be recognised accordingly. Promoting veterinary nursing as a valued profession is a priority and best achieved through the development of skills, knowledge and through the practice of evidence based nursing.

By developing specialist roles, through a structured pathway of education and continuing professional development, we can encourage all nurses to achieve their full potential.

We must strive to provide exciting, inspiring and rewarding career pathways, ensuring the highest of standards are maintained, whilst making provision for career progression and job satisfaction. I am dedicated to empowering nurses through education and advancement of skills within a practice environment.

Mental health, wellness and wellbeing should be at the forefront of our minds as we strive to retain highly skilled and experienced nurses within the profession. Nurses should be encouraged to reflect on their work and be motivated to seek new and exciting pathways to direct their careers, through a structured and diverse programme of post- qualification training. I believe fostering a positive educational culture, is the cornerstone in achieving these goals.

This year marks my 30th year as a qualified RVN, and I am still as proud to be a nurse and wear the badge, as the day I first qualified.





Miss Rebecca Jane Clark

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MISS REBECCA JANE CLARK – CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY

Rebecca Clark qualified in 2010 with an NVQ level 3 in Veterinary Nursing and has held a variety of related roles since, in practice and industry around the world. As a self-proclaimed 'serial learner', Rebecca has completed recognised courses in hydrotherapy, clinical massage therapy, emergency and critical care, and exotic small mammals. She is currently studying for certification in the human-animal bond and is fascinated by the positive physical and emotional benefits of pet ownership. With experience of speaking at conferences, holding live educational events on social media and writing for a species-specific publication, Rebecca believes that sharing knowledge is just as important as acquiring it.

Rebecca is passionate about charity and animal welfare, and is the Veterinary Welfare Advisor to the Support Adoption for Pets charity within the Pets At Home Group. She liaises closely with animal rescue organisations throughout the UK to help secure a brighter future for rescued pets. She is a member of the BVNA, ACV and AZEVN. In her own time she is training for a half-marathon and has a keen interest in sustainability. Based just outside of Manchester, her happy place is on long walks in the countryside with her terrier and rescue husky.



MISS REBECCA JANE CLARK – CANDIDATE STATEMENT

The RCVS is overhauling the veterinary nursing educational frameworks under the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan. I have been a clinical coach and worked closely with students in practice for many years; I would confidently contribute to the development of standards for student veterinary nurses. I'm an advocate for comprehensive and inspiring education, whilst giving student veterinary nurses the support and courage needed when embarking on a new career.

Having studied continuously since qualifying 11 years ago, post-qualification training is a real interest of mine and has resulted in a variety of roles within practice and industry. Drawing on these experiences allows me to represent veterinary nurses from various walks of life.

The VN Council reviews and assesses post-qualification training and continuing professional development. My standpoint is that this should be accessible, specific, flexible and engaging, improving the working life of the registered veterinary nurse. With broader knowledge leading to increased job satisfaction and a potential career pathway for progression, I am confident we can elicit increased retention within our profession.

The RCVS vows to support the mental health and wellbeing of members of the veterinary team. Many RCVS initiatives however, such as the Mind Matters Initiative, are not widely known amongst the veterinary nursing community. I will push to increase awareness, and how to access the support and training they provide.

I will reinforce the need for clarity around expectations for us as veterinary professionals, and for this to be forefront in the development of the RCVS Academy.

We need confidence in those guiding the RCVS. If you put your confidence in me, I will enhance and advance the veterinary nursing profession by supporting the ambitions set out in the Strategic Plan and adhering to the RCVS's values: clarity, courage, compassion and confidence.





Miss Sophie Louise Connolly

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Proposers: Sarah Mason, Janice Bothwell

MISS SOPHIE LOUISE CONNOLLY – CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY

I am a driven veterinary nurse with high aspiration and enthusiasm to support the continuing development of the nursing profession. After completing an advanced apprenticeship in Veterinary nursing, I qualified and joined the register in 2010. In 2015 I completed my Advanced Diploma with Harper Adams University, followed by a Masters of Research in Anthrozoology in 2017 at Nottingham Trent University. I have worked in a variety of veterinary nursing roles, within education, research centres and in veterinary practices, with my roles focused on driving continuous improvements. I am also currently a member of the BVNA. My current role is working as Group Nursing Manager for the Park Vet Group in Leicestershire.

Outside of veterinary nursing, my hobbies include being a volunteer coach and committee member for a local rowing club, as well as rowing myself. My previous rowing achievements include trialling for GB rowing team, competing and winning gold for England, racing at national and international level events and holding the British and World Record for the indoor ultramarathon on Concept 2.



MISS SOPHIE LOUISE CONNOLLY – CANDIDATE STATEMENT

I am an enthusiastic and optimistic veterinary nurse, practicing with openness and honesty, applying to stand for election to VN Council in 2021. I have over 10 years post registration experience, including further studies- RCVS Advanced Diploma in Veterinary Nursing and a Masters of Research. I have worked within our profession across a variety of veterinary nursing roles, including teaching, clinical coaching, research, 1st opinion and referral practice, leadership and management. I believe my experience can offer a great perspective on all areas of veterinary nursing. I also have previous experience of serving on a committee for a non-profit organisation, where my duties included attending monthly and annual meetings, reviewing annual membership fees, policy development and working collaboratively with all committee members to ensure effective governance of the organisation.

I feel passionate about:

- Promoting the veterinary nursing industry to encourage and enable any person to find the right pathway to train to become a veterinary nurse and join our rewarding profession.
- Identifying opportunities for growth and development of veterinary nurses through meaningful conversations and reflection.
- Exploring career pathways and opportunities for veterinary nurses post registration.
- Promoting positive working environments with great communication and researching ways of improving mental wellbeing across the industry.
- Celebrating achievements across the profession and empowering others to succeed.
- Always striving for excellent patient care for all animals, to promote welfare and reduce suffering.

If elected to VN Council, I would consider it a privilege to represent my profession and would carry out my duties with care and professionalism.





Miss Olivia Jade Dunlop

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Proposers: Melanie Scott, Lisa Horsborough

MISS OLIVIA JADE DUNLOP – CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY

Having wanted to be a Veterinary Nurse from a young age, I began my veterinary journey by undertaking the ‘Veterinary Care Assistant’ course at a small animal practice in Carlisle. I then moved to a mixed and exotic animal hospital in Northumberland where I was put through my training and finally qualified as a VN at the start of 2020. My time there allowed me to gain invaluable experience of nursing in a hectic hospital environment, and handling a wide variety of animals. More recently I have relocated and am now based at a busy small animal practice just outside of Glasgow.

Being involved in regular OOH work at my previous practice sparked my love of ECC and I am due to start an ECC Certificate come April. Some of my other main interests include; surgical nursing, Schedule 3 procedures and medical nursing. I really enjoy learning new things, and spend a lot of time researching topics, completing CPD and having clinical discussions about cases with other staff members. In my spare time, I am a bit of a social butterfly (more so before recent global events), but also enjoy walking my spaniel in the local Scottish countryside.



MISS OLIVIA JADE DUNLOP – CANDIDATE STATEMENT

I believe I can bring a new perspective to the VN council as a candidate to represent early career nurses and students. Making positive changes to the profession is something I have felt strongly about since beginning my VN career.

Now more than ever, the need to support our colleagues is vital; and mental health should be at the forefront of our minds. The current RCVS Strategic plan focusing on clarity, compassion, courage and confidence, with specific mention of the 'Mind Matters' initiative will make a huge difference to support those in practice.

It is sad to see many nurses facing 'burn out' from the profession. This issue also faces a lot of student nurses, due to the demands of the qualification and nature of training.

The 'VN Futures' initiative is a great way to show VN's there is more to nursing, both inside and outside of practice and CPD related to these options should be encouraged.

My main goals if I were to be elected would be:

- Ensure the quality of training allows students to feel prepared for registration and the responsibilities that come with it.
- Push for RVN's to be recognised as SQP or equivalent within the qualification.
- Support part 2 of the RCVS LWP in their propositions for 'enhancing the VN role' and protect the title.
- Discuss new enrolment, access and the future of the Dip AVN course.
- Ensure the RVN profession is promoted as early as school days.

We need to ensure there is a future for the VN profession and motivate the younger generations to take this career path and continue to make positive changes. We also need to ensure that clients understand that we are our own profession, we work for our qualification and everything that comes with it.





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Proposers: Kathryn Latimer, Hannah Goddard

MR THOMAS GRIFFITHS – CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY

After leaving school I went straight into an equine qualification for four years, I had my heart set on working with horses, this is where my interest of the veterinary world developed after completing 3 weeks work experience at an equine clinic in Derby, I completed my qualification and managed to get a placement in a mixed practice in Cheshire, where I spent 14 years, covering all aspects of mixed practice, and where I gained my nursing qualification in 2015 and became a clinical coach for a short period of time.

my knowledge by studying a BSc Hons in veterinary nursing which also included the advance diploma, completing it in September 2020. I now work in a very busy, referral hospital in the Northwest. I have held a position in a couple of different departments, initially a rotating nurse, followed by a medicine nurse and currently hold the position of pharmacy nurse along with the title pharmacy and purchasing supervisor. I also have a keen interest in training an education gaining my level 3 in education in November 2020 which I'm keen to develop in to an assessor's qualification.



MR THOMAS GRIFFITHS – CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Having benefitted from good development opportunities, where colleagues have taken the time to discuss and mentor me in a practical environment, I am passionate about championing the initial training and development of vet nurses, encouraging them to progress their knowledge and development with mentoring and further CPD courses and qualifications.

My second passion is found more recently through using evidence and research to increase the standards of practice. Examples of this are from my last role and current role in the industry. Firstly - part of my BSc Hons my research project was around researching catheter care through researching evidence on saline flush. Secondly – improving the standards of administering medication in my latest role as pharmacy nurse.

I feel through my experience and development opportunities I have had I stand to champion the mentoring, education and development of all veterinary nurses – no matter what stage they are at to ensure best practice in the industry and would be a voice for all of us on the council.

If you elect me, I will ensure I:

- will be passionate, dedicated and endeavour to voice the thoughts and opinions of all those I represent to overcome the challenges to aid and adapt the development of the profession especially in these recent difficult times.
- will value sitting in a position where I can have a strong voice for nurses and support projects that promote nurses caring for themselves while increasing satisfaction with the work they do.
- will represent veterinary nurses with honesty and enthusiasm, whenever called upon.





Mr Daniel James Hogan

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Proposers: Nicola Barrigan, Emma Moss

MR DANIEL JAMES HOGAN – CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY

Commencing into the veterinary sector through volunteering and work-experience, I secured a weekend position with Medivet. I then initiated my training as a veterinary nurse and registered with the RCVS; a life-time ambition fulfilled.

Following this, I began my employment for the Wanstead Hospital as Head Nurse, where I enhanced my nursing, developed a passion for people and supported a team to deliver exceptional care. Subsequently, I worked for the Village Vet as a Regional/Hospital Manager which boosted my passion and commitment to supporting my colleagues in the profession.

Joining Dick White Referrals as their Operations Manager and Academy Principal. A personal and professional success to contribute to the next generation of veterinary nurses, working with some exceptional teams to deliver specialist care.

I now worked for the Linnaeus Group at Southfields Veterinary Specialists as Hospital Director, which has grown our specialists' team and through the support of Linnaeus will be moving to a new state-of-the-art purpose-built referral centre.

Outside of work I enjoy time with my family and multiple pets. I spend time with my friends, at the gym and play the drums. I have spent the last 12 months as a parent Governor for my children's school



MR DANIEL JAMES HOGAN – CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Having worked in the profession for more than 20 years, I want to use my experience and passion to support and implement sustained change whilst delivering the RCVS strategic plan for 2020-2024. Having worked with some exceptional colleagues on both the Vet Futures and Vet Nurse Futures initial working groups, I remain inspired by those outcomes and see this as an opportunity to directly influence and build on those outcomes by 2024 and beyond.

Through the pandemic the profession has continued to demonstrate compassion towards owners and their patients. Through this compassion the profession has been able to solidify confidence to the wider public. We now have an opportunity to further enhance this confidence through clarity around roles, recognition and responsibility.

The continued advancement of the profession is paramount and will continue by empowering colleagues to develop innovative, measurable and deliverable qualifications in all areas that will recognise expertise and benefit patient outcomes and welfare. This collaborative approach should be simple and delivered within an agreed timeframe.

In an ever-evolving environment, there will be a need for reactive and longer-term strategies to deliver for the profession. A flexible but driven approach will be required, seeking guidance and expertise outside of our profession, to ensure we continue to maximise our potential and prepare for the challenges ahead. This multifaceted approach will build on existing partnerships and foster new relationships in a wider range of professions from around the world.

The above must be under-pinned through engagement with the wider public to ensure transparency, accountability and knowledge of the roles and responsibilities performed to care for animals. Through this engagement we will enhance our status in the public domain, protect our title and attract more people to our fantastic profession.





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Proposers: Victoria Hawkins, Stephanie Davies

MR STEVEN DAVID PATRICK JOHNSON – CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY

I have over 10 years' experience working in the veterinary profession, qualifying in 2017 at Myerscough University with a Level 3 Diploma, this was ideal for me, so I could work and learn simultaneously.

I worked at Johnson & Wood Veterinary Practice for 5 years with my parents, who are both Veterinary Surgeons, being from a veterinary background I felt that it really helped me settle into the industry more easily. This gave me the confidence to open my own nurse clinic at the weekends, it helped me use my skills and build a good rapport with the clients.

My other experience has been working with different farms, this was to try and broaden my knowledge in the veterinary profession, treating and working with different animals to help me extend my experience outside of my comfort zone.

In the last two years, I've worked at family-run Veterinary Surgery in Stockport, where I've carried on with my ability to run successful nurse clinics.

I also run my own small technology business that includes buying, selling and repairing items.



MR STEVEN DAVID PATRICK JOHNSON – CANDIDATE STATEMENT

I am standing for Veterinary Nurse Council because I feel it needs to be consistently promoted and identified for the great career that it is, the veterinary nurse profession is the drive behind the whole business and I feel there are Veterinary Nurses that feel they are unappreciated.

There are more opportunities now, than ever, for veterinary nurses for learning and development, though it seems that we are still hampered at showing our true potential in the veterinary industry.

Veterinary care is my priority and would like to get as many opinions from the veterinary nurses and Veterinary surgeons as to how this can be improved, particularly when a client is struggling financially.

I would also like to push again for the veterinary nurse title to be protected, the 2015 campaign may not have been successful but showed huge support from veterinary nurses and MPs, which is something that I would see as a priority.

As a male RVN, I am very proud to be working as a veterinary nurse, clients still struggle to identify me as a male RVN and I would like to change that perspective, I am very proud to be a veterinary nurse and of the work that I do

During the pandemic I have also seen a lot of veterinary nurse's struggle with mental health in an already draining career, I would like to address this so that veterinary nurses have satisfaction in their work, without feeling they are not supported through this tough time





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Proposers: Kim Rathbone, Laura Rowbotham

MRS CARLY KILBY – CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY

I qualified in 2006 after completing a 4year HND in Veterinary Nursing and Business and Facilities Management at Bicton College. My training practice was a large and small animal mixed practice, with alot of exciting out of hours work ranging from GDVs to sheep and cow caesareans. Once I qualified, I spent a few months in Thailand and India, travelling and working for animal charities.

Throughout my nursing career I have achieved a certificate in anaesthesia (NCert Anaesth) and certificate in feline friendly nursing (ISFM NCert FN) and I'm currently working towards a certificate in surgical nursing (NCert Sugery). I have worked in first opinion practice, neurology referral and I'm currently an orthopaedic referral locum.

I'm also a BVNA regional representative for the South West, providing online CPD and volunteering where needed to provide further career development for BVNA members.

I'm married with two children, two dogs and two cats. I like to run, read crime thrillers and watch action/adventure films...and Hoover...according to my children.



MRS CARLY KILBY – CANDIDATE STATEMENT

I always try to help practices develop and progress with my experience, actions and opinions. I have always worked closely with team members to make productive, progressive changes to practice protocols, patient care and even the layout of the staff room. It's these small, positive changes that can make a whole team feel more confident in themselves which, in turn, creates a stable atmosphere to work in. My contact with students has always had positive outcomes and I enjoy watching these students use their new found knowledge in practice.

I have noticed how my input can help produce a happier team at practice level, and I have noticed how changes in schedule three nursing has created a more confident and competent standard of veterinary nurse nationwide.

I hope to bring 16 years of qualified experience, with 20 years of total experience, to the VN Council. I have seen the industry change and I would like to be apart of any positive future change, raising expectations and capabilities.





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Proposers: Jo-Anne Hinde, Debbie Gray

MRS DONNA LEIGH LEWIS – CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY

Talk about yourself in less than 200 words not an easy thing to do! I have been working in our profession now for many years. I started working in practice when I was 18 years old, back in the day of Nuvan Top, Saffan and Thiopentone. Luckily, I am not quite old enough to remember the days of ether!

I have predominately worked in small animal practice and I am currently employed part time at a small animal practice in Kent. I also teach veterinary nursing part time at Canterbury College.

I served on BVNA council for 12 years and was president in 2009/2010, and I continue to represent the BVNA regionally organising CPD meetings and supporting local animal charities.

Veterinary nursing has evolved greatly since I started my career and I have seen many changes in the profession and the role of the veterinary nurse continues to grow.

The variety of my career to date and current experiences of working in modern day practice provide a good insight into the challenges and the aspirations of veterinary nurses. A seat on VN council will allow me to represent and be a voice for all RVN's working across the profession.



MRS DONNA LEIGH LEWIS – CANDIDATE STATEMENT

I am an experienced RVN and proud to still be working in practice after many years. My experience as a regional representative and my role in teaching has meant I have the great pleasure of meeting and listening to both RVN's and student veterinary nurses.

Having worked in the profession for numerous years it is safe to say that this past year has been extremely challenging for many nurses. Our normal approach to gold standard care and welfare has been difficult, we have found ourselves communicating with clients through masks and visors in the car park, only to then add to their worry by taking their pet away from them.

Practices have been busy; staff have been furloughed and others have been working long hours to ensure we provide essential care and maintain animal welfare. This has undoubtedly caused additional stress and pressure and I want to ensure nurses are fully supported with the evolving changes and demands of life in practice.

Sadly, the pandemic will have affected staffing levels, however we still need to advocate an RVN in every practice. Student veterinary nurses need to be supported and have access to clinical coaches and placement opportunities. In addition, we need to retain the skills of experienced nurses and provide progression opportunities.

Diversity in the profession is key for us to progress and push forward as a profession in our own right. We have had to adapt to new ways of working and learn new skills. It is important that we continue to grow and learn as a profession and maintain high standards. Continuing education is essential, and the new advanced qualifications provide an opportunity for nurses to develop and advance their skills





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MR LEE THOMAS VAUGHAN – CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY

I am a compassionate and hardworking Veterinary Nurse who thrives on delivering a high standard of care to patients. I qualified in 2019 after completing the city and guilds Level 3 diploma Veterinary nursing via the apprenticeship route. I trained in a multidisciplinary veterinary hospital, allowing me to work in a variety of disciplines including Orthopaedics, Neurology, Soft tissues, Cardiology, Medicine, Ophthalmology and Anaesthesia. Since qualifying I have focused mainly on anaesthesia as it is my passion to go further and complete more qualifications to thrive in this area. I am passionate about the work I do as a Registered Veterinary Nurse and I thrive when given the chance to expand my knowledge.

In my spare time I enjoy a vary of thing including keeping fit, anything artistic such as drawing and crochet also socialising with friends and colleagues I meet as I locum around the country. I have been described as ambitious, quirky with a positive energy in the work place. My motto in life is always smile in the hope you can make someone else smile.



MR LEE THOMAS VAUGHAN – CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Throughout my career, I have witnessed many nurses leave the due to a lack of progression within practice that has led them to seek new career prospects. I personally think VN's have such a varied skill set and in practice is not used to its full potential. With more recognition of our skill sets and creation of new roles, the scope to progress will help retain nurses in the industry and create a more awareness of how capable/essential nurses are in practice.

I am interested in creating more relevant and engaging content for veterinary nurses in order to improve engagement towards the VN council and allow nurses to feel the relevance the information will have to better bridge the gap between the people making the change and those that the changes effect.

I would like to highlight the students in our profession and show that there is a lot more in the profession that what meets the eye. Educating students and practices throughout their training on how they can achieve their career goals and how practices can influence their students and nurses to progress in their practice to get the full potential of the vet nursing skill set.

As a locum veterinary nurse, I have had the opportunity to work in a diverse range of practices across the UK. Through this I have experienced the variation of routines, standards of management and career struggles in the industry and have witnessed the reality this creates for nurses in practice. Gaining this perspective of the industry has motivated me to run for the position within the VN council in hopes of using my skills and experiences to create positive and effective changes to progress the veterinary nursing profession.





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Proposers: Victoria Wright, Judith Smith

MISS FRANCESCA WARE – CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY

I have worked in equine practice for 6 years, during which time I have achieved my Level 3 Diploma in veterinary nursing in 2019 after studying at Myerscough College. I started riding for local yards at the age of 15 but I wanted a career to pursue, the problem was that I had no idea what that was. I am so glad that I decided to pick the phone up one day and ask my vet to let me see practice to explore the possibility of a nursing career. From then on I have spent six years in an equine practice learning an abundance of key skills and being a part of an ever growing team of enthusiastic people. I have a keen interest in diagnostic imaging and I have been lucky enough to have gained experience in MRI, scintigraphy and radiography. I am also in charge of the Overground endoscope and thoroughly enjoy going out on the road. When not at work you will find me out on my horse Beamish going for a good gallop over the moors and if I am not riding I will be out hiking as much as possible.



MISS FRANCESCA WARE – CANDIDATE STATEMENT

As an equine veterinary nurse I have seen many small animal nurses have opportunities to become specialised in their work which is fantastic. After reading the VN futures article on creating specialised advanced certificates I feel this is a massive step forward for all veterinary nurses. I would like to be a part of the council so that I can represent the equine nurses and increase the opportunities for EVN's to specialise through improved CPD programmes. I believe by doing this it will have a positive effect on motivation, career satisfaction and wellbeing. I am super keen to help attract others in to the profession and raise the profile of veterinary nursing as a career. Although my time as a qualified nurse is short I truly believe I can do my utmost to contribute my all to the nursing future.





Miss Diana Elizabeth Joyce Wilson

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Proposers: Shelley Welch, Christina Wilkins

MISS DIANA ELIZABETH JOYCE WILSON – CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY

I graduated from UWE, Hartpury Campus with a HND in Veterinary Nursing Studies in 2005, I then worked as an SVN in both mixed and equine practices in North Yorkshire, before qualifying via the NVQ route in 2009.

I moved from North Yorkshire to Wiltshire in 2008 to complete my training. I stayed at my training practice, Hale Veterinary Group, working as both a hospital nurse and branch nurse, as well as assisting with calving's OOH. During my time here, I gained the BSAVA VN Merit Award in Medical Nursing and became an SQP. In 2016, I joined Drove Veterinary Hospital as a lead ward nurse and clinical coach, this is where I found my love of passing on knowledge and supporting future RVNs. In 2018, I took the brave step to locum for a while, during this time I rediscovered my love of nursing and my ideal practice. In 2019, after a spell of locuming at Macqueen Veterinary Centre I joined the practice. I am a clinical coach and currently studying for N.Cert in Surgical Nursing. I have written an article for the VNJ on Mental Health, just awaiting publication.



MISS DIANA ELIZABETH JOYCE WILSON – CANDIDATE STATEMENT

I currently work in a general and orthopaedic referral practice, as a surgical and ward nurse. Alongside my job, I enjoy gin tasting, spending time with my partner, friends and my dogs. I compete successfully at agility, other hobbies include reading, travel and SUPing, I enjoy the health benefits of open water swimming, and Cani-x, I have completed two Half Marathons. I have also volunteered abroad as a vet nurse in Egypt, working with equines, camels, sheep, small mammals and reptiles.

I came in to Veterinary Nursing through my love of animals, and I believe this is why we all do. We strive to be our best, offering the best of care to our patients. We work in a very caring profession and many of us have mental health (MH) issues, whether mild or severe, I know I do.

There is a great stigma out there over MH and anxiety, and I believe that we should be able to talk freely without feeling ashamed, ostracised or at the risk of being bullied. As a clinical coach I see students struggle with daily tasks, certain subjects and at exam times, I know I did

I would like to use my experiences and many years of experience to use my voice to channel yours on this subject, support all; from the first day VCA to the experienced RVN, so that we can continue to offer our patients the best of care whilst maintaining our own mental wellbeing and give our best to ourselves, and colleagues.

I would also like to help educate clients on how our mental wellbeing can be affected in practice, by what we see and endure daily.





Mrs Tania Yelland

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Proposers: Rebecca Bevan, Helen Clark-Galashan

MRS TANIA YELLAND – CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY

I started my Nursing journey in 1996 in a busy mixed practice in Glastonbury, I completed my qualification at Bristol Veterinary school and shortly after I took up a position as surgical Veterinary Nurse there. After 4 years I moved to Davies Veterinary Specialists in Hitchin where I undertook a role as a rotating nurse dealing with multidiscipline nursing duties. I then moved back to the South West where I took on a role as Head Nurse for in Mixed, First Opinion and Referral practices. I then moved into teaching at Bicton College lecturing in Veterinary Nursing and Animal Management for 12 years as well as speaking at BSAVA and BVNA. From here I spent a short time as a Project trainer before taking up a role as Learning Academy Clinical lead for the Pets at Home Group. I am a keen sportsperson participating in Netball and swimming as well as assisting with my children's sports clubs, I enjoy spending time with my husband and 2 children walking our dog and having cosy film nights with the cats. My daughter and I regularly horse ride and I love being outdoors in the beautiful area that I live in.



MRS TANIA YELLAND – CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Growing up I was always around animals, from having my own pets to helping out at local Veterinary Surgeries and riding stables, this instilled in me a passion and understanding for animals and has led me to have a long and happy career as a Veterinary Nurse, across many areas from small animal, referral, management and education. I am proud to say I am a Veterinary Nurse, I am proud to be able to provide the best care possible and I am proud to be able to impart my knowledge onto other colleagues and see a fire light up in student nurses just starting within this profession. This doesn't mean that everything has been rosy for me just the same as for all VNs, there have been hard times, feelings of being an imposter and being frustrated with constraints of practice life. All of these things have lead me to want to become a council member, to be able to add a voice and share my own experiences and knowledge with a wider audience. My main passion is in education which has formed a large part of my career. It has enabled me to broaden and develop my own skills as an educator and VN as well as helping others do the same. I would love to become a part of the VN council to help spread the word of how important Veterinary Nurses are and how through change of schedule 3 guidelines and having access to affordable interesting CPD can relight the passion in all of us and raise the standards and responsibilities that we all want to have. I have been given so much from this profession and the amazing people that are within in I feel it's my time to give back.





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