

Vote for Bray on 10th May!

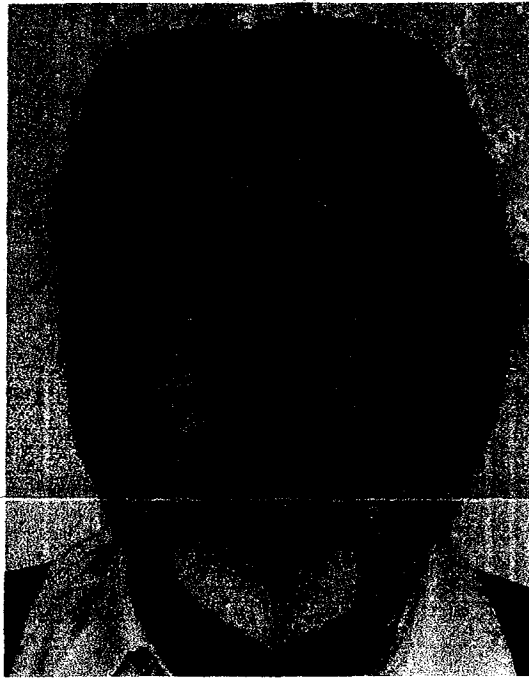
Burgess Hill Town Council by-election for Meeds Ward

Why should you vote for me? Do you know anything about me? I expect not, so, with your indulgence I will tell you something you ought to know.

When I was six and at Boarding school at Seaford I was thrashed by a sadistic Headmaster for something I had not done. That vicious action landed me with something of a chip on my shoulder and prepared me for a life of persistently challenging and campaigning against injustice. You might think such an individual would be a good person for a seat on your Town Council. Burgess Hill Town Council is a shadow of it's forbear; The Burgess Hill Urban District Council who had the distinction of sending a brave old polar explorer to prison no less than three times in the fifties.

I was there and could do nothing about it other than stand for election, in 1956, and with no effect. Let me tell you what had happened; in 1949 while I was still in the Royal Air Force, my friend, John Charles Buckland Mason [JC Bee Mason MBE] was approached by representatives of a political party who asked him to stand as a candidate for a seat on the Council. He told me "I was going to stand anyway and as they said they would pay for all the expenses such as printing postage and incidentals I agreed". JC was duly elected and, upon taking his seat was absolutely shattered by the corruption and dishonesty he uncovered.

You must realise that in those days, over sixty years ago, things were very different than they are today and the "sale" of council houses to the friends of councillors is



ARP equipment would today be put out to tender etc. But Bee Mason [I have always called him "JC"] was not prepared to "look the other way."

First he was taken out of the Council Chamber by the Police when he refused to sit down whilst speaking about the Scottish Couple who were allotted a council house [they were friends of one of the councillors] over ex-Service personnel who were living in appalling conditions. He was fined by the Bench at Haywards Heath Petty Sessions and, quite rightly, refused to pay the fine. Into HMP Brixton he went for a month. "I enjoyed it immensely" he told me "The food was terrific, you would have had to pay 7/6d for a meal as good as that in a Brighton restaurant and I met some very nice people inside."

The next time JC went to Brixton was as a civil prisoner having broken a court imposed restriction to not talk about the scandalous exploits of one of the Council servants. I used to travel up on the early morning train to Clapham Junction [3/5d return] for things were very different in those days and a civilian prisoner could be seen by a friend by simply turning up at the prison and asking to see him.

But the third time I went to HMP Brixton was very different. There was a long wait and then two warders carried my friend to the little booth where we had talked before. It was obvious that JC was a very sick man and, sure enough, I got a phone call from the Governor's office the next week. "We have had to get the Court to discharge your friend. We have sent him to East Dulwich Hospital"

When I got there JC was lying under an enormous shield that covered his whole body with just his head peeping out at the top. The funeral was two months later at Woking Crematorium with a nephew and his friend and me as the only mourners. A few days later the council stood as a token of respect to the man they had bankrupted, persecuted and got rid of. Graham Greene's elder brother, Herbert, who lived at Plumpton was outraged at the Council's blatant act of hypocrisy and wrote a poem about JC which was displayed in the front of a Photographers shop a few yards up Junction Road from the Bungalow that JC had to vacate when the Council had made him bankrupt.

The trials and tribulations of an elected councillor are not the only injustice I have concerned myself with; I found the evidence that enabled the High Court to quash the sentences of life imprisonment on Dudley and Maynard who served a total of forty five years for two murders they had nothing to do with.

Sussex Police have an unenviable record; A Worthing man did twenty-three years for a "Murder" that was nothing of the sort. Mrs. Bowler of Rye did six years inside until it was proved that she had NOT killed her husband's aunt. Mrs. Watson and her Daughter from East Grinstead got as far as the Old Bailey before a Judge threw out the ridiculous case of the murder of Mr. Watson at East Grinstead. And then there is the on going case of Sion Jenkins who was fitted up by two senior officer with the eager and sustained help of Jenkins's adulterous wife. In none of these cases has the real culprit been brought to book in fact the members of the Sussex Police Authority I have spoken to have told me that the police have told them Sion Jenkins is guilty but he got off with a Good Brief! Innocence pronounced by the Court but condemned by the Police. It is not a pretty picture is it and we pay £230,000.000.00 a year to pay the wages of men some of whom cheat and lie to those in authority!

John Bray: an Endorsement.

I have known John Bray for many years as a diligent worker in support of local liberal politicians. Over lots of elections John and his wife Nancy were some of the most hard working supporters any candidate could wish to have on their side. John is a true liberal minded gentleman and is not to be confused with those pretend liberals who have joined with the Conservative party.

John Bray is a rare intelligent man with deep levels of compassion. He is not only hard-working but a very clear thinking person.

I hope the people of Meeds ward will take the opportunity to elect someone who is not dominated by the directives of a shadowy and dictatorial local party. John will always act in the best interest of the community rather than trying to step on it for party political purposes.

Beware the party that encourages development sprawl just to pay for unaffordable town centre rebuilding for the chain stores!

Brian Hall: West Sussex County Councillor for Haywards Heath Town (Independent)

Vote John Bray:
Life-long Campaigner against injustice!
Your INDEPENDENT Candidate!