



Sir Graham Bright

Standing as chairman of the
National Convention of the Conservative Party

Real Experience...Genuine Commitment

Please visit www.grahambright.com for more information.

To ask a question or request a phone call email electgraham@grahambright.com

MY PRIORITIES

KEEPING MEMBERS MEANS INVOLVING MEMBERS.....

I want the voice of the volunteer to be heard by the professional politician far more often in both political debate and the running of the Party. Members pay £25 to be part of the Party not just for the privilege of delivering leaflets and raising more money! We must give our members more opportunity to have their say at all levels, particularly at the Party Conference and, as Chairman of the National Convention, I will work to make this happen. I want the work of the Conservative Political Forum to be beefed up making sure we have a political discussion at all meetings, even if it is only for ten minutes and to use the CPF as an effective conduit to ensure our views are heard at the top.

THE NEED FOR A CULTURE CHANGE.....

To repair the damage done by 12 years of Labour Government we are going to have to drive a culture change throughout the UK, in addition to winning power. We can start this culture change now by making sure the Party is truly represented on outside bodies like health, police and education authorities, from which we have been starved out by Labour for too long. This provides an ideal opportunity for those people who have served the Party well, but who are at the end of their three year term of office, to make a major contribution. I will work to make sure that the Party uses the full extent of talent which is available in the voluntary party.

INCLUSIVITY AND TRAINING.....

I want to bring about genuine inclusivity giving a greater role within the Party for women's groups, Conservative Future and minorities, giving them a greater opportunity to hold office both at national and local level. I see one of the ways of improving inclusivity is to increase the quality and quantity of training available to the voluntary Party ensuring it is both inspirational and relevant to today's campaigning methods.

I would like to see the fun brought back into voluntary politics. There are so many demands on people's time it is important that our members feel that their contributions are worthwhile and appreciated by the Party.

REAL POLITICS.....

I would like to see the Party work more closely with local Councillors to increase the dialogue with local and regional media to make our national and local campaigns more effective.

INTEGRITY.....

Any member of the Conservative Party who does not exercise the highest standards in their public life risks bringing the whole Party into disrepute. I will insist that the Board takes a firm stand in all matters of public impropriety.

REAL EXPERIENCE, GENUINE COMMITMENT.....

Sir Graham Bright is standing as the Chairman of the Conservative Party's National Convention. Having been active in the Party since the age of 15, he brings a wealth of talent and experience with which to represent the voluntary side of the Conservative Party at the very highest levels.

With the General Election in front of us, it is important that volunteer Party members' views are expressed at Board level in a relevant and authoritative manner by someone who is respected by both the political and professional arms of the Party. Graham is that person, as he has never forgotten his roots as a Party volunteer. He has spent over half of his political life working for the voluntary side of the Party. After losing his Parliamentary seat in 1997, he returned to work with the voluntary party firstly as an Area Chairman and then as Regional Chairman with the very clear objective of seeing the Conservative Party returned to office.



ENJOYING CAMPAIGNING.....

Graham has always been a great campaigner winning his Council and County Council seats from Labour, and winning Luton South from Labour and holding it for 18

years. He says, "Direct personal contact is the secret to representing people's aims and aspirations as well as keeping their support."

A LIFE OUTSIDE THE PARTY.....

Graham has a lifetime of business experience. He is Chairman of Dietary Foods Ltd., a specialist food products company which he set up in the 1970s. Dietary Foods' products are seen all over the world and Graham takes great pleasure in giving away those little pink sachets of Sweet'n Low!

Graham is married to Valerie whom he met in the Young Conservatives. Valerie is a local J.P. and has also served as an assessor on a number of Parliamentary Assessment Boards. Their son, Rupert, who is 24, is studying medicine in Edinburgh having completed four years at St Andrews University.

The family work as a team for the Conservative Party. Graham is also President of Luton Mencap, Chairman of his former school which now has Technology College status and is closely involved in the Scouts and Guides Associations.





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EXPERIENCE TO MEET THE COMMITMENT

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE.....

Graham has spent well over half his political life working for the voluntary side of the Conservative Party where his experience includes:

Young Conservatives – forerunner to Conservative Future

Graham was founder and Chairman of the Thurrock Young Conservatives which grew to a membership of over 300. He became Eastern Area Y.C. Chairman and then National Y.C. Vice-Chairman where he worked with David (Lord) Hunt and Lynda (Baroness) Chalker.

Graham has served as Constituency CPC Chairman and a Constituency Treasurer.

Graham has served as an Area Chairman of the then CPC and more recently as Area Chairman of Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire. He is currently Regional Chairman for the Eastern Region.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.....

Graham was a District Councillor on Thurrock Borough Council for fourteen years, becoming the Group Leader. He was a County Councillor for four years on Essex County Council. All his Local Government posts were gained from Labour! He was Chairman of the Area Health Committee and Chairman of Governors of a number of schools.

PARLIAMENT.....

Graham fought Thurrock in 1970 and 1974 then Dartford in the autumn of 1974. He became Member of Parliament for Luton East in 1979 when he won the seat from the Labour Party, and where, despite adverse boundary changes, he held the seat for eighteen years until 1997. He was the longest serving Parliamentary Private Secretary in the House of Commons having served Sir Giles Shaw, Dame Virginia Bottomley, Rt. Hon Lord Waddington, Rt. Hon Lord Hurd and Rt. Hon Lord Mayhew; finally serving as Parliamentary Private Secretary to Rt. Hon Sir John Major for four years when he was Prime Minister in Number 10 Downing Street.

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the CONSERVATIVE PARTY.....

Graham was a Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Party between 1994 and 1997 when he had responsibility for campaigning and marginal seats.

He was Chairman of One Nation Forum between 1994 and 97.

MOTIVATED.....

Graham is highly motivated. He used his personal powers of persuasion to great effect as an M.P. successfully steering two Private Member's Bills through Parliament. He is also a skilled media performer having appeared many times on the main television and radio political programmes.

Graham was awarded the title of "Most Motivated M.P." in 1988. He was also awarded speech of the month by The Guardian in 1989.

Graham was part of the Party's national campaign team for the successful 1992 General Election when he helped to introduce many initiatives to communicate with the electorate particularly building up databases to make direct and personal messages to constituents.

Currently, Graham is working with the European and Prospective Parliamentary candidates and Associations preparing them for the fight ahead as well as tackling the usual difficult problems that come along from time to time.

Graham has run a large number of successful conferences and seminars for the Party with a focus on communication and training. He has also served as an assessor on a number of Parliamentary Assessment Boards which are involved in selecting candidates for the approved list.