

Firefighter freed after liar exposed

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/firefighter-freed-after-liar-exposed-562vv38gk>

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David Bryant emerges from the Royal Courts of Justice with his wife, Lynn, after his conviction was overturned. He had been accused of sex abuse by a man who came forward in the aftermath of the Jimmy Savile affair

CATHY GORDON/PRESS ASSOCIATION

A former firefighter jailed for allegedly abusing a 14-year-old boy in the 1970s has had his conviction overturned.

David Bryant, now 66, of Christchurch, Dorset, was released after judges at the Court of Appeal in London described his accuser as a chronic liar.

Mr Bryant, who was 26 at the time of the alleged offence, was accused of attacking Danny Day, then aged 14, in Christchurch fire station after inviting him there to play darts in 1977.

After being found guilty of buggery by a majority verdict, he was jailed for six years, later increased to eight and a half years.

At a previous hearing the judge said that Mr Day was “motivated to come forward in the aftermath of the Jimmy Savile affair”.

Mr Justice Singh, announcing the decision to quash the conviction, said that new evidence showed “from 2000 to 2010 the complainant in this case had to seek medical attention from his GP in relation to what can only be described as his being a chronic liar”.

Mr Bryant, who was described in court as a man of impeccable character, said outside court: "There are serious questions about how allegations of historical sexual abuse are investigated and dealt with.

"What happened to me must never be allowed to happen again," he added.

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C J Delmege Jul 23, 2016

Extraordinarily worrying on so many levels. There must have been a complete lack of hard evidence so it was just one person's say so. This calls into question the result of so many other trials. I read that Max Clifford is appealing. I think he's appalling, but he may well be right too.

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John Cleeve Jul 21, 2016

I hope Mr. Bryant is well compensated by the complainant.

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MJJ Jul 21, 2016

I wonder if a certain labour politician, in his role as witchfinder general was involved. We know, after all, that he was responsible for the persecution endured by the entirely innocent Lord Brittan. I wonder how many other people he has induced to make false accusations? Only the faintly left wing Lord Janner was allowed to escape investigation and prosecution, as were the police involved in Hillsboro, courtesy of a certain CPS broomstick user

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kateha Jul 21, 2016

@MJJ "courtesy of a certain CPS broomstick user" who appears, in a couple of specific cases, guilty of hard-line 'feminist' bias, smug incompetence and visibly 'bloated' dominatrix delusions. Where is the line of accountability?

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MJJ Jul 22, 2016

Now, in spite of her efforts to exonerate them, police are being held accountable for Hillsboro, so why not also call the less than divine Alison to account? Reminds me a little of Harriet Harperson's support for those lovely people at PIE. Yet another person who gets away with whatever she chooses to do. Do you think she and Alison would also excuse their behaviour by saying "It wasn't personal"?

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kateha Jul 24, 2016

@MJJ Very likely. Abolition of traditional values followed by the deceit that - 'right and wrong' are no longer absolutes (as we once understood them) but dependent upon the culture, religion, or ethnicity of those practising it, equally enables those who reach a certain 'status' in public office to indulge in 'personal' inclinations without fear of retribution or even accountability.

After all, we are merely the out-of-date morons who pay the salaries!

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Bernadette Bowles Jul 21, 2016

In most cases of historic sex abuse, the nature of the crime and the time delay ensures that it is just one person's word against another. The standard of evidence must be the same in all types of trial, even though that may mean some abusers cannot be prosecuted.

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Alan R MacKenzie Jul 21, 2016

@Bernadette Bowles

Not just one person's word against another but one person's memory. Time distorts memory to the extent events that never occurred are remembered as fact especially if reinforced through questioning.

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Baron von Baldness Jul 21, 2016

Time to sue the accuser and the judicial system for every penny they've got. Good luck sir!

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MJJ Jul 21, 2016

@Baron von Baldness I wonder if a left wing labour politician was involved in grooming the accuser as in the case of Lord Brittan

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Baron von Baldness Jul 21, 2016

Hmmmm...good point. There are a few to choose from, but I'm gonna go with the despicable, odious Watson. You?

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MJJ Jul 21, 2016

Who else? He has to be the reincarnation of the Witchfinder General. Even seems to be stabbing corbo in the back now

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C J Delmege Jul 23, 2016

@MJJ Most of his MPs are stabbing him in the front.

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MJJ Jul 23, 2016

Watson is too sneaky for that. He really only does underhand

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Heather Jul 21, 2016

There appear to be a lot of 'chancers' making these allegations, which are so difficult to prove or disprove. A statute of limitations would be very useful.

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Keith6646 Jul 21, 2016

A man is found guilty and sent to prison for six years, later increased to eight and a half years, presumably on appeal, and then on re-appeal the accuser is suddenly found to be a chronic liar and

the conviction quashed. Something is very wrong with justice in this case. Comments as to why Police and CPS remained so blissfully ignorant????

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John Adsett Jul 21, 2016

Presumably the police and CPS considered the claimant to be a "very credible witness"?

A disgrace

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MJJ Jul 21, 2016

@Keith6646 We know there is very little justice in our legal system, as evidenced by the fact that Mary Hogg sat on the bench for years before she managed to condemn one poor little girl to her death. And to think that Lord Faulkes resigned because he thought judges need to be protected. Most of us think that they need to be held accountable for what they do

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