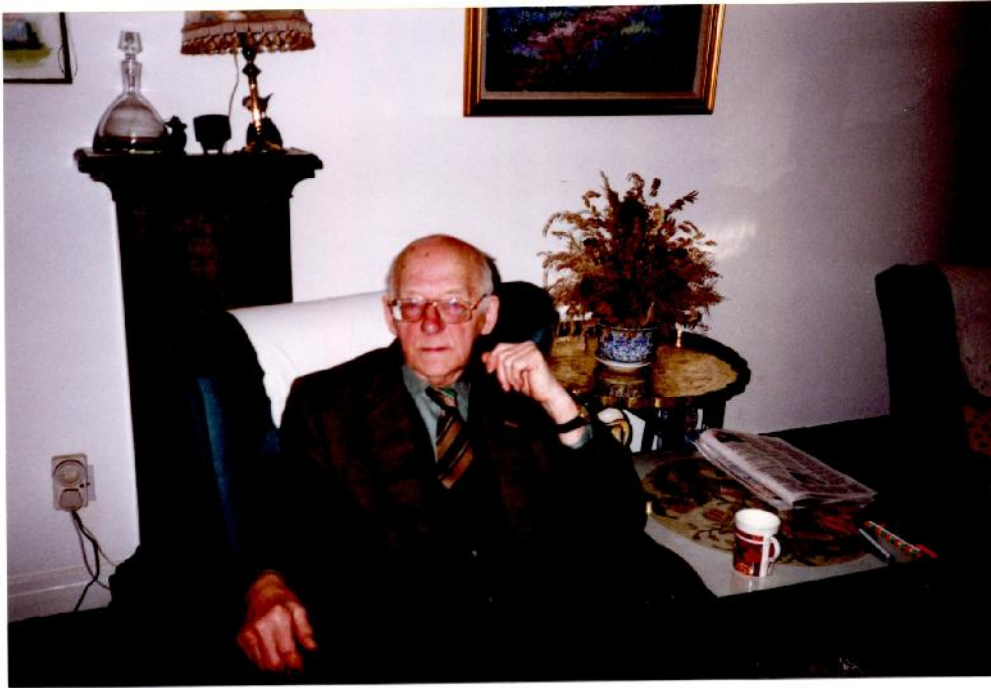


Bramham Millennium Characters 5

Harry Tindall



Alone among those Bramhamers whose details are found here , Harry Tindall has written and published his memoirs , so that much of his life is already recorded in ' Tales of a Village Lad ' and the other pieces Harry has placed in the Archive . He was born of good Yorkshire stock on 16th May 1916 in either the Swan building or the cottage [later Holly Cottage] next door. Joining the village school , then Bramham C of E School , around his fourth birthday , Harry had a childhood which was full of incident and which he tells with rare humour in his book . When he was about 10 , the family moved down Church Hill into the Primrose Cottages which now back onto the Village Hall carpark . A bright lad who , had he been born a couple of decades later , would certainly have enjoyed a successful higher education , Harry passed the examination

which qualified him for entry to the City School of Commerce , Leeds where he studied many aspects of business practice . His two years there , like big brother Arthur 's , required payments for fees , fares and books by his parents -- there were no grants in those days .

Upon leaving , Harry began to earn a living , which , apart from his time in the Army , took him to all parts of the locality , and especially to all corners of Bramham --- he has practised his skills on most of the older buildings at one time or another. After trifling with a bakery business in the village for a few months , Harry was taken on by the Bramham Park Estate at age 15 . At that time , before the Welfare State , such positions were much sought after , for the tradesman's pay of £2 . 0 . 5 d came every week , holidays and times of sickness not excepted . There were no short time , no time sheets , but there was a cottage provided , the chance of seasonal perks , and a pension . Here Harry learned the joinery trade , and was probably thought quite mad when , aged 20 , he gave up such a plumb position .

The fact was that he had never really liked the job [his desire to write was only realised fully after he retired , though he wrote stories all his life] , and he was courting , so an extra few shillings a week seemed a better bet than a secure lifetime on the Estate. In 1936 then , it was off to Kettlewell ' s of Tadcaster , one of the local building firms which employed Harry during his working life. These , though , were the days preceding World War Two , when everyone realised what was coming , and preparations were being put in hand .By 1938 and early 39, Harry was directed to " vital war work " at John Smith 's brewery , before , on 20th November 1940 , he was called up into the Royal Engineers.

Harry 's war, amusingly recounted in ' Tales of a Village Lad ', took him all over Britain , largely carrying out administrative work in the Pay Corps. During the War , in 1942 , when he was lying in hospital with a broken leg , Harry married Dolly Thompson , whom he had been courting for 5 or 6 years . After his demob. they lived in Hillfoot House opposite the piece of land Harry had bought and on which Kettlewell 's were to build their home , Alsation House. For the rest of his working life , Harry was employed by various local builders and joiners --- Kettlewell 's, Sheersmith 's of Tadcaster , Geoff Wood of Bramham and Mick Skinner of Clifford --- with one two year spell away from the immediate district when he was employed on work study with Monkbridge Iron & Steel in the middle of Leeds .

The name of Harry and Dolly 's bungalow gives the clue to one of their prevailing hobbies , the breeding and showing of pedigree dogs [which , after alsations , included Welch corgis , poodles and Irish setters]. Among Harry 's other passions were football and cricket -- he played both for the village and works teams as a young man -- and painting . Indeed , with his writing about old Bramham and the lives of its people , and his painting of local scenes , Harry has produced for posterity a unique record of the village of his lifetime . Add the fact that so many of our buildings bear the stamp of his joinering skills --- the pews , pulpit and floors of the Church [where he was choirboy and bell ringer], the Old Vicarage , and most of the local farms as well as the older village homes . To this legacy , Harry has added his part in helping bring together the materials in the Village Archive , and in seeing them ready for display . Harry Tindall is truly and wholly a man of Bramham !