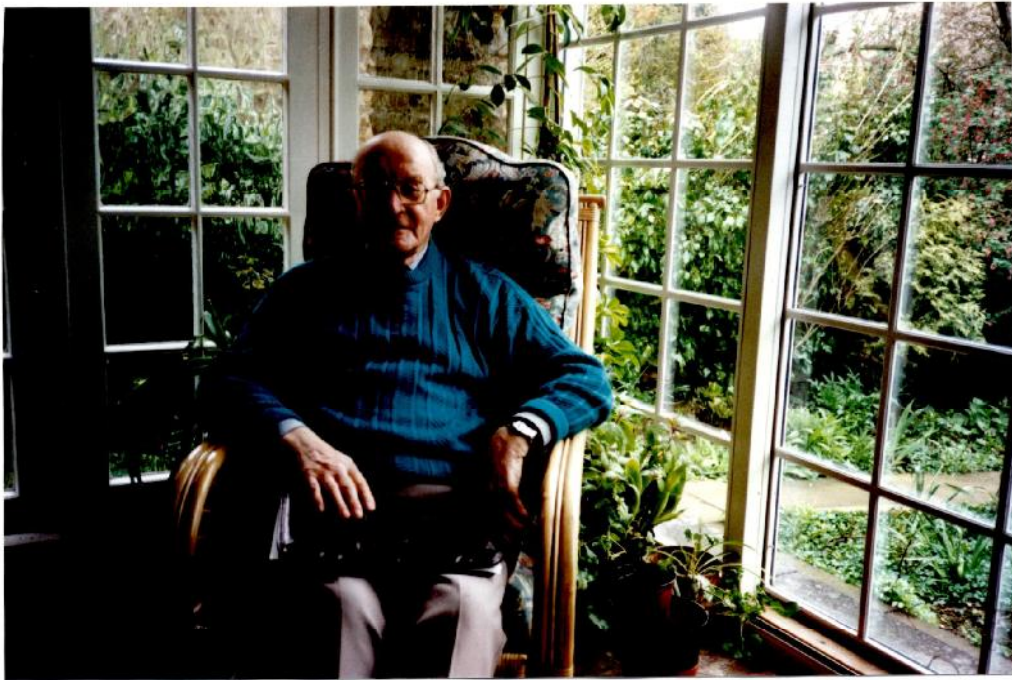


**Bramham Millennium Characters : 6      Arthur Tindall**



Born in 1914 in the cottage adjoining The Swan , Arthur Tindall has , war service aside , spent the whole of his 86 years to date in and around the village , adding prominently to its cultural and historical life. The oldest of the Tindall children [ his second brother Harry also appears in these sketches ] Arthur attended school at what was then the Church of England School on the corner of Wetherby Road and Clifford Lane , before leaving aged 14 in 1928 to join the Leeds City School of Commerce , where he learned a range of office skills.

Throughout his time in college , Arthur developed the interest that was to become one of his great loves , the theatre. First nurtured at Bramham School , where he acted in excerpts from Shakespeare [ Quince , Bottom and the like ] and from Gilbert and Sullivan [ The Mikado ] , this fascination for all things theatrical has lasted throughout Arthur ' s life. He acted as a teenager at the YMCA in Leeds , and set up , with contemporaries in the village the Pioneers Concert Party , putting on

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shows for local children. These were the days when visiting companies would come to Bramham , performing in the Village Hall [ founded in 1912 ]. Arthur recalls the Old Fitup Company producing a different play each night , including ‘ The Demon Barber of Fleet Street ‘ , always with ‘ East Lynne ‘ on the last night.

In 1931 Arthur took the post of junior at Bickers , Peters & Heap , Solicitors , of Tadcaster , serving his time in a still Dickensian atmosphere , when not on loan as wage clerk with Carr & Kettlewell [ in days when masons received 1 sh. 5d . an hour , and foremen 2d. more ] . In his spare time he was continuing to expand his repertoire , even doing a little part - time work for BBC Radio . By 1938 he had switched to John Smith 's Office , where his service was broken by his call up into the RAF in 1940.

The next couple of years saw Arthur posted around Britain , to training and bases in Cheshire , Mildenhall , Cranwell , Speke and Southport , during which period he was promoted , and specialised in aircraft fuels. In 1942 , Arthur was posted abroad , setting off from Greenock southwards in an Atlantic convoy , to Gibraltar , then down west Africa , round the Cape and up to Durban [ even here he managed to get some acting in ]. Soon he was off again in the ‘ New Amsterdam ‘ , a very smart liner pressed into military service , which carried him up east Africa , through the Suez Canal , and on to Egypt , where he and his comrades in arms camped rough near the Pyramids , and Arthur was able to visit Jerusalem and Jericho. Appointed Sergeant Instructor in Amman , Arthur was given the job of training Jewish recruits to the RAF.

By 1943 , Arthur had joined brother Bill in Malta , by which time some convoys were getting through the German blockade. It was here that Arthur discovered the Anglican Cathedral in Valetta , where Canon Hicks , his former vicar in Bramham was now Chancellor . Arthur sang in the choir , read lessons and rang the bells --- aside from his

usual involvement in theatrical shows.

Demobbed in 1946 , Arthur returned to John Smith 's in Tadcaster , where he became much involved with the ' boss ' , Mr. Riley Smith , who was so keen on amateur dramatics that he built his own theatre to stage them ! Here Arthur was engaged in many productions involving employees of the firm and their families, as well as being a founder member of the Tadcaster Operatic Society in 1947. However, persuaded to return to his former firm , now Ware & Co. , in 1952 , to specialise in wills and conveyancing , Arthur found his life taking a very different turn.

He had been helping out at Bramham House Children 's Home since 1948 , primarily through an involvement with theatricals. Now he became a part- time house father in the evenings , whilst continuing his full - time work with Ware & Co. At weekends he had begun to help at Bramham Park , where the Colonel and the Hon. Mrs. Lane Fox had opened the house and gardens to the public. In his spare time [ ! ] , Arthur helped form the Bramham Village Players in 1952 . Among his fellow founder members were Gill and Leslie Young and Ernest Dykes.

Eventually , once retired from his job with Ware & Co. in 1969, Arthur was able to give more time to his other interests , going full - time to the Children 's Home , first under Mr. & Mrs. Hale , and then in the less happy times before it closed in 1979 . At that point Arthur switched full - time to the Park , where he administered the opening of house and grounds , and continued his researches into local history. Though long officially retired in 2000 , Arthur continues to be involved -- and an expert on many aspects of the history of House , Lane Fox family , and village.

In fact , he is currently President of the village Drama Group and still treads the boards ; Trustee and Management Committee

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member of the Village Hall ; Governor of the Village School ; and member of the Parochial Church Council [ having been for many years previously Vicar 's Warden , choir member , organist and sidesman ] --- all in his mid - 80 's , though you would never think so .

Having been such an integral part of Bramham life , and having such knowledge of its ways and its history , Arthur is at the Millennium certainly one of its very best - known characters. He has lived in no fewer than seven different houses in all parts of the village . Starting in the cottage attached to the Swan , he went to the cottage adjoining , before moving down Church Hill to the Primroses. As an adult he bought Field House on Windmill corner , then had built the village's first new private house for many years -- the bungalow on the corner of Clifford Road and Lyndon Road [ then ' Lowlands ' , now ' Camelot ' ] . This he exchanged for ' Rockleigh ' near the Square , before moving up Town Hill to 3 , High St. Cottages.

Arthur Tindall is , quite simply , a man steeped in Bramham , who has added greatly to its life , and continues to enjoy it to the full after 86 years.