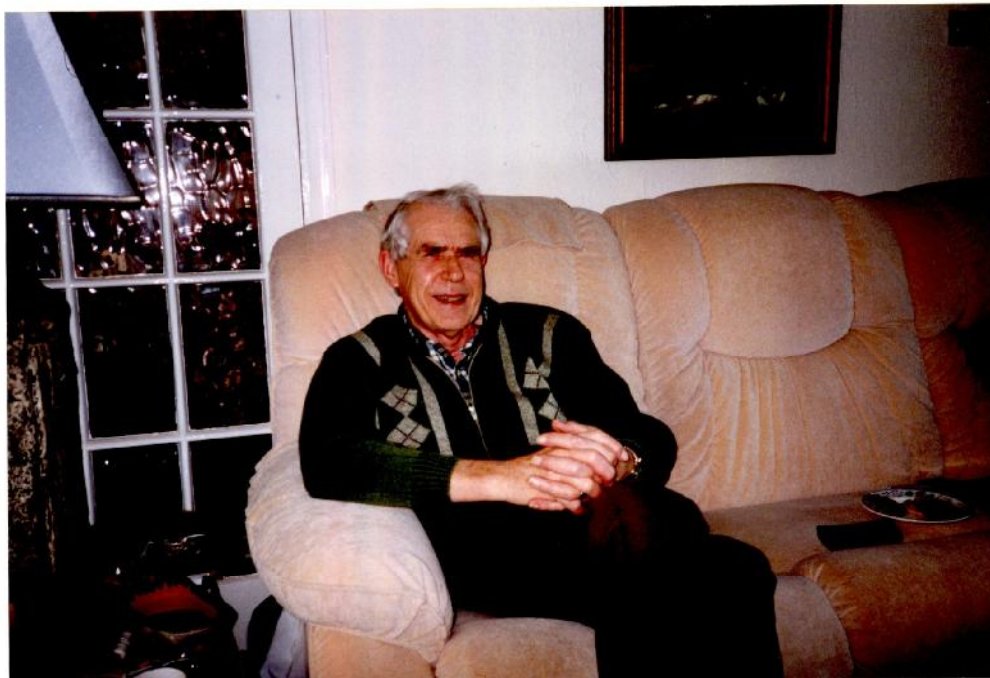


## **Bramham Millennium Characters 7**

### **Ian Frederick Watson**



Ian was born on 21 January 1927 , at Reighton , near Filey . His parents were small farmers , both from the East Riding , though his mother 's family was originally Scottish. Ian attended the local junior school before moving to Filey Church of Emglad School at age 7 , from where he won a County Minor Scholarship to Bridlington Grammar School in 1938 .Competing for the school as an athlete and rugby player, and being a member of the Officers Training Corps , Ian completed a successful school career by passing his School Certificate & Higher School Certificate exams, and being awarded a State Bursary. In 1944 he entered Kings College , then one of the constituent colleges of Durham University , which later became the University of Newcastle. Here he took an Honours degree in Mechanical Engineering , completing the four year course in three [ as then required by all who were permitted to defer military service to complete their education ] .

Following graduation , Ian spent his two years of National Service in 2 REME where , after a short period as an instructor , then as a platoon commander , he was the Weapon Training Officer for the battalion.

Once back in Civvy Street , Ian was employed , first , on aero engine development with Rolls Royce ; then on the development of airbourne protection equipment with Wilkinson Sword . There he became Chief Development Engineer before transferring to the USA in the mid 1960 's for two and a half years as Vice President Manufacturing in charge of razor blade production. Later he returned to development engineering as Group Chief Development Engineer for the Dawson and Barfos group of companies [ later to become Vickers Dawson ]. Here he was in charge of developing major capital equipment for washing , filling and packaging bottles for the brewery , dairy and soft drinks industries. Over a period of 30 years Ian lived successively in Derbyshire , Buckinghamshire , New Jersey USA , Bucks. again , then Hertfordshire and Suffolk , before arriving back in Yorkshire. In August 1974 the Watsons moved to 1 , Prospect Bank . When Vickers Dawson suggested some two years later that they wanted him to move again , Ian decided it was time to become self - employed . Thus , in 1977 , just after his fiftieth birthday , the family home became the base for his steam cleaning and retail lighting business , and remained so until he retired in 1993.

Retirement , with its removal of any necessity to earn a living , left Ian free to make some contribution to the community where his family had grown up through many happy years. This was not entirely altruistic ; he felt the need for the self - discipline that employment affords , so when the opportunity arose to become Parish Clerk in the Spring of 1993 he gladly accepted. He continued to fill the post through the Millennium , much to the satisfaction of all who knew his work , for none could imagine that Bramham could have found a more able , conscientious , or amenable parish official. Working in local government has many frustrations but equally it has its compensations ; Ian 's major satisfaction came when the building threat to Bramham Moor was

defeated [ though he quickly reminded himself that ' nothing is for ever' ] .

Ian married Ruth , a chartered accountant , in 1961; both their daughters, Gillian [ who has presented them with two grandsons ] and Fiona , were raised in Bramham and participated fully in village activities. With their many skills and interests , Ian and Ruth have enjoyed Scottish and English Country Dancing , the multiple challenges of their three computers , walking, reading , cookery , and membership of the University of the Third Age --- though Ian has resisted all efforts to involve him in Ruth 's passion for Duplicate Bridge. It was through membership of U3A that Ian became involved in regular voluntary work for the National Railway Museum computerising the records of their drawing stores . A very fit man , Ian walks , cycles and undertakes a daily exercise regime , which will , it is to be hoped , ensure his capacity to continue his much appreciated work for the village well into the future.