

# FRANK GLASBY

## BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1917, along with his twin sister, Nellie, Frank grew up in a simple farming community in Warsop, England.

The old farming houses in Warsop were built of sandstone, while the later mining houses were made of red brick. They had an old earth closet and Frank's mum, Elizabeth, had to walk a long way to hang the the laundry out. She was a good hearted, down to earth woman. She had a friend called Mrs Godwin whose husband was a miner - she brought her two boys up on her own and wet or fine would cycle to work in order to put the children thorough college. Keith Godwin went on to sculpt the statue of Robin Hood that stands outside Nottingham castle. Frank used to look at the books at Mrs Godwin's house and Mrs Godwin said to Elizabeth that he was interested in books and to get him some. There was only one book in Frank's house, "The Horse Doctor's Almanac" - a red book with gold letters.

Frank would climb up stone steps to get on to the horses - his mum could ride sidesaddle. The ploughhorses were called Duke and Star. As a boy of six, Frank's father, Henry , would put him on a horse to go down to the blacksmith - the horse knew where to go and it was over a mile. The blacksmith would take Frank down, and he would sit and watch the shoeing then the blacksmith would put him back on the horse, and give it a slap to send it home - the horse would know it was going home and go faster. One day a policeman stopped traffic in the high street to let them through.

The Glasby's farm was the biggest in the area. At the end of the day his father, Henry would say "Better go and supper up". Frank's family lived opposite the farm and they could feel the horses stamp their feet from the other side of the road when "supper time" approached. The horses liked company and the men used to gather at the stables to talk and smoke. They used to practice quoits and when a fair came to the village they would all go and win prizes because they were so good at it. That's how they spent their evenings - there was no radio and Frank's brother Harry and his mate built the first "wireless" radio on his mother's kitchen table. It was amazing to hear the voice from the radio but it signalled a great transition from peasant era to technical age - the tail end of the industrial revolution.

Frank attended primary school at Sherwood St, Warsop, Nottinghamshire from 1922 to 1929. He attended secondary school at Burns Lane in Warsop from 1929 to 1933.

As a teenager Frank was a keen cyclist and with his brothers was part of a touring club and would think nothing of a 100km ride with a stop at some tea rooms for a hot brew and a chat.

Frank's brothers were Harry, a carpenter, and Walter, a moulder in an iron foundry - they used sand moulds. When Frank left school he worked for a grocery store doing deliveries for 8 shillings a week. He rode his bicycle in the snow and sometimes had to do deliveries two miles away. If someone wanted a particular item he might have to go to the Mansfield store which was five miles away. Frank always said "coming events cast their shadows before them"; the grocery store was called "Star supply stores". His father's Frank went bankrupt

and got a job as a brickie's labourer and cycled ten miles to work - it was a hard life. His father never complained once and his attitude was "if you can't have it you have to tighten your belt".

When Frank joined the air force in 1935 quite a few people in the village joined the airforce too. Frank went to Bombay - he was leaning on the rail of the ship and someone called his name and took him to Juhu Aerodrome near Juhu Beach. It was a prime swimming area and they worked from 7am until 1pm, had lunch, then went swimming. From Juhu he went up to Afghanistan and across the Himalayas to Dinjan on the Burma front, then back to Punjab, across to Calcutta and back to the Burma front. He had unique experience in the old fashioned aircraft they were still using in these areas. His unit would salvage old aircraft and reuse the parts.

Frank was trained at the RAF Technical School from 1936 to 1938. His rank on leaving was Flight Sergeant and he had worked as a Technical Instructor, Workshops Supervisor, Trade Examiner, and A.I.D Inspector.

In August 1939 Frank was in France, just after war was declared there - the British were fighting a rear guard action and Frank's unit had to escape from Brest to Southampton - his friend threw away his rifle and took his violin instead. They nearly missed the truck as they had gone into town to buy breakfast and couldn't understand why there was no-one there.

During his ten years in the air force, Frank was posted in various locations across northern India, Burma and the Afghanistan border. Flight Sergeant Glasby was always in demand as he knew how to service and repair older aircraft and armoury. He fondly spoke of his time in India and maintained a lifelong affinity with the places he was stationed in. He had a special knack of making furniture out of old packing cases and was always organised and orderly, no matter how remote the posting.

Frank left the airforce in 1945 and returned to England. He attended the Nottingham College of Art and Craft from 1946 to 1948 and obtained a degree in art. He also attended Durham University from December 1946 and obtained his school certificate in English, History, Art, Literature, Economics and French.

From 1948 to 1958 he worked as a commercial artist in Cornwall, carrying out painting and signwriting for various firms.

Frank married Lucie Winifred Bale on 21 March 1955 at West Bridgford in Nottingham county.

Frank attended Trent Park College of Education at London University in Barnet for two years from 1958 to 1960 in order to obtain his teacher's certificate. He worked as a teacher in Torrington Comprehensive School in North Devon for four years, commencing in 1960; his first year of probationary teaching concluded in 1961. (he said "I should have taken physics!")

His daughter, Leona was born in August 1962 in Torrington, and Frank's interest in astrology is evident in her name, as she is indeed a Leo.

From 1963 onwards Frank undertook private studies for the Astronomical Association and was a member of the British Astronomical association. He studied Mathematics and

Celestial Mechanics , Physics and Astrophysics. He was also an active artist and craftsman, and was a member of the Craft Centre of Great Britain.

Frank was firstly an Associate of the Philosophical Society and went on to become a Fellow of the Philosophical Society of England in 1959 and received an award of "academic gown" for his thesis.

In 1964 he was accepted as an Associate of the Royal Drawing Society.

In 1965 he was appointed as a teacher at the Falmouth Church of England Junior Boys School, on a salary of 1395 pounds per year. Chris was born in 1966 when Mum and Frank lived in a little village called Ponsanooth. In 1969 they moved to Falmouth to be closer to the school where Frank worked.

The family emigrated to Queensland in 1971 as "ten pound poms". Frank taught grade four at Goodna primary school, which had over a thousand students, mainly migrants from European countries. After moving to Western Australia in 1973 he taught art at Morley high school, followed by a post at Midland Primary school where he worked until he retired on the day he turned 65 in 1982. As this was the same year his marriage ended, Frank was free to pursue further philosophical and scientific studies, which he threw himself into, devoting much of his time to reading, writing and painting.

Frank's granddaughter, Sierra, was born in 1997 and he delighted in telling her interesting snippets about his life, making silly jokes and singing to her.

Frank lived independently until shortly before he passed away at the age of 93, and as one of his friends said, he was "a gracious and dignified gentleman" to the end.