

HARRY BREARLY



Harry Brearly was born on 18th February 1871, to a steelworker named John Brearly and his wife Jane Brearly in Sheffield, England. He was educated at Woodside School until the age of twelve when he left to enter his first employment as a labourer in his father's steelworks, later gaining the post of general assistant in the company's chemical laboratory.

He married Helen Theresa Crank on 23rd October 1895. Over several years, he studied at home and later in formal evening classes, to specialize in steel production techniques and associated chemical analysis methods.

In his early thirties, Brearly earned a reputation as an experienced professional and for being very insightful in the resolution of practical, metallurgical (the branch of science and technology concerned with the properties of metals and their production and purification) and industrial issues. In 1908 when two of Sheffield's main steelmaking companies innovatively agreed to jointly finance a common research laboratory (brown firth laboratories) Harry Brearly was asked to lead the project.

After leaving brown firth, Brearly joined a new steelworks, Brown Bailey's Steel Works, also in Sheffield; and became director of the firm in 1925.

In 1941, Brearly founded a charitable trust called The Freshgate Trust Foundation, a grantmaking charity operating in Sheffield and South Yorkshire. His aim was to provide a 'Fresh Gate' or new opportunity to people like him born into modest circumstances so that they may experience the finer things in life like travel, education, the arts and music. The foundation is still operating as a registered charity awarding grants for charitable purposes to people throughout Sheffield and South Yorkshire.

Brearly died on the 14th July 1948, at Torquay, a coastal resort town in Devon, south west England. He was commemorated at Efford (a historic manor near Plymouth) and his ashes were scattered in the Efford Crematorium Garden of Remembrance.

During the year 2013, in the Sheffield University Varsity Brewing Challenge, Sheffield University called their beer-brewed by Thornbridge-Brearleys, to commemorate 100 years since Harry Brearly created stainless steel.

