

Ian Briggs – CV

Ian is the author of many of the pages in the [Understanding Local Government website](#).

I can only ever describe my background as being an odd mixture of huge good fortune and terrible bad luck that in equal measure I have learned huge amounts from. As a Post War son of a working class family in West Yorkshire I, like so many others only realised how incredibly wise and well informed my parents were long after I had left home. To this day I remain uncertain as to exactly where my parent's politics actually lay, but my mother was the daughter of a lifelong man of the Cooperative movement and my father the son of a card carrying communist railway engine driver. Suffice to say I thought it was quite normal for politics and social issues to be debated at length in the family home.

It was only in my years of early maturity, when in employment that these values and insights came very much into play. By some odd sequence of events I found myself in my early twenties working in **industrial relations in the National Newspaper Industry** and having some uncomfortably frequent exposure to one Rupert Murdoch. Then, after his henchmen offered me some career advice in the form of “pack your bags and get out of here”, I found myself working in **local government**. Again the role was an interesting one – sorting out a failing street cleansing and refuse collections service that became the very first private contract, a great opportunity to see traditional ways of doing things shattered into fragments for all time.

What followed were various roles supporting local government, **consultancy and then academia**. Never having ever earned enough to fully retire I still occupy myself as a busy parish councillor in rural Warwickshire and support a number of initiatives in the public sector as well as doing my best to chair the Board of a complex local government owned company in the construction related sector.

I am married to a wonderful wife who has stood by me since our student days and have two absolutely great children, a son and a daughter, the latter presenting us with our first grandchild this year.

As a byword – although passionate about local government I still cannot make my mind up about my own politics!