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Have you got something to share? Items for publication should be sent to The Editor, Orchard House, Blakes Lane, Brundall NR13 5JN. Tel: 01603 716115 Email: enquiries@brundallvillagehistory.org.uk

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, 1952-2022



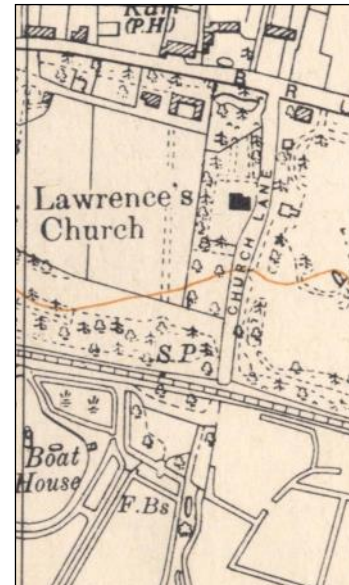
To celebrate this Royal anniversary, take a look at Brundall in the 1950s



Captions are on page 4



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When planning celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee thoughts turned to what happened in Brundall in 1952.

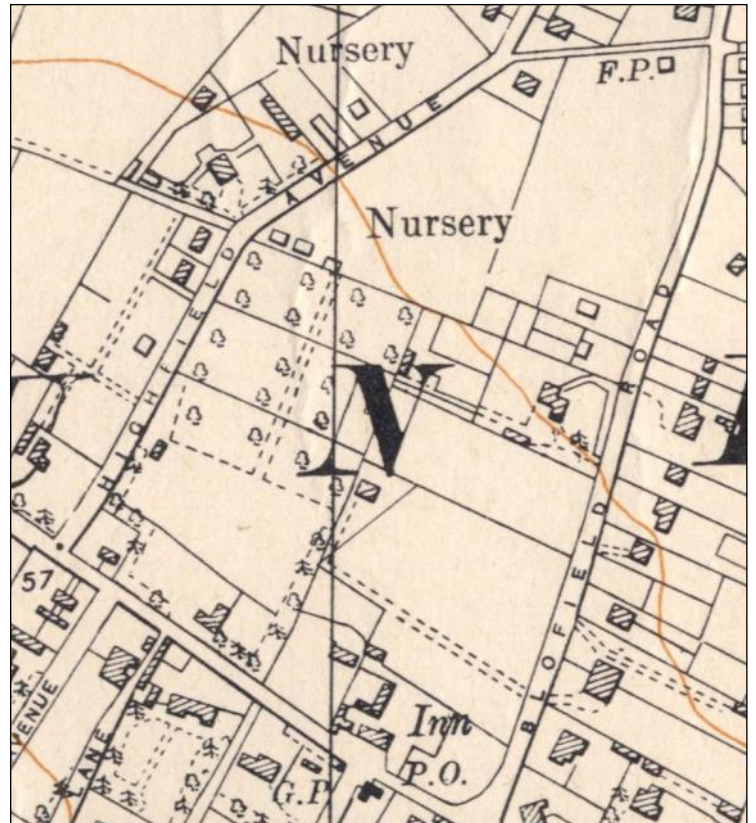
At first street parties came to mind or presentations of mugs and spoons at school. On making enquiries of those who might remember and drawing a blank it then occurred to me that there weren't many 'streets' in Brundall in the fifties and of course the school wasn't built until 1969. So many of the major changes to Brundall happened in the 1960s.

The majority of us who live in Brundall now live in houses and indeed roads that did not exist in the 1950s and some of the roads that did exist would not have been made up. Quite a few of us remember Links Avenue in that state and there are photographs of Highfield Avenue when just a track. The difference in population too is quite phenomenal. Between 1931 and 1961 about 1,000 people lived in Brundall. By 1971 this

by Barbara Ayers

had more than doubled to 2,600. In 2001 it was 4000 and in 2022 it is more than 6000.

Apart from ordinary houses what other noticeable differences would there have been in the way of buildings? Where Finch Way is now there was probably Brundall's finest house architecturally speaking, Brundall House, which was demolished in 1969. Another landmark, The White Horse public house, which would have been facing you as you walked up the hill from the station, was demolished in 2001. In 1956 Elsie Butcher's shop gave way to the supermarket and there was still a 'proper' shop on the corner of The Street and Station Road which was also the post office. We still had a 'real' butchers then and



Above left: P M Cole's Riverside Stores provided a general store... and ices.
Above and right: Details of the 1957 OS map showing Brundall House, where Finch Way now stands, and the junction of Highfield Avenue and The Street before the Braydeston Avenue development.
Left: A view of Brooms Boats and Bells boatyard looking up towards The Street, showing the site of the future village school. (Picture: ©www.mike-page.co.uk.) Many Brundall pupils attended Strumpshaw school, pictured.
Right: The White Horse Hotel, early 1960s, shown on the map above and now demolished.



ask anyone who has lived in Brundall for any length of time about Naylor's! You may be surprised to know that Brundall Church would not even have looked the same as the extension was added to the west end in 1963.

So what would have been in all that space now occupied by houses? Well, Brundall was very horticultural in those days. Read's greenhouses in Cucumber Lane would have closed by 1950 but the Springdale estate was yet to be built. Henry Morse and Sons were still in business however, and the sight and smell of their rosefields extending from Westfield Avenue to as far as what is now Brecklands Road in the east must have been quite something.

We even had a farm in those days on The Street opposite Braydeston Avenue. In The Evening News for 24th April 1957 there is a delightful photograph of George Smith's cows returning from grazing on Strumpshaw Marshes for evening milking. They are ambling past St.

Ninians and The Manor House at the top of Blofield Road with a solitary car having to patiently take its turn in the queue.

Having said that Brundall was too small in 1953 to have much in the way of celebrations for The Coronation, I was very surprised, on looking up the parish minutes for 1952, that very ambitious plans were in fact made.

Funds were to be raised by voluntary contributions although the Brundall Parish Council made £35 available for coronation activities. It was also minuted in January 1953 that the Coronation Fund Donations received to date were disappointing especially from the west end of the village!

Suggestions put forward for permanent memorials were planting trees and shrubs and erecting a village sign and bus shelters. Mr Morse did in fact give some roses and a copper beech for planting at The Memorial Hall. For

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children there could be a playground and coronation mugs. Suggestions for activities on the day included an open air religious service, maypole dancing, fireworks, lighting a beacon on Braydeston Hills, fancy dress and decorated vehicle parade, historical pageant, water frolics on Mr Stringer's lake (Brundall Gardens), teas and sports for children, whist drives, street decorations, bowls tournament, souvenir programme, gas filled balloons (16/9d per gross), grandmother treasure exhibition and visit of a midget submarine. On voting for the festivities they favoured it is noticeable that activities that would be enjoyed by older people rather than children did get more votes.

This does confirm what we have been told before that there were not that many children in Brundall then.

It was reported, however, in the EDP and Evening News on June 3rd 1953, the day following the Coronation, that 'For the children there were Coronation mugs, a fancy-dress parade and a tea party at the Memorial Hall.'

On March 24th 1954 it is noted in the Brundall Parish Minutes for the AGM that 'The Council co-operated with the Coronation Committee so as to make June 2nd 1953 a memorable day.' Strangely though, out of all the people I've spoken to who were in Brundall at that time, no-one remembers any of the above activities taking place! However the newspapers

reported that 'A Coronation dance at the White Horse Inn, organised by the Young Conservatives, ended the day's festivities.' A United Service, according to the Deanery Magazine, also took place, and Mr Morse and the Orchestra are thanked for their part in this.

There is at least one memorial that still stands and that is the bus shelter at the corner of Station Road and The Street.

You can still read the plaques that say 'This shelter was erected by the Parish of Brundall to Commemorate the Coronation of H.M. Queen Elizabeth 11 June 2nd 1953' and 'The site on which this shelter stands was the generous gift of the late Dr. J.D. Mckelvie.'

Page one pictures – clockwise from top left:

1. Bob and Dot Barber with Alan, Richard and Jackie in 1956 when they farmed in Postwick Lane.
2. Return to the farm, 1957—an evening scene familiar to all residents in the Brundall area was this herd of cows which George Smith was driving back to his farm on the corner of The Street and Highfield Avenue.
3. Inside Snells' chemist's shop at the west end of The Street, where the Well pharmacy still operates. Oliver and Jeanne Snell ran it from 1950 to 1971.
4. BLHG stalwart Wendy Ward with the library van, 1953.

Taking the plunge with the telly

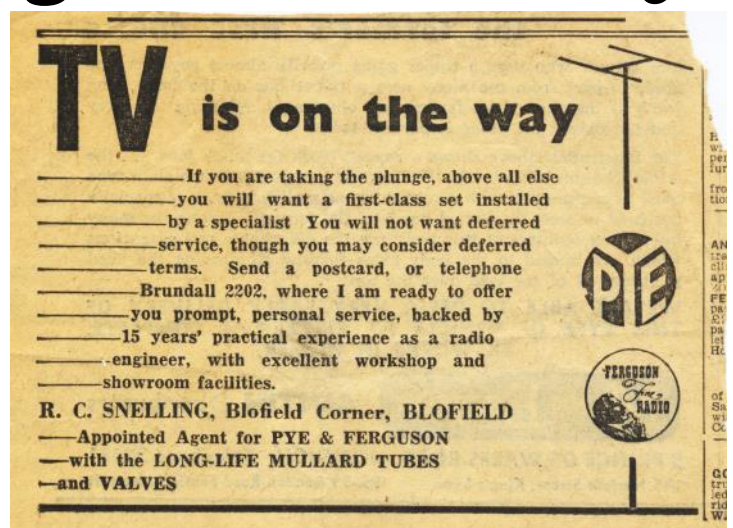
Watching the Queen's coronation in 1953 on the new-fangled television set in your home was not possible in Brundall.

When television did reach Norfolk, in February 1955, an early provider locally was Roy Snelling, whose advert here invites people who are "taking the plunge" to visit his Blofield store.

The rapid growth of TV in Norfolk saw the pattern of life change, and by the late 1950s listening to the radio or practising hobbies was replaced by watching 'the box'.

Even the cinema began to be less popular on a cold winter night.

Picture courtesy of Snellings Archive.



The BLHG Archive Group will re-commence its practical cataloguing sessions on Tuesday afternoons after Easter. Anyone who would like to learn more about our village history is welcome to join us. Although useful, computer skills are not essential for taking part in this project.

To express an interest or to find out more, please contact Chloe on 01603 928804 or enquiries@brundallvillagehistory.org.uk.