



THE BRUNDALL & BRAYDESTON CHRONICLE

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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

Recording the unusual and quirky décor of the Yare



Landlords Mike diMarco and Paul Lancaster have shut the doors on their 40-year career at the Yare pub on Brundall Riverside.

Brundall Local History Group photographer Carla Hodgson was allowed to make a record of the pub just before it closed, so that its quirky décor could be captured for the future in case changes are made.

Cheers, Mike and Paul!

Making connections

We were contacted recently by Mr Robert Maidstone, who has been researching his family history for some years and was hoping to make a connection with Braydeston House in the village.

I remembered coming across this name when I was researching the history of Braydeston House. I dug out my notes and was delighted to confirm there was indeed a connection. Back in 1759 a Bargain and Sale (A type of property deed) was enrolled in the High Court of

By Ann-Marie Simpson

Chancery between John Smith, a bankrupt tailor and woollen draper of Norwich, and Joseph and Benjamin Maidstone for the property, then known as 'Stratfords' but later renamed Braydeston House (pictured on page 3).

Joseph and Benjamin Maidstone were twins, born to a William and Ann Maidstone and baptised at Gt Plumstead in 1729. Benjamin became a carpenter and Joseph a

haberdasher. Their mother's maiden name was Smith. Perhaps the bankrupt tailor was a family member and that's why they bought him out. Mr. Maidstone's research has shown that in 1761 they both received money in the will of their brother John and in 1766 money from another brother Robert. Joseph also inherited a house at Great Plumstead "for life" from Robert although sadly he lived for only a few months after that.

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Henry Hillwood: Another name to remember

Remembrance Day this year was commemorated at the Brundall Memorial Shards at the Parish Cemetery with the traditional naming of the Brundall and Braydeston servicemen who lost their lives in the two World Wars.

These conflicts affected many local families, including widows whose husbands had originated from other parts of the country so their names are recorded on memorials elsewhere. We recently heard about Sergeant Henry Hillwood, whose name is amongst those of 20,000 RAF men and women with no known grave on the Air Forces Memorial at Runnymede in Surrey, unveiled by the Queen in 1953.

Henry Hillwood, born 2 September 1912, came from Hendon, north London where he probably learned to fly at the local aerodrome. He later became a driving school instructor in Norwich and lived at Denver House, Clarence Road. He kept up his flying with the Norfolk & Norwich Aero Club and was awarded their certificate on 1 January 1939. He also married twenty year old Peggy Broom later that year, at the outbreak of WWII.

Peggy, born 9 September 1919, was the daughter of master boat builder Bernard "Barney" Broom and his wife Marion who lived at *Deepdale*, Blofield Road, Brundall. Throughout the war the Broom boatyard would be contracted to the Admiralty for the manufacture of boats for the war with a workforce of some 60 men and women in protected jobs.

The 1939 Register shows the young married couple staying at the Cumberland Hotel, 36 Grand Parade Eastbourne. At this time Henry was serving with the RAF; Peggy was employed as a short-hand typist.

By 1941 Henry had been assigned to RAF 608 Squadron at RAF Thornaby airfield near Stockton on Tees. On 20 June that year he took part in a mission to rescue an RAF dinghy in the North Sea after several bomber aircraft had gone missing following an attack on Hamburg and Bremen, including a Whitley from RAF Middleton-St-George.

As second pilot/observer, Henry was in the crew of pilot Sir Iain MacRobert along with Flight Sergeant Alec Best, wireless operator/air gunner from Canada, and Pilot Officer Rowland Keating, a volunteer extra observer from New Zealand.



Peggy Hillwood (second from left) with her parents Bernard and Marion Broom and brothers Geoffrey and Barney at Deepdale, Blofield Road, early 1940s.

Their Bristol Blenheim plane was not seen again despite extensive searches over two days. Engine failure could not be ruled out as the Blenheims could not run on a single engine if the other one failed. The following month the Squadron was stood down from operations to re-equip with more reliable Lockheed Hudsons. It appears that Peggy was informed while staying with her parents in Brundall.

Two years later, on 6 November 1943, they buried her twenty year old younger brother Geoffrey Charles Broom at Braydeston churchyard. He was accidentally killed while on service in Scotland, and a wooden memorial plaque for him was placed inside the church.

At the end of the war, in 1945, Peggy married Canadian Harold Morton Maddick and emigrated with him for a new life in Newfoundland. They had children and travelled all over the world due to Harold's long career as a member of Canada's Trade Commissioner Service. Peggy died in 2000.

RAF Thornaby closed in 1958 and the airfield is now covered with modern housing developments and light industrial units. A memorial to all the airmen who served there was installed in 1997 (*pictured right*).

More recently, new roads on the Thorntree Vale Estate have been named after some of the airmen who lost their lives including **Hillwood Court**.

Chloe Veale



The rear of Braydeston House, No.9 The Street, c. 1923

From page 1—The Maidstone family

He left his money to Benjamin, and the house reverted to a different member of the family. Joseph was buried at Gt Plumstead in December 1766.

At this point Benjamin was working as a carpenter in Norwich and decided to sell Braydeston House. It was bought by a Sayer Vynne, a gentleman farmer in 1777 and rebuilt to a more modern design.

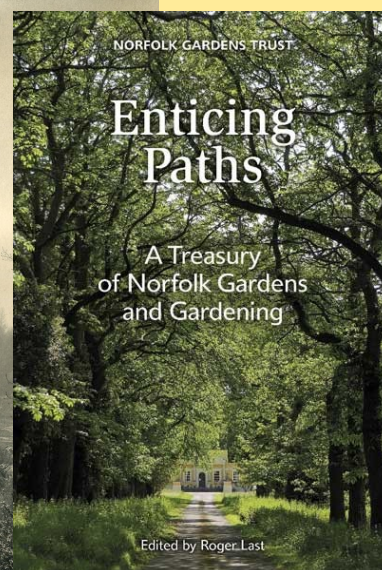
We now fast forward to September 1836. A letter, held at the Norfolk Record Office, from Edward Cole, curate of Great Plumstead, refers to the certificates of baptism of Joseph and Benjamin. He writes that he had asked his clerk, Robert Maidstone, “if he can give any information about his great-uncle Benjamin Maidstone. He thought he had died and was buried at either Brundall or Braydestone.”

He then goes on to give more details about the baptism of the twin sons and the burial of Joseph in 1766. We don’t know why he was making this enquiry and there is no response. It appears however that Benjamin was buried at Braydeston—or Braydestone as it was sometimes spelt then.

So, a Robert Maidstone was party to an enquiry about a Benjamin Maidstone in 1836 and history is repeating itself in 2021!

The Mr Maidstone who contacted us was born in Hedgehog Cottage opposite Great Plumstead church. It is thought to have been built by his great grandfather, Leonard Maidstone. As a child he often visited Great Plumstead and looked around the churchyard where so many of his ancestors had been buried. His father was Billy Maidstone, a gardener who worked for a while for Dr. Payne on Brundall Street. His mother, Dolly, cleaned boats for Mr Caulfield. His father’s cousin Frederick George Maidstone lived in one half of his great grandfather’s cottage but then moved to Springdale in Brundall where he died in 1974.

Please let us know if you remember this family. Even the smallest memory would be valued by us.



Left: Brundall Mere from the wood looking south, c. 1910

A new book has been published by the Norfolk Gardens Trust with two chapters dedicated to local heritage sites – Brundall Gardens (‘Norfolk’s Switzerland’) and Snowdrop Acre.

Enticing Paths: A Treasury of Norfolk Gardens and Gardening is edited by Roger Last, who also wrote the Brundall Gardens chapter.

Brundall Local History Group is credited for helping to source and supply archive material for the book.

60,000 visitors came to Brundall Gardens in one year in the 1920s thanks to the entrepreneurial skills of its

owner, cinema magnate Frederick Holmes Cooper, who had bought the estate in 1918. In 1924 he initiated the opening of a rail halt, now Brundall Gardens station, to bring trippers, who also came by steam boat from Great Yarmouth to enjoy the gardens, which had been created from 1881 by Dr Michael Beverley.

This lovely book is hardback, with 480 pages and more than 500 illustrations, and presents a fascinating range of Norfolk gardens and garden-related topics.

It is available in bookshops at £30, or visit the Norfolk Gardens Trust website, www.norfolkgt.org.uk.

New streets commemorate Brundall names

Names of the streets on the new estate on the Brooms site at Berryfields have been announced. Two are names with local significance: David Capp Road, and Christine Lamb Drive.

David Capp, ***pictured right***, was the first head of Brundall School from 1969 to 1998 and Christine Lamb was a classroom assistant for many years. The other names are Reedcutters Avenue, Wherry Way, Bittern Way and Heron Drive.



After the Christmas break, from 18 January, the BLHG Archive Group will re-commence its practical cataloguing sessions on Tuesday afternoons. 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 .