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## The Arrival of Television in Rural Norfolk

In our home, the greatest change occurred when my father bought our first television set. In the early 1950s, entertainment at home involved playing games, pursuing hobbies and developing handicraft skills, reading, writing and listening to the radio. By the end of the 1950s, watching television was the main leisure activity in the evenings and at weekends for most people, including my parents, especially when the advent of commercial television gave a greater choice of programmes.

Television also affected entertainment outside the home as people became less inclined to venture out on cold winter evenings to visit the cinema, theatre and dance hall when an alternative entertainment existed inside their own comfortable living rooms.

Gradually my parents stopped attending whist drives and village dances, preferring instead to watch television at home, although they were tempted back to the village halls with the increasing popularity of bingo.

*The words of Colin Miller who was born and brought up in Rollesby, a Broadland village just eleven miles north east of Brundall. His experiences were typical of life in rural east Norfolk.*

Colin Miller: From *The Fifties Replayed: A Norfolk Youth at Leisure* (Sutton Books, 2005)



### **A television set made by Ekco 1960**

This type of console TV was designed as a piece of furniture to blend in with the home.  
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