



## The Doctor's Surgery: *Bradesfield* in Blofield Road 1969

Life was very different in those days. Surgery took up a relatively short period of time whereas now, surgery takes up most of the time and visits we do about 5 a day...

In 1969 the surgery would be for an hour in the morning and probably about 5.30 to 7.30 in the evening, and this was interspersed with loads of home visits. Patients did not have cars or phones, particularly the elderly, so visits were made to the chronic sick particularly the elderly. In those days we had just the two doctors and the dispenser-come-secretary/typist.

The District Nurse was a nurse in her own right and had her own house in Cucumber Lane and whilst she called into the Surgery....the doctors had to do all their own dressings and treat .....ulcers etc. The District nurse did much of the basic nursing, such as bathing, toileting, washing ..... and the actual medical nursing was left to the doctors in the late 60s and 70s....People would refer themselves to the District Nurse at the nurse's house.

The surgery was in *Bradesfield* in the Blofield Road, [where Dr Gray lived] and a specially converted garage was my first consulting room. It was small, L-shaped and quite cramped....it took us about one year to realise that it was non-sound proof and that people in the waiting room could hear everything going on in the consulting room. There were just three rooms in fact; there was Dr Gray's room and my consulting room, and between the dispensary and Office, both rolled into one, everything took place in this small room stocked with medicines. There was a chemist in Brundall, Snell in The Street, but we did a lot of dispensing because we had a large rural population, and in those days it was mainly liquid medicines rather than tablets or capsules.

When I joined in 1969, the partnership bought a bungalow in Nurseries Avenue for my wife and myself, and when we decided to stay after at the end of the initial 6 month trial, I had to buy it from the practice on a mortgage for £5000. When we moved in 1974 we sold it for £19,000!

***The words of Dr David Varvel***

*recorded in an interview on 16th February 2006.*



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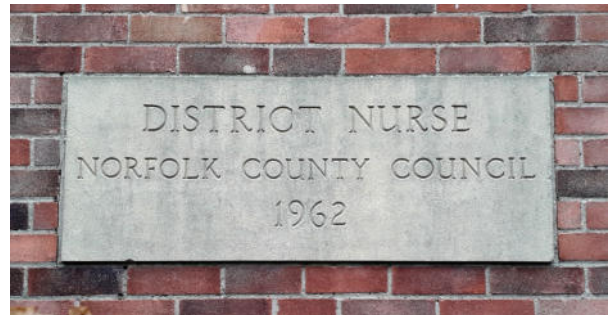
[www.brundallvillagehistory.org.uk](http://www.brundallvillagehistory.org.uk)





**Bradesfield, Blofield Road as it is today**

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**Plaque on the front of the former District Nurse's house in Cucumber Lane**

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**Mrs Jeanne Snell at the Pharmacy counter, The Street, Brundall 1950s-1960s**

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**District Nurse at the baby clinic**