

## Reflections on the Changing scene in Brundall in 1969

Until a few years ago it was secluded, being off the beaten track and had a population of about 1,000. Around the turn of the century (1900) it became quite the thing for retired business men of Norwich to settle here and build a house. It had in fact always been a village of elderly people, there never having been a National, Church or Council school.

Between the wars [1919-1938] building development commenced with the erection of 78 bungalows, all at the west end of the parish. Brundall was a village of thatched houses, both old and new, and in recent years several of these thatched roofs have been destroyed by fire and replaced by tiles. Until after the war local amenities were few, three small grocery shops supplied all the wants of the inhabitants and their thirst was catered for by three inns.

But what of the village today? New building has largely changed its pre-war appearance and what were arable fields are now colonies of semi-detached bungalows.

The majority of these are well-spaced and pleasantly designed and are mainly occupied by retired people who have come from the London area. They are attracted here as prices of houses in Brundall are far lower than they are near London... Before the war there were 230 houses in the parish and since the war 536 new dwellings have been built with many more in the course of erection while the population has increased to over 2000. On the whole both young and elderly newcomers integrate well with the older inhabitants and some new activities have commenced, while fresh life has been given to existing ones to cater for the needs of the growing population; three pre-war grocers' shops have blossomed forth as supermarkets with self-service facilities. The only mains services before the war were electricity and telephone, now the village is supplied with water, mains drainage, gas and street lighting.

**This article was written by George Levine (1900-1979), an art dealer and local historian who had lived at *The Gables*, 52 The Street since before the war and had seen many changes in Brundall.**

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***The Gables, 52 The Street, Brundall in winter 2006.***

This is one of the oldest houses in the village built around 1690 with its 'Dutch' style gable ends. It was the home of local historian George Levine from before the Second World War until his death in 1979 aged 79 years. The newly constructed Levine Close, on the Springdale estate, was named after him soon after.



***Construction work on the new housing development at Braydeston Crescent 1966.***  
It was built on land which had previously served as a dairy farm and orchard.