



Brundall's 'Night Soil' Collection 1930s-1960s

The last caller [*at the house*] usually came before most people were up in the morning. The 'night soil' cart, otherwise called 'the honey cart', was a council lorry with sliding sides and two operatives who emptied lavatories. Most 'lavs' were outside the house so could be readily accessed without disturbing anyone. The collectors would bring with them a bucket into which they poured the contents of the lavatory pail, which was then tipped into the back of the lorry. When full, the lorry was driven to High Noon [*Farm*], where it was emptied on a field which was usually best avoided - especially during warmer weather!

Remembered by Chris Basey who lived in Brundall as a boy (recorded in 2005)

Brundall Parish Council meeting at Brundall Memorial Hall, 26th March 1952:

"It was reported that night soil was being deposited in a field adjoining Cuckoo Lane, Strumpshaw, and this presented a nuisance to the children attending Strumpshaw School"

Brundall Parish Council meeting at Brundall Memorial Hall, 17th March 1958:

"The Council regret to say that the night soil problem remains. Although much effort has been made to persuade the Rural District Council to make the collection a night time operation, no progress has been made. This nuisance apparently will not disappear until a comprehensive sewerage scheme is introduced for the whole of the village."

A sewerage treatment plant was eventually built in Strumpshaw in 1964 on the boundary with Brundall. It was situated by the Lackford Run, a clear stream able to receive the final effluent from the plant before it flowed into the River Yare. By 1969 the system was becoming overloaded because of the new housing developments. An enlarged works was opened in 1973 with pumping stations in Blofield, Brundall, Lingwood and Strumpshaw. During the 1990s the works were closed and the 'flushings' of the increasing population were re-routed to the treatment plant at Whitlingham.





Night soil men at work in Warrington, Lancashire. 1950s. No gloves or masks were worn and health and safety standards were of little concern at this time.

Image courtesy of <http://forum.warrington-worldwide.co.uk/>

