

BRICKHILL

PARISH COUNCIL



Brickhill Timeline

- **1750:** Brickhill Farm House mentioned in 'a terrier'. A terrier being a register of landed property.
- **1765:** Brickhill Farm shown on Jeffrey's Map of Bedfordshire
- **1807:** John Foster of Brickhill House wrote a pamphlet, 'Observations on the Agriculture of North Bedfordshire'. There is a copy of this pamphlet in The Heritage Library, Bedford Central Library.
- **1821:** John's son Algernon Foster dies in Dresden and is commemorated by the erection of a monument in the grounds of Brickhill House.
- **1824:** The American, Washington Irving, author of 'Rip Van Winkle' visits Brickhill House.
- **1861-1880:** Brickhill House leased to Alexander Pym ancestor of Francis Pym, prominent politician of the 20th century.
- **1927:** Frank Brightman, tenant of Brickhill Farm, purchases Brickhill House from the Foster family.
- **1930:** Emily Foster's journal is published.
- **1946:** Brickhill House destroyed by fire on Boxing Day.
- **1954:** Bedford Borough Council purchases the Brickhill Farm estate.
- **1956:** Planning for Brickhill Estate reaches an advanced stage. It was decided that the estate would consist of 900 houses, two churches, a garage and a group of shops.
- **1959:** The first house is occupied (in Robin Hill).
- **1960:** Brickhill County Infants School now Brickhill Lower School is opened.
- **1962:** Brickhill shopping centre officially opens in January. The shops were seven in number and comprised a self service store, dry cleaners, newsagents and post office, chemists, butchers, hair stylists and a greengrocers.
- **1963:** Brickhill County Junior School opens in October with The Bird in Hand Public House opening in December.
- **1966:** Building of a further residential estate known as North Brickhill begins and the Avon Drive community facilities are planned.
- **1967:** Manton Primary School (now Scott Lower) opens followed by Parkwood Middle School.

- **1976:** Kelly's Bedford Directory of 1976, the last published, lists the following shops: Murdoch Norton, grocers; Beswick & Holmes, newsagents and post office; A.R. Miller, chemists; Maria, ladies' hairdresser; F.Harris, butchers; H.F. Keech, fruiterer.
- **1981-3:** The Tyne Crescent estate and the North British estate are completed and not long afterwards The Pheasant Public House opens.
- **1993:** Parkwood and Brickhill Middle Schools merge as Beauchamp Middle School.
- **1993:** Elections are held for Brickhill Urban Community Council, forerunner of the Brickhill Parish Council.
- **2004:** Following a residents' petition the Government establishes Brickhill as a Parish Council.