

## Bow Brickhill Steamed Pudding

- 1/2 pound mixed fruit
- 3 ounces fresh bread crumbs
- 3 ounces suet
- 3 ounces carrot
- 2 ounces plain flour
- 2 ounces Demerara sugar
- 1 ounce cut peel
- 1/2 sour apple
- 1/2 teaspoon mixed spice
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/3 pint ale

Mix all ingredients and leave overnight to allow the breadcrumbs to swell. Steam for several hours

Serves 6—8 adults



## *Bow Brickhill History Society*

presents

### A WALK AROUND BOW BRICKHILL



#### Disclaimer

The walk detailed herein is undertaken at the individual's own risk.  
All facts are correct to the best of our knowledge.

All illustrations © Peter Willis

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For further information about the village visit [www.bowbrickhill.com](http://www.bowbrickhill.com)

‘There stand the three Brickhills, all in a row,  
Great Brickhill, Little Brickhill  
and Brickhill with the Bow’.

## Bow Brickhill Heritage Trail

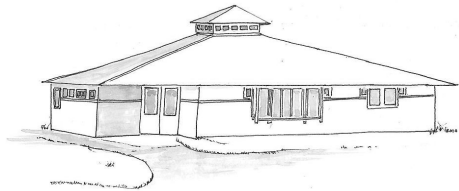
### Parking

This walk can be started from one of three locations where car parking is available free of charge.

- A. Station Car Park, Brickhill Street H10 MK17 9JN - start walk at Number 23
- B. Pavilion Car Park, Rushmere Close MK 17 9JB - start walk at Number 1
- C. All Saints Church, Church Road MK17 9LQ - start walk at Number 9

Mentioned in the Domesday Book, Bow Brickhill is partially built up a steep Greensand escarpment and partly spilling out onto the flatter clays, above the floodplain of the River Ouzel.

### No 1 The Pavilion and Playground



The village's community hall built in 1991 funded by a £230,000 grant from Milton Keynes Borough Council.

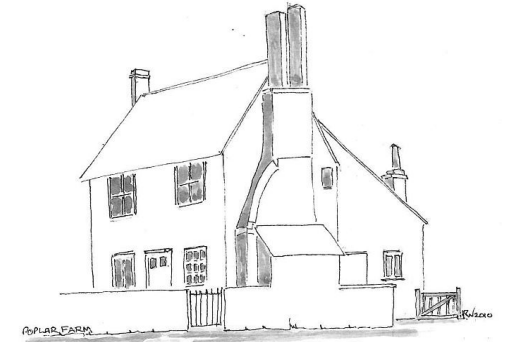
You now have two options. Either walk along Rushmere Close and turn left into Station Road and continue walking towards the village green. or with the Pavilion behind you take the footpath situated in the far left hand corner of the car park.

The footpath is called Green Lane, an ancient right of way. This route may be wet in winter. Continue to the end where it joins Station Road.

Cross Station Road using the pedestrian crossing or by taking great care and continue to the village green where you will see the war memorial. You should now be at the bottom of Church Road.

### No 28 Poplar Farmhouse 35 Station Road

Possibly the oldest house in the village dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. In 1972, eight acres of land were purchased for a playing field at which time planning permission was granted for the houses in Rushmere Close and later the village Pavilion.



Now turn left back into Rushmere Close, you are back to the start.

Thank you for visiting Bow Brickhill

Henry Mundy, who left the village in 1844, recalled in his memoirs:

"In those days there were no telegraphs, no telephones, photography was unknown, no steamships - I cannot say there were no railways. In my memory's longest span I remember my mother taking me to see the railway being made at Bletchley, the line from London to Birmingham, which was in working order long before I left. And God save us there were no flying machines."

"The village stands partly on the hillside and partly on the flat beyond. The country further on as far as the eye can reach is divided into squares (fields) enclosed with hawthorn and blackthorn hedges with large trees; oaks, elm, ash or willow here and there at intervals."

Extract from 'Henry Mundy - A Young Australian Pioneer' by Les Hughes

## The Bow Brickhill Feast (continued)

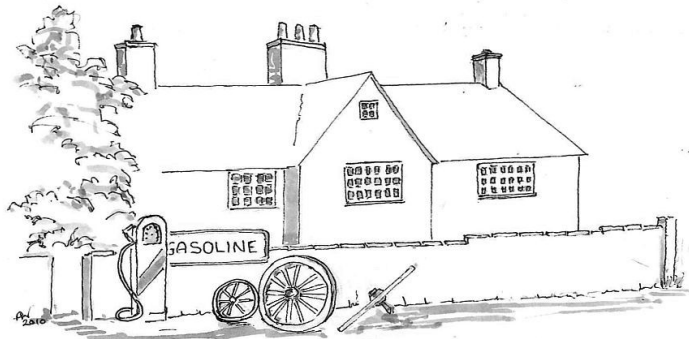
A fair would set up in 'Chapman's Orchard' adjacent to The Wheatsheaf. There would be rides, stalls, toffee apples, a bonfire and sometimes a brass band.

The women folk would prepare and stuff chitterlings made from the animal's intestines for general meals, leaving the roast pork meal with apple sauce and crackling followed by a steamed plum pudding (see back page for a recipe) as the main event.

Over the course of the fair, farmers from all over the district would come with the aim of hiring farm workers for the forthcoming year and maybe even a servant for the farmer's wife.

## No 27 Well Cottage.

Well Cottage is part 17<sup>th</sup> Century with an oak box frame. It once belonged to the wheelwright and was the local garage between the world wars

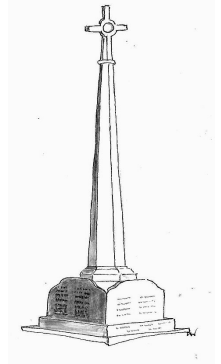


WELL COTTAGE

## No 2 The Village Green and War Memorial

The green is the original site of the village pound and stocks which were still in use until the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The first street lamp was located here in 1896.

The War Memorial was erected in 1921. It bears the name of Gerald Featherstone Knight MC, the Rector's grandson, of the Royal Flying Corps who escaped from prison camp in Germany in 1917 and made his way back to Britain.



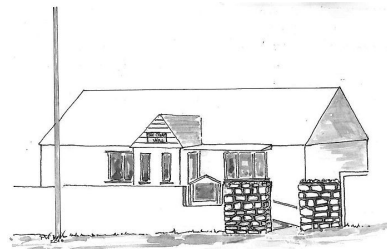
A Millennium Time Capsule was buried beneath the large boulder in front of the seat.

Continue up the left hand side of Church Road

## No 3 The Old Rectory

Although not visible from the road, The Old Rectory, dating from the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century is sited behind Church Road, beyond the metal gates and up a long drive. The Reverend Groves Brooks, vicar of the parish from 1951 until 1979 was known to be so popular that people queued to get into church for his services!

## No 4 The Church Hall



Originally the 'Mission Room' built in 1898, the Church Hall has been the venue for pantomimes, dances known as 'penny hops' during World War II and countless village celebrations.

It is still the home of the local pre-school group and the Brownies.

## No 5 Plough House

Once The Plough public house, which ceased selling ale in the 1960's, you can still see the remains of an old sign on the side of the building. A Primitive Methodist Chapel was run from the inn's yard with a little attic above where visiting preachers could spend the night.

## No 6 Harley House

This house was once owned by Sir Sydney Nicolson who in 1923 founded The School of English Church Music. He also wrote the hymn tune 'Bow Brickhill'. Sir Sydney used to bring his choir from Westminster Abbey to Bow Brickhill for a summer camp in the 1930's.

Continue up Church Road, a steep hill lined with old properties many of which are 200 years old, and which provided homes for local workers.

The road was first tarmaced in 1931 after much discussion at Parish Council meetings held at that time. Many people were worried about whether the horses and horse drawn vehicles would be able to grip on the new surface.

## No 7 White Hatch (formerly known as Hill Top) once the local bakery

The Cooke family lived and baked bread here until 1888, when it was sold to William Claridge who continued to bake until 1920s. Mr Claridge was a well-known figure in the village at the time. He was a Methodist Preacher and a trustee of the Wesleyan Chapel which stood adjacent to the school. It was a tradition that the villagers would take their joint of meat to the baker's on a Sunday morning, to be cooked ready for lunch.



## No 8 Blue Spring Pump

1897 saw the installation of this pump and stand pipe to carry water down the hill at a cost of £78. In fact £82 was raised by voluntary subscription so the extra £4 was spent on a party!

## No 24 Site of the Morris Milking Parlour

Cowsheds and a dairy once stood here. The milk was delivered on a cart around the village twice per day by Mr Morris.

## No 25 The Wheatsheaf



Originally a 17th century thatched inn the Wheatsheaf unfortunately burnt down in the late 1920s. It was rebuilt and later extended to its present size in 1974.

The pub is open at lunchtimes and in the evenings every day of the week.

## No 26 Chapman's Orchard and The Bow Brickhill Feast

The origins of The Bow Brickhill Feast, traditionally held on the 13<sup>th</sup> November each year, are lost in time. Historically many of the villagers would have kept a pig, which once preserved would feed the families during the long winter months. Slaughtering of the pigs was cause for a local celebration and a hireling fair.

At the beginning of November a man well versed in the art of 'pig sticking' travelled to the village with his assistant, rack and scrapers. His task performed he would retire to the local hostelry leaving the local people to make ready for the feast.

Continued ....

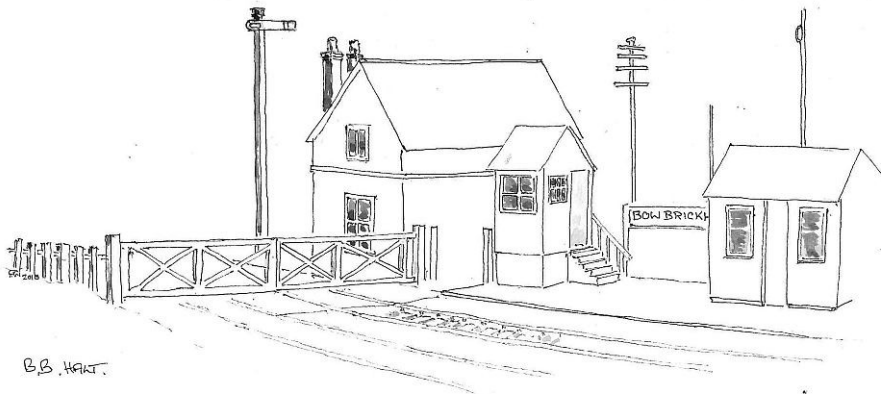
## No 22 Station Road

In 1919 the village saw its first phase of major development with 8 houses being built by Newport Pagnell Rural District Council. Planning for a further 30 was granted in the 1940's.

If you wish to continue your walk down to the station it is approximately a quarter of a mile, turning right at the mini roundabout. You will then need to retrace your steps.

## No 23 Bow Brickhill Halt or Station

In 1846 the line to Bedford with its halt at Bow Brickhill was opened, branching from the new line at Bletchley. The railway was later extended east to Oxford and to the west to Cambridge; both extensions were subsequently closed by Beeching. The halt was famous for a few seconds as Kings Thursday Halt in the film 'Decline and Fall of a Birdwatcher'. The first automatic barrier was installed in 1964.



Alternatively, if you don't wish to visit the Station, cross the road. Ahead of you will be a number of modern bungalows where a milking parlour once stood.

Take great care crossing the road before the corner.

The small gate in the wall on the bend led to the Rectory and the village allotments called 'The Twelve Apostles'.

Rest awhile on the bench dedicated to Fred and Audrey Odell who worked tirelessly for the village during the mid-20th Century.

The view looking out across Milton Keynes is spectacular; landmarks many miles distant are clearly visible on a clear day.

Leave the road on the corner and take the footpath up the hill leading to the church.

## No 9 All Saints Church

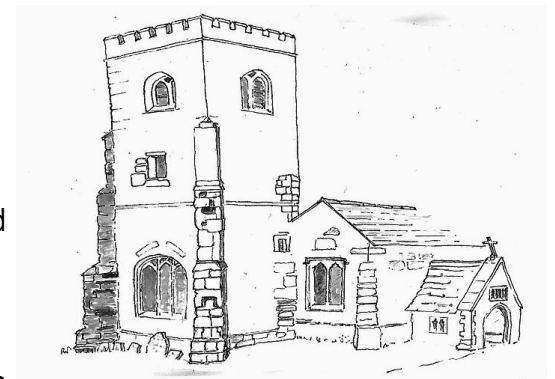
First recorded in 1185, the nave and chancel date from the 12<sup>th</sup> Century.

The tower was added in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century along with the north and south aisles. 1630 saw the nave re-roofed but the building later fell into disrepair.

Browne-Willis a local antiquarian restored the church 1756-1757. In the Napoleonic War the tower was used as a telegraph station and then by The Royal Observer Corps in WWII. It is claimed that six counties are visible from the top of the church tower on a clear day.

Thomas Webster drew upon All Saints for the setting of his famous picture 'A Village Choir' which is now housed in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Decision time again!



You can retrace your steps back down Church Path to the road or with the church behind you, leave the church yard by the bottom gate, turn left and then after 25 metres take the footpath to the right.

Follow this path, with The Woburn Golf Course to your left and a field on your right for 200 metres. You will see a gate in the fence. Go through the gate and look to your left at Drakewell House. This is a private residence and walkers are not permitted off the path/drive.

### **No 10 Drakewell House**

Built for Mary Duchess of Bedford, in the early 1900's, the house was later used as a venue for the nurses from The Maryland Hospital on the Woburn Estate to spend their off duty hours. The Bedford Estate sold the property in 1959.

Continue down the drive to:

### **No 11 Drakewell Road**

Drakewell means Dragon's Well and there are a number of natural springs in this area.

Continue past several cottages and re-join Church Road.

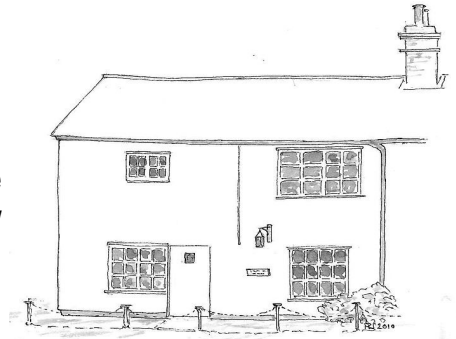
Walk back down the hill. When the land starts to level you will notice London End Lane on your left. This leads to a number of footpaths out across ridge and furrow fields or into the woods.



### **No 18 Lantern Cottage**

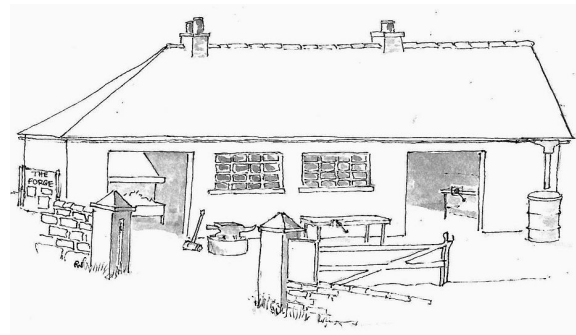
The original name of this cottage is now lost but for the last 60 years it has been called Lantern Cottage. It was home to Gassy Norman in the 1930's, about the time the main sewer came to the village.

Gassy said he would prefer to go where he always went rather than use the new drains! He held 73 gun licences and was known to be a good shot.



### **No 19 Old Forge 46 Station Road**

This bungalow was once the local blacksmith's forge



### **No 20 The Yews 42 Station Road**

This is where the Edwin Waite, the village shoemaker, used to live and work.

### **No 21 Greenways**

In 1965 planning permission was granted for the houses in what - after much discussion - became Greenways. Green Way Road, mentioned on the 1791 Enclosure Map was the original name for Station Road.



The present day school car park was the site of The Wesleyan Chapel built in 1840 and enlarged in 1879.

It later became known as the factory where paper cake cases were made.

This building was demolished in 1967 to make room for the school extension.

### No 15 Manor Farm

Is this the site of Bow Brickhill Manor? It is known that a manor existed in the village in 1086. The manor has over the course of history been owned by the Earls of Gloucester and Hertford and the Dukes of both Buckingham and Bedford.

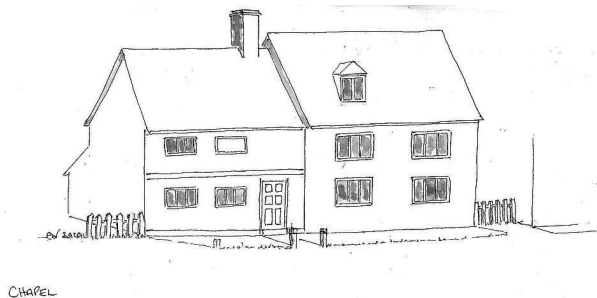
The first Post Office in the village was opened in this building in 1895.

### No 16 Grovesbrook

The houses at Grovesbrook were built in 1982 following the demolition of a farmyard and barns although the old brick walls were retained.

### No 17 Old Cottages

These two cottages (74 and 72) are all that remain of a number of cottages and an Independent Congregational Chapel built in 1810. All were condemned and demolished in 1944.



### No 12 April Cottage

April Cottage—once two dwellings—bears the plaque (above the front door):

*Bow Brickhill Heath  
was awarded to the Poor  
of this Parish 1793 ...  
an Act of Parliament was  
obtained to sell it  
By the Trustees!!! 1844*



The manor of Bow Brickhill and lands were sold by Major Francis Moore to The Duke of Bedford in July 1792, just before Bow Brickhill was enclosed as part of the Enclosure Act of 1793.

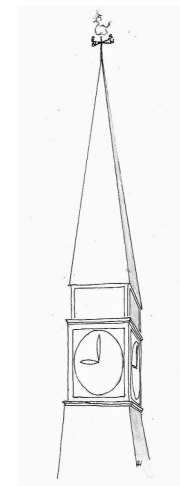
### No 13 Battams Farm House 86 Station Road

This Grade II listed building was constructed sometime after 1650 and would have belonged to a yeoman, a minor landowner, who worked his own land but was a social class below the gentry.

### No 14 Bow Brickhill Church of England Primary School

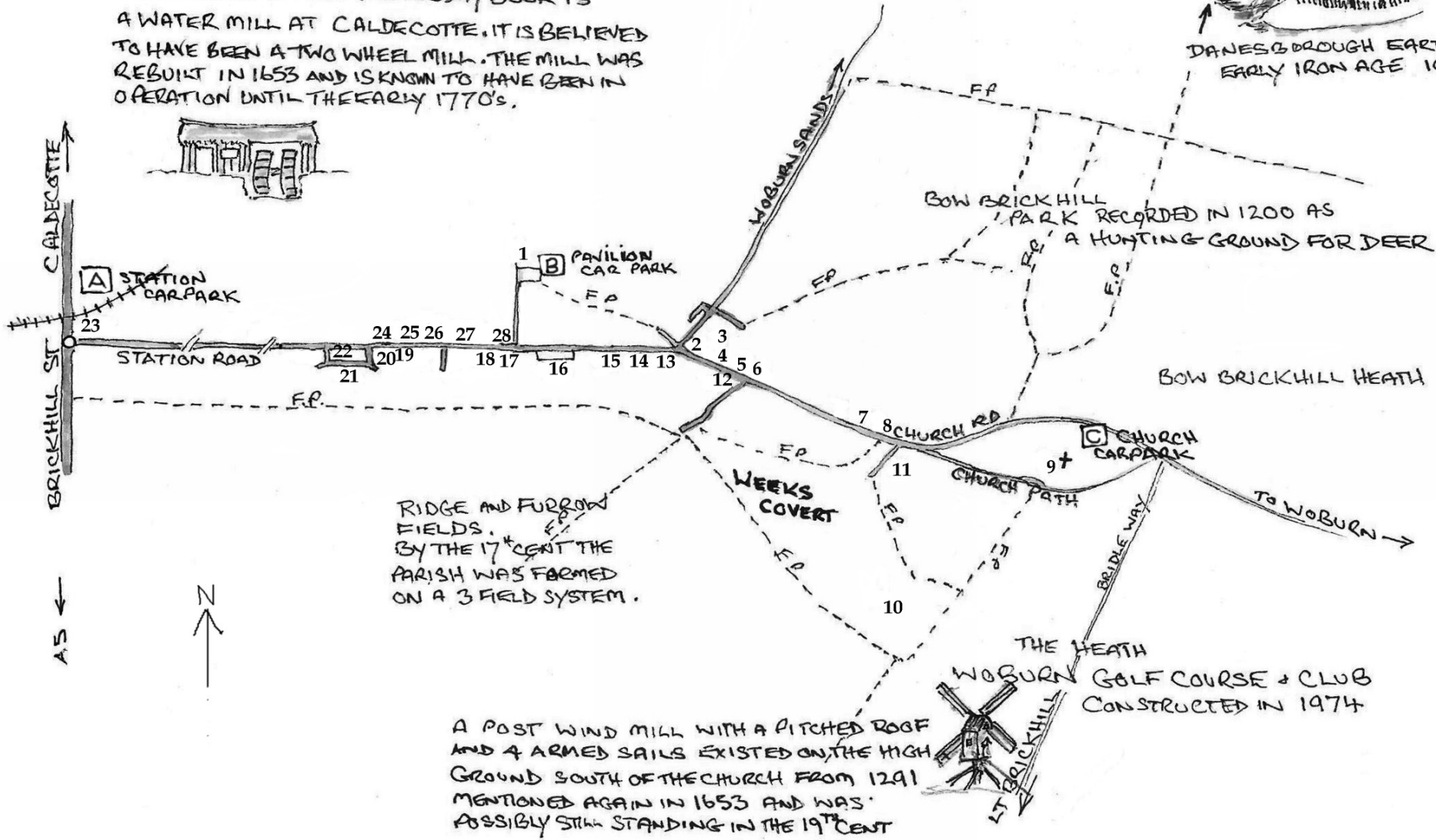
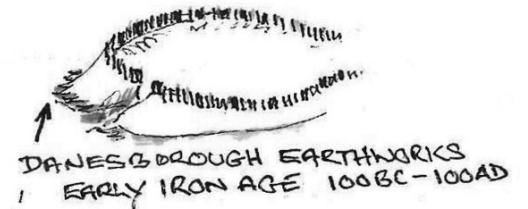
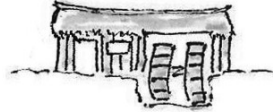
IT IS NOT GOOD THAT THE SOUL BE WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE

Founded in 1878 this is now a Grade II listed building. The motto carved across the school reads 'It is not good that the soul be without knowledge'.



# Bow Brickhill

MENTIONED IN THE DOMESDAY BOOK IS A WATER MILL AT CALDECOTTE. IT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN A TWO WHEEL MILL. THE MILL WAS REBUILT IN 1653 AND IS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN IN OPERATION UNTIL THE EARLY 1770'S.



BOW BRICK HILL PARK RECORDED IN 1200 AS A HUNTING GROUND FOR DEER

BOW BRICKHILL HEATH

RIDGE AND FURROW FIELDS. BY THE 17<sup>th</sup> CENT THE PARISH WAS FORMED ON A 3 FIELD SYSTEM.

A POST WIND MILL WITH A PITCHED ROOF AND 4 ARMED SAILS EXISTED ON THE HIGH GROUND SOUTH OF THE CHURCH FROM 1291 MENTIONED AGAIN IN 1653 AND WAS POSSIBLY STILL STANDING IN THE 19<sup>th</sup> CENT

THE HEATH WOBURN GOLF COURSE & CLUB CONSTRUCTED IN 1974

BRICKHILL ST

A5



A STATION CARPARK

B PAVILION CARPARK

C CHURCH CARPARK

WEEKS COVERT



LT BRICKHILL

TO WOBURN

BRIDLE WAY

CHURCH PATH

CHURCH RD

WOBURN SANDS

F.P.

STATION ROAD

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