

THE STREET WHERE YOU LIVE
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DOWNS BARN PAVILION – PANNIER PLACE

This former barn was converted in the 1980's by the Development Corporation to provide changing rooms and meeting facilities for the adjoining sports grounds. Presently the building and pitches are owned by Milton Keynes Council and are managed by Great Linford Parish Council.

Cllr: David Stabler has unearthed some history relating to the refurbished barn, renamed "Downs Barn Pavilion".

Before development in Milton Keynes and subsequent civil boundary changes, the barn was in Willen Parish. In 1671 Dr Richard Busby, famous headmaster of Westminster School, classical scholar and grammarian but more notorious for beating his students, bought the Manor of Willen. Christopher Wren & Robert Hooke were his pupils. In 1695, on Dr Busby's death, the Manor of Willen was bequeathed to trustees who managed the estate for almost 300 years with little or no development, apart the necessary re-building of farms and cottages and the erection of a new school in 1847.

Of the outlying farm buildings on this site in Willen Parish, the barn is only survivor - it was re-built in 1829. A survey of the Willen estate in 1822 shows the western most fields of the Parish as "Upper and Lower Downs", with the farm buildings located in the next field to the east called Upper Sampsons. The earliest reference to the name seems to be "The Downs" on a map of 1690. The 1950-54 Ordnance Survey marked and named the site as "Down's Barn".

Source Alan Howkins [MKC] & MKDC archive