



History of Penhill

Like the rest of Stratton, Penhill was once part of the Merton College Oxford Estate.

In 1843, Penhill was one of the sites that supplied water to Arkells Brewery when it was established. The site of the well head was in what is now Inglesham Road.

1866 Inquest was held on Elizabeth LEGG, 19 years of age: Deceased was a domestic servant and had put some turpentine into an oven for the purpose of cleaning furniture, when in the act of taking it out her clothes caught fire. She ran out of the kitchen in flames and although prompt assistance was rendered, she was severely burnt over her body, and died from the effects. Verdict, accidental death.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 1st March 1866

14th May 1932 - An 'Air Pageant' was held on fields of Penhill Farm Upper Stratton.

In 1951 the corporation acquired 250 acres for a housing estate by the purchase of Penhill Farm, fields which lay in Stratton St. Margaret just outside the borough boundary. The following year the boundary was extended northwards to bring all the land acquired within the borough and by 1965 there were 2,000 houses. Main contactors were Laing, Patterson's and Hawksley's were also involved.

1953 saw the first new householders, the Aitkens & Adams families from London County Council's waiting list.

In 1954 Lipton's set up a travelling shop service to cover the estate.

Originally children had to go to Pinehurst school until 1956 when Penhill Primary School was opened.

1956 Penhill Primary School was opened.

1959 Further development at Penhill Estate, Swindon, is expected to start soon. On the site to the north of the entrance to Penhill Drive, originally intended for a Cinema and car park, an Epsom company will build 27 houses for sale. There will be three detached houses near the entrance and the remaining 24 semi-detached houses will front Penhill Drive and extend as far as Somerford Close. The three types will include a chalet design. All will have three bedrooms and detached garages at the rear. The land to the south of the estate is being levelled and drained for playing fields.

Evening Advertiser 11th August 1959

In 1977 Jack Straw, adviser to Peter Shore at the Department of Environment visits Penhill as part of the Government 'Estate Action'.

The 2001 census revealed a Penhill population of over 6,000.

Andy Partridge of the band XTC grew up in Penhill.

2001 census revealed 2000 houses and a Penhill population of over 6,000.

Transport

Originally served by two bus routes –

7 – Haydon Wick – Rodbourne - Faringdon Road - Penhill

9 – Park South – Town Hall – Penhill

In 2017 Penhill was served by two bus routes –

17 - Penhill - Gorse Hill - Fleming Way - Walcot West - Park South

21 - [Penhill\(Valley\) - Fleming Way](#)