

## *The Billund History*

The below timeline relates to Grene Sogn (Grene parish) to which Billund belongs. The timeline in English is a shortened version of the timeline in Danish. You will be able to find the full timeline at [www.grenelokalarkiv.dk](http://www.grenelokalarkiv.dk)

Time (Year)	Milestone	Comment
App. 1100	The first old church is build in Grene	The first old church was demolished in 1891. The place and old graveyard can still be found if you follow the road towards Hejnsvig. Shortly before the stream you can find a sign towards "Grene Gl. Kirke"
1454	The name "Billund"	The name Billund is mentioned in archives for the first time as "Bylund"
1791	Replacement	Until 1791 all farms were placed closed to each other in a small village, and the farmers' fields were scattered around. From 1791 the farms were replaced to the fields and their fields were centered around the farms.
1856	Billund Kro	Billund Kro (Today Hotel Refborg) was established. It was also permitted to sell groceries.
1860'ies	Post	Billund Kro did also function as a post office
1861	Roads	Began to build roads from Vejle to Varde and from Billund to Kolding. The road through Billund was finished 1867
1872	Sparekassen established	Sparekassen (saving bank) for Grindsted is established but without an office in Billund. Many years later known as Den Jyske Sparekasse
1888	Dairy	Billund gets a dairy. It was placed where you today find LEGO House. It was shared owned by the local farmers
1890	Billund Skole (school) established	Billund gets its first school. The building exists today as it is the white building opposite Coop, and where the history collection can be found
1891	The old church is demolished	The old church for Grene Parish is demolished and replaced by a new church. Today known as Grene Kirke
1894	Billund Brugsforening (Coop) is established	It started in a new building not existing today. It was placed on the corner of Hovedgaden and Systemvej. Today it is known as Superbrugsen
1894-1915	Development	A number of craftsmen and shops is established in Billund
1895	Carpenter established	Billund gets its first carpenter. The business is in 1916 bought by Ole Kirk Christiansen (founder of the LEGO company in 1932
1902	First telephone in Billund	The dairy get as the first in Billund a telephone
1911	Billund Brugsforening relocate	Billund Brugsforening builds the building where you today find Smykkehjertet and Askholm Optik and move to this new building
1911	Streetlights	Billund gets its first streetlights. They use kerosene
1912	Paving in front of Brugsforeningen	Billund gets its first stone paving
1914	Railway to Billund	The railway line from Vejle to Vandel is extended to Grindsted. The Billund Station was next to what is today known as the "rusty building". When the railway closed the building was used

		as post office and later as a pub. It is demolished in 2019 and will be replaced by apartments
1916	Ole Kirk Christiansen buy the carpenter store	This carpenter store did in 1932 turn into a producer of wooden toy products. The toy products were sold under the brand name LEGO. Ole's first major project was to make interior for the church in Skjoldbjerg
1917	Power plant	Billund got a power plant. It produced power until 1940.
1919	Saving bank	Grindsted Sparekasse (saving bank) establish a branch in Billund. It had its office at Billund Kro. Many years later it changed name to Den Jyske Sparekasse
1920	Grene parish	The parish of Grene was established and got its first, own priest
1920	Gas station	Billund got its first gas station
1920	Rectory build	The first rectory was built. It is the building where Jansson EI is today
1921	Billund Kommune	Billund is established as an independent administrative area
1924	Løvehuset	Ole Kirk Christiansens carpenter store and private house burns. He builds "Løvehuset" (the lion house)
1929	Billund bakery	The Billund bakery is established
App. 1930	Road paved	The road through Billund get paved
1930	No. of inhabitants	There are now 1046 inhabitants in Grene parish
1932	Billund-Grindsted road	This road gets paved
1932	LEGO get established	The financial crises in Denmark is severe and it is difficult for Ole Kirk Christiansens carpenter business to survive. As a result he starts to produce wooden toys and a number of other wooden products. He calls the toy products LEGO (LEg GOdt/Play well)
1942	LEGO factory burns	A new factory is built
1945	RAF plane shot down	After a mission to Funen, German forces succeed in shooting down a RAF plane. Most of the crew escaped but one was taken prisoner by the Germans
1947	LEGO starts plastic moulding	LEGO buys its first injection moulding machine and starts to experiment
1949	LEGO bricks	The first LEGO bricks are made
1950	No. of inhabitants	There are now 500 inhabitants in Billund town
1952	Billund Boligforening	Billund housing association is established. It does now have about 900 apartments and houses for rent in Billund
1957	Railway closed	The railway Vejle-Billund-Grindsted is closed down
1960	LEGO fire	The warehouse for wood burs down. LEGO decides only to focus on the brick for the future
1960	No of inhabitants	Grene parish does now have 1598 inhabitants
1962	Airport	LEGO opens its own private airport (later turned into Billund Airport)
1963	Heating plant	The first Billund heating plant gets established
1963	Modulex	LEGO establish Modulex. The idea is to produce small bricks which can be used by architects
1964	Billund Airport	The airport is turned into a real airport to be used also for public purposes

1964	Ole Kirks Fond	The Ole Kirk foundation is established
1965	Open-air stage	The open-air stage is established
1968	ESSO-Motor Hotel	ESSO Motor Hotel opens. Is later bought by LEGOLAND and turned into Hotel LEGOLAND
1968	LEGOLAND	LEGOLAND opens. The purpose is to show interested people what LEGO is all about and to limit the number of visitors to the LEGO factory
1969	Billund Camp	The camp opens
1969	Billund Bad	The swimming pool opens
1970	Communes merger	Grene and Vorbasse communes merge to Billund Kommune
1970	No of inhabitants	There are now 2625 inhabitants in Billund Kommune
1971	Billund Trav	The Billund horse racing track opens
1973	Billund Center	The Billund Center opens partly finance by Ole Kirk Christiansen's foundation
1974	Billund Ugeavis	Billund Ugeavis starts
1975	Hotel LEGOLAND	LEGOLAND buys ESSO Motor Hotel
1975	Nursing home	The nursing home at Skolevej opens
1975	Building plots	Billund Kommune sold 105 building plots in Billund this year
1977	Propellen	The Propellen hotel opens
1977	Fire station	Billund got its own fire station
1977	The Billund School	Opens. Called Søndermarksskolen at that time
1977	Billund Idrætscenter	The Billund sports center opens
1978	Golf	Gyttegaard golf course opens
1979-81	New downtown	The dairy close. A shopping center and a new town hall get built in the area (where LEGO House is today)
1982	Enggaardhallen	Now part of ISB. Was originally a gift from Ole Kirk's Foundation due to the LEGO Group's 50 year anniversary
1983	Kærhuset	Kærhuset opens. Used by scouts etc today
1985	Staghøj	Development of this part of Billund starts
1986	The Chestnut Tree	The tree is moved about 50 meters to its current place
1987	Svanen	Hotel Svanen opens
1987-88	Camp	The development of Billund Camp starts owned by the Danish Car Association (FDM). Later sold to LEGOLAND
1988	LEGO moulding halls	The new moulding halls at Kornmarken opens (4 modules from the beginning)
1989	The Old School	Is given to Lokalhistorisk Forening
1990	Enggaardsskolen	Celebrates its 100 year anniversary (now ISB)
1990	Center Mobilium	The Billund museum center opens. There are three parts: Vintage cars, Fire and Space. The building are today the main lobby for Lalandia
1991	The Chestnut Tree	For the first time there are put lights at the tree at Christmas. This was not normal at that time
1992	ABC Supermarket	Opens in the shopping center
1993	Sculpture Park	Opens
1998	Center Mobilium	Close. Too few visitors
2002	Billund Airport	The new terminal building opens
2009	Lalandia	Lalandia opens. Owned by the same company which also owe FC København (football)

2012	Billund City Hall	The Billund City Hall close and move to Grindsted
2013	ISB	International School of Billund opens
2017	Superbrugsen	Opens the existing building at Vejlevej
2017	LEGO House	Opens
2018	Bellini	Opens
2018	The teddy bear museum	Opens June 20
2019	Castle Hotel	The Castle Hotel opens
2019	Atami	Restaurant Atami opens
2019	No. of inhabitants	Billund town pass 7.000 inhabitants
2020	Corona	The pandemic hits. Most air traffic stops. Billund tourism severely hits
2020	WOW Park	Opens
2020	Skovhuset	The old LEGO headquarter demolished
2021	Hotel Propellen	New owner and name change to The Lodge
2022	LEGO Campus	New LEGO headquarter opens
2022	LEGOLAND	Re-introduction of Christmas opening
2023	Cafe	Café B opens
2023	Hotel	Zleep Hotel change name to Billund Airport Hotel
2023	Billund Center	Celebrates 60 years anniversary
2023	Church	Billund Church is renovated2023
2023	Travbyen	The work to establish a new part of Billund starts
2024	Re-charge	A major recharge station is established at Vejlevej
2024	ISB	ISB begins it 4 <sup>th</sup> extension of the school
2024	Airport	Billund Airport celebrate 60 years anniversary
2024	Lion House	The LEGO Lion House celebrate 100 years anniversary
2024	Billund Center	The renovation is now finished