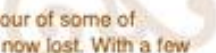
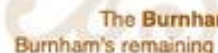


Burnham-on-Sea
Our Heritage in Brick and Stone






The **Burnham Heritage Group** would like to welcome you to a small tour of some of Burnham's remaining heritage buildings, with also a brief recollection of some now lost. With a few exceptions little now survives of pre-victorian Burnham, but there are a number of handsome buildings remaining which we may easily pass-by day-to-day without appreciating them.

Until the 18th century Burnham was just a small fishing settlement around a church behind sand dunes. The Royal Clarence Hotel dates back to around 1792 and is one of the earliest signs of development, built at the beach end of a causeway which became Regent St. This together with Church St (later Victoria St) and northern Oxford St were the oldest parts of the town. Most of the original property has been demolished but the old cottages opposite St Andrew's Church and those in Oxford St between Princess St and College St are some of the oldest remaining now. The Church building we see now originated around 1314. The core of the vicarage is 17th century.


Kingver Terrace was built around 1843 for the new breed of seaside holiday makers. It was the first of the sea front terraces to be built as Burnham expanded in the late 19th century. This expansion was encouraged by the efforts of Lord of the Manor George Reed. He was active in developing rail and steamship services and built the Reeds Arms Hotel (1858) as well as Catherine and Julia Terraces which still stand at the north end of the Esplanade. John Gunter, a famous confectioner from Mayfair, built **Tregunter** (1843) as his second home and became active in local life.

The Town expanded southwards along Alfred St (now High St) towards the new station throughout the 19th Century. Many of the shops we see now were originally residential or letting properties. The handsome building standing at the Regent St end was built as the Lifeboat Temperance Tavern in 1895. It replaced The Mason's Arms, one of Burnham's oldest pubs. The Railway Hotel and Lott's Commercial Inn (both still standing) were of the new breed of licensed houses to accommodate visitors. The older Crown Inn on Oxford St has not survived the 20th century and nor has the Ring o'Bells, another of Burnham's oldest inns.

La **Retraite** Convent & School (1888), The Adult School (1889) and the Burnham Institute (Regent St, 1891), all still standing, were further signs of Burnham's developing cultural life.



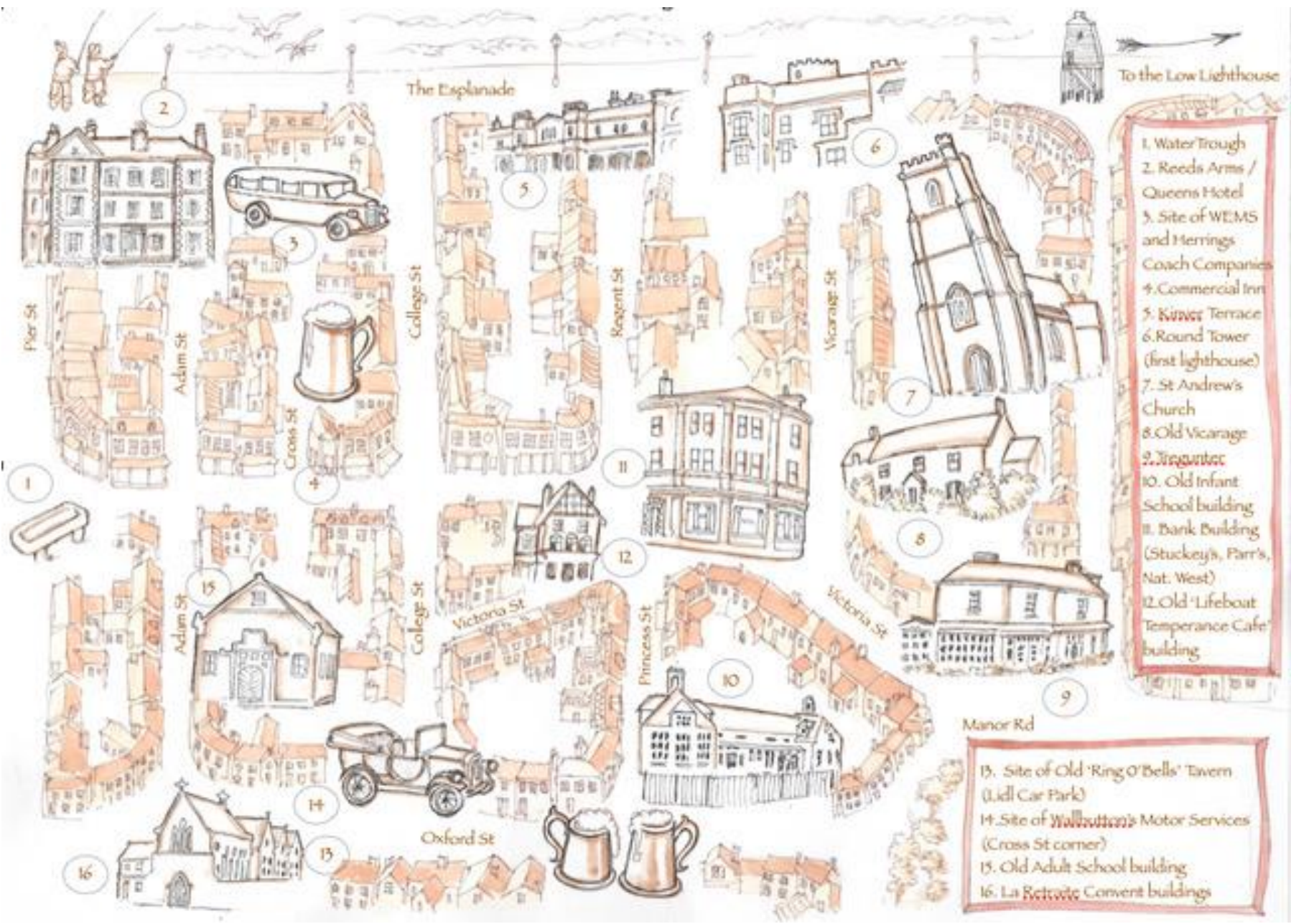
The development of motor traffic during the 20th century saw the emergence of a number of motor vehicle services of which few signs remain. Well known were **Walbyton's** and Tucker's (Victoria St, with iconic tower) garages; also WEMS, Herrings and Gratton's Coach Companies.



Leaflet produced by Burnham Heritage Group.
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Thanks are also due to the businesses which have kindly provided distribution points for this and previous Heritage Group leaflets.



To the Low Lighthouse

- 1. Water Trough
- 2. Reeds Arms / Queens Hotel
- 3. Site of WEEMS and Herrings Coach Companies
- 4. Commercial Inn
- 5. Kings Terrace
- 6. Round Tower (first lighthouse)
- 7. St Andrew's Church
- 8. Old Vicarage
- 9. Regent
- 10. Old Infant School building
- 11. Bank Building (Stuckey's, Parr's, Nat. West)
- 12. Old 'Lifeboat Temperance Cafe' building

- 13. Site of Old 'Ring O' Bells' Tavern (Lidl Car Park)
- 14. Site of Wallutton's Motor Services (Cross St corner)
- 15. Old Adult School building
- 16. La Retraite Convent buildings