



Burnham-On-Sea Past & Present. TRAIL 3 - TOWN



From the end of Trail 2 retrace your steps along Manor Rd and turn left up Victoria St. As you turn you will see in front of you:

1. 'Tregunter'. Built as a second home, on the site of an old farm house, by Mayfair confectioner John Gunter in 1843. Bought by Tony Holley in 1980 for a solicitor's office.



2. The stables & mounting steps were probably for the use of visitors to the church. They later provided a home for a Nativity Scene each Christmas.

3. St Andrew's Church. Built commencing 1315 (with later changes & additions) on the site of an earlier church. The engraving here shows it before the addition of the clock in 1836.

4. (Opposite). The Old Court House, 55 Victoria St. Thought to date from the 1780's. Deeds from the early 19th century indicate it was used for the offices and residence of the town magistrate. Later taken over by a series of retail and financial business premises .



**TUCKER'S
GARAGES
—Ltd.—**

5. Tucker's Garage. Built in 1938 with all modern construction and facilities, its art-deco style tower became an icon in the town. Demolished in 2007, now the site of retirement flats.



6. The Ritz Cinema. Burnham's second cinema, constructed in the 1930's and ultimately replacing the Electric Theatre / Majestic Cinema in the High St (now the 'Burnham Shopping Centre'). The Lifeboat Cafe Pavilion (above right), an annexe to the Lifeboat Restaurant (below right) originally stood on the site.



7. Barclay's Bank, above left (now closed). It was extended into the shop the corner, at one time occupied by Churchill's Saddlery and later a Red Cross office and medical loan centre.

8. The Nat West Bank (now closed) occupied the corner of Regent St in a building originally built for Parr's Bank (above right), which amalgamated with the London & Westminster Bank in 1918. Built in 1895 The Lifeboat Temperance Restaurant originally occupied the handsome building at the junction of High St and Victoria St.

9. The Burnham Institute social and recreational club was founded in 1887 and took up residence in this new purpose built home in Regent St (left) in 1891. It closed in August 2009.

10



10. Princess Hall. Built in 1868-9 as a market and Town Hall. Later folding doors were added to accommodate fire engines. The building also housed the Council Offices for a time. The doors were removed in 1994 when it was completely refurbished to become a theatre and arts centre.

11



11. Old Infant's School. Built in 1914 for the infants classes of St Andrew's on the Esplanade (Trail 1) as its numbers grew. Later became an Adult Education centre after the infants school moved to Winchester Rd.

12



12. The Library. Built in 1985 to replace the library housed in the Old Adult School in Adam St, (now a funeral business). Prior to that a small lending facility had operated from the Princess Hall.

13



Wesleyan Church.

13. Methodist Church (left). Built in 1879 at a cost of £1,300 to replace the smaller one in Alfred St (High St).

14. Baptist Church (above). Built in 1843 on an area of open land behind the dunes. Baptisms initially took place in the sea until a baptistry was added in 1874.

14





15

15. St Andrew's Junior school, previously called the 'Burnham National School' but renamed in 1906, moved from the Esplanade to its present site at the end of Dunstan Rd in 1973.



16

16. The Gas Works. Begun in 1858 under the auspices of George Reed and demolished in the 1980's. Site now occupied by Lidl and Kingdom Hall.

17. Wallbuton's Garage (below). From the 1930's this stood on the site now occupied by the car park. It had occupied the opposite corner of Cross St during the 1920's. Seaton House residential home was later built on the site but was demolished soon after due to land subsidence.



17

At the end of Jaycroft Rd on the right you will find:



18

18. The Old Court House (right). It also served as the Police Station, with Police Houses at the front, until the new one was built on the Highbridge Rd. It is now the Council Chambers & Offices.



19



19

19. La Retraite. A Catholic Convent was opened in 'The Rookery', a house on this site, in 1887. It was extended and girl's school facilities and chapel (above right) were added by 1888 to form the buildings that we see today. It is now a private nursing home.



20

20. St Joseph's Catholic Primary School was opened on the La Retraite site in 1891.



21

21. St Peter's on the Highbridge Rd was Consecrated in 1922. Congregations fell during the 1960's so it was sold to the Catholic Church as a Hall in 1976. It was demolished in 2009 and replaced by flats.



22

22. Our Lady and the English Martyrs Catholic Church. By 1967 the Roman Catholic Parish had grown sufficiently large to merit its own parish church. The front extension has been added in more recent years.



23

Take the path past the right side of the church and turn right into Old Station Approach. At the car park turn right into Lynton Rd and cross Abingdon St into Jubilee St. Turn left into Technical St to:

23. Shaftesbury Hall on your right. This was built in the late 1800's as an adjunct to a maze & tea gardens. It was hired out for entertainments but later became home to the Strict Brethren Church.

Continue up Technical St and across the High St, taking the path opposite the Somerset and Dorset pub to:

24. The Masonic Hall (right) built in 1940. Prior to that the local philanthropic Freemasons Lodge met in the Railway Hotel (High St), where it had moved from Highbridge in 1857. The Lodge is responsible for many local civic and charitable works.



24



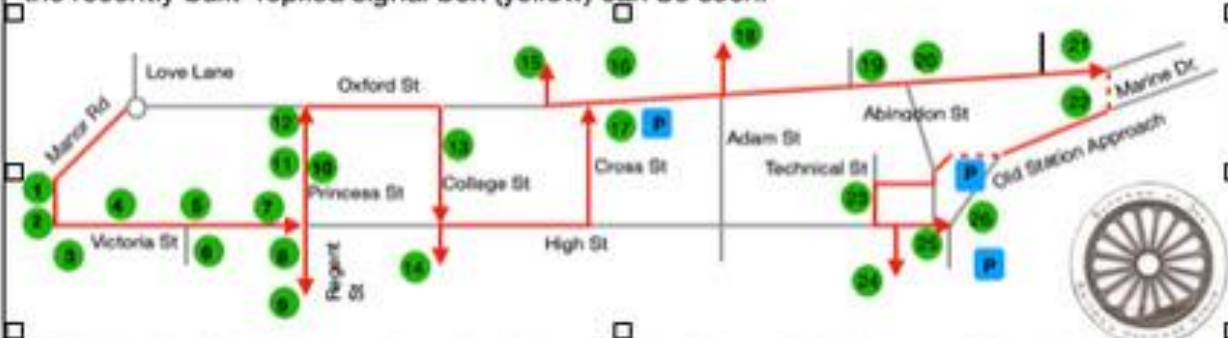
Return to the High St and walk towards Pier St. On the right hand corner stands:
 25. Burnham College / Belmont Hotel. Built as a college in the mid 19th century this building became a hotel around 1895. Initially it was Thomas's Temperance Hotel and later Russell's Belmont Hotel and Restaurant. Now cross the road to:



26. TA8's Bistro was built as a life-boat house in 1874. It was situated next to the railway station and tracks enabled cargo from the railway as well as the lifeboat to be run out to the end of the jetty. The building has also done long service as a Scout HQ.



The line of the excursion platform is indicated by the grass verge on the left in the Photo above right, where the road has been renamed 'Old Station Approach', and where the recently built replica signal box (yellow) can be seen.



The images in this leaflet have been given by members of the public and are used in good faith. We are not aware of any copyright infringement. If there is, please inform us and any necessary correction will be made on the next print run.

Trail development: Burnham-on-Sea Heritage Group. Leaflet design: Nigel Craik