

Summer Exhibition

4 Kirkgate, Burntisland

From the end of June
until the end of August

Open from 11.00am to 4.00pm

Thursday to Saturday

Admission is free.

Available for viewing are:

- A comprehensive exhibition of themed panels which changes from year to year.
- A large collection of DVDs. These include 'Burntisland's Blessings' which captures the town's rich heritage and 'Steel Goes to Sea', a film made about shipbuilding in Burntisland in WW2.
- Oral history recordings.
- A vast scrapbook collection of newspaper cuttings.
- A Picture Postcard Parade of hundreds of postcards.
- Local reference books.
- Contemporary photography collection.

Available for purchase are books and DVDs published by the Trust.

Burntisland Heritage Trust has also assisted with the preparation of cards and leaflets describing other walking routes in the Burntisland area – all available free at Burntisland Public Library.

Visit www.burntisland.net for more information about Burntisland and Burntisland Heritage Trust



Burntisland 1745 – estimated population 1,300

Burntisland Heritage Trust
4 Kirkgate, Burntisland KY3 9DB
Telephone 01592 872121



Burntisland Bay and the Binn

Free Guided Heritage Walks from 4 Kirkgate, Burntisland

Inner Heritage Trail (see map) every Wednesday in July and August at 2.30pm.

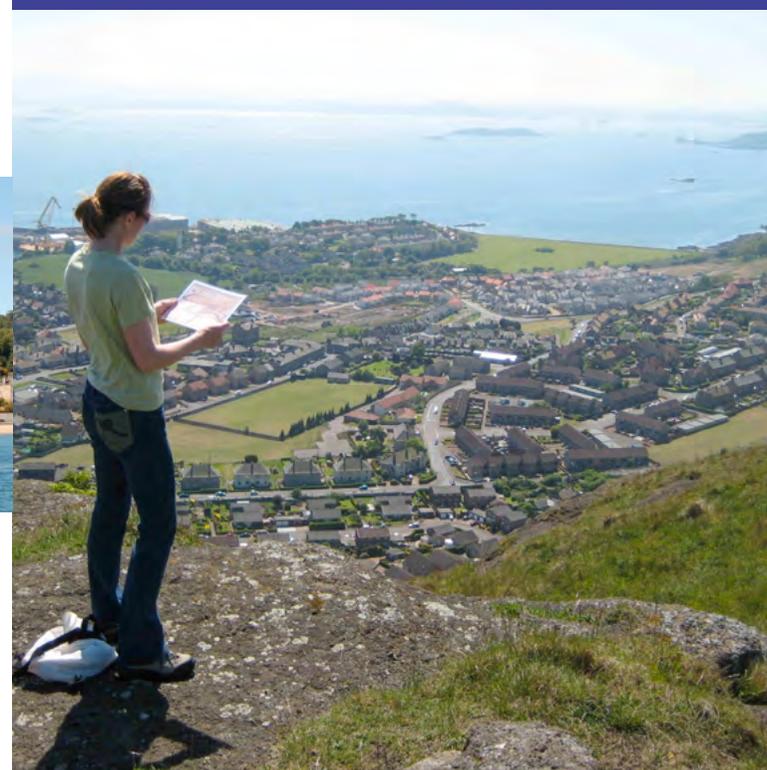
Outer Heritage Trail (see map) last Friday of the month from April to September at 1.30pm. Walkers should be reasonably fit, wear stout footwear and clothes suitable for the prevailing weather conditions.

All guided walks are undertaken at walker's own risk.

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Burntisland Heritage Trails



**Inner Heritage Trail
and
Outer Heritage Trail**

Burntisland Heritage Trust was established in 1993 as an informal group, and assumed formal trust status in 1998. It is a registered charity. The aims of the Trust are to protect and promote all aspects of Burntisland's heritage. The Trustees and Friends of the Trust are drawn from the community of Burntisland. All are volunteers.

The annual heritage exhibition is the Trust's core activity. It has been held every year since 1994.

The exhibitions have attracted many thousands of visitors from Burntisland itself, from other parts of the UK, and from many other countries. An increasing number of the visitors are family history researchers.



Burgh Chambers, Library and Heritage Centre

The Trust runs free guided heritage walks in the summer (details on separate panel).

The Trust deals with a large number of enquiries on all aspects of Burntisland's heritage. Most of these come from visitors to the annual exhibition, although there is a steady stream all the year round. A large number are now received by e-mail. Trust volunteers do their best to answer all these enquiries.

Over the years the Trust has successfully undertaken a number of projects. These include the publication of several books and DVDs; an ongoing oral history project; and the compiling and indexing of heritage information relating to Burntisland and its people.

In 1998 the Trust set up the Charles wRex Project to search for the wreck of the 'Blessing', King Charles I's baggage ferry which sank off Burntisland in 1633. Much work has been done.



Burntisland Parish Church



Rossend Castle



The Links from East Porte



East Porte



From the Binn looking west



From the Binn looking east



The Medieval Church of St Adamnan



Broomhill Viewpoint

BURNTISLAND HERITAGE TRAIL (Inner)

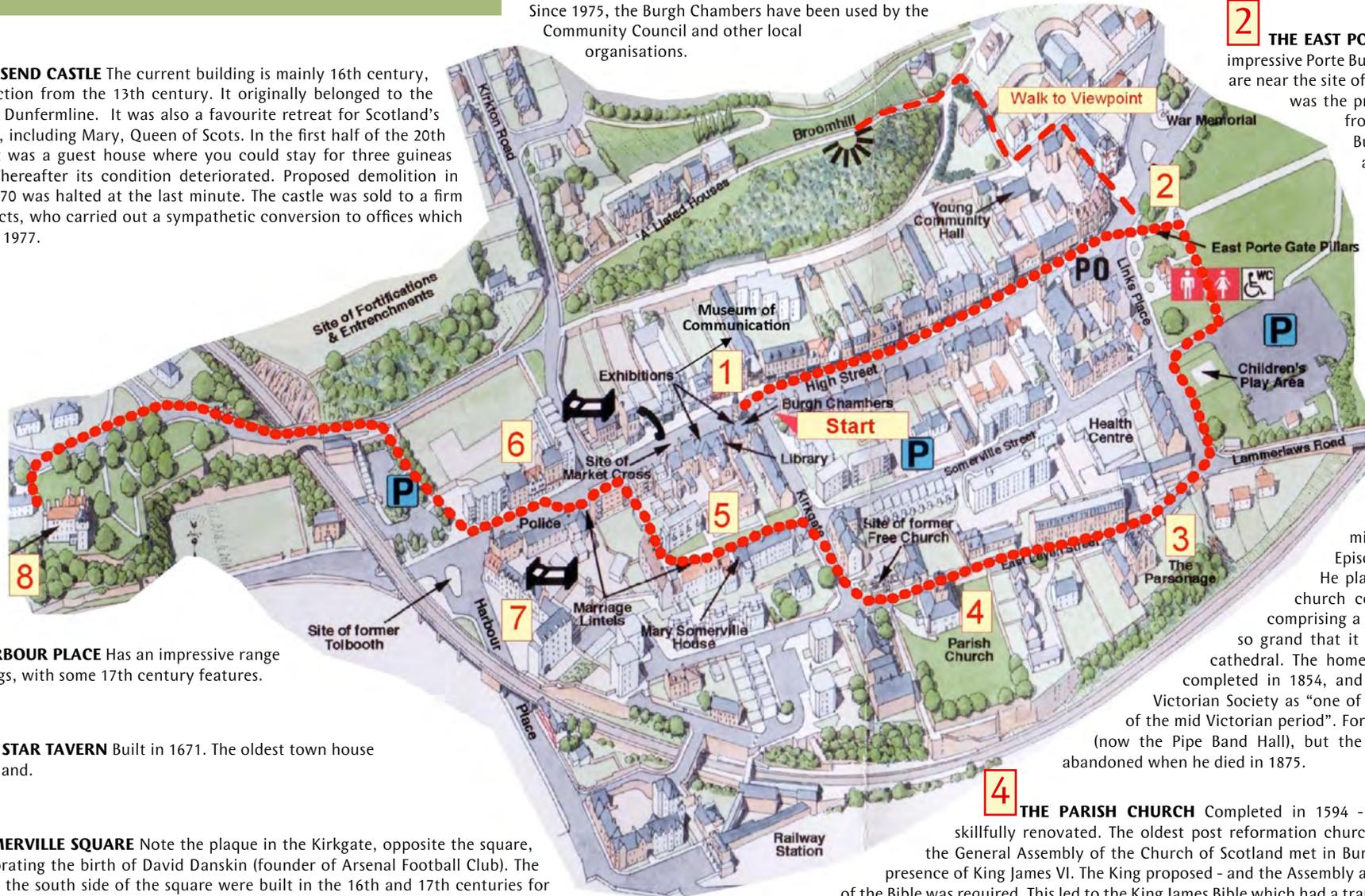
This walk captures the history and character of the town from the 16th century to the present day. It starts and ends at the Burgh Chambers and covers about one mile.

1

BURGH CHAMBERS Built in 1845-46, with a 1905 extension. Replaced the Tolbooth which stood at the foot of the High Street from 1616 until 1843. Next door is the Library, donated by Andrew Carnegie and opened by him in 1907. Inside (to visit, contact BHT on 01592 872121): At the foot of the stairs is a large bell bought from Berwick upon Tweed in 1619. Fine paintings by Andrew Young and others are displayed throughout. The original town Coat of Arms is above the doorway of the Magistrates' Room; and the Royal Coat of Arms from the reign of Charles I is in the Court Room. In the main Council Chamber are a copy of the Royal Charter from King James V dated 1541; and lists of the Burgh Provosts from 1586. Since 1975, the Burgh Chambers have been used by the Community Council and other local organisations.

8

ROSSEND CASTLE The current building is mainly 16th century, with a section from the 13th century. It originally belonged to the Abbots of Dunfermline. It was also a favourite retreat for Scotland's Monarchs, including Mary, Queen of Scots. In the first half of the 20th century it was a guest house where you could stay for three guineas a week. Thereafter its condition deteriorated. Proposed demolition in August 1970 was halted at the last minute. The castle was sold to a firm of architects, who carried out a sympathetic conversion to offices which opened in 1977.



2

THE EAST PORTE and the High Street. The impressive Porte Buildings were built in 1899. They are near the site of the East Porte (or gate) which was the principal entrance to the town from 1635. About that time the Burgh was delineated by a stone and turf wall. Two pillars from the old Porte (with plaque) now stand at the entrance to the Links. Also note the old Free Church in the High Street (built in 1861; now sheltered housing); and the converted Porte Cinema, one of Scotland's first purpose built cinemas (1915).

3

THE PARSONAGE Built by the Rev George Hay Forbes, distinguished scholar and prolific publisher, whose mission was to revive the Episcopal Church in the town. He planned an extremely ambitious church complex in East Leven Street, comprising a home, a school, and a church so grand that it would have dwarfed many a cathedral. The home and working premises were completed in 1854, and were later described by the Victorian Society as "one of the most important buildings of the mid Victorian period". Forbes also completed the school (now the Pipe Band Hall), but the building of the church was abandoned when he died in 1875.

4

THE PARISH CHURCH Completed in 1594 - unique, well preserved and skillfully renovated. The oldest post reformation church still in regular use. In 1601 the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland met in Burntisland Parish Church in the presence of King James VI. The King proposed - and the Assembly agreed - that a new translation of the Bible was required. This led to the King James Bible which had a transforming effect on the world.

Inside (to visit, contact BHT on 01592 872121): The church is built as a square, with the worshippers sitting as a family around the table and the Bible. The two tiers of box pews wrapped around the massive stone pillars create an intimate atmosphere. The influence of the sea is everywhere. The Parish Church is the only Scots Church where all the Guild Seats are still marked.

7

HARBOUR PLACE Has an impressive range of buildings, with some 17th century features.

6

THE STAR TAVERN Built in 1671. The oldest town house in Burntisland.

5

SOMERVILLE SQUARE Note the plaque in the Kirkgate, opposite the square, commemorating the birth of David Danskin (founder of Arsenal Football Club). The houses on the south side of the square were built in the 16th and 17th centuries for wealthy merchants. No 30-31 (with plaque) was the home of Mary Somerville, the 19th century mathematician and astronomer. The Masonic Lodge next door was the family home of General James Robertson, the last colonial Governor of New York. In the pen leading to the High Street are two marriage lintels from 1626 with the initials RR (Richard Ross) and AM (Agnes Michaelson).

BURNTISLAND HERITAGE TRAIL (Outer)

This walk explores Burntisland's rich historical and industrial heritage. The walk starts on the west corner of the Links and covers about 4 miles. The summit of the Binn is approximately 600 feet above sea level.

9 THE LAMMERLAWS This headland was formerly known as Clayness. Note the remains of an industrial limekiln from the mid to late 18th century. The escarpment on the headland was shown as the site of a fort on a 1746 map of the town. A concrete "Pill Box" from the Second World War can be seen at the edge.

8 THE HARBOUR AND DOCKS The port was a major naval base in the mid 16th century and the centre of the Forth herring industry in the early 19th century. It was the main Fife passenger ferry terminal for many years (diminishing in importance in 1890 when the Forth Bridge opened). In the 19th and 20th centuries it was one of Scotland's main coal exporting ports. It was also the site of the world's first roll-on roll-off ferry, a rail ferry which started in 1850. Note the weathered facade of the old railway station (1847) with its Corinthian colonnade. Burntisland Shipyard (1918-1969) built 310 ships, with launches reaching a peak during the Second World War. The shipyard site is now occupied by Burntisland Fabrications Ltd.

7 THE TIDAL MILL Early maps show a large sea inlet in this vicinity. Burntisland's Sea Mill was named one of the 'Seven Wonders of Fife', powered up to 14 hours a day by the trapped tides of the Forth. One original building survives. The inlet itself has been infilled and reclaimed. To the north an extensive housing development now occupies the former 60 acre site of Alcan Chemicals (formerly British Aluminium) which closed in 2002 after 85 years of production.

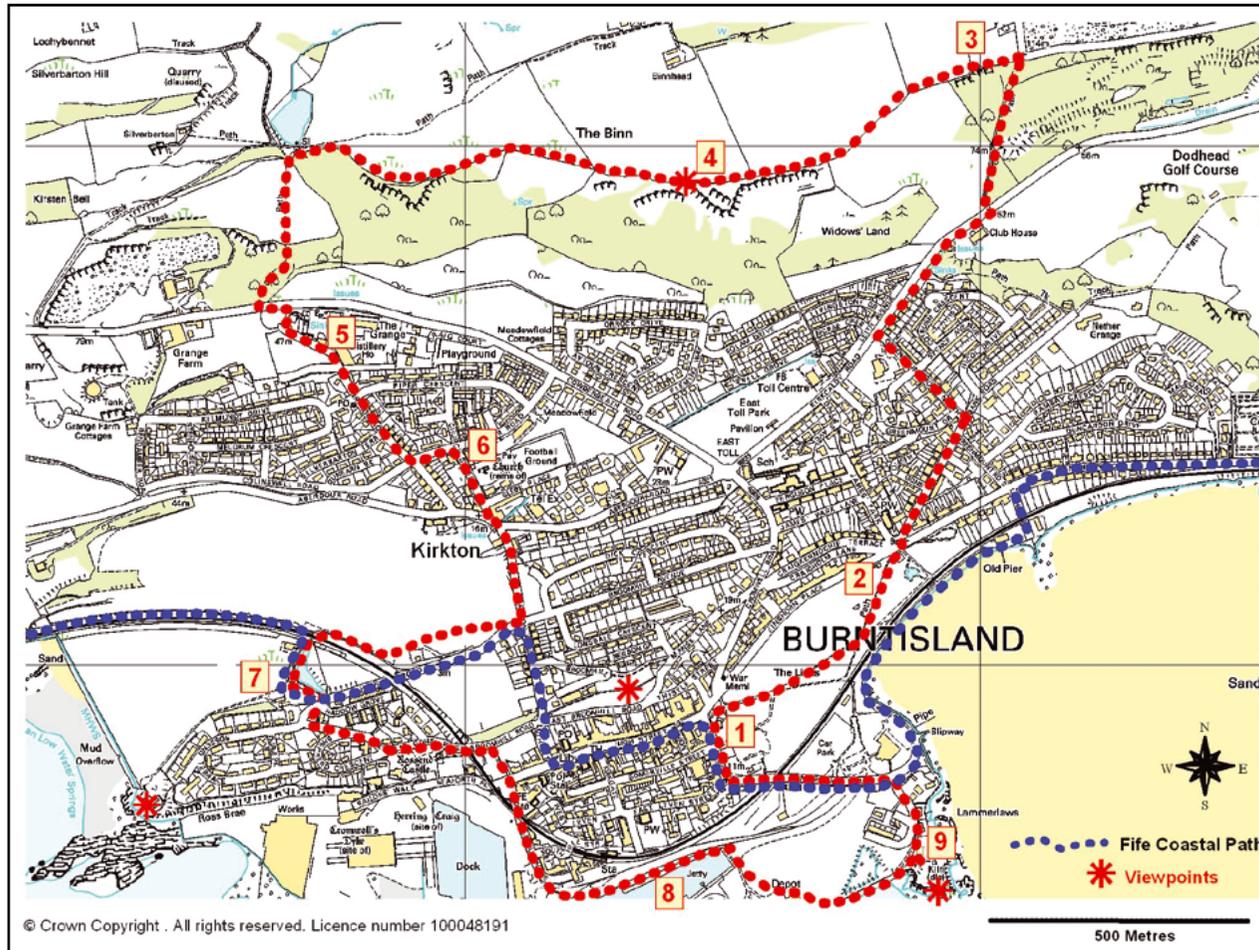
1 THE LINKS The Links were gifted to the townspeople by King James V. Over the years they have served for the drying of fishing nets and clothes, the grazing of livestock, and recreation. They were used for golf from 1668, and were the home of Burntisland Golf Club (founded in 1797, the 11th oldest in Scotland, now playing at Dodhead). Today the Links host the summer fairground and the Highland Games. The Games can trace their origins to 1652 and a horse race instituted by the Town Council during Cromwell's occupation. In 1983 the Links and nearby streetscapes were designated a Conservation Area.

2 THE NEW TOWN From the early 19th century, houses were built to the north of the Links. Note the elegant terrace, formerly Craigholm Crescent. Behind and above it is Craighenochie Terrace, the brainchild of William Dick (founder of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, who himself lived at no 27). Thomas Chalmers, leader of the 1843 Disruption of the Church of Scotland and founder of the Free Church of Scotland, lived at 85 Kinghorn Road (pillared, with plaque). The Erskine United Free Church (1903) dominates the north side of the Links. It replaced the 1743 church which stood where the Public Library is now.

3 BINN VILLAGE (site) Built to house workers for the Binnend shale mine and oil works established in 1878. In 1891 there were almost 100 houses with a population of 600. When the oil works closed in 1893, most of the workers and families left. But the village lived on - as accommodation for troops in the First World War, and as low cost housing and holiday homes. By 1950 there were only 16 people left. In 1954 the last inhabitant departed. From 1989 Alcan used the site for dumping bauxite waste. Today almost nothing of the village remains.

4 BINN SUMMIT (viewpoint) The earliest evidence of human occupation was discovered at the foot of the Binn in 1866, when a 4,000 year old Bronze Age urn was found. In the woods to the west, there are cup and ring marks from the same period. From the viewpoint can be seen Dunearn Hill (about two miles to the north west), upon which are the remains of an Iron Age fort which dates back more than 2,000 years. The Binn offers magnificent views of the Firth of Forth.

5 DISTILLERY (site) The Grange Distillery was established in 1786 and was described in the Statistical Account five years later as being "most pernicious to the health, morals and the industry of the people at large". Nevertheless, and almost 100 years later, Old Burntisland (or OB) whisky - a fine Lowland malt - was being produced at 260,000 gallons a year. The distillery shut down for the First World War and production ceased in 1927. Extensive use was made of the warehouses until 1987 when they too were decommissioned. A few of the old buildings remain.



6 THE MEDIEVAL CHURCH OF ST ADAMNAN Burntisland's best kept secret. The ruins of the original medieval church date from around the early 13th century and are dedicated to St Adamnan (successor to St Columba as Abbot of Iona, and active in Fife in the 7th century). Note the chancel, nave, later side aisle, small vaulted cell, and ancient burial ground. The church may not be as grand as those elsewhere, but that is part of its charm. It is an excellent example of what a simple parish church looked like many years ago. Although largely superseded by the new Parish Church which opened in 1594, it continued to be used for many years.