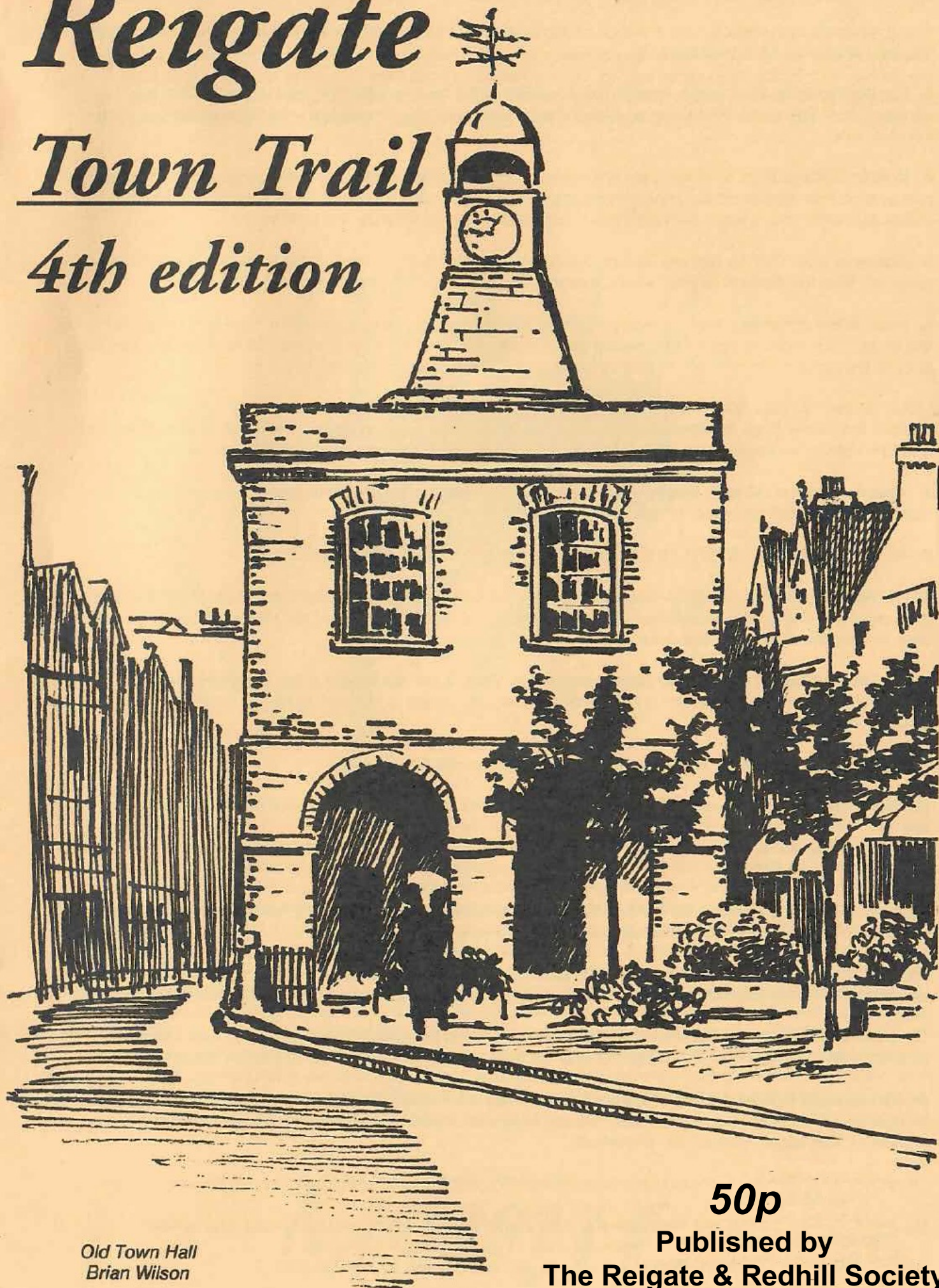


Reigate

Town Trail

4th edition



Old Town Hall
Brian Wilson

50p

Published by
The Reigate & Redhill Society

History

Archaeological research has recently confirmed that the origins of the modern town go back to the 12th century, when the name first appears. The Domesday settlement of Churchfelle lay further east, nearer the parish church. The town was probably deliberately planted alongside the castle which had been built around 1090 by the de Warenne Earls of Surrey to control the East-West route through the county. The original town centre consisted of just two streets, Bell Street and High Street but there were no buildings along its North side until the castle went out of use. An Augustinian Priory was founded in the 13th century by the de Warennes. At the end of that century, the town became a parliamentary borough, returning two 'burgesses'.

By 1600, Reigate had become one of the chief market towns in Surrey. Bryant's Survey of 1785, the first map of the town, shows that much had been renewed in the town centre in the 18th century. Some of the buildings shown on Bryant's map survive and are described in this trail. Many, however, were removed by building and road-widening schemes which have occurred from the early 19th century onwards.

Unfortunately this trend has continued into modern times. Many of the buildings drawn by Arthur Hutchinson in his 1958 plan of Architectural or Historic Buildings in Reigate have since been demolished. The designation of the Town Centre as a Conservation Area has slowed but not halted this process.



6 Slipshoe Street (13)

Brian Wilson

1. Old Town Hall. Built in 1728-29, with typical early Georgian details, originally as a Market and Sessions House with open arcaded ground floor and courtroom above. The cupola and clock were added around 1810, having previously capped the town lock-up which stood just to the east. Chimneys were added when a fireplace was put in the court room - three chimneys were dummies and they were all removed during recent restoration work. Immediately north is

2. 4a High Street. An interesting timber-framed town house of c. 1600. Originally this was a double jettied building with both its first floor and its attic projecting: both jetties have been underbuilt. This used to be apparent from timber framing exposed in the side wall next to the narrow alleyway but the framing has now

Anyone unable to negotiate the steep gradients up to the castle may proceed along the high street to No. 7

Go up alleyway and steps (Crown Passage or Jacobs Ladder) passing under a small timber framed cottage (recently restored), once stabling, into

3. Castle Grounds. Now public gardens in the middle of the town overlooking the roof tops. Only the earthworks of the castle, held successively by the de Warennes, the Fitzalans and Mowbrays, remain. Turn left and note

4. Castle Cottage high on right. Late 17th-century, timber-framed cottage with tile hanging and a 'cat slide' roof at rear, now almost hidden behind vegetation. Walk through the 'dragon's teeth' (2nd World War anti-tank defences) below the cottage. Turn right into Castle Ditch, then pass under the arch of

5. Gateway built 1777 by Richard Barnes, a local attorney, in 'Gothick' style using material taken from the grounds. Note inscriptions. Shortly after passing under arch, turn hard left to go up steep path into

6. Inner Ward of Castle, now a public garden but the surrounding hedge has grown too high, cutting off the views down into the town. More distant views out to the North Downs and Leith Hill survive. Through the grille in the stone pyramid in the middle of the lawn can be seen steps leading to the caves.

Leave garden by descending path. Then turn left into Castle Ditch and keep bearing left so as to encircle the castle. Pass entrance to caves (see notice board for opening arrangements). Complete the circuit and turn right to descend steps leading into High Street. Note on left just after descending steps

7. Rear flank wall of 32 High Street. 17th-century timber framing. This building was once a brewhouse. Turn right into High Street and pass on right

8. 42-50 High Street. 17th and 18th-century buildings now shops and offices including

48-50 High Street. Two attached houses of c. 1600, once the offices of Richard Barnes who built the Gothick gateway in the castle. Now combined into one property and tile hung. Many of the internal timbers can still be seen in the restaurant. Opposite note

9. 53-53a High Street next to obtrusive supermarket. Behind the dull facade is the well-preserved timber frame of a late medieval house (c.1500). Smoke-blackened timbers in the roof show that originally there was an open hall in the middle.

Still on the south side of the High Street, beyond the Methodist Church note

10. Bulls Head Public House. 17th-century inn with timber framing exposed in cart entrance to rear and

11. 65 High Street. 18th-century brick building with fine porch and fanlight. Continue along High Street to

12. Red Cross Public House on right at corner with London Road. 17th-century inn named after the chapel of the Holy Cross which once stood opposite in what is now the roadway.

Cross London Road by way of the ugly traffic island into Slip shoe Street (the name is misguided 19th-century sentimentality) noting opposite, tree planted by Reigate Society and, on right at end of Slip shoe Street.

13. 6 Slip shoe Street. Pair of timber-framed late 16th-century houses with continuously jettied front, the timber framed overhang now tile hung. Beyond the bulky and unattractive Somers Hall (1885) on right is

14. Old Sweep's House, 10 Slip shoe Street. Originally a two bay timber framed house of the 14th-century with a single aisle and partly open to the roof. A cross wing was added to the west in the 15th-century. This wing used to have a jettied upper storey, now underbuilt.

Cross over to north pavement of Upper West Street (formerly Pudding Lane) and turn left passing on right

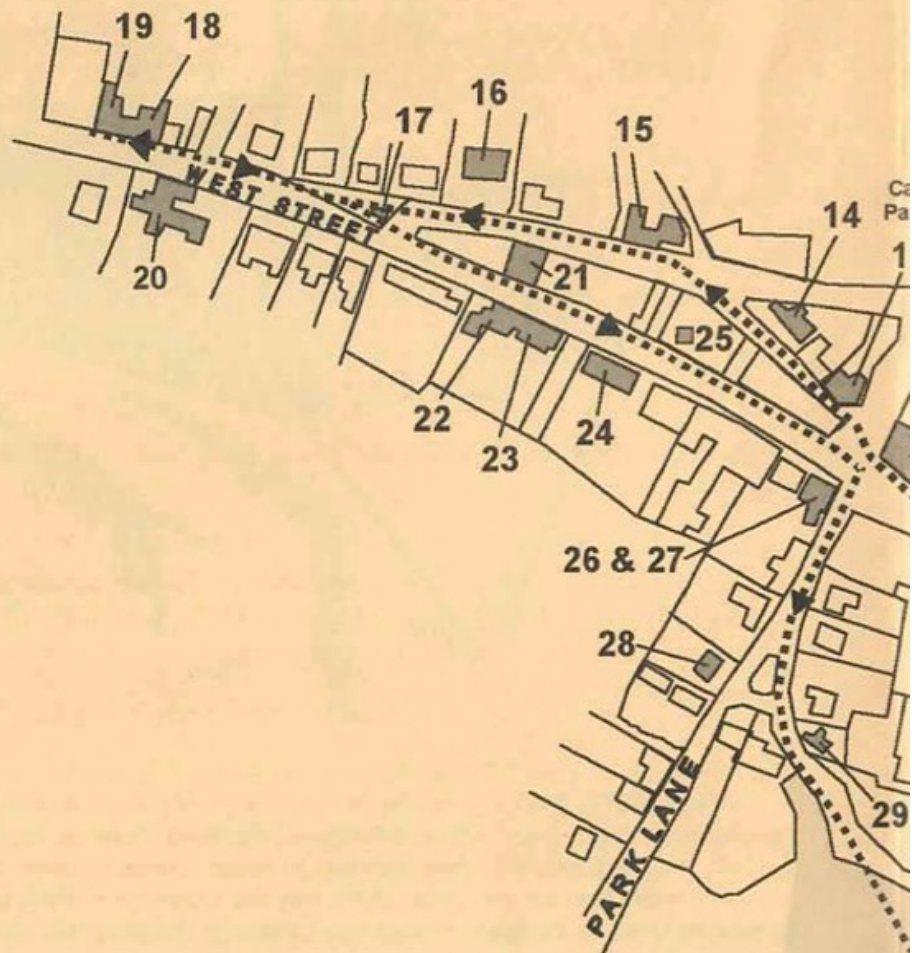
15. The Old House, 20 Upper West Street. 18th-century house with modest doorcase and fanlight.

16. St Albans, 28 West Street, c.1830. Continue into West Street. At junction note

Reigate Town

4th edition

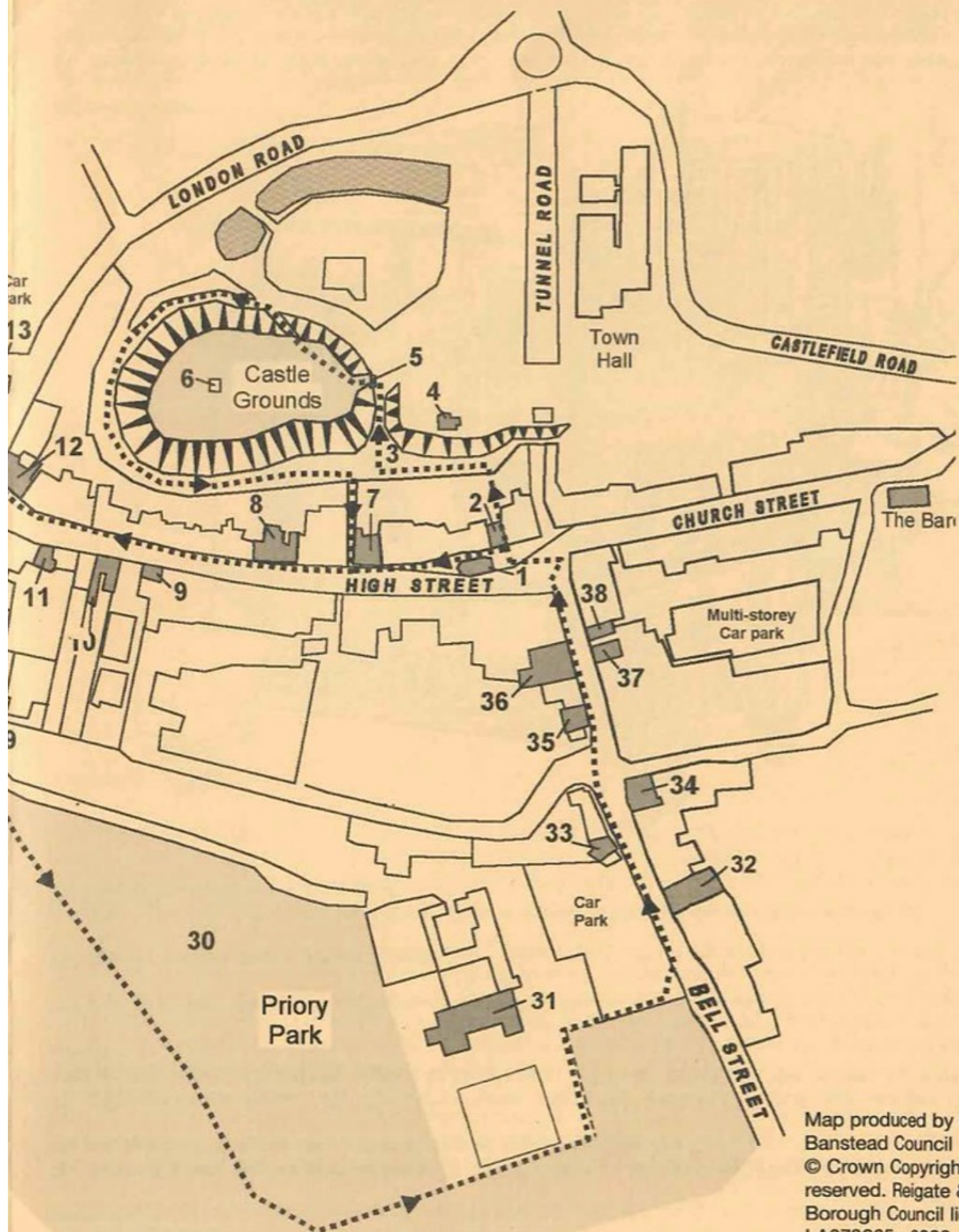
This trail is intended as a guided walk through the oldest part of the town centre. It is not encyclopaedic, but includes the main buildings of historic interest to be found on the route. We hope this trail will help you to discover and enjoy them too. There are of course many historic buildings in Reigate which are not on the route.



- 1 Old Town Hall
- 2 4a High Street
- 3 Castle Grounds
- 4 Castle Cottage
- 5 Castle Gateway
- 6 The Castle
- 7 32 High Street
- 8 42-50 High Street
- 9 53-53a High Street
- 10 The Bulls Head
- 11 65 High Street, The Pantry
- 12 The Red Cross
- 13 6 Slip shoe Street
- 14 10 Slip shoe Street, Old Sweep's House
- 15 20 Upper West Street
- 16 28 Upper West Street
- 17 Horse Trough
- 18 36 West Street
- 19 Old West Street House
- 20 Farley Cottage
- 21 Browne's Lodge, 22 West Street
- 22 31 West Street
- 23 The Blue Anchor
- 24 19 & 20 West Street
- 25 16-18 West Street.
(Medieval Undercroft)

- 26 77a High Street
- 27 77 High Street
- 28 Geranium Cottage, 12 Park Lane
- 29 Priory Lodge Cottage, 7 Park Lane
- 30 Priory Park
- 31 The Priory
- 32 49-51 Bell Street
- 33 38 Bell Street
- 34 37-39 Bell Street
- 35 16 Bell Street
- 36 10-12 Bell Street
- 37 27 Bell Street
- 38 15 Bell Street

Trail



Map produced by Reigate & Banstead Council
© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Reigate & Banstead Borough Council licence no LA079065 - 2002

17. Horse trough provided, c.1870, by Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association. Westward to

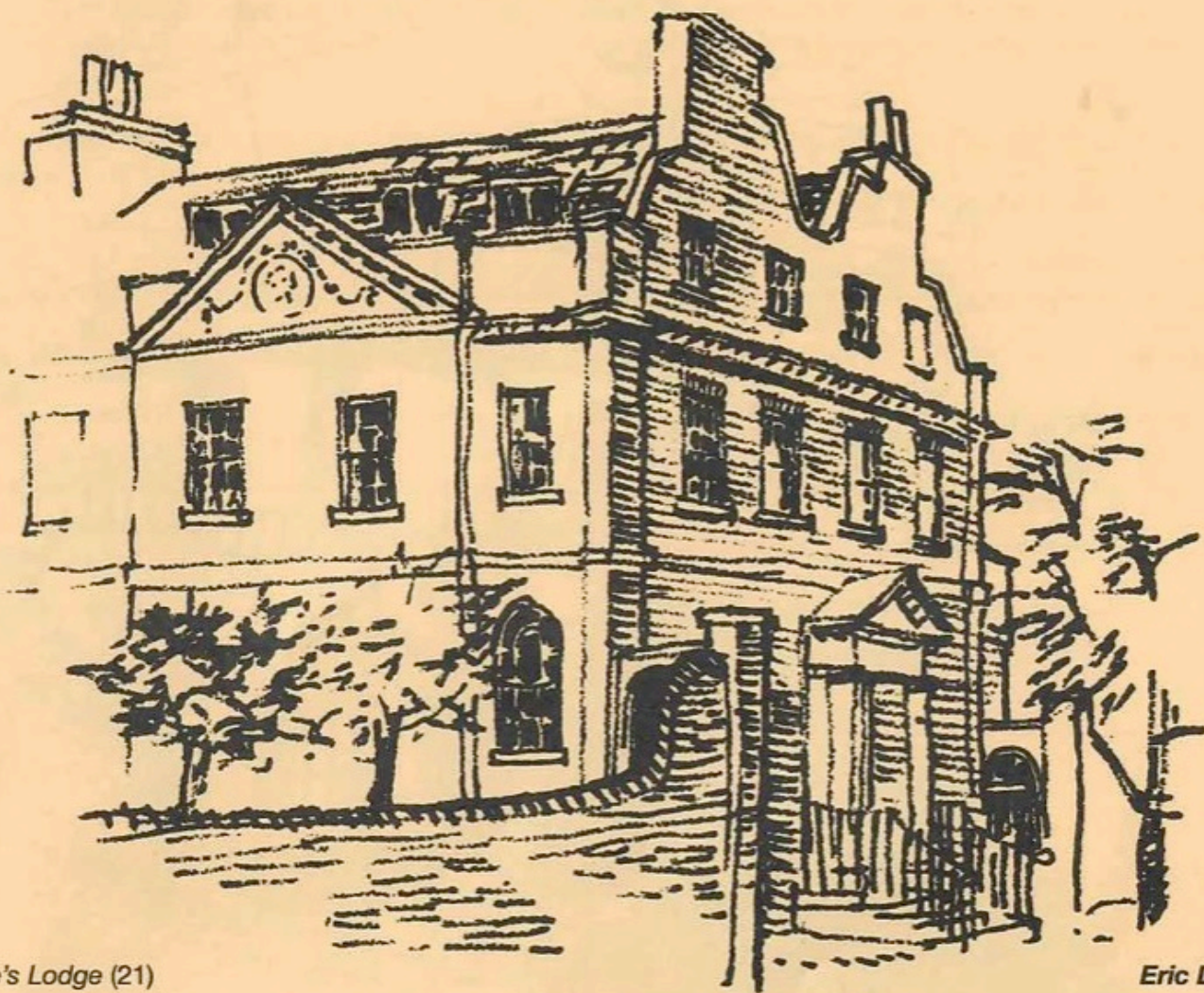
18. 36 West Street. Central chimney house of c.1600, recently partly restored. Former forge here was recently replaced by offices and extension housing workshops. Next door is

19. Old West Street House. Late 17th-century house with dormer windows and pediment over door. House is partly timber-framed with red brick infilling as can be seen in the east gable end. The building was once a school.

Retrace steps along West Street, noting on the opposite side

20. Farley Cottage, dated 1626 on a gable.

Continue to junction with Upper West Street. Note on corner of West Street and Upper West Street impressive cedar tree in the grounds of



Browne's Lodge (21)

Eric Drew

21. Browne's Lodge, 22 West Street. Built 1785 by William Bryant. Modestly proportioned late Palladian style house using island site to great advantage. Imposing west facade has pediment bearing swags and Coade stone plaque of woman's face. Cross over mouth of Upper West Street to continue along West Street past fine porch of 'front' door on the south side of the building. Opposite note

22. 31 West Street stuccoed cottage with gothick ogee windows, c. 1800. Glazing bars still remain in upper storey windows. Note adjoining tile-hung 29 West Street and

23. Blue Anchor P. H., both 17th century.

24. 19 and 21 West Street. Early 17th century central chimney house, divided into two and partly refronted 18th century. Pass on left alleyway leading to Upper West Street. Building to west was originally built as separate service block for the owners of Browne's Lodge. On east is modern office building 16-18 concealing

25. 15th-century vaulted undercroft built of local stone and preserved *in situ* within the underground car park. Probably originally undercroft of medieval market house which stood in the triangle between Upper West Street and West Street. Access on request during office hours..

Cross to south side of West Street by junction with Park lane. Corner building is actually addressed as

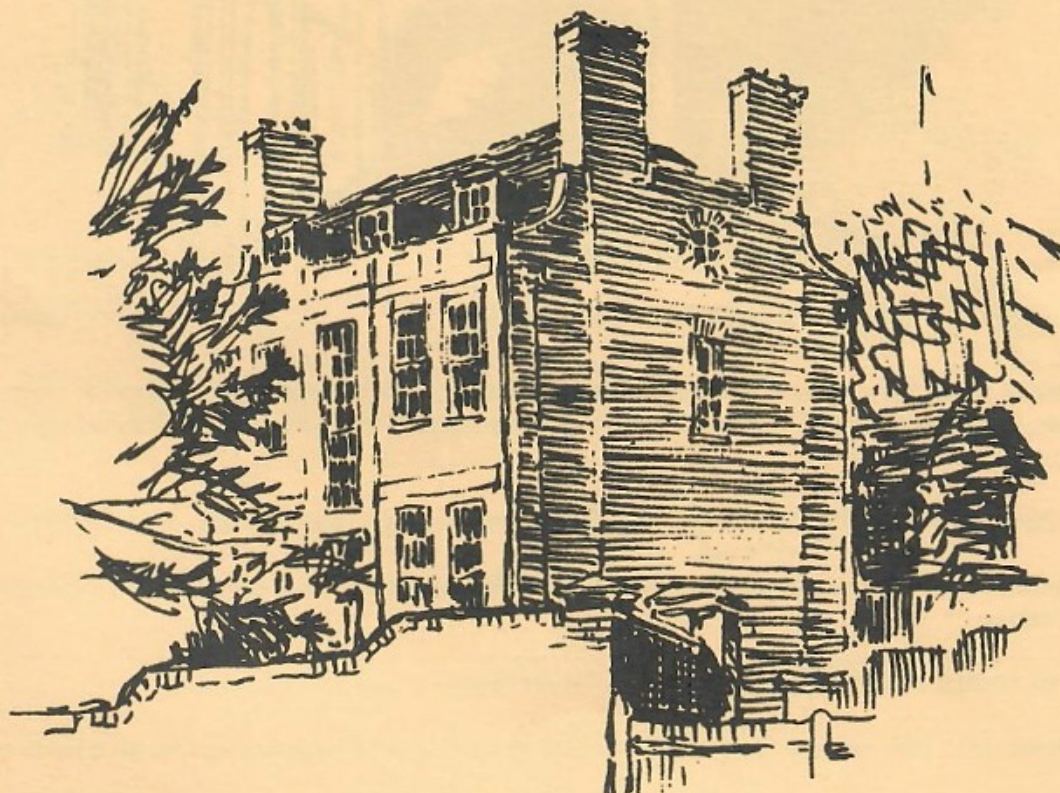
26. 77A High Street. Originally part of the Red Lion Inn, truncated for road widening c.1906. Late medieval or Tudor timbering can be seen behind the window.

Turn into Park Lane and note on right

27. Butcher's Shop, once 'Bellinghams', 77 High Street. Early 19th century with typical regency pillared canopy (pillars suffer impact regularly from passing lorries). Go down Park Lane to road island, noting on right

28. Geranium Cottage, 12 Park Lane. 17th-century, two-bay brick cottage. Bear left towards park, note on left

29. Priory Lodge Cottage, 7 Park Lane, formerly lodge to Priory. Pass between brick pillars to



The Barons from South East

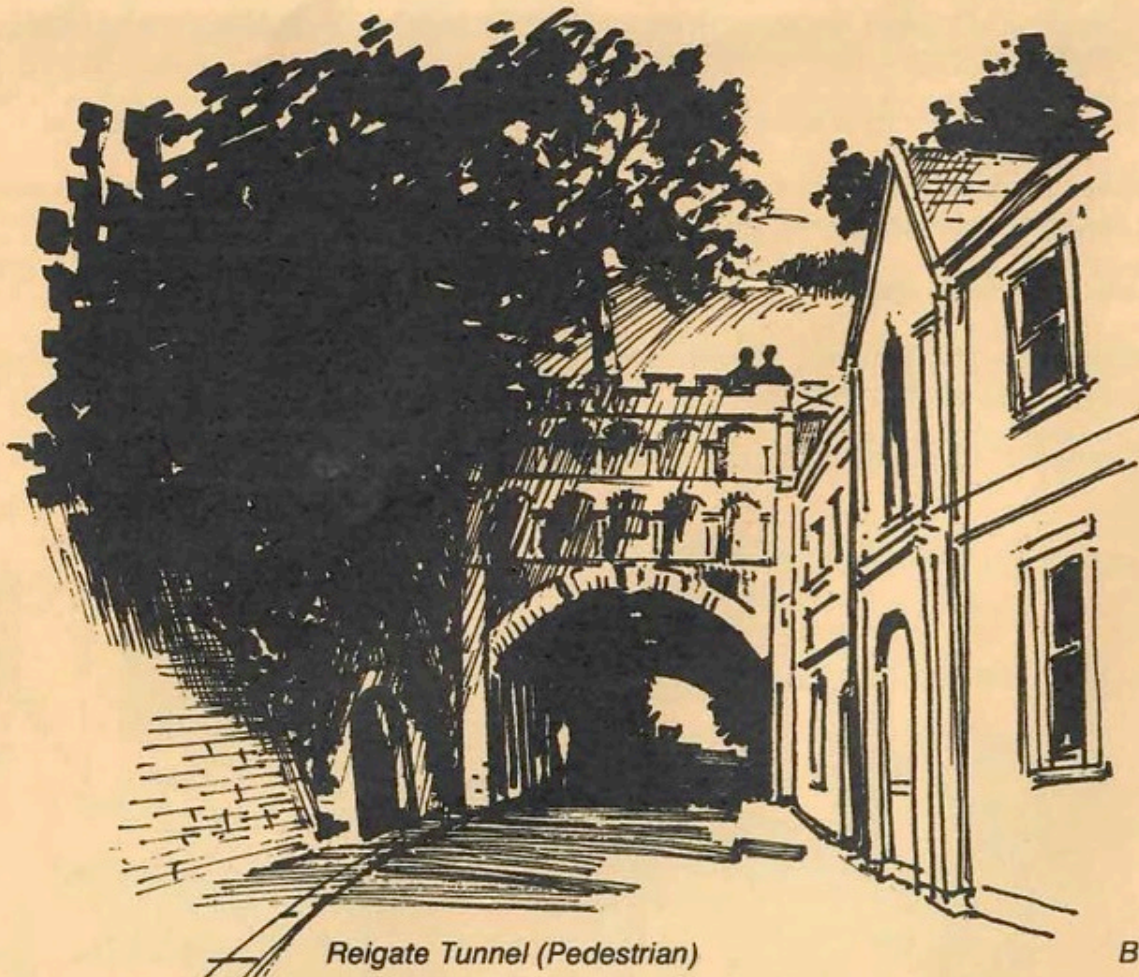
Eric Drew

30. Priory Park, possibly once the precinct of the medieval priory and later the park of the Howards. Acquired by the Corporation and so far unspoilt by traffic or building. The park was saved from building development after the 2nd World War by the efforts of local residents, notably Frank Potter, who went on to found the Reigate Society. Continue to

31. The Priory, in use as a school. Very little identifiable of the medieval foundation remains, and that entirely inside. After the Dissolution in 1535, the building was granted in 1541 to Lord Howard of Effingham who built a house on the site. The north gables of his mansion can be seen from the playground on the west side, behind the fine iron railing (c.1710) which originally stood on the Bell Street side of the building. These were moved to this position by a teetotal owner, Lady Henry Somerset, c.1900, because she objected to their giving entrance to her property opposite a public house.

Go right and then left round to the south facade, effectively c. 1770 when much conversion was done, but a weak example of the period. Terracotta figures and arms of Elizabeth I were added c.1835. Note 18th century door and fanlight on east side of house. Go through car park to Bell Street. Note opposite

32. Stoneman's and Ancient House Bookshop, 49-51 Bell Street. 16th century with crosswing. Turn north and pass on the left
(Continued Overleaf)



Reigate Tunnel (Pedestrian)

Brian Wilson

- 33. 38 Bell Street.** Early 18th-century facade has been restored to put the entrance back in the centre where it belonged. Two left-hand bays (No.40) were built 'in keeping' early in this century. Continue up Bell Street and note on opposite side
- 34. 37-9 Bell Street.** Pair of mid-18th or early 19th century houses with double porch. Then on left
- 35. 16 Bell Street.** Late 18th or early 19th century, exterior restored 1990. Fine porch and railings with urn finials which may be earlier.
- 36. Knights, 10-12 Bell Street.** Once 'The Grapes'. Good Regency facade. Opposite is
- 37. 27 Bell Street.** Mid 19th-century high Victorian building with elaborate gables and barge boards and elegant weather vane.
- 38. 15 Bell Street.** Early 19th-century facade with hood over bow front window on 1st floor. This building incorporates the shell of St Lawrence's Chapel, only survivor of the town's three medieval chapels.

And so back to the Old Town Hall.

A further building of note can be seen in a short walk east up Church Street, namely: The Barons, a fine early 18th-century house restored and 19th-century accretions removed in 1978. From here a footpath leads (five minutes) to the parish church of St Mary Magdalene.

The Reigate Society is a civic amenity society of local people who are concerned to protect and enhance the appearance and character of the environment in Reigate. Membership is open to all who wish to support the aims of the Society. If you are interested in joining, please contact the Secretary:-

Michael Hellings, 53 West Street, Reigate RH2 90Q. - Tel: 245342

Original text: Dennis Turner and Richard Woodhouse.

Revised by Dennis Turner. May 1991.

Minor revisions Dennis Turner and Barrie Clark. January 2001.