

# A walk around Budleigh Salterton

**6. Fore Street Hill.** There are some 18th century houses at the bottom of the hill. Higher up, Simcoe House is named after General Simcoe, the first Governor General of Upper Canada, who lived there. At one time it was the doctor's house and surgery, and the street was then known as Surgery Hill. Lion House, decorated with pineapples and lions, was built in the mid 19th century in Italianate style. Greycarth on the opposite hillside is a fine example of the early 20th century Arts and Crafts movement.

**7. Umbrella Cottage.** This is reached by following the right hand fork in Fore Street Hill shortly after emerging from Madeira Walk or by some steps from the eastern end of East Terrace. It is an old L-shaped thatched cottage, originally several cottages, with an extra wing added in 1805. Notice the unusual porch, from which it takes its name.

**8. Up the hill** above Umbrella Cottage is a spinney on the left. In the spring, this is carpeted with wild flowers. A little further on above the path is Watch Hill, a fine house designed by Hatchard Smith in Queen Anne style in the 1920s. It was used as a location in one of the BBC's Miss Marple programmes.

**9. Below Lantern House,** another good viewpoint, is a late 18th century thatched cottage called Ivy Bank. It has a rounded wall shaped to avoid carts scraping it as they turned the sharp bend.

**10. Prospect House.** From the top of Chapel Hill, a glance up the slope reveals this house in a dominating position. It has an unusual arched niche.

**11. The site of the Chapel of Ease.** This was at the cross roads of Chapel Hill and West Terrace. Access was from East Terrace, and it had turning bays for hearses. Built by Lord Rolle in 1812, it was pulled down a few years after St. Peter's Church was built (see 18 below). East Terrace was then extended over the site.

**12. Lyndale.** This is an attractive early 19th century cottage with lozenge windows.

**13. East Terrace.** At the eastern end is a fine terrace built in 1809. These were the first brick houses built in the town at a time when cob construction was still the norm.

**14. Pebble Lane.** This footpath leads from East Terrace down to Fore Street. As you go down it you will pass Poplar Row, where there used to be some fishermen's cottages. Later, one of these was occupied by the policeman, and had three cells in the back garden.

**15. The Dipping Steps.** At the bottom of Pebble Lane are some steps by the brook. This is where the townsfolk went to fetch their water, as there was no piped supply in Budleigh Salterton until 1894.

**16. Steamer Steps.** Across the road from Pebble Lane is Park's Lane leading to the beach. Turn right along the coastal path until you come to Steamer Steps, where the paddle steamers, The Duke of Devonshire and the Duchess of Devonshire, called to pick up passengers. Further up the path, two gazebos are visible behind the wall. The higher, rectangular one was used first as a chapel for the fishermen, and then as a school.

**17. Cliff Road.** Go down past the flats to The Cliff, once the house of writer and historian Dr. T. N. Brushfield. His library still has the original stained-glass windows.

**18. The Parish Church.** St Peter's was designed by the Devon-born architect G.H.F. Prynne, a pupil of Street, the great Victorian architect. Built in 1893, it has a magnificent interior under a barrel vault roof and a beautiful reredos under the great east window. Some of the memorials in the church were transferred from the earlier chapel (see 11 above). A tower with a spire was planned for the north-east corner, but never built. The church was damaged by a German bomb in 1942. Note also the mock-medieval The Lawn opposite built in 1935.

**19. Little Knowle.** It is rewarding to walk on past the traffic lights and 450 yards up West Hill to Little Knowle. The Baptist Church was built in 1844, and is the oldest surviving place of worship in the town. It is a lovely little church, and has been beautifully restored.

**20. 14 - 16 High Street.** This, the oldest recognisable building in Budleigh Salterton, was originally a 16th century cross passage dwelling.

**21. Site of the Old Lime Kiln.** This can be found beside the car park, 650 yards from Mackerel Square, going east towards Otter Head.

Visit [www.ovapedia.org.uk](http://www.ovapedia.org.uk) for more information on local history and buildings.

Booklet "Twelve Walks in the Otter Valley",  
Otter Valley Association 2012,  
available for purchase locally.

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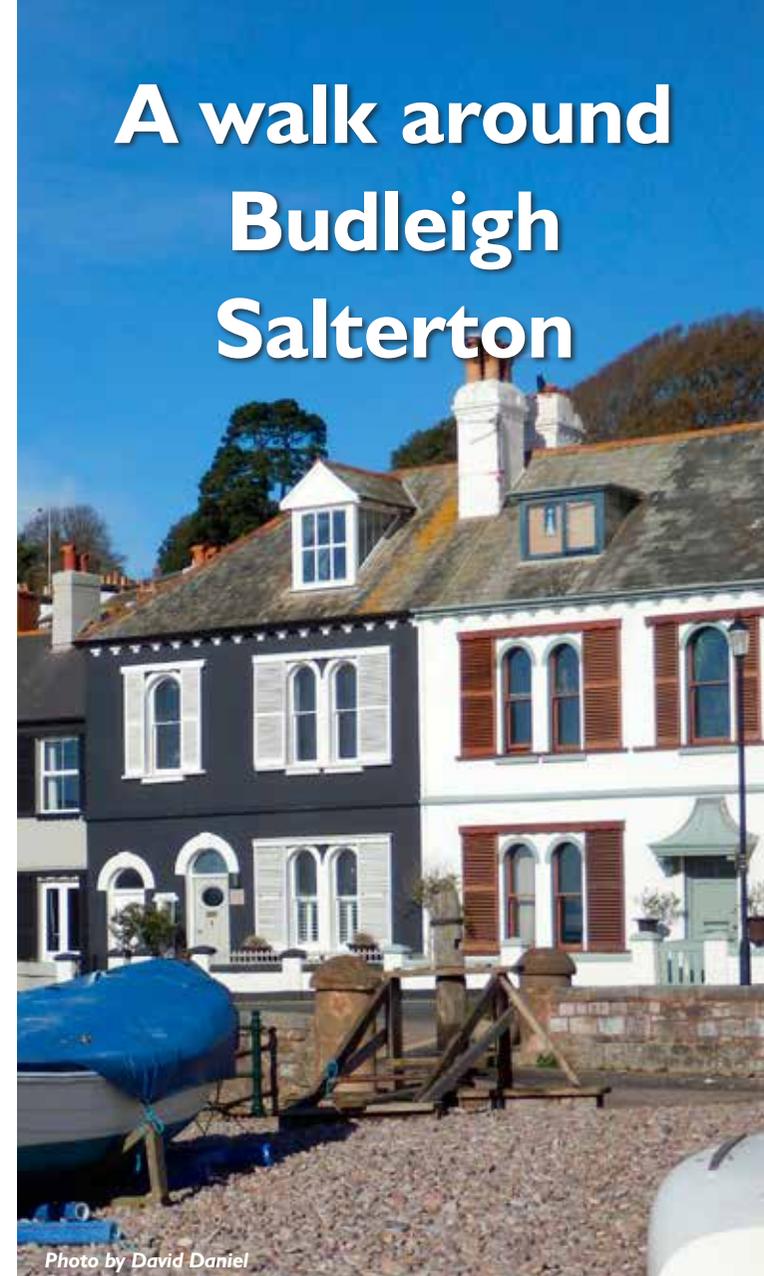
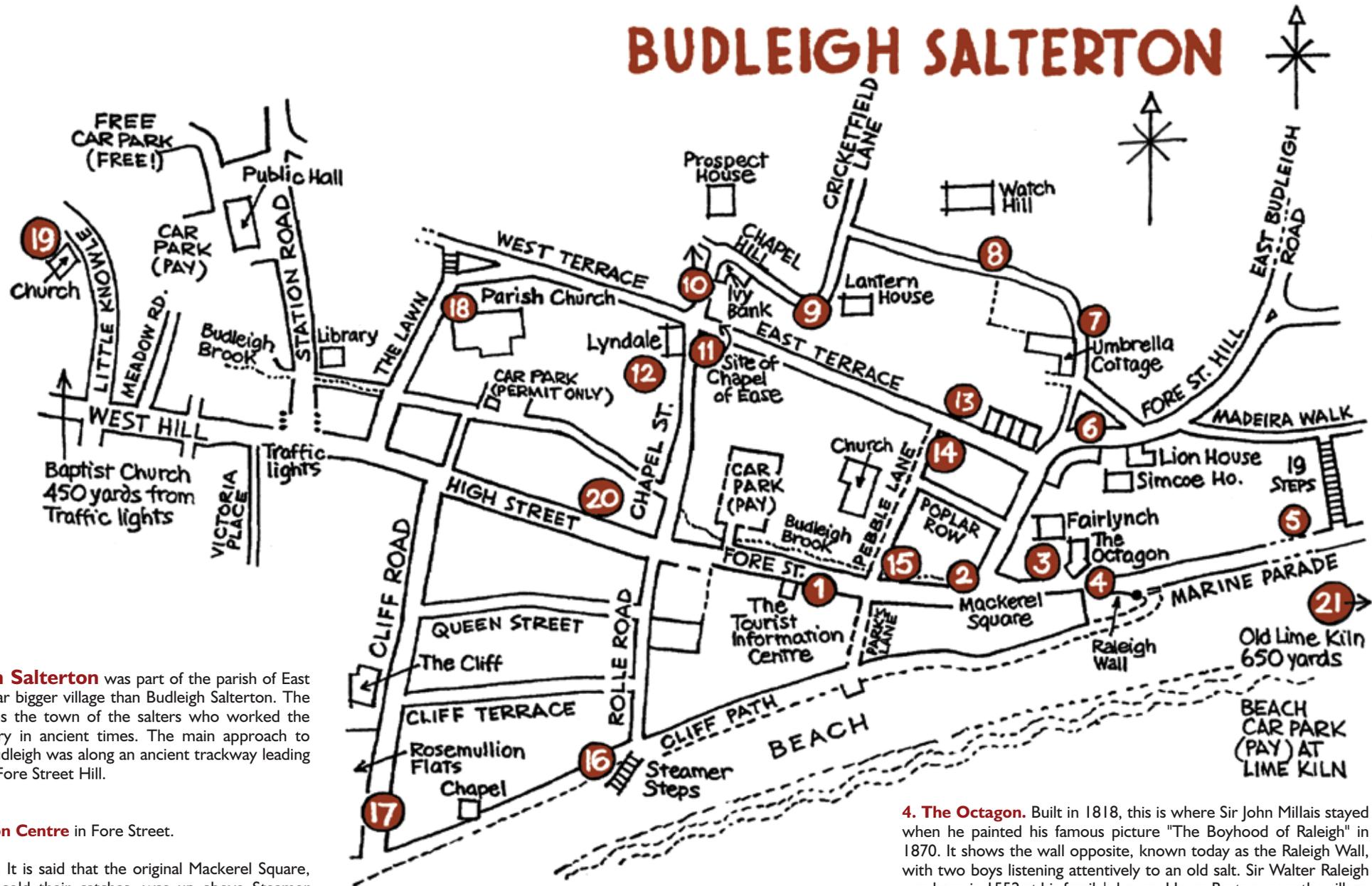


Photo by David Daniel



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# BUDLEIGH SALTERTON



Until 1894 **Budleigh Salterton** was part of the parish of East Budleigh, originally a far bigger village than Budleigh Salterton. The name 'Salterton' means the town of the salters who worked the saltpans on the estuary in ancient times. The main approach to Salterton from East Budleigh was along an ancient trackway leading down to what is now Fore Street Hill.

**1. Tourist Information Centre** in Fore Street.

**2. Mackerel Square.** It is said that the original Mackerel Square, where the fishermen sold their catches, was up above Steamer Steps. The name was subsequently moved to the present square which was the town's market place in the 18th century. The brook, now culverted, used to flow openly through the square to the sea. Notice above the Creamery the intricately carved brickwork by Italian craftsmen, brought here especially to do the work. It was the butcher's shop, built in 1889 and known as "Walter's Folly". Just beyond are four early 19th century houses. The "Old Clink" was the Exeter Inn until 1799. Subsequently, it was first a bank, and then a police station.

**3. Fairlynch.** A marine cottage orné, built in 1812, this is now a Museum. It houses a collection of local history material, costumes and lace, and has changing exhibitions of local interest. It was originally built by a ship-owner, Matthew Lee Yeates, as his residence, and he looked out from the tower for his ships coming in to unload their cargos of lime for the lime kilns. These were at the bottom of Salting Hill, and there is a plaque marking the site of one (no. 21) adjacent to the Lime Kiln Car Park.

**4. The Octagon.** Built in 1818, this is where Sir John Millais stayed when he painted his famous picture "The Boyhood of Raleigh" in 1870. It shows the wall opposite, known today as the Raleigh Wall, with two boys listening attentively to an old salt. Sir Walter Raleigh was born in 1552 at his family's house, Hayes Barton, near the village of East Budleigh.

**5. Marine Parade.** Before the road was made, this was known as Water Ledge Field. Later, when the town became a resort, ladies promenaded here with their parasols, some of which can be seen in Fairlynch Museum. Further along Marine Parade are steps leading up marked "The 19 Steps", although there are actually 31. At the top is Madeira Walk, from where there are splendid views of the coastline towards Berry Head and (occasionally) Portland Bill.