



18 Camden House

Now a solicitors office. Dates from early 18th century. Built of brick with stone dressing and a slate roof. The bank to the left is also a listed building and was added in the 19th Century.

19 St Paul's Wesleyan Methodist Church

Sadly all that is left of this beautiful church are the railings outside the health centre.

It's demolition in 1969 prompted Pevsner to declare "The town has lost it's one distinctive building"



St Pauls

15 Egerton St library

Opened in 1882 as a free library by Sir J A Picton. Enlarged in 1906 through the generosity of Andrew Carnegie, the legendary philanthropist.

At the end of Egerton St turn right across Devonshire Square and first left into High St

16 New Inn

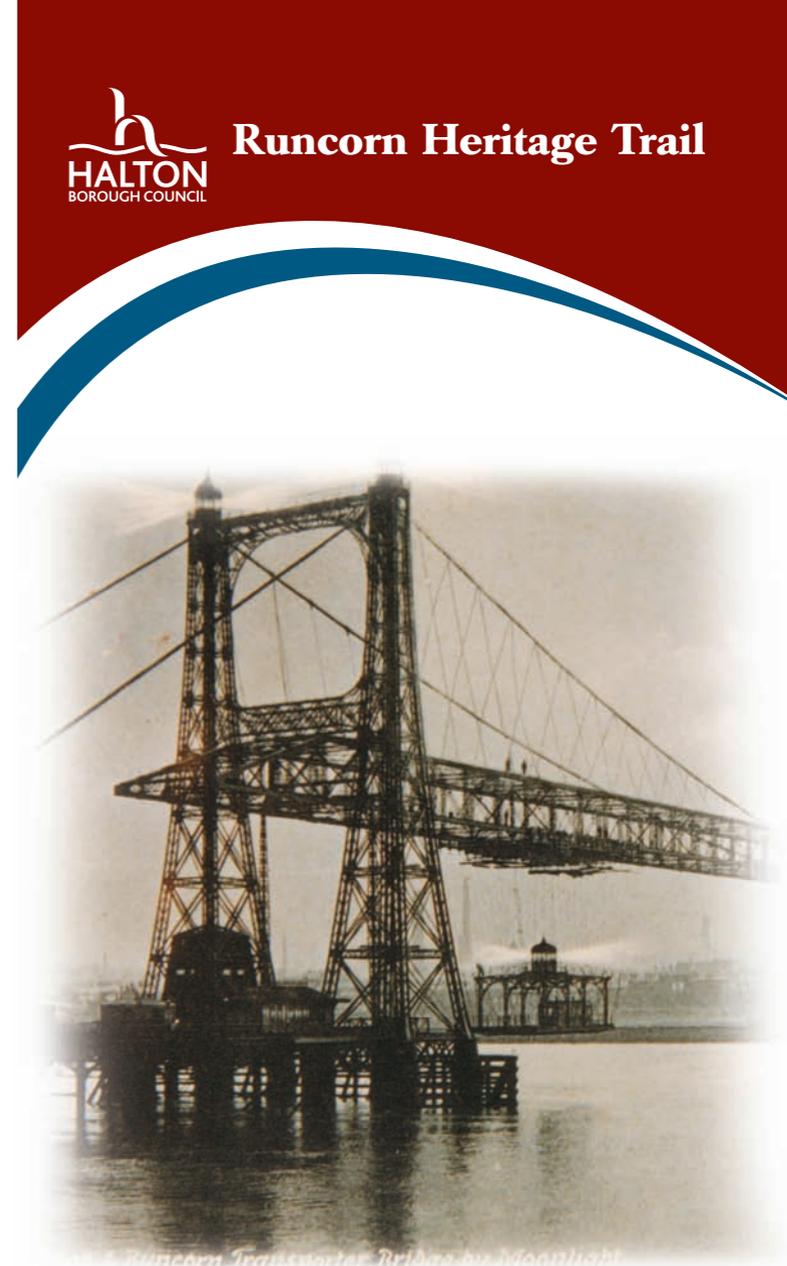
The second oldest licensed inn in Runcorn The name changed briefly to the Old Bridge Inn.

17 The Bank Chambers

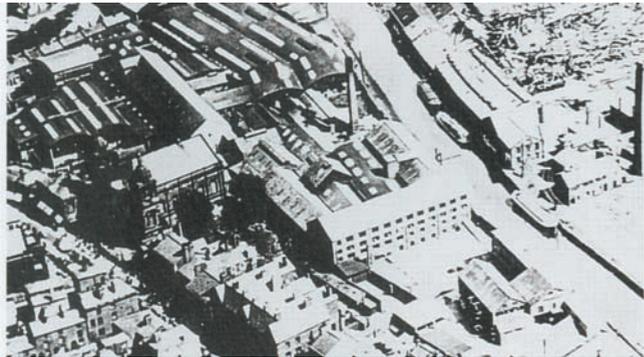
In the 19th Century, this was the home of John Johnson, soap and alkali manufacturer; later it was offices for various agents and solicitors. In the mid-20th Century, this was the main Post Office for Runcorn and the surrounding area. More recently it became a public house known as Bank Chambers and changed to "The Studio" in 2006. The old cinema "The Scala" is next door, sadly, to be demolished.



Halton Library Service would like to thank The Runcorn and District Historical Society for their help in producing this leaflet.



Start at The Brindley car park. The walk is 1 mile long and should take about 1 hour. There are some uneven areas that would make use of wheelchairs difficult



1 The site of the Camden Tannery

Runcorn was a major tanning centre. In its heyday it produced 3000 hides per week and employed 300 men. To the right of the car park the walls can still be seen.

Turn right at High St and cross to the swimming pool

2 Swimming Pool

Built as an indoor market hall in 1856, with outdoor stalls outside. The building became a lively social centre for the people of Runcorn, when it was converted in 1907 for dances and as a swimming pool.

3 The Old Police Station

Completed in 1831 to accommodate the Select Vestry for Runcorn and the County Police Force. When the council offices moved to Waterloo House, in 1883 the police force took over the whole building, which is now reputed to be haunted.

Turn right up Mersey Rd

4 The Royal

The oldest licensed house in Runcorn, now called Last Orders. Its present form was built in 1802. Tradition has it that Prince William of Orange once stayed the night. It was often used for important meetings such as the 1816 meeting to discuss the proposed bridge of Thomas Telford.



The Old Quay

5 Formerly The Boat House Inn

The building is now used for commercial use. The pub was originally named The Ferry Boat, as it was adjacent to the original ferry crossing. In the 12th century the 6th Baron of Halton was granted a charter for the first ferry being used by pilgrims as well as local people.

6 The Old Quay

The half mile of Mersey St was the scene of considerable activity with vessels being built or under repair. Some of the first paddle steamers to operate on the Mersey were built locally. When the full rigged ship "Dennis Brundrit", was launched in 1856 the town was decked with bunting, cannons were fired and a carnival atmosphere prevailed.



Ethelfleda

7 The site of the Salt Water Baths

The baths were opened in 1822 proving very popular and Runcorn became famed as a health resort. 'Runcorn benefits from its pleasant and salubrious situation. The air is impregnated with health and the salt water bathing is very good' Belvedere Terrace was built to accommodate the visitors.



8 Transporter Bridge

There was demand for a vehicular bridge at the end of the 19th century. Plans were made for a transporter bridge, which was opened in 1905 by Sir John Brunner. The bridge cost £130,000. The transporter car was capable of holding 4x4 horse loaded wagons and 300 passengers. It made its last journey with fare-paying passengers on 21st July 1961 to be replaced by the Silver Jubilee Bridge.

9 Saxon Castle

The site of the fort built in 915 on a rocky promontory by the railway bridge, by Ethelfleda, the daughter of Alfred The Great. After her death in 919 the castle started to decay and was last chronicled in 1705.

10 Railway Bridge

In 1861 LNWR obtained parliamentary approval for a bridge across the Mersey. 3 spans 305 ft long, 2 lattice girders, 2 track rails and a footbridge which cost 1 penny to cross. When excavating for the bridge the foundations of the Saxon castle were found.

Turn back to the church and turn right up Waterloo Road

11 All Saints Parish Church

Building started in 1847 to replace the original medieval church, which was built on the site of Ethelfleda's wooden chapel. Built of local sandstone in the early English style.

12 Waterloo Rd

This was the route to the transporter, and was always busy with passengers queuing. This encouraged many shops to provide for queuing passengers

13 South Bank

Now a public house, but built as the home of Dennis Brundrit, Shipbuilder and stone merchant

14 Technical Institute

Built by public subscription in 1894. Sir John Brunner gave £1,000 towards the cost. The institute provided evening classes for students. After 1902 it was also the local grammar school.

Waterloo House

Built in 1847/8 by Charles Hazlehurst, soap and alkali manufacturer. It became the Town Hall from 1884 to 1933. Then used as offices for the local education authority and as a community centre.