

Your LOCAL HERITAGE

Adams Heritage Centre Littleport
e: adamsheritagecentre@outlook.com
17 Main St, Littleport, CB6 1PH

Cambs Community Archive Network
w: www.ccan.co.uk

Chatteris Museum
t: 01354 696319
w: www.chatterismuseum.org.uk
14 Church Lane, Chatteris, PE16 6JA

Ely Museum
t: 01353 666655
e: admin@elymuseum.org.uk
w: www.elymuseum.org.uk
The Old Gaol, Market Street, Ely, CB7 4LS

Littleport Society
w: www.littleportsociety.org.uk

Mike Petty - Cambridgeshire Researcher,
Lecturer & Historian
w: www.mikepetty.org.uk

Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership
w: www.ousewashes.org.uk

Prickwillow Museum
t: 01353 688360
w: www.prickwillowmuseum.com

Prickwillow Museum, Main Street, Prickwillow,
Ely, CB7 4UN

Soham Museum and Community Archive
t: 01353 723472
w: www.museum.soham.org

Soham Museum, P.O. Box 21, The Pavilion,
Fountain Lane, Soham, CB7 5PL

Viva Arts and Community Group
t: 01353 722228
e: vivayouth@hotmail.co.uk
w: www.viva-group.org.uk
7 Churchgate Street, Soham, CB7 5DS



Street Life 1939-1945, generously supported and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, was a two-year community heritage project in 2015 to 2017 that involved many local people in many different ways. Volunteers carried out research, oral history interviews, photography, fieldwork and were involved in tour participation to record and present the history of selected towns in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire.

The project focused on the towns of Chatteris, Ely, Littleport and Soham during the Second World War to encourage people to look more closely at their built environment, to discover great stories and to connect with people from the past. We discovered how daily and family life continued as the community coped with rationing and the impact of the war as well as how local buildings have changed use over time or disappeared entirely. The project captured memories, stories and information that otherwise might have been lost as well as giving local people an understanding of their local heritage and what the community used to be like over 70 years ago.

ELY

SOHAM

CHATTERIS

LITTLEPORT

Discover the TOWN OF

ELY

1939-1945



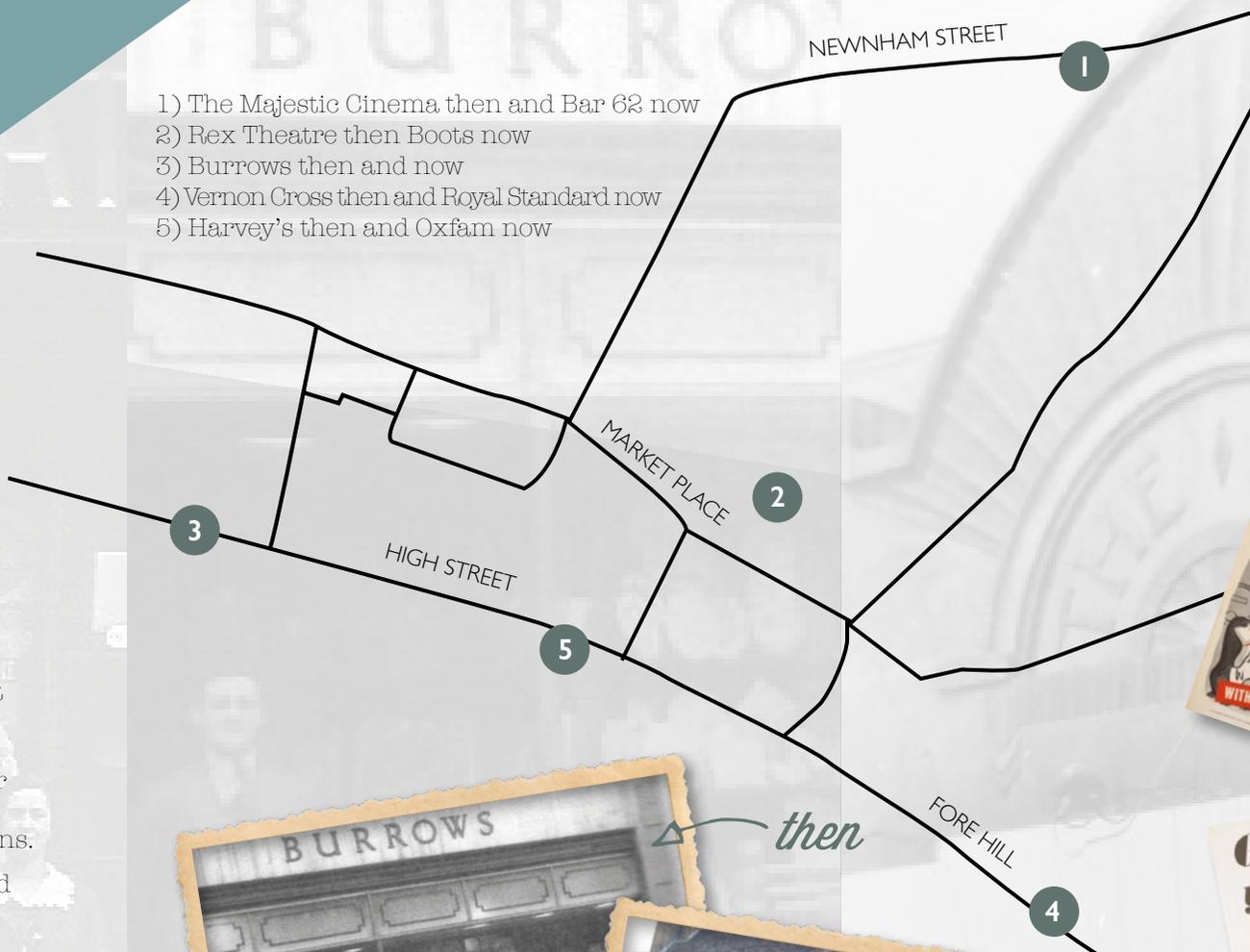
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BURRO

- 1) The Majestic Cinema then and Bar 62 now
- 2) Rex Theatre then Boots now
- 3) Burrows then and now
- 4) Vernon Cross then and Royal Standard now
- 5) Harvey's then and Oxfam now



Ely
HAD A POPULATION
LESS THAN
9000

During the Second World War in this area, most people lived in small gas-lit places. There were few cars and even fewer bright lights. Towns were grey brick, dull, quite isolated working settlements with most people employed within easy reach of their homes, often in agriculture or crafts and industries related to the rich soil of the Fens.

Ely had a population of less than 9,000 and was, as now, dominated by the Cathedral. It was the epitome of a small market town with many shops and pubs. Surrounded by some of the richest agricultural land in the country. Many worked on the land and the largest employers were the brewery and the Beet Sugar Factory. Tuesday was early closing day and only the churches were busy on a Sunday. Thursday market day was the day it really came alive, when the Corn Exchange on the Market Place and the cattle market brought many visitors. There were three cinemas and the fair came to the town in May and October. There was a busy railway station, but the river was almost dead apart from its popularity with fishermen. On the northern edge of the town a new RAF Hospital was being built.

