

## **INTRODUCTION**

In 1980, representatives of the local Women's Institute surveyed and recorded the monumental inscriptions for Burnham Westgate. This report results from a review of those records, correcting errors and adding information from the parish registers and the 1851 census. The inscriptions on the church windows have also been added.

The following notes refer to the headings used in this report.

**Ref** This is the unique reference number for the inscription. The prefix letter identifies the general area of the graves location and the precise position is identified on the relevant map.

**Surname** This records the actual spelling used on the gravestone or window. Spellings are not always consistent.

**First names** This records the actual spelling used on the gravestone or window. Spellings are not always consistent.

**Date** This is the date of death as recorded in the inscription. These are not always consistent with the parish records.

**Age** This is the age at death as recorded in the inscription. These are not always consistent with the parish records.

**Inscription** Full inscriptions (where readable) are recorded. A forward slash (/) indicates a line break, and where appropriate, separate inscriptions on the left / right hand or obverse / reverse sides are clearly indicated.

**Memorial** The descriptions are in five parts, arranged as follows;

type / shape (and size if large or small) / imagery description / stone type / condition.  
eg ; Stela / small norman / angel with trumpet, and flowers / sandstone / fair.

The descriptions used are summarised as follows;

Types and shapes

Stela	: norman
	: checked
	: ogee
	: flat
	: oval
	: double round
	: peon
	: gothic
	: brace moulded
	: double arcade
	: triple arcade
Cross	: plain
	: latin
	: celtic
	: maltese
Ledger	: rectangular
Body stone	: coffin shaped
	: semi cylindrical
	: coped
Tomb	: chest
Obelisk	:

Size

small or large : used to describe monuments differing from the average or normal.

Imagery

: various and self explanatory.

Material

: slate  
: sandstone  
: brick  
: granite

**Memorial (cont)**

**Condition**

- : fine -new or nearly new.
- : good -some decay but legible.
- : fair -significant decay; difficult to read.
- : poor -heavy decay; unreadable.

*NOTE : Where recorded, the name of the mason is added at the end of the five-part description.*

**Notes** This is relevant information from local sources. The reference abbreviations are as follows;

- Cen** : 1851 census return.
- CR** : Church records.
- DMM** : Diana M Mansell. (Local Historian)
- Ky** : Kelly's Directory.
- PR** : Parish records.
- Wh** : Whites Directory.
- WI** : 1980 survey by the Burnham Market Women's Institute.