

**1. 17 Wharf Street
Leeds Civic Trust**

Established over 50-years ago, the Trust has campaigned for - and succeeded in - preserving and improving heritage sites in Leeds: including Kirkgate Market, the Bank of England site on South Parade, and the first White Cloth Hall. They are responsible for erecting Blue Plaques in the city - to commemorate and celebrate people and buildings of historical importance.

**2. Corner of Kirkgate & Harper Street
Green Man Pub & Green Parrot**

Military Riot 1844 - In June 1844 reports of soldiers from the 70th Infantry attacking members of the public led to an outbreak of violence at the Green Man pub. Police arriving to arrest the soldiers were booed by an anti-police crowd and a fight ensued, leading to the release of the prisoners. They were later recaptured along with others, convicted and imprisoned. A barracks confinement order was disobeyed and many armed soldiers subsequently gathered at the Green Parrot pub, with the police faring worse in the ensuing riots. Order was eventually restored, with further battles on Briggate between a mob and police halted by cutlass-wielding constables.

3. Corn Exchange

General Strike 1929 - On the 5th and 6th of May disturbances occurred in the town centre due to the continued operation of some trams and buses on a reduced service. On the first day, a tram was forced to stop as its windows were smashed by lumps of coal. The next day trams and buses were again stoned. Violet Snowden, one of those arrested, was told by a magistrate: "You women ought to use your influence to keep the menfolk quiet".

**4. Corner of New Market Street & Central Road
Rotation Office Kirkgate - late 1700s, early 1800s**

This was a brick building in a narrow yard, named for the magistrates who attended here, in 'rotation', to hear cases that came within the jurisdiction of the borough - but which did not justify the need for a jury. They were able to issue warrants and examine those charged with felonies, assaults and misdemeanours. The building was also used to host public meetings to discuss pressing social issues, while the bottom floor was the original home of the private, subscription Leeds Library. The Rotation Office was relocated in 1813 to the new Courthouse (see point 13).

**5. Central Street & Duncan Street
Alice Mann 1791 - 1865**

This Leeds-born radical and publisher operated primarily from a bookshop based in the now-demolished Central Market on Duncan Street (near to Central Street). Alice married James Mann, a prominent West Riding political activist and bookseller, in 1807. After his death she took on his business to support her family. She continued James' philosophy, publishing work by influential radicals such as Richard Carlile, Richard Oastler and William Rider and numbered many local Chartists among her clientele. Her political commitment is evidenced by her prosecution in 1834 and 1836 for selling unstamped newspapers. Alice balanced this activity with more mainstream printing, including canvassing for contracts from the Town Corporation. Her business was continued by her sons following her death in 1865.

Local & Family History Library, 2nd Floor,
Central Library, Calverley Street, Leeds, LS1 3AB

Contact us: 0113 378 6982
localandfamilyhistory@leeds.gov.uk

Connect with us:
leodis.net
twitter.com/leedslibraries
facebook.com/leedslibraries
www.leeds.gov.uk/libraries

■ = places of power
■ = places of protest

**6. Corner of Briggate & Duncan Street
Old King's Arms Inn, Briggate**

Turnpike Riot 1753 - Also known as 'The Leeds Fight', this began when protestors assembled outside the Old Kings Arms pub on Briggate, with the intention of liberating people held by the borough magistrates for the crime of destroying toll bars at Halton Dial and Beeston. After seeing the crowd break windows in an effort to free the prisoners, the magistrates ordered out a troop of dragoons, who shot and killed at least 10 people (with another 27 injured). The same site was later the home of the influential Leeds Mercury newspaper.

**7. Briggate
Lady Ludd Riots, August 1812**

These took place on Briggate at the height of summer, when a group of women and boys marched through the street attacking corn merchants in protest at perceived high prices. The group was led by a figure styling themselves as 'Lady Ludd' - named after 'Ned Ludd', the (possibly mythological) personage said to have inspired the Luddites by his breaking of machinery. Some have speculated that 'Lady Ludd' was a male protestor dressed as a woman to evade identification; others have suggested that Alice Mann (see point 4) may have been 'playing' the character.

**8. Briggate
Peterloo demonstration 1819**

In September 1819 crowds gathered in Leeds to mark their "abhorrence of the outrage committed on our peaceable and unoffending countrymen" at the infamous Peterloo Massacre in Manchester. Newspapers from the time record around 30,000 demonstrators gathering at noon in the streets around Briggate, before proceeding to Hunslet Moor, where speeches were made in defence of "our murdered friends at Manchester" - prominent among them were representatives of 'Female Reformers'; including Isabella Blackburn, who delivered an inspiring "Address of the Female Reformers of Leeds to Their Townsmen".

**9. Corner of Briggate & King Edward Street
Moot Hall*, Battle of Briggate 1643**

The scene of a Civil War skirmish. Leeds, a Royalist town, refused to surrender and the Parliamentarians stormed the centre. After a fierce fight the Royalists were driven out, and Leeds was captured by the Parliamentarians. Sir Thomas Fairfax, leader of the Parliamentarians, gave the following account: "we took... five hundred prisoners, among whom were six commanders, most of the rest were common soldiers, who, upon taking a common oath never to fight in this cause against the King and Parliament, were set at liberty and suffered to depart but unarmed. There were not above forty slain, whereof ten or twelve at the most on our side, the rest on theirs".

**10. Corner of Briggate & King Edward Street
Corn Price Riot 1735**

During the 18th and early 19th-centuries Leeds saw a significant amount of rioting relating to corn prices and, later, Corn Laws. In 1735 it was reported that, whilst huge amounts of corn were being produced and exported cheaply, Leeds citizens were met with rising, unaffordable prices - resulting in the first Corn Price Riot of 1735. Apparently the rioting crowds of Leeds were so violent that the 'King's troops' were forced to fire: killing eight or nine people.

* This spot on Briggate was also the location of the Moot Hall, where officers of the town Corporation (the forerunner of today's City Council) met until its demolition in 1825.

**11. 3 Albion Place
The Leeds Club 1852**

Founded in 1849, moved into premises on Albion Place in 1852. Said to have been the equal of "any clubhouse out of London," the Club ensured exclusivity with a very high annual subscription fee: approximately £6 a year, while the Leeds Radical Universal Suffrage Association, a working-class Chartist organisation, charged the equivalent of forty-eight pence for their yearly subscription. Club members were spread across the political spectrum of Leeds during the late 19th- century; one can only guess at the nature and importance of the conversations, deals, and arrangements which took place there.

**12. Covered entrance, Albion St & Trinity Arcade
The Music Hall 1858**

On the 14th December 1858 a meeting was held at the Music Hall on Albion Street to protest against the British opium trade with India and China. The meeting was chaired by Edward Baines and gentlemen including Arthur Lupton, William Hey and Wilson Armistead were in attendance. The meeting heard how the opium trade was the source of "much misery and demoralisation" to the inhabitants of China. Resolutions were passed and it was agreed to petition Parliament - condemning the trade and calling for its suppression.

**13. Bottom of Park Row
Park Row Courthouse**

The Courthouse, designed by Thomas Taylor, was located at the bottom of Park Row and was first opened in 1813, replacing the courts in the Moot Hall, Briggate. The Rotation Office, formerly on Kirkgate and where Magistrates made decisions before going to trial, was moved to the new Park Row Courthouse. The Courthouse had a small prison with thirteen cells for inmates awaiting trial, while four fire-engines were housed in the basement. The great room could hold eight-hundred people and was used for both court hearings and public meetings. After the courts were moved to the Leeds Town Hall in 1861, the Courthouse became the Post Office, before demolition in 1901.

**14. City Square
Leeds Women against Violence against Women 1980**

On the weekend of 22nd November 1980 the National Women's Liberation Conference was convened in Leeds, organised by Women against Violence against Women. During this conference, around 500 women - angry about the Police investigation into the Yorkshire Ripper murders and the prospective curfew for women - organised a protest march from City Square to Briggate. On their way from Merrion Street to Woodhouse Lane the protesters attacked men who they suspected of being the Ripper, vandalised cars and attempted to break into BBC TV studios. The march ended in Briggate where the Odeon and Plaza Cinemas were attacked for showing soft porn films.

**15. Quebec Street
Leeds County and Liberal Club 1890**

For most of the 19th century Leeds politics was dominated by the Liberal Party. This power and prestige was reflected in the building of an ornate new Party venue towards the end of the century: the Leeds and County Liberal Club on Quebec Street. Opened in 1891 by Sir James Kitson, the club catered for 1,600 members at its peak, before the emergence of the Labour Party brought declining membership and, eventually, the sale of the building itself.

16. Dripping Riot 1865

Eliza Stafford worked as cook to the surgeon and magistrate Henry Chorley. He discovered she was stealing dripping from his kitchen and brought charges against her. She was found guilty and imprisoned for a month in Armley Prison. The case brought much public sympathy for Eliza and on February 22, the day of her release, a huge crowd gathered at the prison gates to greet her. Eliza had already left the prison and, once the crowds discovered this, a large portion made their way to Chorley's house on Park Square. Here, the crowd grew in size and the police presence grew accordingly. Windows were smashed, with stones and bricks thrown at the police who had sent for reinforcements. One man was trampled by the police and later died of his injuries, while several others were arrested.

**17. 33 Park Square
Leeds Tailoresses' Strike 1889**

Messrs. Arthur & Co Ltd tailoring works were based at 33 Park Square: the scene of the 1889 Tailoresses' Strike. The strike began on October 22, when over 600 workers at Arthur & Co. stopped work. The workers were frustrated at a draconian system of fines and deductions, especially the charge of 1 penny in a shilling for the use of power to run the machines. Isabella Ford, the social reformer and suffragist, spoke out on behalf of the tailoresses and public collections were made to ensure the strike continued. The strike lasted 6-weeks, but the women were eventually forced to return to work.

**18. Westgate & Great George Street
Clothing strike 1970**

In February 1970, textile workers in Leeds began an unofficial strike in support of their demand for a shilling an hour pay increase. The strike snowballed, with workers attracting further support as they marched from clothing factory to clothing factory - until more than 20,000 people were involved, the majority of them women. The strike originated at the John Collier Ltd. factories in Kirkstall; from there workers marched into Leeds, where they gathered supporters at Headrow Clothes on Westgate and Marlbeck Fashions, near St. George's Crypt, before proceeding further into the city centre. The strike lasted around 2 weeks.

19. Civic Hall

Cedric Clarke lived in Chapeltown for most of his life and was a plasterer by trade. He became actively involved with his community and was a member of many organisations, including a senior steward and trainee preacher at Roscoe Methodist church and a volunteer in the probation services. In May 1980, after working with the Labour Party for some time, Clarke became an elected Councillor. He was the city's first councillor of African-Caribbean heritage and focused significant effort on helping minorities. In 1987 one of he campaigned to introduce teachers of different racial backgrounds into schools.

**20. Leeds Beckett University
Rock Against Racism Leeds Polytechnic 1978**

Rock Against Racism (RAR) was the umbrella name for a series of concerts aimed at combating racism in 1970s Britain. The first RAR gig took place at the Princess Alice pub in London during late 1976 - while Leeds was home to the second, in 1977. Organised by Paul Furness, the initial Leeds RAR performances took place in a prefab building behind Leeds Polytechnic, before relocating to a venue in Chapeltown. The Leeds RAR gigs were often the site for conflict between local political groups on the far-left and far-right.

**21. Corner of Cookridge Street & Portland Gate
The Coliseum, Suffragette Riot, 10 October 1908**

On this day Prime Minister Herbert Asquith was due to speak at the Coliseum on Cookridge Street. The police were worried the Suffragettes would try to disrupt the event. Jennie Baines, a suffragette from Stockport, was addressing the crowd who had gathered outside to call for women's suffrage. At the same time, a meeting of unemployed men had been called by the Leeds Permanent Committee on Unemployment, with Mr Alfred Kitson as chair. Around 600 men marched from Victoria Square to Cookridge Street, where the two groups met. Baines is reported to have encouraged the large crowd to make a rush on the Coliseum. Several were arrested - including Kitson and Baines - but police stopped the riot from getting out of hand; the only reported damage was a broken window.

**22. Calverley Street & Great George Street
Leeds School Board 1879-81**

The Leeds School Board building was designed by George Corson and opened in 1881 (Corson was also responsible for the neighbouring Municipal Building). As well as a significant site of local power in its own right, the School Board was also briefly home to a notorious 19th- century radical: John De Morgan. De Morgan, whose biography is shrouded in mystery, was elected to the School Board in 1879, just two years after leading a mass demonstration on Hunslet Moor, in protest at the encroachment of private railway lines onto 'common land'. De Morgan later unsuccessfully campaigned in 1880 to be elected MP for Leeds.

**23. Calverley Street
The Battle of Holbeck Moor 1936**

On September 27 1936, the British Union of Fascists marched from Calverley Street to Holbeck Moor for a Fascist rally. Oswald Mosley, the leader of the British Union of Fascists, marched with over one-thousand Blackshirt supporters to Holbeck Moor. Opposition to the event had been organised and publicised by the Communist Party some days previously and, as Mosley spoke, around 30,000 protesters sang the Red Flag repeatedly in efforts to drown him out, while a large number of stones were thrown at the Fascists. Many of these found their targets, with Mosley himself being struck. The event was quickly stopped when the Fascists retreated and the police moved in.

**24. Leeds Town Hall
The Headrow 1921**

Opened by Queen Victoria in 1858, Leeds Town Hall was home to members of the Corporation (Council) and related administrative bodies. Many politicians and civil servants have passed through this building, but two particularly noteworthy individuals are Maud Dightam and Gertrude Dennison, both elected as Councillors in 1921 - the first women in the city to achieve that office (for the Labour and Conservative Party respectively).

**25. Victoria Gardens
Leeds Women against the Clause 1988**

Over two thousand Leeds people marched against Clause 28 (Section 28) during the Stop the Clause Demonstration on the March 5 1988. The March was organised by Leeds Women against the Clause and met in Victoria Gardens before marching through the city. The March was against the controversial Conservative Government policy called Clause 28: this would mean that local authorities could not intentionally promote homosexuality, or that schools could not teaching of the acceptability of homosexuality. Clause 28 was made into law in 1988, before being repealed in 2003 by the New Labour government.

OTHER PLACES OF POWER AND PROTEST IN AREAS OFF THE MAP

Chartist Riots 1842 – Marshalls Mill Holbeck, Hunslet Moor, Banks Mill Far Pudsey

The Chartist movement for political reform lasted from 1836-1849. Taking their name from the People's Charter of 1838 they called for universal manhood suffrage, votes by ballot and the removal of the property qualification for MPs. Considered the first great movement of the working class, the predominantly Northern protests were driven by unemployment and poverty. Around 10,000 protesters marched on Marshalls Mill and Banks Mill with rioters stealing the plugs from boilers of the mills and factories, leaving them unable to produce steam power and bringing the businesses to halt. The protesters met a day later on Hunslet Moor where they were met by police and 600 soldiers, called in to break it up.

Harehills-Chapeltown Riots 1981, 1987 & 2001

Of the three major riots to hit these areas, a common denominator was found each time in a widespread distrust of the police and authority. What started with protests escalated to burning buildings, looting and fighting between police and members of the white, black and Asian communities. During the 1981 riot Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher considered arming the police with guns and live ammunition. What is missing from this list are the UK-wide 2011 riots; the murder of a local Chapeltown man was the catalyst for what should have been civil unrest equal to that taking place in London, Manchester and Birmingham, however local police took a step back, allowing local youth workers to conduct urgent outreach work within the community and rioting was avoided.

Crown Point Municipal Worker's Strike (1913-1914)

Workplace action led by City Council workers, in a dispute over a lack of pay increases during a time of rising living costs. Striking workers caused gas and electricity supply stoppages during the winter of 1913-1914, with resulting disruption to all aspects of city life. A joint Conservative-Liberal committee attempted to deal with the escalating situation, but to no avail – leading to the introduction of non-unionised labour. Violence subsequently erupted on the streets, culminating in the planting of a bomb at the Electric Power Station on Crown Point/The Calls. Thankfully, nobody was hurt – and the strike ended on January 14, 1914.

Woodhouse Lane Sacking of the Gay Liberation Leeds office

Less than two weeks after opening in December 1973, the Leeds office of the Gay Liberation movement was sacked. Books were destroyed, a window smashed and Christmas decorations torn down. The office shared its space with the Corner Bookshop at 162 Woodhouse Lane.

Hyde Park and Chapeltown Reclaim the Night march (1977)

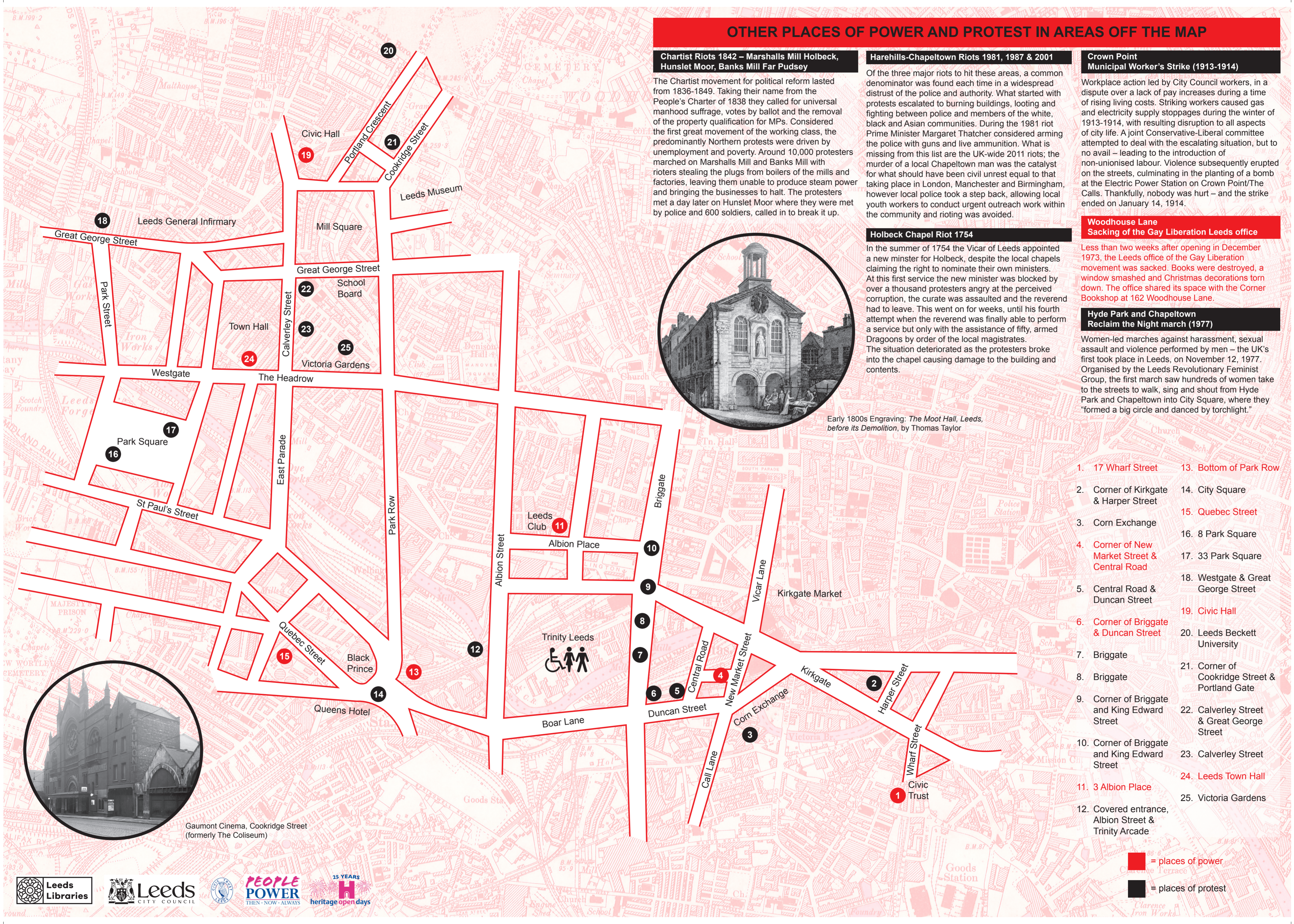
Women-led marches against harassment, sexual assault and violence performed by men – the UK's first took place in Leeds, on November 12, 1977. Organised by the Leeds Revolutionary Feminist Group, the first march saw hundreds of women take to the streets to walk, sing and shout from Hyde Park and Chapeltown into City Square, where they "formed a big circle and danced by torchlight."

Holbeck Chapel Riot 1754

In the summer of 1754 the Vicar of Leeds appointed a new minister for Holbeck, despite the local chapels claiming the right to nominate their own ministers. At this first service the new minister was blocked by over a thousand protesters angry at the perceived corruption, the curate was assaulted and the reverend had to leave. This went on for weeks, until his fourth attempt when the reverend was finally able to perform a service but only with the assistance of fifty, armed Dragoons by order of the local magistrates. The situation deteriorated as the protesters broke into the chapel causing damage to the building and contents.



Early 1800s Engraving: The Moot Hall, Leeds, before its Demolition, by Thomas Taylor



Gaumont Cinema, Cookridge Street (formerly The Coliseum)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. 17 Wharf Street | 13. Bottom of Park Row |
| 2. Corner of Kirkgate & Harper Street | 14. City Square |
| 3. Corn Exchange | 15. Quebec Street |
| 4. Corner of New Market Street & Central Road | 16. 8 Park Square |
| 5. Central Road & Duncan Street | 17. 33 Park Square |
| 6. Corner of Briggate & Duncan Street | 18. Westgate & Great George Street |
| 7. Briggate | 19. Civic Hall |
| 8. Briggate | 20. Leeds Beckett University |
| 9. Corner of Briggate and King Edward Street | 21. Corner of Cookridge Street & Portland Gate |
| 10. Corner of Briggate and King Edward Street | 22. Calverley Street & Great George Street |
| 11. 3 Albion Place | 23. Calverley Street |
| 12. Covered entrance, Albion Street & Trinity Arcade | 24. Leeds Town Hall |
| | 25. Victoria Gardens |

Red square = places of power
Black square = places of protest