

Local newspapers

Our collection includes many local papers, including full archives of the *Yorkshire Post*, *Yorkshire Evening Post* and *Leeds Mercury*.

- One particularly relevant title is **Leeds Other Paper/Northern Star** (1974-1994) – an independent, left-of-centre newspaper, which gave an alternative perspective on the news of the day. It covered stories on local politics, race relations, the women's movement, trade unions, community projects and campaigns. See shelf mark LQ 335 L51 for bound copies; we also have it on microfilm.

Literature from local societies and organisations

We hold a diverse collection of material relating to locally-based societies and organisations, some of which were set up for and run by women. Check our catalogues for further information.

Prints collection

Our prints are catalogued in our card index in the Local and Family History Library reading room. Material includes posters for public meetings and events, and local and general elections. Interesting examples include:

- Election ephemera relating to **early women councillors**, such as Leonora Cohen and Jessie Beatrice Kitson.
- A WSPU poster publicising the May 1914 demonstration in Armley against the treatment of suffragist Lilian Lenton.

Playbills and theatre programmes

See our **Leeds Theatres Research Guide** for an overview of the many resources in our collection, which also include reference books, photographs and a number of brochures and scripts.

- You can view our playbills online at: www.leodis.net
- A prominent Leeds actress of the Edwardian era was Lily Elsie, who went from childhood in Armev to fame on the London stage. See the biography *Anything but Merry! The Life and Times of Lily Elsie* by David Slattery-Christy (L B ELS).

Opening times

Monday – 9.00am – 8.00pm
Tuesday – 9.00am – 8.00pm
Weds – 9.00am – 8.00pm
Thursday 9.00am – 5.00pm
Friday – 9.00 – 5.00pm
Saturday – 10.00am – 4.00pm
Sunday - Closed

Local and Family History
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Leeds, LS1 3AB
T: 0113 378 6982
E: localandfamilyhistory@leeds.gov.uk
W: www.leeds.gov.uk/libraries
Blog: secretlibraryleeds.net



Women
of Leeds

Women of Leeds

Our Research Guides list some of the most useful, interesting and unique items in **Local and Family History** at **Leeds Central Library**. Many others are listed in our online and card catalogues.

Please note: Items marked * may require an advance appointment and ID to view.



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Women who shaped Leeds and beyond

Mary Gawthorpe (1881-1973), suffragist

Leeds Library and Information Service is the sole UK repository of the **Mary Gawthorpe Papers (shelf mark: SR MIC B GAW)**,* a microfilmed collection of letters, diaries, postcards and photographs covering her work in Leeds and London, as well as her later years in America. See also:

- **Index to the Mary Gawthorpe Papers** (LQP B GAW).
- **Up Hill to Holloway**, 1962 (L 920.7 G249) – Gawthorpe's own account of her life up to her release from prison in 1906.

Alice Cliff Scatcherd (1842-1906), suffragist

Wortley-born Scatcherd was a lifelong campaigner for women's rights who lived much of her life in Morley. She was secretary for the Leeds branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage (NSWS) and one of the founding members and treasurer of the Women's Franchise League.

- **The Alice Cliff Scatcherd scrapbooks*** comprise letters, photos and letterpress relating to the national suffrage campaign, politics, education and Morley civic life. Also on microfilm (MIC Y B SCA) and online: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/leedslibraries/albums/72157713672837563>
- **Index to the scrapbooks** (Q LP B SCA).

Isabella Ford (1855-1924), socialist activist and suffragist

Ford was a prominent Leeds socialist, trade unionist and suffragist. She founded the Leeds Suffrage Society and was a founding member of the Leeds Independent Labour Party. She also wrote three novels: *Miss Blake of Monkshalton* (1890), *Mr. Elliott* (1901) and *On the Threshold* (1895), all at shelf mark: L 823.89 F75. **Books and articles written about Isabella Ford include:**

- *Isabella Ford* (1989) by June Hannam (L 923.2 F752).
- 'Ford, Isabella Ormston (1855-1924): Socialist, trade unionist and campaigner for women's rights' – entry in *Dictionary of Labour Biography*, vol. 8 (1987) pages 72-83 (LP 923.2 F752).

Emily Ford (1850-1930), artist, playwright and suffragist

Sister of Isabella, Emily Ford often expressed her support for women's rights through her art. Works in our collection include:

- *Rejected Addresses*, 1882 (L 822.89 F75).
- *Our School: A Comedy in Three Acts*, 1890 (L 822.89 F75).

General Resources Covering Leeds-based Suffragettes

- *Suffragettes in Yorkshire: A Study Folder* (E LQ 324.6 SUF).
- *Rebel Girls: Their Fight for the Vote* by Jill Liddington (Y 324.6 LID).

Edith Maud Cliff OBE, Commandant of Gledhow Hall Hospital

Cliff was the compiler of a unique scrapbook in our collection entitled ***The Great European War, Gledhow Hall Hospital*** (shelf mark: Oversize SRQ 940 476 G478).*

- The volume is a collection of newspaper cuttings, letters, postcards, general ephemera and photos of soldiers and staff, compiled by the Commandant of the VAD Hospital at Gledhow Hall, 1915-1919. (**Please note:** you will need to make an appointment to view this item, as well as provide ID.) Also available online: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/leedslibraries/albums/72157713672835491>

Marian Ramelson, author and Communist Party organiser

Ramelson was involved in the Leeds branch of the Communist Party from the 1940s until her death in 1967 and was a published historian.

- See her work: ***The Petticoat Rebellion: A Century of Struggle for Women's Rights*** (L 396.3 R14).

Sheila Rowbotham (1943-), feminist theorist and socialist

Leeds-born Rowbotham is a prominent author, academic and activist against capitalism and patriarchy.

- **Our collection of her works is shelved at various class marks** and includes: *Women, Resistance and Revolution* (1972); *Hidden from History: 300 Years of Women's Oppression and the Fight Against It* (1973); *Woman's Consciousness, Man's World* (1973); *A New World for Women: Stella Brown, Socialist Feminist* (1977); *Dreams and Dilemmas: Collected Writings* (1983); *The Past Is Before Us: Feminism in Action Since the 1960s* (1989); *Daring to Hope* (2021); *Rebel Crossings* (2016); *Promise of a Dream* (2000); *Threads Through Time* (1999); *Dreamers of a New Day* (2010).

Female Authors from Leeds and Yorkshire

From the Brontë sisters to Barbara Taylor Bradford, for our full collection of books by local women writers, consult the card catalogue in our reading room, plus our online catalogue at: https://leeds.ent.sirsidynix.net.uk/client/en_GB/default/ Also see our detailed **Brontë Family Research Guide**.

- Please note that items from our collection are reference only, but other departments may have loanable copies of certain works.