



Haunted Places of Leeds

Thackray Museum of Medicine

Opened in 1861, this former Leeds Union Workhouse is reputed to house more than just historical medical artifacts! Several ghosts are known to roam within its walls, including the 'Yorkshire Witch' Mary Bateman, whose skeletal remains were on display in the museum, as well as a waving woman in 18th century clothing.



Abbey House Museum

Formerly the gatehouse to Kirkstall Abbey this 12th century building is now a museum, with many reports of ghostly goings on, such as mysterious figures walking along the Victorian street, the sounds of footsteps, something being dragged, and sightings of a monk in the top floor Abbots' room.



Kirkstall Abbey

Adjacent to Abbey House Museum is the ruins of the Abbey itself, which is one of Leeds' most stunning historical locations, dating back to 1152. This former Cistercian monastery is also well known for its paranormal activity and is said to be haunted by the spirit of a woman named Mary who witnessed her husband committing murder, as well as the ghost of John Ripley, the former Abbot of the Abbey.



Leeds Industrial Museum



Built in 1805 this was once the world's largest woollen mill, which was then turned into an industrial museum in 1982. It is believed that the spirits of the many men, women and children that worked at the mill remain there still, with sightings of apparitions dressed in Victorian clothes.

Temple Newsam

Built between 1500-1520 this impressive Tudor-Jacobean mansion has acquired a few supernatural guests over the years. One is the famous 'Blue Lady', thought to be Mary Ingram, a former occupant of the house who died after being robbed and then suffered a breakdown due to the stress of losing her favourite necklace. Her unhappy spirit is said to wander the house.



The Palace

Built around 1741 this former timber merchant's house was first recorded as an inn in 1841. It is still running as a pub to this day, with one ghostly regular who's been popping in for a pint since 1848! Michael Hall was an actor, singer, poet and entertainer who died on the premises aged 41, and whose apparition is believed to haunt there still.



Malt Mill Inn, Armley

This former location of a malt mill has a dark and bloody history. A woman named Jane Banham was murdered in the pub of the malt mill in 1854 by her ex-partner, who slit her throat with a razor blade. She died a few hours later, but not before being sat in a chair and asked questions about who attacked her, practically being the key witness in her own murder investigation! With such a tragic history, it's not surprising that the pub currently there is reputed to be haunted, with sightings of a mysterious female (the ghost of Jane Banham?) and other spooky happenings.



City Varieties Music Hall

Originally a coaching inn called the White Swan, this is the oldest working music hall in England and was run by the same family from just after the Second World War right until 1988/1989 when it was sold to Leeds City Council. Sightings of ghosts in the music hall include a woman in white holding a candelabra, a man in a First World War trenchcoat as well as noises of footsteps and a piano playing of its own accord!



Leeds Grand Theatre

Opened in 1878 with Shakespeare's Much Ado about Nothing, this theatre has been home to not only some of the country's finest productions, but also to a few spooky spectres such as a caped man, a mysterious waiter and the 'Lavender Lady' who leaves behind her distinctive scent.



Leeds Crown Court

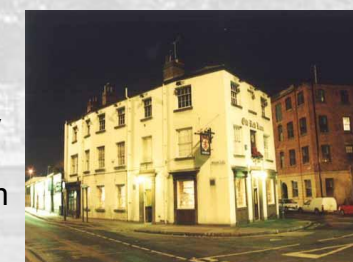


Built in 1981 after being previously located within the Town Hall, the court is thought to be haunted by a ghost who has been seen by several people including a cleaner and security guard. Nicknamed 'Fred', the ghost is described as being elderly and

wearing a grey suit. Adding to the spookiness of the area, in the 1800's, outside the nearby Oxford Place Methodist Church, there was a graveyard. The church building still remains, but what would have been the graveyard is now part of The Headrow.

Old Red Lion Pub

Dating back to 1809 this pub has had sightings of a young girl in an upstairs window, despite that room being empty and locked. This possibly originates from a story of how a woman once hanged herself here. There are also stories of blood dripping from the ceilings onto people below!



The Cardigan Arms

Located on Kirkstall Road this impressive building was designed in the 1890's by architect Thomas Winn (who also designed the Adelphi Pub and helped create the famous (and literal!) 'Bread Arch' to commemorate a royal visit in 1894). This classic Victorian pub is not only popular with the locals, but also the



ghost of a grey-haired old lady who is said to haunt the female toilets, with stories of people seeing her reflection in the mirror stood behind them!

The Queens Hotel

Built in 1937 this Art Deco style building has quite a grand presence in Leeds City Square right next to the train station. As well as stories of there possibly being secret underground rooms which interconnect with tunnels running underneath the train station, the hotel is also thought to be haunted by the ghosts of at least three people who died there. A woman named Mary was working in the basement when she was told her son had been killed in the war, causing her to collapse and die from shock. Two men who killed themselves by hanging and shooting are also thought to haunt the basement.



Call Lane

Thought to date back to 1557 in one of the oldest districts in Leeds, this street links Kirkgate to the bottom of lower Briggate and is close to the River Aire. Several staff from some of the buildings on this street have reported sinister experiences including the sensation of being strangled by unseen hands!



Leeds Town Hall

Opened in 1858 by Queen Victoria, this is one of the largest Town Halls in the UK with quite a dramatic and lavish design of columns, a clock tower, and stone lions on either side. One of the spookiest parts of this building is the bridewell cells in the basement which remain there to this day. A notorious burglar and murderer named Charles Peace was held in these cells before he was hanged at Armley Prison in 1879. His spirit is said to haunt the cells to this day!



The Abbey Inn

Described as one of the most haunted pubs in Leeds, this isolated building is believed to be haunted by a few restless spirits such as a grey lady, a man in a Guy Fawkes style hat and a hooded figure. The fact that in the 1950's the building was used as a mortuary might explain the reason behind the spooky happenings. Interestingly there is also a legend of an underground tunnel that links the pub to the nearby Kirkstall Abbey.



Old Leeds Dispensary

This historic building was originally built in 1824 as a medical facility offering free services for poor people. Former staff who worked there reported ghostly sightings of a man in well-dressed clothing and a group of children running through the building. Today it is known as Centenary House and is an apartment building.



Butts Court



Located just off The Headrow, this courtyard was originally used as an area for target practice using longbows. The targets were called 'butts', which of course explains the street name. Later this court became the home of the famous clock making company Potts Clocks, and at present is now office buildings. In 2005 the court made it into the headlines of a local newspaper when a man reported seeing a strange looking creature that he described as being bigger than a rat and having whiskers, round ears, front legs like a squirrel, muscular back legs, a thin tail and a glossy coat. The strange creature was also seen by workers in the nearby offices and has been nicknamed the Beastie of Butts Court!

Temple Works

This former flax mill located in Holbeck was built between 1838-1840 and has a very striking architectural design which was modelled on the Temple of Horus at Edfu in Egypt. With such a major Egyptian influence it comes as no surprise that one of the supposed hauntings in the building is that of a phantom cat that haunts the undercroft. A former factory worker is also said to haunt the old canteen building, and strange sounds have been heard in the main room over the years.



Whitelock's Ale House



Definitely worth popping in if you fancy a spooky atmosphere!

Located on Turks Head Yard just off Briggate, this is said to be the oldest pub in Leeds dating back to 1715. It was originally known as the Turk's Head Pub until John Lupton Whitelock became the landlord in 1867, thus renaming it. With a history dating that far back it's not surprising the pub is thought to be haunted.

Swarthmore Education Centre

Founded in 1909 by members of the Quaker movement, this centre is located within a Grade II Listed building comprised of six four-storey terraced houses. One ghost story linked with the centre is that of a tutor who saw a man dressed in 1920's style clothing walk down a staircase and through a rope that was across it. Another person reported that she was tapped on the shoulder by a ghostly woman in nineteenth century clothing who then walked away. She later saw a portrait of the same woman who was called Ellen Heaton and was a former resident of one of the houses!



Leeds City Library



This Grade II* listed building was constructed between 1878-1884 and was originally known as Leeds Municipal Offices. The building boasts some spectacular architecture such as marble pillars, tiled staircases with stone dogs and intricate stone carvings on the walls. With such an interesting history it's not surprising the library has acquired a few ghost stories

over the years. Certain rooms, such as the Yorkshire Room, are known to have an ominous atmosphere and in an office on the top floor staff have reported feeling a presence and having their shoulder tapped! When the library was once closed for a year for repair work several workmen reported seeing a ghostly woman floating around a corridor. This terrified one workman so much that he refused to work alone in certain parts of the library! The Yorkshire Evening Post once did an investigation in the building and sent a camera crew and medium who claimed the library was haunted by the ghost of a man who hanged himself, a woman who threw herself down the stairs and a woman who was attacked in the old Victorian toilets in the basement of the library!

The Leeds Library

Founded in 1768 The Leeds Library is the oldest surviving subscription library of its kind in the UK. In 1808 it moved to its current location in the City Centre on Commercial Street in a purpose-built building. Of course, it wouldn't be a 200+ year old library without a haunting or two! But it's not just any old spectre that haunts its bookshelves, but that of a former Librarian called Vincent Thomas Sternberg who was appointed in 1857. His successor John Macalister had a very eerie encounter working late one evening in 1884, where he saw a figure that he initially thought to be an intruder but who seemed to come out of a bookcase and then disappear into a small lavatory. Not long after this incident Macalister saw a picture of the former Librarian and recognised him as the apparition he had encountered.

