

Want to find out more about the Leeds Other Paper?

The Local and Family History Library also holds the following items that may be of interest to anyone researching Leeds Other Paper itself:

- A loose-leaf collection of material documenting the formation of LOP, including minutes of meetings and pre-launch mock-ups, donated by Gordon Wilson. **[Shelfmark: LPQ 072 LEE]**
- A pamphlet telling the story of LOP, written by Tony Harcup and published shortly after the paper's closure in 1994: A Northern Star: Leeds Other Paper and the alternative press 1974-1994. **[Shelfmark: L 072 HAR and LP 072 HAR]**
- Tony Harcup's book Alternative Journalism, Alternative Voices has several chapters on LOP and reproduces much of the text of the above pamphlet. [Shelfmark: L 072 HAR]
- Volume 2 of the oral history project, People's History of Leeds, includes a section based on interviews with former LOP workers. [Shelfmark: L 942.819 LEE]

Some useful links:

- Several posts on Leeds Libraries' heritage blog, Secret Library, draw on material from LOP. You can find them at:

<https://secretlibraryleeds.net/tag/leeds-other-paper/>

- There is also an interesting article about the paper on the University of Leeds libraries blog:

<https://leedsunilibrary.wordpress.com/tag/leeds-other-paper/>

- Finally, extracts of some old LOPs are now being shared on the Remember LOP account on social media platform Bluesky:

<https://bsky.app/profile/rememberlop.bsky.social>

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

For more information:

Heritage and Research

Leeds City Library, Calverley Street, Leeds,
LS1 3AB

T: 0113 378 6982

E: heritageandresearch@leeds.gov.uk

W: www.leeds.gov.uk/libraries

Blog: secretlibraryleeds.net

Newsletter: bit.ly/LeedsLocalHistoryNews



Leeds Other Paper

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

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



Leeds Other Paper

Anyone interested in events in and around Leeds from the 1970s to the 1990s will find *Leeds Other Paper* an invaluable resource, and the Local and Family History Library has a full set. *Leeds Other Paper*, known as *LOP*, was independent of other media outlets and often included alternative angles and voices in its coverage.

The library's bound volumes of *LOP* have been consulted by researchers working on everything from A (almanacs) to Z (zines), including films; TV documentaries; novels; non-fiction books; educational workshops; public lectures; exhibitions; artworks; blogposts; magazine articles; dissertations; and history walks. They have also been used by people looking for references to family or friends, and even for idle curiosity.

Topics for which *LOP* has proved a particularly useful source include the miners' strike; Reclaim the Night; the 1981 riots; Chapeltown Bonfire Night trial; the Bradford 12; Rock Against Racism; the anti-fascist movement; housing issues; tenants' groups; community activism; trade unions; Leeds City Council; Leeds Development Corporation; transport; the LGBTQ+ community; the Asian community; the women's movement; Menwith Hill; Greenham Common; the peace movement; the anti-nuclear movement; disability arts; banned library books; Leeds Animation Workshop; Red Ladder Theatre; football fanzines; grassroots women's football; rugby league; the local music scene; punk; Goths; local media; and much else besides, including numerous stories concerning specific locations, housing estates or employers.

From its news stories to its reviews, from its investigations to its listings, and from its letters' pages to its small ads, *LOP* is a goldmine of West Yorkshire's social, cultural, political and industrial history for the period 1974 to 1994. The papers have not (yet) been digitised or indexed, so the best way of finding useful material is to begin with a rough idea of the time period you are interested in, sit down at a table in the library and simply flick through issues of the paper from around then. Who knows what you might find?

LOP Shelfmark: MIC 072 LEE and MIC 072 NOR

Dates covered by LOP

To help you navigate the library's 44 bound volumes of *LOP*, covering two decades of local history, here are some key dates to note:

- Jan 1974: Leeds Other Paper launches as a monthly (issues 1 to 26).
- April 1976: Leeds Other Paper increases frequency to fortnightly (issues 27 to 139).
- Oct 1980: Leeds Other Paper becomes a weekly, which it remains (issues 140 to 820).
- Jan 1991: Leeds Other Paper adopts the name Northern Star, incorporating *LOP* (issues 669 to 820).
- Jan 1994: Leeds Other Paper/Northern Star publishes its final edition (issue 820).

Two other dates that might help you navigate *LOP*'s back issues are:

- April 1977 (*LOP* number 52), when the paper began including a full What's On Guide to expand on its rudimentary listings of local cultural events; and
- Sept 1987 (*LOP* 497), when it launched a specific Out in the North section written by and for members of the local gay community.

The Other Paper

LOP had a predecessor for a few months in 1969 and 1970 in the form of The Other Paper, which had the same independent ethos and covered similar stories. Published fortnightly from Oct 1969 to March 1970, all 11 issues of The Other Paper are collected in one bound volume within the library.

[Shelfmark: Q335 OT3L]