

Dear Friends,

Many mishaps account for both the truncated programme and my delay in communicating it to you. Apart from some personal problems, emailing is supposed to ease communications but my experience this year has been precisely the opposite! Lots of frustrations and unanswered communications.

Hope to see you soon,

Kind regards,

Janet

West Yorkshire Group of the Victorian Society: two visits

13th May: A Day in Roundhay

'Foremost among the residential suburbs' was how the City of Leeds described Roundhay in 1937, and Roundhay's reputation as a retreat from the dirt and bustle of Leeds goes back over two hundred years, first emerging in the opening decades of the 19th century when in 1803 the banker, Thomas Nicholson and the woollen merchant, Samuel Elam purchased the park of Roundhay, the former built the Mansion House but Elam's motivations were different, for him the enterprise was hopefully a profitable business venture. And after his death in 1810, the land south of Wetherby Road was sold and divided into building plots and number of imposing mansions set in large grounds, were built in the area of Oakwood Lane and North Lane. By 1861 the population of Roundhay was 500 with many still living in cottages and employed in rural occupations. On the death of Thomas Nicholson's nephew in 1868, the Nicholson land also came onto the market. As is well-known, the mayor of Leeds, John Barran bought 774 acres of the estate, the aim being to retain some 150 acres as a public park and the develop the remainder with houses. Although less grand than the earlier villas, these new houses were neither small nor cheap, and their architecture reflects the change in taste from the Classical and Gothic Revival to the Domestic Revival and the Arts and Crafts. The development of Roundhay was transformed by the construction of an electric tramway in the 1890s which made the area accessible to a wider range of the Leeds population. By the turn of the century, west of the Park in the area of Lidgett Park (where our visit begins), speculative builders particularly J.W. Archer began to develop former farm land with smaller detached and semi-detached houses. Archer's architect, William Carby Hall designed many of these Edwardian homes in a mix of brick and render with pitched gable roofs. Although the houses tend to towards uniformity, the area is enhanced by three listed churches which the Victorian Society have not visited before: St Edmunds Anglican Church (Carby Hall, 1907(;; St Andrew's United Reform Church (W.H. Beevers, 1907-8) and Lidgett Lane Methodists Church (Arthur Brocklehurst, 1926).

Our visit begins at St Edmund's Church, Lidgett Park Road at 10.30am and in the morning we will also visit Lidgett Lane Methodists and St Andrew's United Reform Church. After lunch, meeting at 2pm by Oakwood Clock, there will be a walk round the Oakwood area of Roundhay along Oakwood Lane, North Lane, Asket Hill, St John's Church (Thomas Taylor 1826-6) and back along Wetherby Road to Oakwood Clock. The tour will finish at about 4pm.

Getting there by public transport: no.12 bus from Upper Briggate by St John's Church to Roundhay Park gates (Tropical World), and walk back down Princes Avenue to Lidgett Park Road on the right.

An embarrassment of riches regarding **lunch**. Plenty of cafes on Street Lane, or otherwise walk to Oakwood where again there is no shortage of places to eat

Guides: Janet Douglas and Anne Wilkinson

Cost of the visit: £10

Members might like to know that Leeds Parks, Past, Present & Future, a university-based research group, are organising a series of events based in Roundhay Park between 29th April-1st May.

For their full programme, see www.futureofparks.leeds.ac.uk

Wednesday 5th July 2017: Sheffield City Centre Visit

The visit starts at 10.30am at the Cutlers' Hall opposite the Cathedral tram stop. We are given a tour of this, one of the most significant buildings in the city (1832, extended 1865-7 and 1888); refreshments will be served at the end of the tour.

We then walk through Paradise Square (the remnant of Sheffield's Georgian quarter, 1736 and 1771) and proceed to the Upper Chapel, the oldest Nonconformist chapel in the city (1700, altered 1847-8, 1900 and 1907) and the associated Channing Hall (1881-2).

We then visit the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St Marie (1846-50), based on a 14th century church at Heckington in Lincolnshire and expensively decorated with the aid of generous donations by the Duke of Norfolk including with some fittings and stained glass by Pugin. The church was raised to cathedral status in 1980 and has recently been re-opened after extensive restorations. The Presbytery now Cathedral House dates from 1900.

From the cathedral we walk to the Town Hall (1891-7, extended 1914-23) and view the impressive Staircase Hall. Noting a rich variety of buildings of our period, we cross Barker's Pool and its war memorial (1925) in front of City Hall (1928-32) to Division Street and the fine palazzo style Sheffield Waterworks Company offices (1867).

We then find our way back to the Anglican Cathedral of St Peter and St Paul (c1430); successive alterations continued up to a major restoration in 1878-80. The church was raised to cathedral status in 1914 and substantial extensions were carried out in both twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

The tour concludes at the Leopold Hotel in Leopold Street, recently developed in the former Sheffield School Board offices (1880) on one side of what is now Leopold Square; cream teas will be available here at 4.30pm. It is then only a short walk back to the cathedral tram stop.

Meet: the visit starts and concludes outside the Cutlers' Hall opposite the Anglican Cathedral.

Travel details: For those travelling from Leeds by train, the 09.06 Northern service to Sheffield and Nottingham arrives in Sheffield at 10.02. From the arrival platform one should make one's way to the tram platform at the rear of the station accessed directly

off the main footbridge. From here we take a tram (Blue route to Cathedral) or Purple route to Malin Bridge via Cathedral) to the Cathedral stop; fare £1.70 single, £3.00 return, payable to the conductor on board the trams.

There are trains back to Leeds on a half-hourly timetable, at 17.18 arriving Leeds 18.17, 17.50 arriving Leeds 18.50, etc.

Guide: Richard Tinker

Cost: £10 (excluding tea at the Leopold Hotel)

Bookings: Please make bookings with Stephen Walker at Stephen.walker34@btopenworld.com Tel: 01943 885969

Note: This visit has been re-arranged from Saturday 17th June with a different itinerary, to enable us to visit the Cutlers' Hall, not open on Saturdays, and to the Upper Chapel, open to the public only on Wednesdays.