

### Glass Half Full Tour by Katie Etheridge

Thanks to Emily Yowell, Cliff Hocken and Brian Bettison.

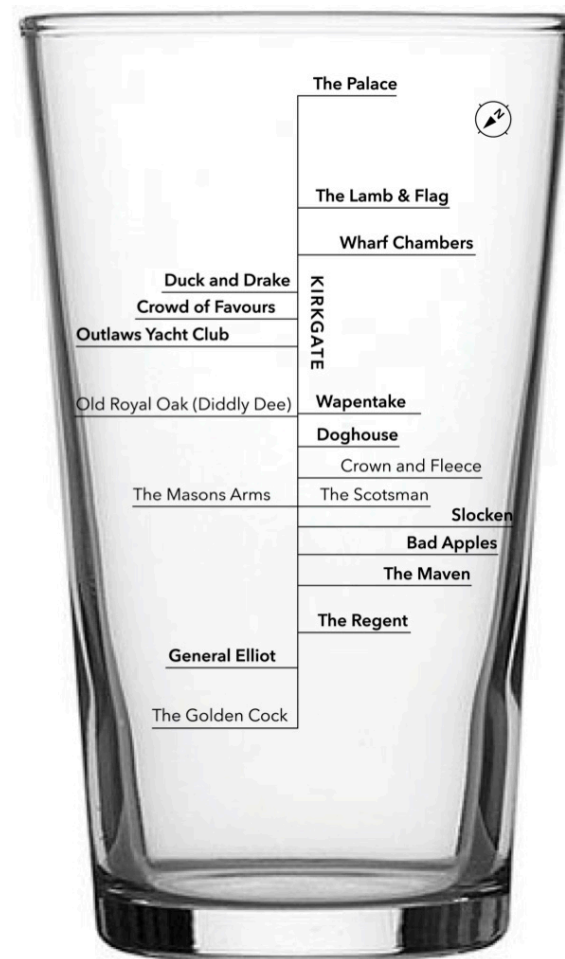
Further reading: A History of Kirkgate by Steven Burt & Kevin Grady

Project info at: [small-acts.co.uk](http://small-acts.co.uk)



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## Public House - The Yorkshire Square GLASS HALF FULL

### Self-Guided Pub Tour

A journey along Leeds oldest street exploring the past, present and future of Kirkgate's pubs and bars through a pint glass lens.

1

**The Golden Cock** *The trail starts on the corner of Kirkgate and Central Road. Stand opposite Superdrug and let your eyes wander up the building. Can you see a Gold Cockerel? Records dating back to 1644 refer to a pub here called The Golden Cock Inn. It had its own brew house, stables and cock-pit. Over 100's of years, the facade may have changed but the pub retained its name until the 1970's, when it became The Precinct. As well as a place to pop in for refreshments on a Saturday shopping excursion, it became a popular venue for soul music nights, with a dance floor in the form of a boxing ring.*

**Eye Spy** - Can you spot traces of former brewery signage on the tiled facade?

**Question** - A crowing cockerel signifies the dawn of a new day. At the start of this walk down Leeds oldest street, how optimistic do you feel about the future of pubs?

2

**The Scotsman** *Walk towards Kirkgate Market, cross the road to continue on Kirkgate, passing The Regent. Stop on the corner of Call Lane outside Storeys Amusements. Welcome to the "Office". In the 20th century, the market and surrounding pubs were deeply interconnected. Look above the door of Storeys. The head of The Scotsman is the last remaining clue to its former life as a pub. In 1984 Cliff Hocken of Hayes Seafoods had to barrow all his produce to the market from a nearby warehouse everyday. One morning Cliff was passing The Scotsman with a finely balanced barrow of crabs, when a stool suddenly flew out of the pub window, stopping traffic, tipping the barrow, and scattering crabs all over the road.*

**Eye Spy** - Can you spot another pub sign carved in stone over the road? Clue: You may have to roll up one trouser leg.

**Question** - Have you ever had a pub that was your "Office"?

3

**Crown and Fleece Inn** *Optional Diversion to find a Lost Pub. Walk down Call Lane, turning left onto the cobbled street before the Corn Exchange. The far end of this little wedge of buildings and the yard behind it (Crown Court) was home to the Crown and Fleece until the 1930's. Today these buildings keep their secrets close, but their scale and atmosphere evoke another time. A pair of stone carved skulls discovered in the former stables behind are thought to tell a gruesome tale of two soldiers avoiding the press gang.*

**Eye Spy** - Can you see any ghostly traces of the name of the former pub and yard? Clue: Don't turn blue. *Retrace your steps to The Scotsman*

4

**Old Royal Oak** *Continue down Kirkgate past the restoration of the First White Cloth Hall, and stop at The Doghouse. Observe Albaba Lebanese Restaurant over the road. The green painted drain pipe and stained glass are perhaps the only nod to its former life as an Irish pub the Old Royal Oak. Stretching all the way back to New York Street the Diddy Dee, as it was known, was an atmospheric pub with live music that was popular with market traders, and only closed its doors in recent memory.*

5

**Wapentake** *Since opening in 2015, this bar and cafe with the atmosphere of a friendly local pub has played an important role in the regeneration of Leeds oldest street. Along with the **Doghouse** next door, these crumbling former shops were renovated and transformed into imaginative new bars, and now are surrounded by a growing ripple of creative businesses.*

"The term "politics of prefiguration" has long been used to describe the idea that if you embody what you aspire to, you have already succeeded... Activism, in this model, is not only a toolbox to change things but a home in which to take up residence and live according to your beliefs, even if its a temporary and local place, this paradise of participating, this vale where souls get made."

Rebecca Solnit *Hope in the Dark*

**Here you are standing at the intersection of Kirkgate pubs past, present and future. Is your glass half empty or half full?**

6

**Duck and Drake** *Stroll a little further down Kirkgate to find the Duck and Drake on your left. This much loved Kirkgate pub is one of the few historic survivors near the market. Well known for live music, real ale and a traditional stop for market shoppers, it's a proper pub frequented by all ages. Its tempting to pop in for a half, just to see the murals..*

7

**Wharf Chambers** *Go under the railway bridge and turn right down Wharf Street. Halfway down look out for Wharf Chambers. Run as a co-operative, this members bar shows different models of ownership can be possible when it comes to pubs and social spaces, from community owned businesses to members co-operatives.*

**Question** - Can you name any pubs that have been bought by the community?

8

**The Lamb and Flag** *Turn left at the end of Wharf Street and keep going to the crossing. Cross over to find The Lamb and Flag, another new pub in an old building. Next to Leeds Minster, in the 19th century there was a pub here called The Thirteen Bells.*

9

**The Palace** *Continue on this side of the road past Leeds Minster till you reach The Palace. Standing in the grounds of the Minster you can get a good view of old The Melbourne Brewery sign painted on the side of the building, a clue to Leeds rich brewing history. Is that the time?*

How do you feel about the future of pubs now that you have travelled the length of Leeds oldest street looking through the pint glass lens? It's time to decide if your glass is half full or half empty.

Same again? Or try something new? What could you do to influence the future of pubs?