

Walk Around the Clock

Heritage Trail Guide



Supported by

The National Lottery®
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



"Not only is Oakwood Clock the symbol of our local community but its restoration has shown that by working together, we can honour our past, enjoy our present and benefit the future"

Walk Around the Clock Heritage Trail Guide

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Company Number **8304101** Further information can be found at [Companies House](#)
Registered Office 641A Roundhay Road, Leeds LS8 4BA Email info@oakwoodtra.org
Website www.loveoakwood.co.uk

It is also a registered Charity Number **1152482**
Further information can be found at the [Charity Commission](#)

Before you set out

This Heritage Trail is based on one created by Hilary Dyson for the Oakwood and District Historical Society and published in their Part Nine - Autumn 2009 edition of Oak Leaves. We thank her for giving us permission to use it as the basis for this trail.



www.oakwoodchurch.info/odhs

Walk Around the Clock is intended as an introduction to the history and geography of Oakwood. It is 'circular' and can be completed in about an hour. Please join it at any point and take as long as you like.

Anyone following the Heritage Trail does so at their own risk. You should be cautious and use your own judgement on all questions of health and safety.

The walk is suitable for families but includes steps and unsurfaced paths so in poor weather it may be advisable to wear stout shoes. Those with mobility scooters or pushchairs may choose to use one of the alternative routes mentioned in the text.

Download this Trail Guide as a PDF and discover much more about Oakwood history at www.oakwoodchurch.info/walkaroundtheclock

Those who own smartphones equipped with barcode reading software may scan the QR codes to load the supporting web pages.

SatNav users will find the Oakwood Clock Blue Plaque at 500 Roundhay Road, Oakwood, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS8 2HU

Discover more Oakwood history at

www.oakwoodchurch.info/history



The information contained in this Trail Guide was, to the best of our growing knowledge, correct at April 2015. Please add to our Oakwood history, comment on the Heritage Trail or suggest improvements by emailing history@oakwoodchurch.info

Walk Around the Clock – Heritage Trail

www.oakwoodchurch.info/walkaroundtheclock



Start / Finish at the Heritage Trail panel by Oakwood Clock bus stop.

1. Trams

www.oakwoodchurch.info/trams



By 1843 a twice daily horse-drawn omnibus service was being operated between the toll bar at Roundhay (by Wetherby Road junction with Elmete Lane) and The Black Bull at Leeds. In 1872 when Roundhay Park opened 100,000 people attended. Most of them would have had to walk miles from Leeds or ride unregulated waggonettes.

By 1880 a more frequent horse drawn omnibus service was operating to the impressive new Roundhay Park entrance Lodge by the new road called Princes Avenue which had opened in 1878.

In 1889 Leeds Corporation built a tram track from Sheepscar to Oakwood. To return, the original steam-hauled tram route circled around the present site of Oakwood Clock. The trams were electrified in 1891 and by July 1897 the track was extended along the west side of Princes Avenue to a Terminus near Canal Gardens. Trams travelled between what are now avenues of trees.

From 1913 to 1958 Oakwood Clock served as a tram shelter. It remains a meeting point and resting place for residents and visitors.

Tram rides might be for work, pleasure or to unplanned adventure.

Marshall Capel *"I can remember the runaway tram...it careered down Roundhay Road...left the tracks, and ran onto the main road. I can remember the white marks from the wheels that were left there for years afterwards. I remember them towing the tram back onto the rails to remove it...they were rockety – click, click, bang, bang."*

*Walk past Oakwood Clock and look up the left hand side of Princes Avenue, then return to find the information panel by **Oakwood Clock***

2. Oakwood Clock

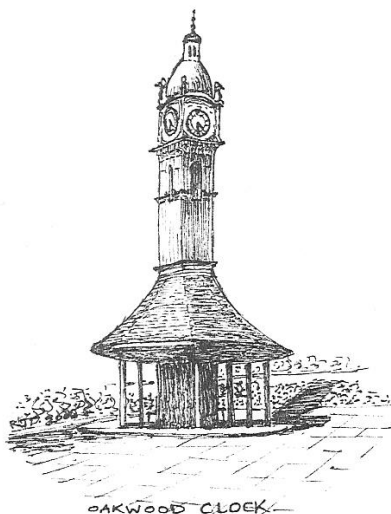


Nick Wayne *"The Oakwood Clock itself is almost symbolic of growing up and youth. It was the meeting place... 'I'll meet you round by the clock'. It was the landmark that people from all over Leeds would know of...it's got fond memories...it would be an awful, awful gap in the landscape if it wasn't there."*

After a huge fundraising effort by local residents and businesses the Clock Tower was restored in spring 2015.

You can find out more at the panels fixed to the clock and on the interpretive panel nearby.

Originally commissioned from the famous Leeds firm founded by William Potts for the new Leeds Kirkgate Market, the clock was moved to its present position in 1913. There is a Blue Plaque on the Estate Agent's building across Roundhay Road which mistakenly states that the clock was moved to Oakwood in 1912. That was the date it was removed from Leeds Kirkgate Market but it took some time to find this new home for it.



Michael Parr *"The story is about my great grandfather, who was called William Paley and he died after falling from the clock. We believe that it was at the time (when) they were taking the clock down, to take it up to Oakwood...it was at the middle entrance of the market and presumably the scaffolding collapsed and he died from his injuries...he left six children...they did not have any money...and we think the mother suffered a lot"*

Walk half right down the slope aiming to the right of the bus shelter then carefully cross Gledhow Lane at its junction with Roundhay Road to **Stone semi-detached houses**.



3. Stone semi-detached houses

Built in the latter half of the 1800s before the shops existed, one of these houses is called Woodland Cottage. The basement was used as a doctors' surgery until the new surgery was built (see **Oakwood Surgery** below)

They were built later than Woodlands, the large house at the top of the hill situated just before Gledhow Lane turns sharp left, which appears on the 1847 surveyed Ordnance Survey map. They are not shown on the 1871 Hepper Sale maps for the auction where Barran bought two lots including Roundhay Park but they do appear on the 1891/2 Ordnance Survey map.

*Walk up Gledhow Lane and turn first left up Fitzroy Drive, crossing Gledhow Rise to arrive at the **Parochial Hall** and **Home Guard Club**.*

4. Parochial Hall and Home Guard Club

www.oakwoodchurch.info/phhg



On 5 January 1912 an uncomfortably crowded Roundhay St John Church parochial meeting, reportedly the first social gathering of its sort, was held in the restricted space available at the old National School. A proposal was made to provide a public hall or adequate meeting place *‘to create a spirit of friendship and greater unity amongst the people of the parish’* and *‘in which all branches of the Church work might be concentrated’*.

It was not until 1925 that land was secured for £1,000; and the costs of erecting the building were estimated at £5,000, all to be raised by public subscription. Although erected under the auspices of Roundhay St John Church, the Hall was to be run by an independent management committee and made available to all denominations. Ultimately only £3,000 was raised so the building had to be mortgaged. The management committee was dogged by financial difficulties for almost 30 years before the Hall was put on a sound footing.

On 18 August 1927 when laying the foundation stone Lord Brotherton had noted that *“its management is to be non-political, and non-sectarian, a public meeting place for the community”*.

Roundhay Parochial Hall houses the Parochial and Home Guard Club, now a snooker club. In 1940 more than 100 men all of whom were under or over military age joined the L.D.V. (Local Defence Volunteers). In 1942 the ‘Home Guard’ was given permission to use the Parochial Hall as a club and a licence was granted to keep up the fighting morale. All public houses had been severely rationed but the Home Guard were given priority.

George Clayton *“I love it (The Home Guard Club). I think it’s a smashing little place...it’s got a real homely feel to it and it’s a nice place to have a drink, and once you get to know people there, it’s a real draw.”*

*Retrace your steps to Gledhow Rise and turn right to walk down behind the parade of shops to **Oakwood Surgery**.*

5. Oakwood Surgery

The new surgery was built on the site of the yard formerly belonging to members of the Lax family who were largely responsible for the development of Harehills towards the end of the 1800s.

Henry Lax Ltd is a local property developer based in Roundhay that still own the quarried woodland between Ravenscar View and Tesco's car park.

The Supermarket car park is the site of one of many quarries around Oakwood.

Please be careful of cars and mindful that this is private land. There is no public right of way.

Walk to the far back corner of the car park where there is evidence of quarrying. **Quarrying – Supermarket car park**



6. Quarrying – Supermarket car park

www.oakwoodchurch.info/quarrying



At the far back corner of the car park you will see outcrops of rock which bear witness to quarrying. This was Oakwood's principal industry during the 1800s and there were many quarries in the area.



Most of the mansions, shops and houses built around Oakwood from the 1700s to the 1900s were made from locally quarried stone.

John Harrison *"One of my early memories is of the quarry... although it had a fence between the quarry and Fitzroy Drive, there was a path you could get on through woodland, and as a child we used to play on this path with this great drop a few feet away."*

"There were quarries down Gledhow Wood Road. I remember one of the boys at school falling down and breaking his jaw in one."

This grandly designed supermarket building was originally constructed as a local Co-operative shop. The retail area has been greatly

extended over the years and its upper storey converted to offices. It enjoyed a number of other owners, including Safeway and Somerfield, before again becoming a Co-operative food shop in about 2010.

*Return across the car park and descend the steps behind the shop. Follow the pavement left around the building to admire its originally handsome stone frontage complete with marble detailing. Walk on down Roundhay Road crossing carefully over Oakwell Mount by its junction with Roundhay Road to the **1960s Shopping Parade**.*

7. 1960s Shopping Parade

www.oakwoodchurch.info/shops



This 'modern' parade of shops, which replaced a large BMC car dealer called Barkers, is typical of a great many buildings constructed at that time and their questionable architectural merit. Perhaps they serve as a warning to maintain vigilance over local planning applications?

*Continue down Roundhay Road to cross Ravenscar Avenue by its junction with Roundhay Road. Turn to view **Quarrymen's Cottages**.*

8. Quarrymen's Cottages

www.oakwoodchurch.info/quarrying



The building facing Roundhay Road houses on its ground floor, a hair, nails and beauty salon called S.C. Glamour.

It was built in about 1900 by the brothers Lax. When they bought land for their Ravenscar development further up the slope, there were cottages across what is now Ravenscar Avenue which they demolished to provide road access. They built this property larger than the adjacent cottages and it is thought always to have been a shop of one sort or another.



Walking up Ravenscar Avenue, the rendered terrace of workers cottages on your right was built in about 1840 for quarry workers by the same person who built the original public house which stood opposite, perhaps with a customer base of thirsty workers in mind?

*Walk a few steps down Roundhay Road to **The Roundhay (Pub)***



9. The Roundhay (Pub)

www.oakwoodchurch.info/theroundhaypub

There has been a public house on this site since about 1840 and for much of its time it had its own brew house. The original building, flanked by cottages, opened almost directly on to the pavement.

In the last few decades of the original building's existence there was a bowling green behind it, apparently of county match standard, which was used by the Gipton Wood Bowling Club.

A few years before World War Two the original building was demolished and replaced by the present design complete with car park, presumably to attract a geographically wider base of more affluent customers reflecting Oakwood's rapidly growing and relatively prosperous population.



It has traded under several names including 'The Gipton Wood Inn', 'The Gipton Wood Hotel', or more simply 'The Gipton' but is now called 'The Roundhay'.

Continue down Roundhay Road and look to the right.

The wooded hillside behind the former Homebase DIY shop used to be Gipton Quarry, a major source of stone for Leeds buildings throughout the 1800s. This is private land where much visible evidence of quarrying still remains.

*Carefully cross the road entrance to Tesco and pause before the site of the vast **Olympia Roller Skating Rink**.*

10. Olympia Roller Skating Rink by James Ogden www.oakwoodchurch.info/rollerskating



On 18 September 1909 in the midst of a huge craze the huge Olympia Roller Skating Rink opened, billed as “The Finest Rink in England”.



By 1912 the ‘rinking’ craze was firmly in decline. Several rinks elsewhere had closed and Olympia looked for ways to diversify. In August 1912 the Leeds Industrial Exhibition was hosted and in 1913 Olympia started to host boxing. Skating still took place but sessions were much reduced and before World War One began in 1914 Olympia had closed.

Fortunately this failed business left behind a huge building with minimal internal supporting pillars, which proved ideal for Robert Blackburn to assemble aircraft; and there was adjacent space for the vast factory expansion that followed.

The rink’s original footprint is covered by the Tesco shop.

*Turn right over a pedestrian crossing to find, beside Tesco’s shop door, a Blue Plaque which marks the site of the **Olympia Works**.*

11. Olympia Works

www.oakwoodchurch.info/olympiaworks



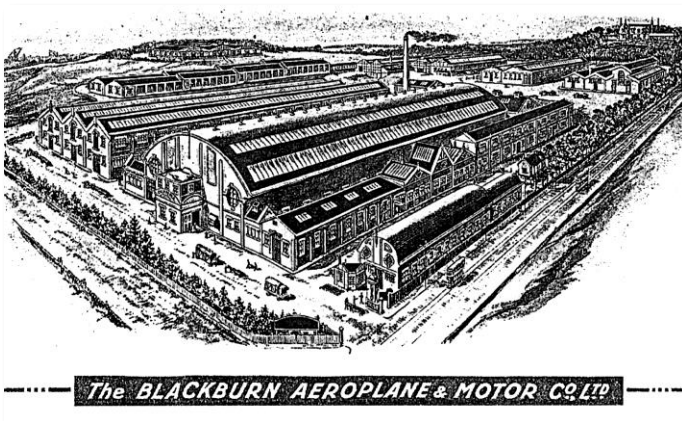
On 17 December 1903 Orville Wright flew the first powered aircraft just 37metres in a flight lasting 12 seconds. In July 1909 Louis Bleriot became the first person to fly across the English Channel.

By 1910 the earliest Blackburn aircraft had been designed, built and flown by Kirkstall boy Robert Blackburn, though he crash-landed on a beach near Saltburn, North Yorkshire only a minute after take-off.



In 1914, aged 29, Robert married his first wife Jessica Tryphena Thompson who had inherited a fortune, set up home at Gledhow Lodge on Gledhow Wood Road, founded the Blackburn Aeroplane and Motor Company and opened the Olympia Works.

In the middle of their wedding reception, a telegram had arrived for Robert from Winston Churchill, then First Lord of the Admiralty, with news of Robert's first government contract to build aircraft.



Many aircraft types were built at the rapidly expanding Olympia Works including over 100 BE2C army and navy biplanes and the famous Kangaroo, Swift and Sopwith Baby.

Newly constructed aircraft were towed up Roundhay Road and test flown from Soldiers Field by pilots such as William Rowland Ding.

After World War One ended Robert tried to sustain his aircraft manufacturing business by kick-starting commercial aviation. He introduced the first scheduled air service in Great Britain, offering half-hourly flights between Leeds (Roundhay) and Bradford. The Lord Mayor of Leeds was one of his first passengers.

In 1919 he set up the North Sea Aerial Navigation Company, using ex-World War One war-planes, which operated a regular passenger service between Leeds and Hounslow (London) and between Leeds and Amsterdam, as well as cargo flights.

The Olympia Works closed in the late 1920s but was reopened for aircraft manufacturing in 1934.

The aeroplane most associated with Leeds is the Swordfish torpedo bomber.

A Swordfish torpedo strike from HMS Ark Royal in May 1941 was vitally important in disabling the powerful German battleship Bismarck.



Colleen Kitching *“My father was General Manager of Blackburn Aircraft...so that was quite exciting, going round the factory and the grounds, which we were allowed to...with my father shooting foxes in the grounds, where there was a wooded area.”*

In 1960 Blackburn Aircraft Ltd's production facilities became part of Hawker Siddeley and the Olympia Works finally closed in 1961.

*Retrace your steps and cross carefully over Roundhay Road at the pedestrian island. Pause and look downhill to see flats at the junction of Harehills Avenue and Roundhay Road. This was until recently the site of the **Astoria Ballroom**.*

12. Astoria Ballroom

www.oakwoodchurch.info/astoria



Opened in 1929, formerly known as the Harehills Palais-de-Danse, the Astoria became one of Leeds' prime entertainment venues.



In the 1940s it hosted 'Tea Dances', where people wore dinner jackets and long gowns.

From 1969 until the early 1980s live wrestling bouts were staged at the Astoria.

During the 1980s there was a lively 'music scene' including Jazz and Northern Soul.

Carol Wurr *"The times that I had there were really happy...and boy did we use to dress up... We used to go every Saturday night and it was definitely the place to go if you wanted a little bit of ballroom dancing and a little bit of rock n' roll...and people came from all over Leeds."*

After its closure in 1992 it became Amrik's electrical showroom until 1995.

*Walk up Roundhay Road towards Oakwood Clock beside a wide green verge next to the pavement where the trams used to travel on their way up to and from Oakwood Clock. Stop when you reach the stone steps at the entrance to **Gipton Wood**.*

*Those with pushchairs or mobility scooters may choose to continue up Roundhay Road and turn right up **Oakwood Boundary Road**. If that seems too steep then continue up Roundhay Road, turn right up Oakwood Lane and rejoin the Trail at **6 Oakwood Lane**.*

13. Gipton Wood

www.oakwoodchurch.info/giptonwood



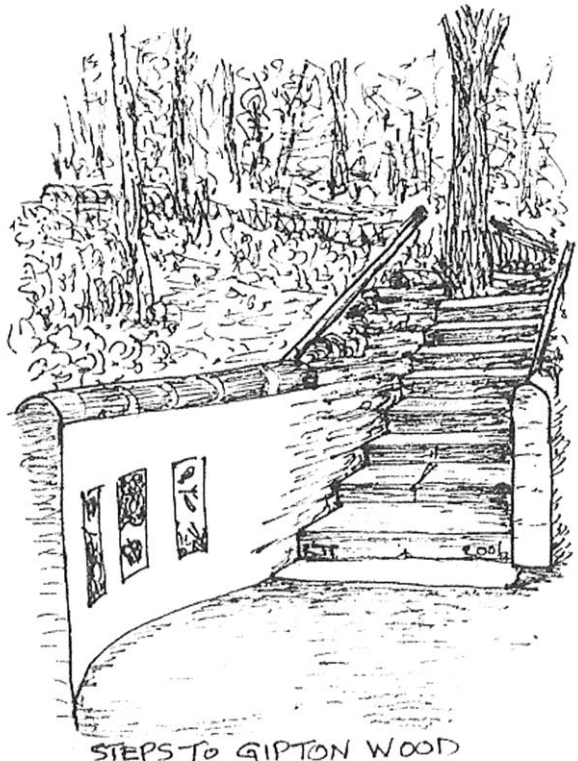
Gipton Wood was gifted to the people of Leeds in 1923.

The Friends of Gipton Wood are very active in promoting and preserving the plants, animals and history.

This ancient woodland contains the remains of a quarry or adit to the south. Near Oakwood Boundary Road there is a Scheduled Ancient Monument [SAM], an enclosure and field system dating from the late Bronze Age or Romano-British period (c.1000 BC – 400 AD).

The last 20m before emerging in Oakwood Boundary Road passes over the encircling ditch of the enclosure site which is situated to your right. Be prepared for dips in the unsurfaced path.

*Take the steps leading up into the wood from the entrance which was tiled by local school children. Ignore a clay path to the right and follow the tarmac uphill to a Y fork with street light. Bear left, up shallow steps to a cross path at their top. Turn left and continue forward ignoring cross paths. On reaching a steel bench bear half right for the final 20m to emerge in **Oakwood Boundary Road**.*



14. Oakwood Boundary Road

www.oakwoodchurch.info/roundhaypark



Oakwood Boundary Road is still surfaced with quarried stone setts which were in widespread use, particularly on steeper streets because they provided horses' hooves with better grip than a smooth surface.

The Gipton Wood side of the road marks the boundary of the Norman hunting park from which we get the name 'Roundhay'.

'Lerundeheia' is more than 900 years old. The name is first mentioned in a charter of 1153 whereby Henry de Lacy granted those lands next to Roundhay to the monks of Kirkstall Abbey. It derives its name from the circular 'hay' or 'round enclosure' created at the end of the 11th century on lands granted by William the Conqueror to Ilbert de Lacy as a hunting park for members of William's Norman aristocracy. It was one of 2000 hunting parks the Normans enjoyed and part of Ilbert's reward for his loyalty in helping William carry out the 'Harrying of the North', brutally crushing the Anglo-Scandinavian revolt of 1069.

Lerundeheia's perimeter ditch and bank was 6 miles around. A surviving section of ditch near Kirkstall Abbey's Roundhay Grange is twenty feet wide and ten feet deep. The bank was fenced with vertical pales of oak. Construction was a massive undertaking, estimated to have required moving 250,000 tons of earth and cutting thousands of trees. (One can speculate how Ilbert commanded the labour needed.)

In time the Round Hay's ancient boundary became a Parish boundary, Parliamentary boundary and boundary with Leeds which achieved City status on 13 Feb 1893. The independent Township of Roundhay was swallowed up by the Leeds extension scheme in 1912.

The boundary of the Round Hay is still evident in land boundaries at Roundhay today. For instance, you can see this evidenced by an unexpected kink in Gledhow Lane as it crosses the ancient hunting park boundary road near its junction with St Catherines Walk.

*At the top of Oakwood Boundary Road walk along the right hand pavement of **Oakwood Drive** towards Oakwood Lane.*

15. Oakwood Drive

www.oakwoodchurch.info/oakwood



Notice the early 1900s large terraced and detached houses built on the 'Oakwood Building Estate', formerly grounds of Oakwood House.

*Take the second road on the right called **Oakwood Mount**.*

16. Oakwood Mount

www.oakwoodchurch.info/oakwoodhouse



From here you can view the back entrance to Oakwood House built in about 1830. It is now a nursing home called Sabourn Court.

*Returning to Oakwood Drive turn right and continue to its junction with Oakwood Lane. The first house on your left is **6 Oakwood Lane**.*

17. House at 6 Oakwood Lane

www.oakwoodchurch.info/wrestling



Behind this door is the former home of wrestling dynasty the de Relwyskow family.

Since 1936/7 three generations lived here. In 2003 when the house was emptied it contained literally a ton of memorabilia.

Not many people are aware that the family included:

- A double Olympic Medal winner
- A secret agent
- A TV star and international champion



*Turn right up Oakwood Lane to see by Tudor Lodge the former gate posts of **Towerhurst**.*



18. Tudor Lodge - Towerhurst

www.oakwoodchurch.info/towerhurst

Look across Oakwood Lane to its junction with Springwood Road and the imposing gate posts by Tudor Lodge.



These formerly marked the entrance to Towerhurst, the home of William Penrose-Green who was Conservative Lord Mayor of Leeds in 1909.

William Penrose's widowed mother remarried Thomas Green, proprietor of Smithfield Ironworks in North Street. Starting with wire production Thomas' had rapidly extended his product range to include bells, lawn mowers, garden rollers, food preparation machinery, steam locomotives, road rollers, and even steam trams.

William married his stepfather's granddaughter Martha, taking the additional name Green. He quickly rose to lead the Company. Politically influential on Leeds City Council and Roundhay District Council; he was well travelled; a local philanthropist who gifted lands on which **Oakwood Church**, the **Air Training Corps** building and **Roundhay St John's School** stand. A keen motorist and sportsman he played a major part in establishing Leeds Golf Club at Cobble Hall.

Though no impropriety was demonstrated, he withdrew from political life following litigation about potential conflicts of interest. The High Court found that being a director of several businesses that supplied Leeds City Council disqualified him from membership of it.

William died in 1941 and Towerhurst was demolished in the 1960s.

*Continue up Oakwood Lane and turn first right into Oakwood Grove to view the front of **Oakwood House – now Sabourn Court***



19. Oakwood House – now Sabourn Court

www.oakwoodchurch.info/oakwoodhouse

In 1825 this land was owned by George Goodman who sold it to Abraham Rhodes.

Abraham and his brothers had turned their father's wool dyeing business into a successful manufacturing and trading Company. He probably built the house before he died in 1838.



By the terms of Abraham's Will each of his three sons-in-law in turn had the option to purchase his Roundhay property for the sum of £6,000. William Cadman, a wholesale tobacconist who had married Abraham's daughter Amelia, had the first option and bought it (along with Abraham's Estate at Wold Newton).

Cadman family papers suggest that William Cadman found himself in his element as the squire of a country estate; so much so that he abandoned his business and social life in Leeds without a backward glance devoting his time to hunting, shooting and breeding race-horses on a small scale. By 1845 the Cadmans had left Roundhay. However Amelia's youngest sister Martha had married William Nicholson who would inherit Roundhay Park and Mansion in 1863.

For about 20 years the house was occupied by the notable Reverend James Armitage Rhodes who called it Wood End. Rhodes eventually moved to Pontefract and in 1865 the Cadmans sold Wood End to Henry Hudson, senior partner in the firm of woollen manufacturers. Henry named it 'Oakwood House'. When Henry died in 1891 his heirs put much of the grounds up for sale as the 'Oakwood Building Estate' and around that time the local area became known as 'Oakwood'.

*Cross Oakwood Grove then turn left and return to Oakwood Lane.
Turn right then look across the road to view **Air Training Corps***

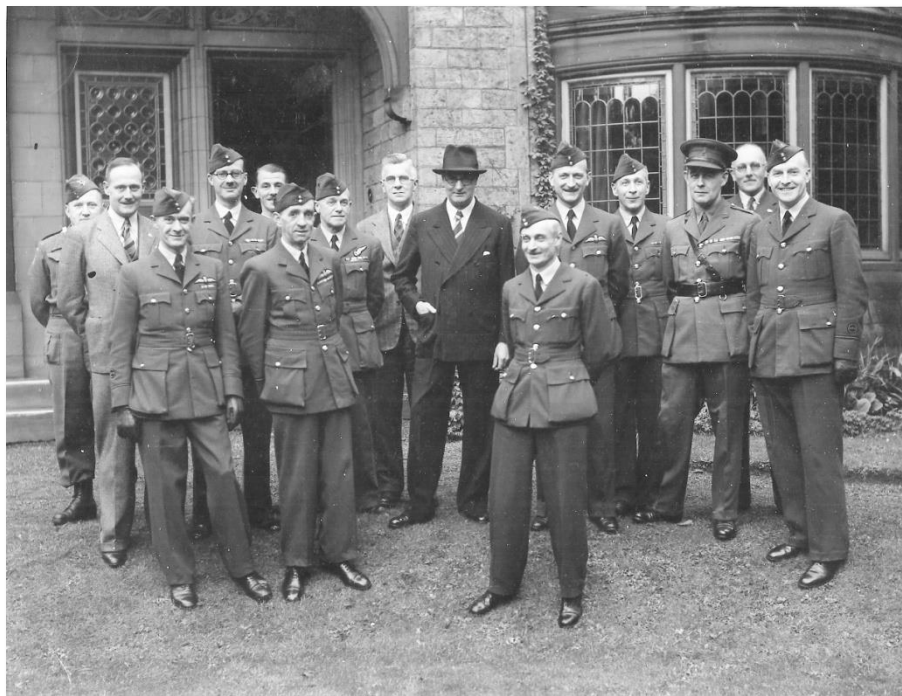
20. Air Training Corps

www.oakwoodchurch.info/atc



On 5 February 1941, The Air Training Corps was granted a Royal Warrant by King George VI to prepare young men for the R.A.F.

What is now the 208 (North Leeds) Squadron Air Training Corps was established in 1941 and was closely affiliated with Blackburn's **Olympia Works** aircraft factory on Roundhay Road. Its first commanding officer was Bill Hartwell, General Manager of Blackburn Aircraft and grandfather of 208 Squadron's present day Civilian Instructor Dale Kitching.



Colleen Kitching *"My father was the Commanding Officer of the Air Training Corps at Towerhurst. My sister and I used to go and make the tea for the young men. I was between fourteen and sixteen." (Colleen's future husband Eric was one of the cadets.)*

Cross Oakwood Lane and turn right to view **Springwood**

21. Springwood

www.oakwoodchurch.info/quarrying



The building now called Springwood was the gatehouse of the mansion formerly called Springwood but now called Fraser house.

When the mansion was called Springwood it was the home of Arthur Greenhow Lupton, one of a well known family of woollen merchants.

Arthur, his neighbour at **Towerhurst** William Penrose-Green and one other person were the leading citizens who sat on the small Roundhay District Council which lasted from 1889 to 1912. They were involved in many community schemes, including promoting the **Roundhay and District Electric Lighting Company Ltd.**

For as long as possible they campaigned to preserve the District Council, standing out against incorporation within the City of Leeds and the prospect of paying higher 'Rates' (now called Council Tax).

If you examine the stone wall at the left of the gatehouse you will see excellent examples of "Harehills tooling".



*Continue along Oakwood Lane for 250m to turn first left into Oakwood Grange Lane. Follow the pavement until you have crossed the junction with Tatham Way. Continue on the road to stand by Oakwood Hall and view the blocked entrance gate to **Oakwood Grange**.*

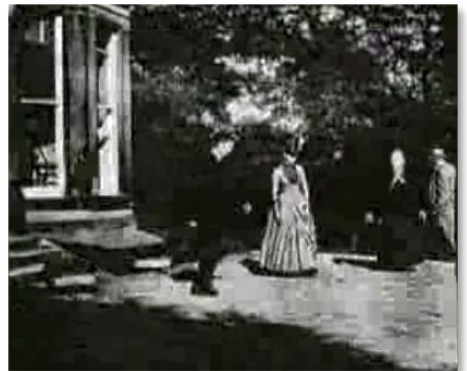
22. Louis Le Prince – Oakwood Grange

www.oakwoodchurch.info/louisleprince



You are standing outside a mansion now called Oakwood Hall, formerly The Acacias. Oakwood Grange Lane used to continue another 40m to the gates of a mansion called Oakwood Grange now replaced by a development of modern 'Georgian' style houses. All that remain are the gateposts blocked by random-stone infill, and part of its high, cut-stone garden wall.

During October 1888 in the garden at Oakwood Grange, Louis Aime Augustin Le Prince made the world's first moving pictures with a single lens camera, now referred to as 'Roundhay Garden Scene'. His mother-in-law Mrs Sarah Whitley who appears in the film dressed in black, died on 24 October 1888.



Louis had begun designing a single lens camera in 1885 and applied for a US patent on 2 November 1886. It is not certain whether he ever managed to project his pictures. There are various testimonies claiming that he succeeded in doing so though E Kilburn Scott, who installed an arc lamp as a projector light source for Le Prince, does not mention ever seeing pictures projected. None of his films, cameras or projection apparatus is known to have survived. All that remain are copies of paper prints from sections of three 'films'. (Leeds Industrial Museum at Armley Mills displays a replica of his camera.)

He was unable to perform a planned public demonstration in the US because on 16th September 1890 Louis mysteriously disappeared. He was last seen at Dijon boarding a Paris train. A photograph from

1890 of a drowning victim resembling Le Prince was discovered at the Paris police archives in 2003.

*Retrace a few steps to pass through the hedge on your right. Turn left along the ginnel for 10m to find broken railings and an unsurfaced path on your right near the site where **William Roland Ding** died.*

On 12 May 2017 there was a gathering at the site to mark the 100th Anniversary of his death. A Permanent Memorial to Ding was finally erected at the site and unveiled by his grandson on 21 August 2022.

23. William Rowland Ding

www.oakwoodchurch.info/ding



Very near here, at about 6 p.m. on 12 May 1917 a daring young aircraft test pilot contracted to the Blackburn Aeroplane and Motor Company crashed to his death, witnessed from Soldiers Fields by 1,000 spectators.

Originally an engineer, Ding was 28 years old in April 1914 when, after just three hours practice, he gained his pilot's licence. He then logged up 35,000 miles in the three months to the outbreak of World War One. Ding was considered to be a brilliant pilot and was acknowledged to have flown more types of aircraft than any other British airman. Something of a showman, postcards of Ding sold widely and personal appearances at events like Northallerton Carnival drew large crowds.



It should have been a routine first test-flight in a brand new B.E.2c built at the **Olympia Works**, a single engine two-seater biplane designed for light bombing and reconnaissance, not aerobatics.

Flight magazine reported that the inquest evidence “*showed that after climbing to a height of 1,500ft the machine looped the loop twice then the wings on one side of the machine collapsed.*” Ding crashed onto a fence separating a field from a footpath known as Loners Lane connecting Oakwood Lane to North Lane. Ding’s body was recovered bravely from the burning wreckage by a local doctor, Major Secker-Walker RAMC, who carried it to his home at Oakwood Grange.

*Take the unsurfaced path, continuing straight ahead up the left side of Foxwood Field for 250m. At its end turn left, then first right to emerge in Whitechapel Close. Continue to meet and cross Springwood Road by **Oakwood Church** (formerly Roundhay Methodist Church).*

24. Oakwood Church

www.oakwoodchurch.info/oakwoodchurch



The present building was erected in 1986 replacing the adjacent earlier church building known as 'Ladywood' which opened in 1874. That replaced the original room where Methodists met before 1815 and two subsequent church buildings, all three situated in North Lane.

The churches of **Roundhay Methodist** and **Roundhay St John** (Church of England) have worked side by side at the heart of the Oakwood community, supporting it in Christian faith for almost two centuries.

By 2006 the congregation of Roundhay St John could no longer command sufficient resources to sustain their wonderful 1826 church building on Wetherby Road and began sharing the modern welcoming Roundhay Methodist Church building on Springwood Road.

The churches signed a new Covenant on 14 November 2013 forming an Ecumenical Partnership to worship together as Oakwood Church from 1 December 2013. Oakwood Church continues to welcome more than 600 local people of all ages and beliefs who come together every week for fun, friendship and mutual support.

We thank Oakwood Church for hosting on its website the Oakwood Clock Restoration Project's **Walk Around the Clock** Heritage Trail; its **Time Will Tell** Oral History material; articles produced by the **Oakwood and District Historical Society**; and local history material contributed by many others that inform this Heritage Trail.

*Turn right along Springwood Road then left into Ladywood Road. 'The Manor' occupies the former site of Roundhay Methodist Church 'Ladywood'. By the junction with Wetherby Road is **Novello House**.*

25. Novello House

www.oakwoodchurch.info/novellohouse



Novello House at 2 Ladywood Road is a very substantial house in its own grounds. It was run as a theatrical boarding house by kind hearted Basil Hartley and his mother, who on second marriage had become Mrs Hatch. Basil had a second career as a shop window display artist. He was very talented and while still the youngest display artist in Yorkshire had won many competitions.

They were gregarious and had often taken lodgers at their very appropriately named 'Vaude Villa', 183 Roundhay Road at Harehills.

Basil moved to 34 Wetherby Road in 1950 and Basil's mother later joined him. It was named 'Novello House' in 1951 honouring the late composer, playwright and actor Ivor Novello. He had stayed at 34 for several weeks while performing at the Grand Theatre. He often played Basil's baby grand piano.



In the late 1970s Basil and his mother moved to nearby 2 Ladywood Road taking their business name 'Novello House' with them. When his mother died Basil stopped providing meals and installed a small kitchen for guests. This meant that Oakwood residents would often have the pleasure of seeing famous people in their local **Shops**.

Jeanne Wrigglesworth *"I bought a business on Oakwood Parade in the 1970s and it ran until 1990. I named it 'Upper Crust'. One of my customers was Basil Hartley. He owned Novello House... He sent his clients to me to buy a snack before an appearance in the theatre... Honor Blackman was as strikingly glamorous a person, as she was as the Bond girl and in The Avengers... Bill Owen was impeccably dressed...and he had such a nice speaking voice..."*

Basil had many memories of his visitors and literally hundreds of signed photographs. When he died in 1997 Novello House continued for several years in the capable hands of his niece Mrs Kavanagh.

*Turn left into Wetherby Road and continue to **Library**.*

26. Library

www.oakwoodchurch.info/library



The building housing Leeds City Council's Oakwood Library was once a private home with stables which are now used as a garage.

In 1898 it was owned by Benjamin Robinson who was connected with the well known Leeds jeweler, Owen Robinson.



What is now Oakwood Lane used to be called Horseshoe Lane. Look across Wetherby Road. To the right there are trees extending to the junction with Park Avenue.

This area was the site of a group of buildings called Horseshoe Cottages among which was a smithy. These were demolished shortly after the acquisition of Roundhay Park by Leeds City Council who built an impressive stone entrance Lodge at the junction of Princes Avenue and Park Lane.

*Cross Oakwood Lane at the pedestrian light controlled crossing and continue down Roundhay Road to the **Former Post Office***

27. Former Post Office

www.oakwoodchurch.info/shops

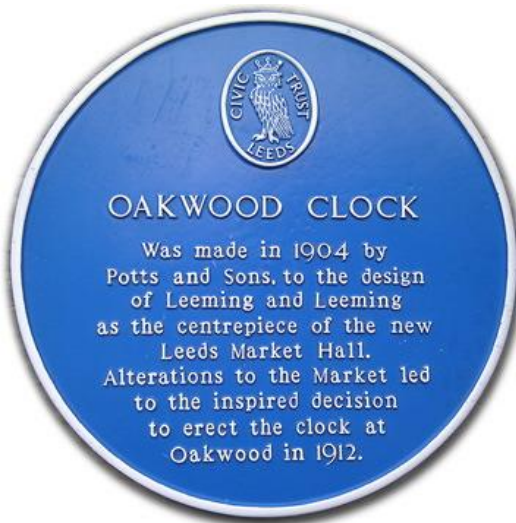


The large stone building, now estate agent William H Brown, was previously a pair of semi detached houses. Later it became Oakwood Post Office and then from 1962 to 1991 a branch of Lloyds Bank.



On its left side there is a Blue Plaque unveiled by the late and almost immediately disgraced Sir James 'Jimmy' Savile 1926 - 2011.

He was one of the first DJs, a popular TV presenter who raised an estimated £40 million for charity but is now acknowledged to have been one of this country's most prolific sexual abusers. Born in Leeds he lived atop Lakeview Court and was often seen around Oakwood.

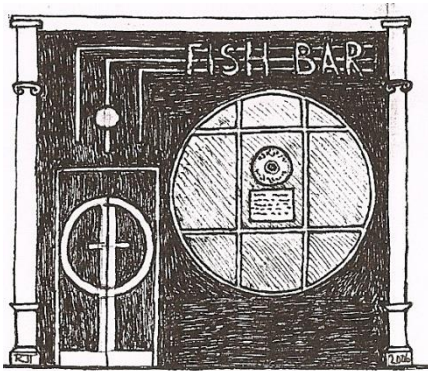


The Blue Plaque mistakenly states that the Clock was erected at Oakwood in 1912. It was actually erected here in 1913 then made into a Tram Shelter following its removal from Leeds Kirkgate Market at an earlier date.

*Continue down Roundhay Road to the **Fish Bar**.*

28. Fish Bar

www.oakwoodchurch.info/shops



Grade II Listed because of its Art Deco frontage of black panels, chrome and glass, Oakwood Fish Bar has been selling fish and chips since 1934.

Stephen Webster *"We are an original business and the frontage and interior decor is listed for its historical design. Art Nouveau, jazz modern style was how it was put in its listing."*

Oakwood's famous Fish Bar has featured in several films and TV programmes.

Next door to the Fish Bar there is an Indian restaurant called the Nawaab Khan.

Its site was previously a Garage owned by the father of Steve Webster, the current owner of the Fish Bar.



The Garage extended onto the site of what used to be the end shop that originally made up Oakwood's unique parade of shops. You can see where the stonework has been cut. It was demolished, seemingly because of subsidence caused by pre-1803 quarrying on its site.

Continue down Roundhay Road passing the present Post Office to carefully cross Back Oakwood Avenue and arrive outside Bathstore, a suitable vantage point to view all of our Oakwood Shops.

29. Shops

www.oakwoodchurch.info/shops



From 1917 until 2005 the Bathstore premises was occupied by Jones of Oakwood, a popular electrical appliance retailer. This block of three buildings along with Johnsons comprised the first four shops, complete with houses and stables, built in 1893/94 by the Hudson family on Oakwood House land; their 'Oakwood Building Estate'. An 1894 Trade Directory lists a baker, confectioner, grocer and butcher.

The terrace was gradually extended building by building until the last plot where Rico's Restaurant stands was sold in 1900, though it was a few years before this unusual building was erected.

By 1900 a single shop, now 'Tasty', was built in the space between the first four shops and the former Post Office. It was first in the upper section which was completed by 1903. Individual building designs with ornate stone fronts are an attractive feature of 'Oakwood Parade'.



Tricia Ryan *"In the middle of The Parade was Mrs Smiddy's shop. She sold anything you can think of to do with sewing and haberdashery and women's clothing... piled up (with) stuff all over the place. There was a very nice old grocer's shop, Holmes it was called, and it was the sort of grocers where they used to cut the butter off a big slab...and cut bacon with a bacon slicer...and racks of biscuits...you didn't buy biscuits in packets in those days."*



Compare the pride, confidence and opulence evidenced in these personalised buildings with the 1960s Parade (seen earlier) and the 1925 shops opposite which originally had accommodation over and gardens to the rear. Their gardens are now used as car parking for offices that inhabit what used to be the shopkeepers' living quarters.

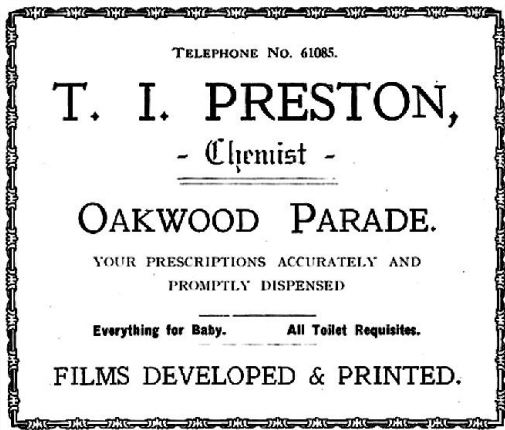


These extraordinarily ornate rainwater header tanks and fall pipes survived on the upper section of the Oakwood Parade from 1903 until 2014.

John Harrison *"The one I went to most was the Co-op... my mother used to get an order on a Wednesday, which was delivered, and she used to send me down on a Saturday morning, this was when I was eight or nine, to pay for it. I always paid in new ten shilling notes...which was a bit unusual. They called me The Colonel for some reason. I would also get my dad's cigarettes, which probably was illegal even then, and then I'd go to the butchers next door."*

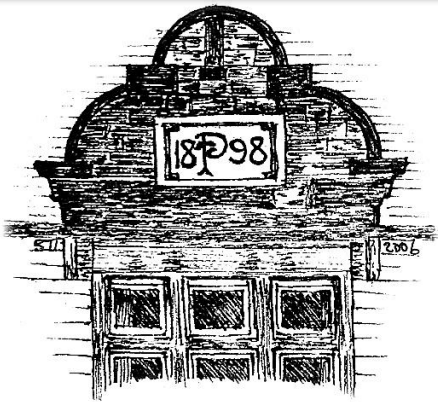
Continue down Roundhay Road to the building called **Pres**
30. Preston

www.oakwoodchurch.info/shops



In 1898 Thomas Preston, who was a prosperous grocer from Chapel Allerton, built this shop and the one next door to it now occupied by City Stationers.

Thomas' son Thomas Issott Preston had trained to become a Chemist (pharmacist). He occupied the Preston shop for three decades.



Thomas senior, who died in 1902, even paid for the date his son's shop was constructed and their initials to be carved in stone high up on the gable end. The inscription reads '18TP98'.

He also had their surname proudly picked out in mosaic tiles on the floor at the entrance.



The shop is now a popular local bar called, very simply, appropriately and respectfully, Preston.

Continue down Roundhay Road to its junction with the bottom of Oakwood Boundary Road. Stop outside the restaurant called **Rico's**.

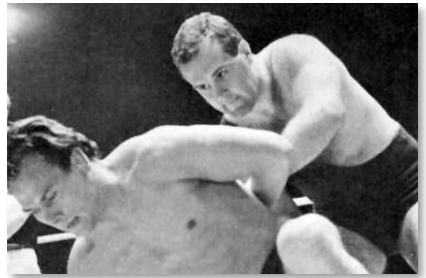
31. Rico's - Wrestling

www.oakwoodchurch.info/wrestling



Look at the first floor above Rico's Italian restaurant.

In the middle 1900s this unusual building was used as a Gym accessed by a door on Oakwood Boundary Road. It was frequented by wrestlers but other sportsmen also trained there.



Finally, retrace your steps to cross Roundhay Road at the pedestrian light controlled crossing.

Walk up Roundhay Road past the parade of shops built in 1925.

Carefully cross Gledhow Lane and make your way back to Oakwood Clock to finish the Heritage Trail and maybe sit to think about those who lived and loved this place.

Thank you for taking time to learn something of Oakwood, its geography and extraordinary history.

If you are a visitor please come to Oakwood again. You will certainly be made welcome.

Thanks

Information for this guide has come from several sources but special thanks are due to members of the Oakwood and District Historical Society (ODHS) who allowed us to plunder articles and images previously published in Oak Leaves. The full text of many of their articles can be read at www.oakwoodchurch.info/odhs

Front covers photo of newly restored Oakwood Clock 7 April 2015 © Angie Legge

Trail Map on back covers © Lynne Gorner

Interactive Trail Map at www.oakwoodchurch.info/walkaroundtheclock uses Google Maps

Line drawings © Bob Tyrell, c/o Leeds Civic Trust www.leedscivictrust.org.uk

Postcard *Princes Avenue, Roundhay, Leeds No 797* from *Leeds Transport on Postcards* published October 2012 © Jim Soper and Leeds Transport Historical Society
www.lths.co.uk/publications

Photo of the Co-operative shop by 'Chemical Engineer', Wikipedia Commons

Photos of Quarrying at Co-operative car park; Towerhurst gateposts; Springwood; Oakwood Clock Blue Plaque; Fish Bar; Preston mosaic floor © Tony Quinn www.imagesofleeds.com

Photos of 'The Roundhay'; Oakwood House; Harehills Tooling; Rico's © Sharon Donaldson

'Swordfish Over Leeds' © local Artist Kevin Walsh www.kevinwalshoriginals.com

Photo of Astoria Ballroom © Stephen Howden www.leodis.net

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www.cloughtonphotography.co.uk/barry_claughton.htm

Photo of Novello House Piano © Hilary Dyson and ODHS www.oakwoodchurch.info/odhs

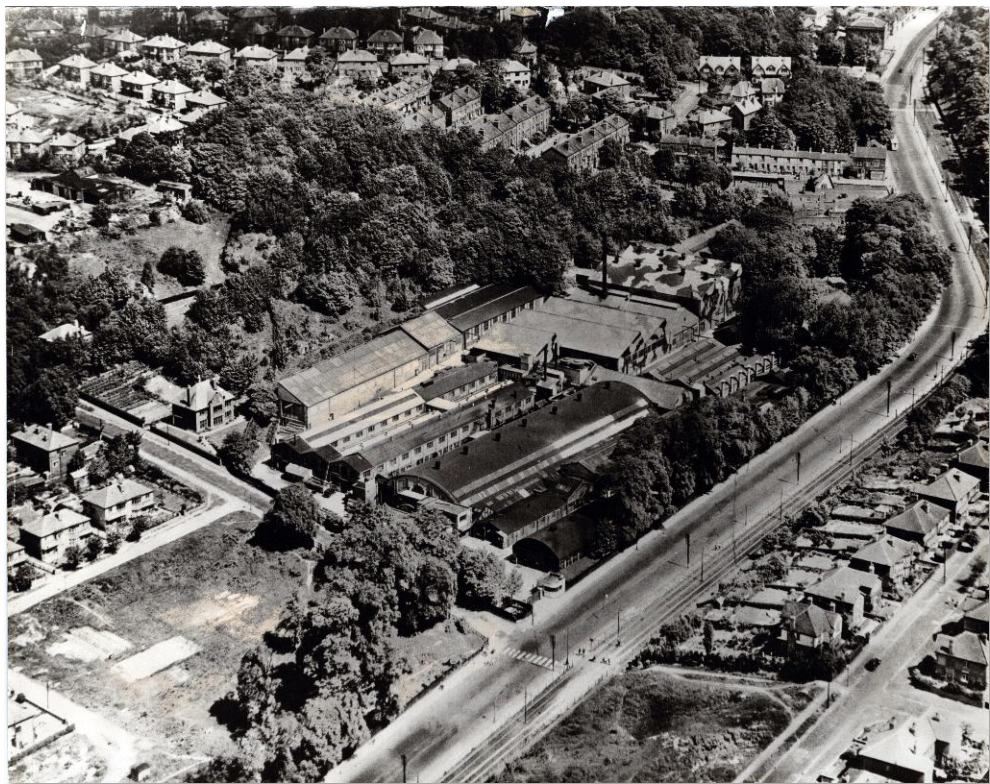
Photos of architectural details on Oakwood Parade of shops © Neville Hurworth

Other images and words contributed by local residents and members of The Oakwood Traders and Residents Association who inspired the Oakwood Clock Restoration team

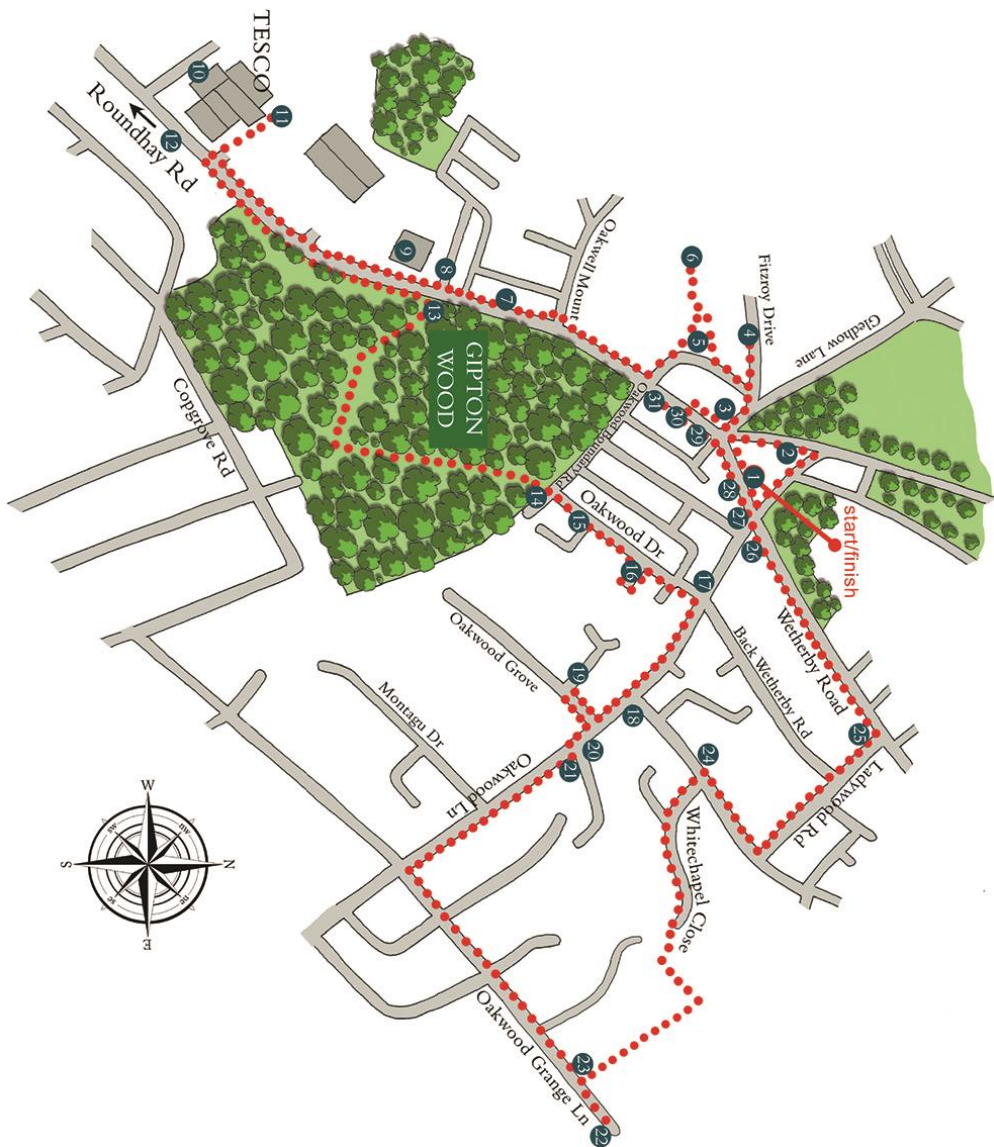
Time Will Tell Oral History interviewers Dr. Tracy Craggs, Edna Murray, Iain Macniven, Tricia Ryan, Jeanette Payne, Sharon Donaldson and David Donaldson www.oakwoodchurch.info/timewilltell



Walk Around the Clock Heritage Trail Guide and its supporting web pages were compiled and edited by Iain Macniven, Sharon Donaldson and David Donaldson



Olympia Works on Roundhay Road



Oakwood Church
A Methodist-Anglican Partnership