



# SPEAKS VOLUMES

34

April 2023

the magazine of  
**THE LEEDS LIBRARY**

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**Counter: [counter@theleedslibrary.org.uk](mailto:counter@theleedslibrary.org.uk)**

#### OPENING HOURS

Monday—Wednesday: 10AM-6PM

Thursday: 10AM-7pm

Friday: 10AM-5PM

Saturday: 10AM-4PM

Sunday: CLOSED

#### EASTER OPENING HOURS

THURSDAY 6 APRIL: 10AM—7PM

FRIDAY 7 (GOOD FRIDAY): CLOSED

SATURDAY 8: CLOSED

SUNDAY 9: CLOSED

MONDAY 10: CLOSED

Open as usual from Tuesday 11 April

## Update from our CEO

Dear Member

We hope you are well and are looking forward to the Easter break. Since the last edition of Speaks Volumes it has been a busy time at the Library. Over the course of 9 days at the beginning of March, we hosted 19 events for Leeds Lit Fest. This year's programme was the best-attended at the Library in the 5 years that the Festival has taken place, with 771 attendances.

During March, the Library took part in National Lottery Open Week by running a number of tours of the Library for members of the public, each being led by our fantastic team of volunteer guides. Over 100 people visited, many for the first time. As with our contribution to Leeds Lit Fest, the feedback from visitors attending the tours was consistently positive.



The last few weeks has also seen the Library host a number of talks from the Thoresby Society, Victorian Society, and Leeds Phil and Lit Society, as well as our own programme of lectures, spoken word, comedy and literature-inspired events.

This programme of outreach and engagement has seen many people visit the Library for the first time and we hope to see a further increase in membership of the Library in the coming weeks and months.

This increase in visitors to the Library brings with it the challenge of ensuring the welfare and safety of members and staff. To ensure this, the Library team have continued to review how we welcome visitors in a positive and respectful way, whilst also ensuring that they have a clear understanding that we are a member-focused organisation.

Alongside the requirement for visitors to sign in at the counter, the Library team have looked to ensure that parts of the Library are member-only and that we make sure that children wishing to access the Library are accompanied by an adult.

We have continued to refine the signage in and around the building so that visitors are aware that the seating areas are for members only, and that while visitors are encouraged to look around, the opportunity should not be extended into an afternoon-long stay in the building.

Staff and trustees are constantly reviewing how we work to strike a balance between increasing access to the Library as part of our charitable aims, and ensuring that the specialness of the Library is not lost for our members.

Carl Hutton  
CEO



## Update from Jane and the Library Services team

### Book Sale

We are holding a Book Sale on Saturday 15 April from 10am to 3pm.

With prices from 50p, and with a wide selection of topics, there will be something for everyone! All are welcome, so please let your family and friends know.

If you can't get to the sale, we still have a selection of books to buy in Coffee Corner (on the shelves behind the water machine), so do have a browse.

### Exhibitions

Our next exhibition will be on Yorkshire art and artists, and will be rolled out after Easter. Keep your eye on the foyer!

### Craft Club

If you're a crafter, why not join us at our regular Club?

We meet twice a month, and as well as giving you the opportunity to work on your own projects, you will be able to meet other members and staff, in a relaxed and creative atmosphere and share advice and swap ideas. We provide free tea and coffee, and all we ask is that your craft is portable as we can't store things for you.

These are the next dates:

**Monday 3 April, 5pm to 7pm**

**Friday 21 April, 12pm to 2pm**

**Friday 19 May, 12pm to 2pm**

**Monday 5 June, 5pm to 7pm**

**Friday 24 June, 12pm to 2pm**

### Members' Film Club

Our latest programme of films is available at the Counter, and tickets should be booked on Eventbrite. Our latest season Heroes and Heroines started on Saturday 1 April and from June, we are showing a Film Club Members' Choice Season, to celebrate our anniversary.

All Members welcome!

### Coffee Club

Our first Coffee Club took place on 9 March and proved very popular with our Members. Sweet treats were provided by the staff—below you can see ginger and chocolate cookies made by Helen; coffee and walnut cake made by Claire; and Bakewell blondies by Jane! We meet again on Thursday 13 April between 10.30 and 12.00, so book your place on Eventbrite, and join us for a chat. Tickets are £3.50.



## **Member benefits: clubs**

The Leeds Library offers Members a number of opportunities to engage with the our community in exclusive Members' clubs, including monthly book, film and craft clubs. If you have any questions about any of these activities, or would like to get involved, please email us on [enquiries@theleedslibrary.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@theleedslibrary.org.uk)

### **The Monday Evening Book Club**

This book club meets on the second Monday of the month from 6pm – 7pm.

We are a relaxed and friendly group who tend to read fiction books mostly. We have brilliant discussions that take us down the most unexpected paths...Anyone is welcome to join us! The next books to be discussed are:

17th April 2023 – The Garden Party and Other Stories by Katherine Mansfield.

22nd May 2023 – Potiki by Patricia Grace.

### **The Tuesday Morning Book Club**

This book club meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 10.30am – 12pm.

The selection of books is made from Members' own suggestions and is published in advance. The next books to be discussed are:

4th April 2023 – The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born by Ayi Kwei Armah

2nd May 2023 – Anna of the Five Towns by Arnold Bennett

6th June 2023 – Mothering Sunday by Graham Swift

4th July 2023 – The Migration of Ghosts by Pauline Melville

1st August 2023 – The Tenant of Wildfell Hall by Anne Bront

### **Film Club**

Film Club takes place twice a month on a Wednesday and a Saturday. It's free to all Library Members to attend, or you can pay a modest £4 fee for refreshments if you would like them.

Full details are on our events pages.

Due to licensing restrictions, we are unable to advertise the films that we are showing online, but you can find a list in the Library. In order to attend you must register online in advance.

### **Craft Club**

Craft Club takes place on the first Monday of the month from 5pm – 7pm and the third Friday of the month from 12pm – 2pm.

As well as giving you the opportunity to bring your own craft projects and work on them, you will be able to meet other Members in a relaxed and creative atmosphere and share advice and swap ideas.

We welcome knitters, sketchers, calligraphers, felters, beaders, embroiderers, model makers, jewellery makers, cross-stitchers and others at all levels of ability. We provide free tea and coffee, and all we ask is that your craft is portable as we can't store things for you between meetings.

## News from the Trustees

### Annual General Meeting

The Library AGM will be held at 2.00pm on Saturday 24 June in the Library and will be followed by a talk, details to be confirmed. Drinks and light refreshments will be available. Further details and papers for the meeting will be sent out nearer the time but you may want to put the date in your diary now. I look forward to seeing you there.

### Join the Board

Some trustees will be standing down at the AGM so we will need to fill the vacancies they leave. This is an opportunity for members to contribute to shaping the future of the Library at a particularly busy and exciting time. The Trustees are responsible for setting the strategic direction for the Library, for overseeing the development and delivery of annual plans and budgets, and for ensuring that the Library uses its money appropriately. A full job description is available on the Leeds Library website [here](#).

We are looking for people who are enthusiastic about the Library and are willing to contribute their time and their ideas to shaping its future, rather than for particular skills and expertise. Previous Board or trustee experience is not required, and trustees will receive induction, training and support. We are also looking to increase the diversity of our Trustee Board so that we benefit from a wide range of lived experience and views around the table. We would particularly welcome interest from people under 40, people from minority ethnic communities, and LGBT+ people, who are currently under-represented on the Board.

As for the time needed, the Board normally meets for two hours six to eight times a year, though it has been meeting more often recently. Meetings are usually held at the Library though often with a Zoom option. Trustees are also encouraged to join one or more of the sub-committees which focus on different areas of the Library's business and which normally meet three or four times a year. The current sub-committees are Books and Collections, Buildings, Membership, Outreach and Partnerships, Research, and Resources, so they cater for a wide range of interests. Meeting times are arranged to suit the needs of trustees.

Please consider standing for election and playing a big part in the Library's future. If you would like further information or to discuss what is involved in being a Trustee do get in touch with me and I'll be happy to help.

You can contact me via e-mail at [chair@theleedslibrary.org.uk](mailto:chair@theleedslibrary.org.uk) or by calling the Library: 0113 245 3071 and the message will be passed to me or you will be given my details to contact me directly, if that is preferable.

Martin Staniforth

Chair of Trustees

## ...Trustees news continued...

### Buildings Committee seeks new members

Following on from Martin's piece on the previous page, the Library's Buildings Committee is seeking new volunteers with particular skills to bring.

Our Library's success depends on its members, and one particular way in which members can contribute is to join one of our committees. The Building Committee is wanting new members because a couple of our longstanding people, Jim Bryant and Delton Jackson, are retiring after a good few years of sterling service, and our sincere thanks to them both.

If any one would like to join us, please get in touch. It is interesting and important work to have advisory oversight, including on issues of sustainability, of our premises on behalf of the Trustees.

Liz Minkin

Chair, Buildings Committee



### Changes to membership fees

A reminder that from 1st April 2023, the cost of Leeds Library membership is going to increase. The increases equate to £2 a month for individual membership, and £3 for household membership, and results from the significantly-increased costs of running the Library over recent years. The new fee structure is in the table below.

Membership type	Current (per	New	Increase
<i>Individual</i>	£132	£156	£24 a year £2 a month
<i>Household</i>	£198		£36 a year £3 a month
<i>Concession</i>	£66	£75	£9 a year £0.75 a month
<i>Remote &amp; Access</i>	£88	£104	£16 a year £1.33 a month

If you have questions about the fee increase, the Membership Committee have prepared some FAQs, which can be found on our website at: <https://www.theleedslibrary.org.uk/faq/fees/>. If there is something that isn't covered in the FAQs, please don't hesitate to email [enquiries@theleedslibrary.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@theleedslibrary.org.uk) – or of course you can always speak to a member of staff.

### Lockers in the cloakroom

May we please take this opportunity to remind members that lockers are intended for use only while visiting the library, and that locker keys should not be taken off the premises. Please ensure you remove any items you have deposited in a locker when you leave, and leave the locker with a key so that other members can use them. Thank you.

## Fundraising

### An easy way to get involved in helping the Library.....

If you shop online, you can support the Library's fundraising efforts.

**Easyfundraising** is the UK's biggest charity shopping site. Thousands of household names are members—M&S, John Lewis, Waterstones, Tui, Mountain Warehouse, Sainsbury's, and many more.

If you shop online with any of them, then all you have to do is register, and **easyfundraising** will give a percentage donation to your chosen charity.

Simply download the **easyfundraising** app on your smartphone or other device, and register your support for the Leeds Library, which is now one of the charitable causes on offer. Then search for your chosen retailer's website and go ahead with your shopping. This works in exactly the same way as if you had gone direct to the retailer—with the advantage that the Library benefits from the percentage of your spend which is donated.

#### So what to do next?

- Browse easyfundraising and download the app for free
- Choose the Leeds Library as your charity (NB you can only select one)
- Remember: always search for the retailer you want *via the app* to make sure that you donate to the Library as you shop. If you don't go to the retailer's website via the app, your donation won't apply.

#### And remember....

- Over 7000 brands are partnered with **easyfundraising**
- All donate a published percentage of your spend to your charity
- If you shop with a brand which offers loyalty points these are unaffected but your use of the app
- Shopping via easyfundraising does not add to the cost of your shopping.

See **[easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)** for full information.

Pat Urry  
Trustee



**...fundraising continued...**

**The Leeds Library Coronation Fundraiser**

*Friday 5 May*

*2pm—5pm*

*£20*

*The Leeds Library invites its members to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III and to raise vital funds for the Library.*



The Leeds Library invites its members to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III in a special fundraising event that will include a traditional afternoon tea with a celebratory drink; and tea, coffee and games with prizes to be won.

To celebrate the crowning of King Charles III in this special fundraising event, join your fellow members and raise a glass to the future of The Leeds Library and to the King!

Please inform us of any allergies or dietary requirements at the time of booking.

You can book by Eventbrite, or by asking at the Counter in-person or by phone.

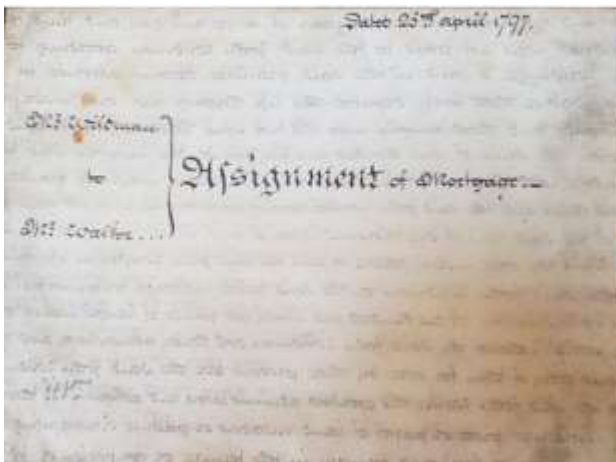


# Archive Highlights

## Georgian Mortgages

Niimi Day Gough, Archive Assistant

Hello again all! This month brought a fresh discovery of some very old and very large materials. So large, in fact, that the one I'm going to show you wouldn't fit on our scanner and I had to kneel on a chair to get an image of the full document!



## ...archive highlights continued...

While the content of this 'Assignment of Mortgage' isn't particularly riveting, the document itself is a wonderful piece of material history. It's dated to 1797 (making it 226 years old!) and is written entirely in beautiful cursive. Unfortunately, the cursive makes it difficult to read – which is a little ironic considering it's an important legal document – so I can only tell you the basics of its meaning. Like many of the materials I found with it, it records the transfer of land in Aberford between John Walker and John Wildman (whose signature and seal are at the bottom) for £50.

The document is in remarkably good condition, which I put down to the fact it's made from vellum. Vellum is writing material made from treated animal skin, usually cow or sheep. If preserved correctly, it can be more likely to outlast paper as it's less susceptible to the ravages of damp and time. As the helpful stamp at the top of the document records this piece of vellum was supplied by H. Cawood, a Law Stationer in York. It's a beautiful artefact of the British legal system during the late 1700s, and I was delighted to discover it – even if it meant parsing through paragraphs of historic cursive legalese!

### A Royal Feat

The upcoming coronation promises to bring grandeur and displays of patriotism across the country. Whatever levels they might reach, however, I doubt they will surpass this feat of engineering that was constructed to mark a visit from the Duke and Duchess of York (later crowned King George V and Queen Mary) in late Victorian era Leeds.

In 1894, three men on Commercial Street had a dream – a dream that involved a hotel, an architect, and 1,500 loaves of bread. On the 5th of October, they unveiled the results of that dream: the Leeds Bread Arch.



Image ©Leeds Libraries (Leodis)



## ...archive highlights...

It was the invention of Henry Child, owner of the Mitre Hotel pictured on the left, Thomas Winn, the hotel's architect, and local bakery owner W. Morris. Though adorned with the initials and crest of the Duke and Duchess, there is not evidence they actually saw or passed through the arch. The purpose of their visit was to open a new medical school (now the University of Leeds), and their planned route passed by the Town Hall before ending by Thoresby Place; a good distance from the Bread Arch. Nonetheless, I can't help but think any grandeur displayed in the upcoming coronation will pale in comparison to this Victorian display of the power of bread. Indeed, an advert for Morris's bakery in a newspaper from the following year seemed to agree, featuring the arch in pride of place:

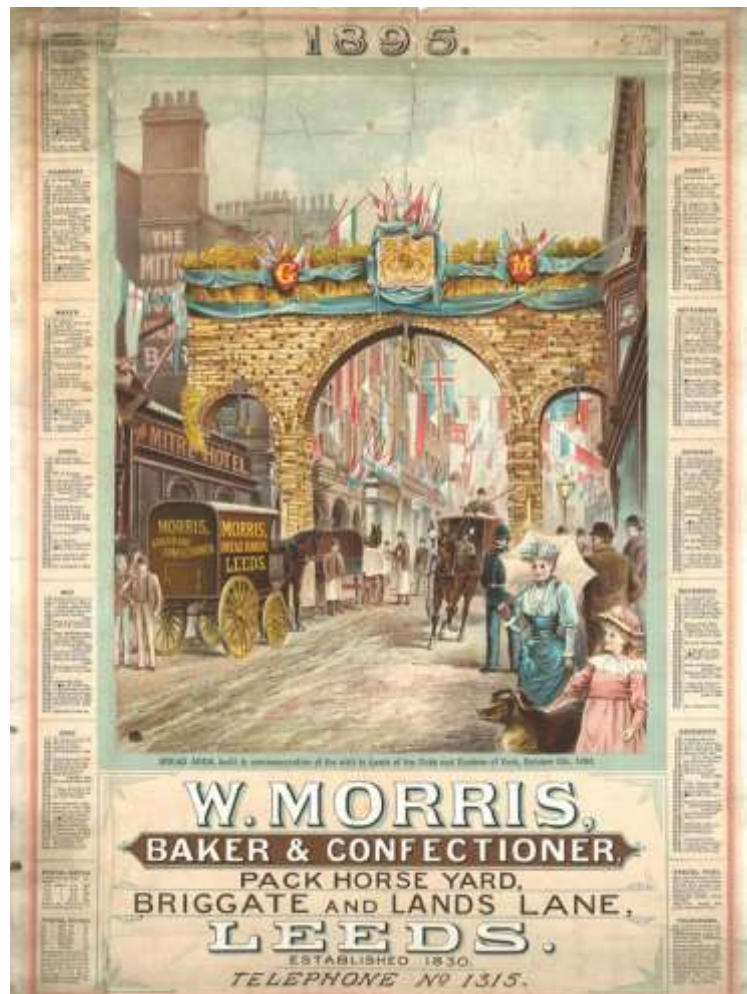


Image ©Leeds Libraries (Leodis)

Surprisingly, this was not the first bread arch of Leeds. In fact, it's one third of a triad. The first was reportedly constructed for Queen Victoria (the Duke's mother) upon her visit to Leeds in 1858, a massive two-arch structure across Woodhouse Lane. The last was much smaller, in Rochdale's Commercial Street in 1897. The Rochdale arch is not thought to have been made of actual bread, disappointingly, but was designed to last longer and designate the area where surplus food would be donated to poorer residents after public teas.

In contrast, the 1894 bread arch lived only for a day – like a beautiful gluten-based mayfly. Sources I found seemed to vary on the fate of its bread bricks: some say they were given to the 'aged and the paupers' with soup and tea the following day, others claim that rain spoiled most of the loaves and it was agreed that they weren't fit for consumption. Either way, the 1894 Leeds Bread Arch (and its siblings) outlasted its physical form and ascended into my favourite realm of history: feats of wonderful human silliness that require firm evidence to be believed.

## 37th Leeds Symposium of Food History & Traditions

### 'Celebrations'

£25



The Symposium was started in 1986 by a group of like minded food historians and has continued annually until the present date. The Symposium was formerly held in Leeds and is currently held in York.

This year's theme is Celebrations. You can book via Eventbrite, a link to which can be found on the Symposium's website: <http://www.leedsfoodsymposium.org.uk/>

9:45 - Registration and tea/coffee

10:30 - Welcome and introduction to morning session

**Marc Meltonville** - Did they celebrate? Difficult questions when trying to cook at Stonehenge

**Ivan Day** - A mess of dillegrout: the English coronation feast

12:00 - Lunch (Attendees can choose whether to participate in the communal lunch, or to make their own arrangements - bring sandwiches or eat out. If you wish to participate in the communal lunch, please bring one item of food, home-made if possible, to serve 2-3 people, table-ready and labelled. Bread will be provided. Please indicate whether you intend to bring a savoury, sweet or salad for the lunch when you book your tickets.)

1:20pm - Introduction to afternoon session

**Peter Brears** - Yorkshire civic feasts

**Sarah Maultby** - Feeding the 3000: community celebrations for Royal jubilees and coronations from 1887 to 1911

2.50pm - Afternoon break

3.10pm - **Sue Bailey** - Celebratory feasts on Parkers Piece. Town and gown come together in Cambridge

4pm - Tea/Coffee