

Welcome

Did you know...?



Some of Britain's most renowned surgeons were born in Leeds, such as Sir Thomas Clifford Allbutt, who invented the modern thermometer.

This history of medicine in Leeds covers almost 300 years, from the building of the new Leeds General Infirmary in 1771 to the first hand transplant in 2013 through the ground breaking work on sanitation in 1833 which changed the face of health in the city.

Whilst Leeds is well known for its impressive industrial past, it has also been the home of many medical accomplishments, celebrated surgeons and successful pharmaceutical businesses.

This trail will take you on a journey to some of Leeds' most important medical sites and tell the story of the significant events and important individuals who made Leeds the flourishing centre for health and medicine it is today.



On this side of the leaflet you will find a brief background of modern British medicine and a timeline of turning points in the history of health and medicine in the city.

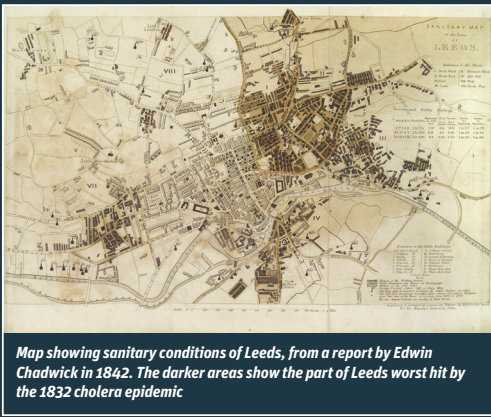
Alongside the map on the other side you will discover the story behind famous institutions, businesses and individuals which have shaped the history of health and medicine.

It will take you about one hour to walk round this trail. As you make your way through the city, don't forget to look around as you pass many important and beautiful buildings.

This trail has been produced in partnership with Leeds City Council as part of a series of maps which invite you to explore this vibrant and historic city.

Health and medicine in modern history

Can you imagine a world without anaesthetics, over-the-counter painkillers or even plasters? In the last two hundred years inventions such as these have had a significant impact, and with improvements in sanitation and the discovery of antibiotics, our health is now protected in very different ways. The nineteenth century saw medical training become more professional, the introduction of aseptic surgery to reduce the risk of infection, and the germ theory of disease. Hospitals, some of which specialised in brand new areas of medicine, were built to serve an increasing population. Physicians and surgeons tried out new tools and techniques, developing new operations and equipment to go with them, and specialist companies were set up to manufacture complex devices from precision forceps through to artificial respirators.



As northern towns expanded during the Industrial Revolution, many more demands were placed on doctors and hospitals, and Leeds became one of the most important centres of innovation. Societies were formed that became hotbeds of discussion, attracting distinguished speakers from across the country. The Leeds School of Medicine, set up in 1831, trained aspiring doctors and was the forerunner of the University of Leeds.

Trainees were able to treat real patients, and the establishment of the British Medical Journal and the Lancet brought new case studies and more information within their reach.

Fast forward to the twentieth century and the development of medicine was dominated by global conflicts. Blood transfusions were pioneered in the First World War making long operations safer, and the founding of the National Health Service in 1948 brought free healthcare within everyone's reach. More recently, the first hand transplant in the UK was performed at Leeds General Infirmary in 2013. Led by Professor Simon Kay, surgeons showed that the city is still at the cutting-edge of new procedures.

This trail invites you to step inside Leeds' medical past. Discover how famous doctors pioneered new inventions, how improvements in public health banished deadly diseases and how the hospitals we see today have moved and changed.

Timeline

The building of Leeds General Infirmary (LGI) on Infirmary Street was completed.



Population of Leeds reached 25,000.

Leeds-Liverpool Canal, the longest single waterway canal in Britain was completed.

The Anatomy Act came into effect allowing practitioners, anatomy teachers and medical students to dissect donated bodies.

The Factory Act was passed, shortening the working day for children in workhouses and factories. This was an important step in reducing child mortality and improving safety.

The second site of the Leeds School of Medicine was purchased on East Parade, opposite the LGI.

One of the first trials of ether as an anaesthetic was carried out at Leeds Medical School and was recorded by Claudius Galen Wheelhouse, a medical student. Within days it was being used on patients at the Infirmary.

The population of Leeds reached 101,000.

It was realised that the LGI was too small to meet the needs of the rapidly growing population. A new site on Great George Street was purchased.



The Medical School moved from East Parade to its first purpose-built site on Park Street.

Leeds gained City status.

Pioneering social researcher Seebohm Rowntree published his influential study on the social conditions of York, highlighting low wages and unemployment as major causes of ill health.

Seacroft Hospital was established as a specialist site for treating and isolating patients with infectious diseases.

The War Office began to use Thackray's 'Aseptic' range of standard field dressings.



National Health Service was established.

Pioneering cytogenetics laboratory opened at St. James's Hospital where researchers examined the structure and function of chromosomes.

The Jubilee Wing at LGI was opened to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the NHS.

The UK's first hand transplant took place at the LGI.

1782, 1786 and 1792

Additional wings were added to the original LGI, expanding it from a 27 bed facility to a massive 150 bed institution.

1812

William Hey appointed senior surgeon at the LGI.

1831

In June six local physicians, including Samuel Smith, set up a private medical school.

1832

First cholera epidemic in Leeds killed 700 people.

1833

Robert Baker published his groundbreaking report on sanitation in the city.

1835

25% of workers were employed in the textile mills.

1849

2,000 people died in the second cholera epidemic.

1861

Thomas Clifford Allbutt began his 28 year career in the LGI.

1864

Thomas Clifford Allbutt invented the short clinical thermometer, which allowed temperature to be read much more accurately in less than 5 minutes.

1869

Grand opening of the LGI in its current location.

1899

It became compulsory for dwellings in Leeds to be connected to sewers.

1902

Charles F. Thackray and Henry Scurrah Wainwright purchased a small pharmacy on Great George Street – the beginning of the famous Thackray dynasty of medical manufacturers.

1907

Thomas Clifford Allbutt was knighted and made a Knight Commander of the Civil Division of the Order of the Bath.

1940

The Brotherton Wing of the LGI was opened.

1963

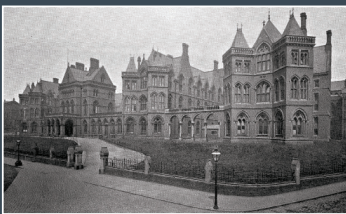
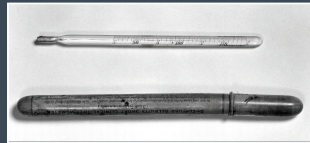
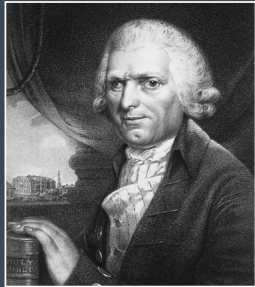
Thackray's company began working in partnership with Sir John Charnley to produce low friction sockets and femoral prostheses for hip replacement surgeries.

1979

The Worsley Building opened, home to the Leeds Dental Institute.

2011

Channel 4 series 'One Born Every Minute' filmed at the LGI.



Find out more...

To find out more about the history of medicine, you can visit the Thackray Medical Museum, next door to St James's Hospital on Beckett Street, 2 miles from the city centre. Find out more at www.thackraymedicalmuseum.co.uk



References:

S.T. Anning, The History of Medicine in Leeds (Leeds: University of Leeds Press, 1978)

S. Burt and K. Grady, The Illustrated History of Leeds (Derby: Breedon Books, 2002)

D. Fraser, A History of Modern Leeds (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1980)



Credits

This heritage trail has been researched and written by Jessica Briggs, Jessica Shaw and Rebecca Tinnion, who are undergraduate students at the University of Leeds, as part of the FOAR2000 module, which encourages students to get involved in academic research and make it accessible to the public. They were supervised by Laura King, Jamie Stark, Kevin Linch and Tess Hornsby Smith.

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Walk it

Leeds History of Medicine Trail



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Leeds is very compact and walkable, easily accessible by bus, train or car. Leeds Bradford Airport is just half an hour from the city centre by bus. There are numerous car parks and ample blue badge car parking spaces in the city centre.

Leeds Visitor Centre

VisitLeeds is a friendly visitor information centre and Art gallery shop located at the Leeds Art Gallery on The Headrow, open 7 days a week.

0113 378 6977
www.visitleeds.co.uk

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Leeds Travel Information

With up-to-the-minute information about car parking spaces, public transport and walking routes, travelling into and around Leeds has never been easier.

0113 245 7676
www.leedstravel.info

Walkit.com

The urban walking map and route planner helps you get around Leeds on foot. Get a walking route map between any two points, including your journey time, calorie burn, step count and carbon saving. It's quick, free, healthy and green.
www.walkit.com/leeds



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Did you know?

6 The house of William Hey

Did you know?

Amazingly for a successful surgeon, Hey was blind in one eye following an incident with a penknife that took place when he was four.



Did you know?

7 A former workhouse

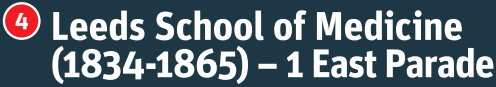
Did you know?

Mill children were susceptible to work accidents which caused a whole range of disabilities, such as deformity of spines, limbs or bent knees. In one tragic case, a young girl's leg was caught in a revolving part of a textile machine and the limb had to be amputated in order to free her. Due to the poor understanding of sanitation and hygiene by doctors at the time, the girl later died from an infected wound.



Did you know?

Thackray's flourished in the twentieth century and became one of the leading independent medical companies. In 1963 the company began working with Sir John Charnley to produce innovative femoral prostheses with low friction sockets for hip replacements. In 1971 they were producing five types of stems and four sockets, with an output of nine to ten thousand hip implants a year. Thackray's company modernised the way in which hip replacement surgery was conducted throughout the world.



Did you know?

One of the first trials of ether in Leeds was recorded in 1846 at the Leeds School of Medicine by Claudius Galen Wheelhouse, who was then a student. He described the experience, noting how he and his colleagues 'fell over one after another quite insensible and unconscious.' Just days later the practice was being used by surgeons at the LGI, where patients endured a more pain-free and comfortable surgical experience than was previously possible.



Did you know?

The building and maintenance of the LGI was based initially on local donations. Collections were made in churches, chapels and other public institutions to keep the hospital running.



Did you know?

Despite the work of Baker and Chadwick, improvements in sanitation in Leeds still took many years and cholera cases continued. The disease was proven to be water-borne in 1855, but the organism responsible, *Vibrio cholera*, wasn't identified until 1883.



Did you know?

During the Industrial Revolution, Leeds was one of the most unsanitary districts in England. Poor public health, dirty living conditions and filthy public spaces were a major concern and with the help of health officials like Robert Baker, the city invested in improvements in environmental and social conditions, including a new sophisticated sewerage system which separated waste from the sources of drinking water.