Leeds City Council

CBA Festival of Archaeology

Historic England

We are child friendly Leeds

opera north

The Grand Theatre & Opera House Leeds

NORTH BAR

Learn about the history of New Briggate and test your local knowledge with this fun walking tour!

NEW BRIGGATE

Explore and Discover

Merrion Centre

MERRION STREET

St John's Centre

3 Merrion Gardens

St John's House

4

5

Can you see me? I can see you!

MERRION STREET

7 Nash's

Grand Arcade

9

Grand Theatre

6

2 St John's Church

8 Nos 23 to 51

If you can't get into Leeds City Centre, why not explore on the internet? All the answers can be found online!

MARK LANE

Dortmund Square

1

START HERE

THE HEADROW

NEW BRIGGATE

VICAR LANE

NEW BRIGGATE
HIGH STREET HERITAGE ACTION ZONE

New Briggate and the Grand Quarter are part of the New Briggate High Street Heritage Action Zone. This is a government-funded scheme to celebrate and breathe new life into High Streets across the country and will last until 2024.

At New Briggate, Leeds City Council are working with Historic England to regenerate the street and to transform the area, improving the buildings and public spaces with grant funding. We want you to be involved and we will be running lots of community and cultural events to celebrate the street and its history.

#NewBriggateHAZ

NEW BRIGGATE

Explore and Discover

START HERE

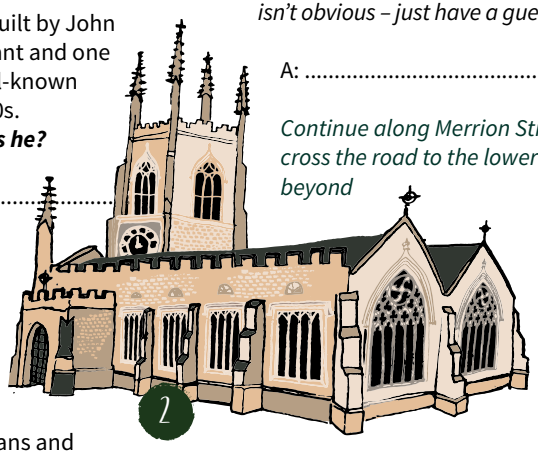


Start in New Briggate by the entrance to the churchyard

1 **St Johns Church** was built by John Harrison who was a merchant and one of the richest and most well-known citizens of Leeds in the 1600s. ***What kind of merchant was he?***

A: .....

Walk into the churchyard



2 **St Johns Church** is the oldest surviving place of worship in Leeds city centre and was built in 1632. It is grade I listed which means and has the same status as the Houses of Parliament and Leeds Town Hall and it is older than both of them! ***Look up! What can you see above the church door?***

A: .....

Walk through the churchyard into Merrion Gardens



3 **Merrion Gardens** were laid out in 1932 by Wades Charity.

Isn't it a lovely space to have a break from the hustle and bustle close by!

Walk out of the gardens through the gates and turn right onto Merrion Street

CLUE – it's not as old as you think!



4 **St Johns House** is mock timber framed building, now used as a bar. ***Which year do you think it was built?*** *(the answer isn't obvious – just have a guess!)*

A: .....

Continue along Merrion Street, cross the road to the lower part beyond



5

CLUE – look on the wall on that side of the street

5 **Merrion Street** today is full of bars and restaurants, but in the past these were houses and shops. At one time, there was a cinema in the Grand Arcade building on the right hand side of the street (if you're looking downhill). ***Can you tell what the cinema was called?***

A: .....

Walk to the end of Merrion Street and turn right and right again into the Grand Arcade



7

6 **The Grand Arcade** is a really lovely Victorian shopping arcade, just like the ones lower down Briggate. Originally it was built on 'H' plan with two arcades of shops, but only one survives now. Inside the arcade is a mechanical clock. ***Can you see who it was made by?***

A: .....

Walk uphill through the arcade, and stop and look back at the front from outside



6

Above the main entrances are panels of colourful faience tiles which were made by a famous local tile manufacturer Burmantofts. They were a nationally important company in the 1800s. The shimmer they created in their glazes was popular all over the world. ***What does the lettering above the arches say?***

A: .....

Cross over New Briggate into the small cobbled yard opposite

CLUE – look closely at the front of the building

7 **Nash's** is a chip shop today, but did you know that the building is actually one of the oldest houses in Leeds? When it was built in 1720, by the merchant Matthew Wilson, it was a very fashionable townhouse. In 1817 the building was bought by a Mr Richard Kemplay who gave it a new use. ***What was that use?***

A: .....

.....



8

Walk along New Briggate to the row of shops opposite the theatre

8 **23-51 New Briggate** – these buildings were built in the late 1800s and have always been shops with a hotel or housing above. There is evidence of the old shop-fronts which used to be there. One of them has a carved animal head on the bracket. ***What animal is it?***

A: .....

Cross New Briggate or look back at Leeds Grand Theatre and Opera North from where you are



9

9 **Leeds Grand Theatre & Opera North** building opened in 1878. It has a very ornate and flamboyant frontage, which is often found in theatres and is typical of the Victorian era. Take a look at their programme of upcoming events. ***Is there anything you'd like to see?***

A: .....

Why not finish your tour by popping into one of the cafés or bars on New Briggate to have a rest and think about any questions you haven't answered.



What to do next

If you've enjoyed the tour please tell us on social media using the hashtag **#NewBriggateHAZ**