

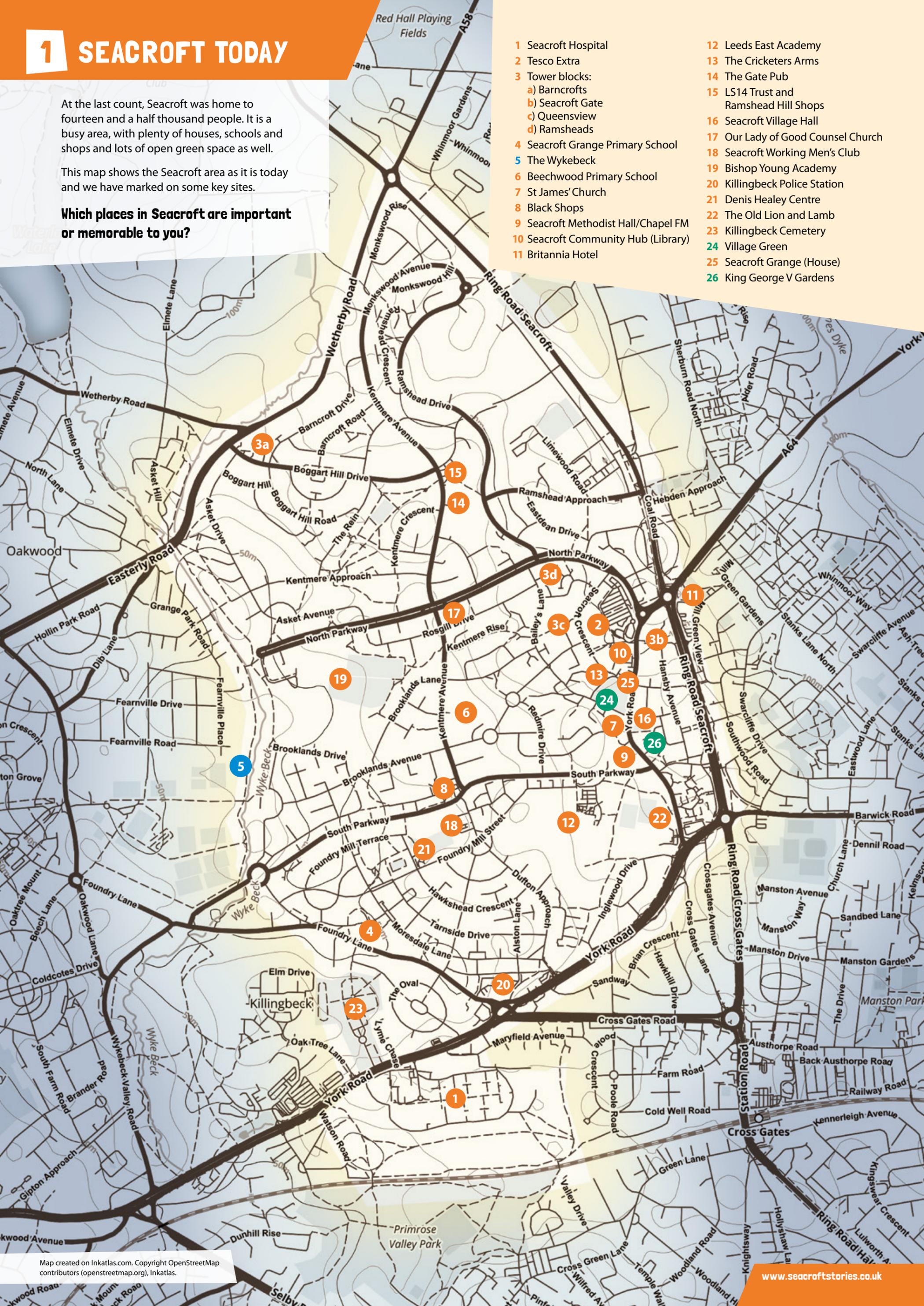
# 1 SEACROFT TODAY

At the last count, Seacroft was home to fourteen and a half thousand people. It is a busy area, with plenty of houses, schools and shops and lots of open green space as well.

This map shows the Seacroft area as it is today and we have marked on some key sites.

**Which places in Seacroft are important or memorable to you?**

- 1 Seacroft Hospital
- 2 Tesco Extra
- 3 Tower blocks:
  - a) Barncrofts
  - b) Seacroft Gate
  - c) Queensview
  - d) Ramsheads
- 4 Seacroft Grange Primary School
- 5 The Wykebeck
- 6 Beechwood Primary School
- 7 St James' Church
- 8 Black Shops
- 9 Seacroft Methodist Hall/Chapel FM
- 10 Seacroft Community Hub (Library)
- 11 Britannia Hotel
- 12 Leeds East Academy
- 13 The Cricketers Arms
- 14 The Gate Pub
- 15 LS14 Trust and Ramshead Hill Shops
- 16 Seacroft Village Hall
- 17 Our Lady of Good Counsel Church
- 18 Seacroft Working Men's Club
- 19 Bishop Young Academy
- 20 Killingbeck Police Station
- 21 Denis Healey Centre
- 22 The Old Lion and Lamb
- 23 Killingbeck Cemetery
- 24 Village Green
- 25 Seacroft Grange (House)
- 26 King George V Gardens



## 2 SEACROFT AS A VILLAGE

Up until the 20th Century, Seacroft was a tiny village on the outskirts of Leeds. It officially became a part of the city in 1912, along with Roundhay, Shadwell and part of Cross Gates.

The land around the village was occupied by farmers and was owned by the Squire of Seacroft, who lived in Seacroft Hall. Following the death of the last Squire in 1931, the land was bought by Leeds City Council. The council planned to use the land to build new homes, as many Leeds families were being displaced as part of the City's 'slum clearance' and redevelopment programme.

Building of the new estate commenced in 1935. The Second World War caused work to cease, but building resumed as soon as the war was over. This map shows Seacroft Village as it was in 1932, just before development began.

### What do you think the most significant changes have been in Seacroft over the last century?

#### The Cricketers Arms (built c.1830)

Formerly numbers 14, 16 and 18 The Green, the Cricketers Arms Public House was built in the middle of the 19th Century and is a Grade II listed building. Built of gritstone, with a pitched slate roof, the pub was originally a coaching inn, serving travellers using the old York Road. The pub's interior was altered and refurbished in the latter part of the last century and the building incorporates a terrace of cottages which previously stood to one side.

#### St James' Church (consecrated 1845)

Constructed of Roundhay stone by Benjamin Russell of Leeds, the church cost £3,174. Most of the cost was shared between the Rev. Arthur Martineau, Vicar of Whitkirk, and Mr. John Wilson and family of Seacroft Hall. The church was consecrated on the 28th of November 1845. Seacroft became a parish in its own right in 1856, having previously been a part of the parish of Whitkirk.

Information courtesy of Leodis.net

#### Methodist Chapel (built 1874)

The first Wesleyan Chapel was built in Seacroft in 1751. The later building, shown on the map, incorporated part of the original chapel wall and was an important part of community life in Seacroft for many years. It now houses Chapel F.M. radio station.

#### Seacroft Hall (built c.1605)

"The exact date when Seacroft Hall was built is not very clear due to the fact that earlier historians seemed to have failed to record these particular events in the course of history. It is believed to have been built by the Shilletts, who had purchased Seacroft Estate from the Earl of Devon in 1605, and then sold to the Nelthorpes in 1656. The honorable Mrs Lyon, a descendant of the latter family, sold the entire estate to John Wilson, Esq, during the early nineteenth century. This ancient mansion house was described as having richly decorated plaster ceilings in its principal rooms on the first floor which were part of the original seventeenth century design."

From *Seacroft Remembered* by Michael Cordey, 1989

#### Seacroft Grange (built 1627)

"A seventeenth century house with later enlargements, formerly known as Tottie Hall (residence of the Tottie family) was acquired by the Wilson family of Seacroft Hall. It was remodeled in 1837, when the handsome oak staircase removed from Austhorpe Hall in the parish of Whitkirk was transferred to it. The house was for many years occupied by Dr W. Pogson (buried at Seacroft, 13 November, 1912, aged 75)."

From *The Churches and Schools of Seacroft Leeds* by George E. Kirk, 1954

#### Seacroft Mill (built late 1700s)

"Built of magnesium limestone in the eighteenth century, the windmill ... was marked on a title map of 1834, when the owner was stated to be John Wilson, who leased it to James Pearson. There were two pairs of millstones and room for a third. It was still in use in 1928, but not powered by wind. For many years during the 1930s it was known as Betty Barker's Mill, taking its name from the owner or tenant of the farm in which it formed a part. The farm was demolished in 1969."

From *Yorkshire Windmills Through Time* by Alan Whitworth, Amberley, 2011

#### Seacroft National School (opened 1840)

Seacroft National School educated the children of Seacroft village for over a hundred years, until it was superseded by a number of new schools that were built as part of the new Seacroft estate. It closed its doors in 1950 and was eventually demolished in 1966.

#### The Lion and Lamb Public House (built 1846)

"It was a working pub until the 1950s and had an onsite brewery at the rear. It was sold to John Davenport & Sons of Birmingham in 1931 on the death of Darcy Bruce Wilson, the Lord of the Manor. In 1939, Davenports applied for a grant of the removal of the license to premises to be built in the adjacent plot of land. The Second World War intervened and the new premises were not built until after the war and the grant was renewed by the Justices in March 1956. It opened for business on the 5th of September 1956 under its new name, The Seacroft Hotel, subsequently The New Lion and Lamb. It is now the site of Aldi Supermarket."

Information reprinted by kind permission of LS14 Trust

"Seacroft has always been a lovely village to live in. I have never been ashamed to admit I have lived here. I remember going into Leeds, passing down York Road and seeing children with no shoes on and rows and rows of houses so close together. When Darcy Wilson's nephew sold all the land to the Council to build Seacroft Estate and provide new houses for all the people that lived in those streets, I thought how wonderful for those children to be able to share our open fields and breathe our beautiful fresh air."

From *Down Memory Lane: Memories of Seacroft as a Village 1926 - 1947* by Alan Noble, previous Church Warden, St James's Seacroft. Item located in Local and Family History, Leeds Central Library

# 3 SEACROFT CIVIC CENTRE

The Seacroft Civic Centre was designed to be the heart of the estate. It was meant to be equipped with everything that people would need to live in a modern planned community.

It served the people of Seacroft for 35 years, before being replaced by Tesco Extra and the Seacroft Green Shopping Centre in the year 2000.

**What would you like to see at the centre of the community?**

*"...Seacroft will be a satellite town within the City Boundary with its own Civic Centre and ancillary services which will be a natural attraction in respect of commercial, shopping, social and cultural activities. The plan of the Civic Centre will be featured in this Exhibition and residents will be able to see the layout of the many shopping units, the offices, the hotels, garages and numerous other features."*  
Housing in Seacroft, City Housing Department, 23 October 1961

## The trade wind blows fresh and fair

The trade winds appear to be set fair for the diversity of businesses that will be represented at the Centre when it is fully occupied.

The Majority of the 68 shop units have already been let at rentals which range from £750 upwards a year.

Already represented in the range are furniture, clothing, wallpaper, sweets, tobacco, shoes, groceries, children's wear and dry cleaning.

*Yorkshire Evening Post, 21 October 1965*

**North Eastern Gas Board Announce NEW GAS SHOWROOM FOR SEACROFT TOWN CENTRE**

open for business **FRIDAY** 22nd October, 1965

What will you be doing on the morning of Friday, 22nd October? Choosing yourself a new boiler, of course! But when you finally get round to looking at this magnificent new centre of yours - you'll see that the North Eastern Gas Board has given Seacroft a gas showroom of six vast units. As modern as the centre itself - with a range of modern appliances so completely a part of today's High Speed World!

**Make the most of HIGH SPEED GAS**

**NORMAL TIMES OF OPENING**  
Monday 9 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.  
Tuesday to Saturday 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.  
Telephone 477, Fountain Court, Seacroft Town Centre

## Sculpture in the Abstract

Modern sculpture has found its place in the layout of the Centre. Two pieces chosen for positioning in the shopping precincts are both by members of the staff of the Leeds College of Art, Mr Glynn Williams and Mr David Seeger.

Mr Williams has designed three separate abstracts from Portland stone which have been placed in the centre of the shopping area, adjacent to a tree-filled sunken ornamental garden in Queen's Court.

The second piece of abstract sculpture, by Mr Seeger, is a 16ft high polished concrete column standing at the head of Queen's Parade.

*Yorkshire Evening Post, 21 October 1965*

## A youth centre that has everything

Well over 1,000 boys and girls of the Seacroft Estate are members of what has been described as "one of the finest youth clubs in the country."

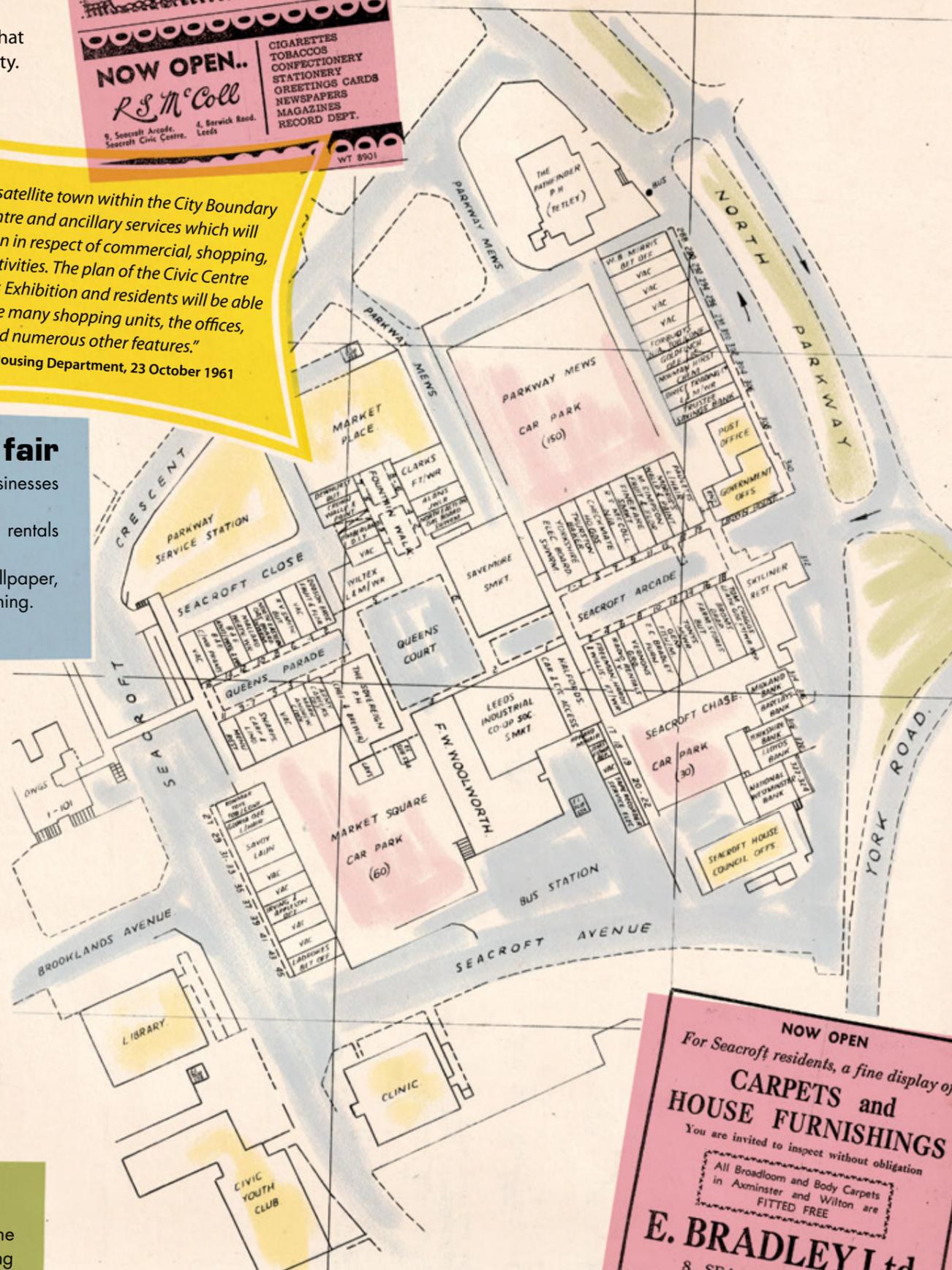
It is Seacroft Civic Youth Club - a modern building designed into the Town Centre and built and equipped at a cost of over £70,000.

*Yorkshire Evening Post, 21 October 1965*

# SEACROFT.

(LEEDS.)

(1970)



**NOW OPEN**

For Seacroft residents, a fine display of **CARPETS and HOUSE FURNISHINGS**

You are invited to inspect without obligation

All Broadloom and Body Carpets in Axminster and Wilton are **FITTED FREE**

**E. BRADLEY Ltd.**  
8, SEACROFT ARCADE  
SEACROFT TOWN CENTRE

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**F. W. Woolworth and Co. Limited**

will be **OPENING SHORTLY** in the **Seacroft Civic Centre**



*"Now whenever I visit the new Seacroft Centre, which is so heavily Tesco dominated, I remember with regret, how wonderful the 'old' Seacroft Civic Centre was when it was first built. Up until then, we only had small shops and supermarkets and had to go into Leeds Town Centre or Cross Gates if the local shops didn't have what we needed."*

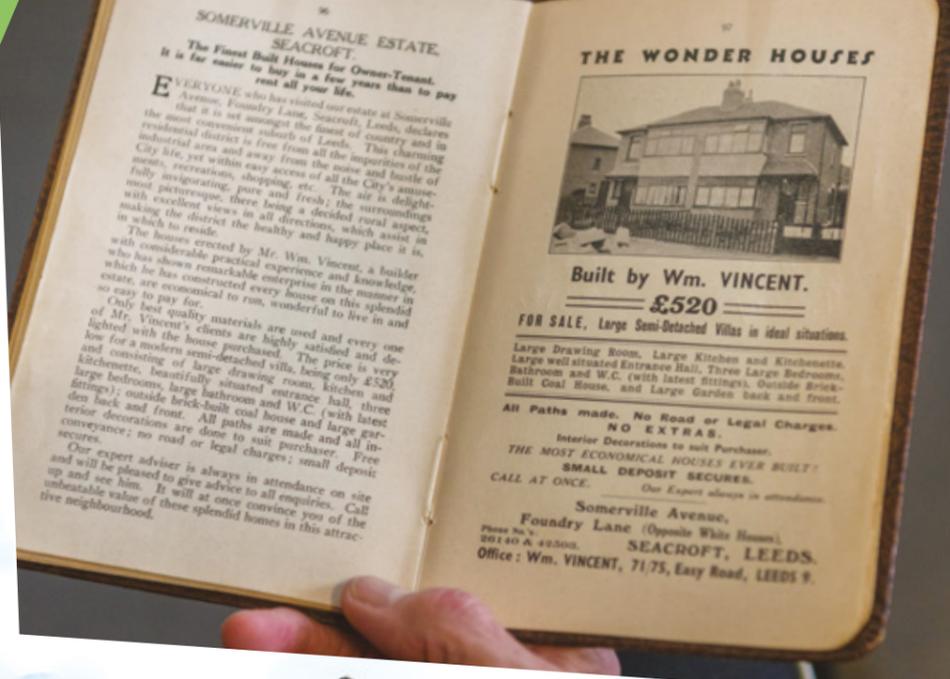
From Celebrating Seacroft  
© Seacroft Community Literature (and Art) Society 2011

## 4 SEACROFT MODEL VILLAGE

When the new estate was built, Seacroft was seen as an ideal place to live – a place outside of the dirty and polluted city, full of fresh, clean air and equipped with all the latest amenities. The houses were modern and luxurious compared to the cramped terraces and back-to-backs that many people had left behind. The advert in the photo suggests the kind of place that it was designed to be.

Over the years the estate has grown and changed in lots of ways. Some of these changes have been for the better and some of them have perhaps made things more difficult.

**Is Seacroft still an ideal place to live?  
Would you recommend the area to others?**



These headlines are adapted from a range of local newspapers published between 1959 and 2018.

What story would you like to see written about Seacroft?

21 November 1959

## NEW LEEDS FLAT DWELLER SAYS 'IT'S A DREAM'

What is it like to live near the top of one of the new Leeds 10 storey blocks of flats?

22 August 1960

## TWO DAYS TO SAVE THE BEECHES OF SEACROFT

The woodman has spared three Seacroft trees. But only until Wednesday, unless the Tree Preservation Society can find last-minute groups for a reprieve.

26 May 1965

## Civic Centre bowl opens tomorrow

The opening of the Universal Tenpin Bowl at Seacroft Civic Centre by the Lord Mayor of Leeds tomorrow evening provides the centre with its first entertainment unit.

4 April 1977

## Woolie's closure: call for action

Traders demanding improvements to Seacroft shopping centre greeted news of the closure of the centre's Woolworth's as further proof that drastic action is needed to make the complex viable.

3 March 1970

## A CONCRETE HEART THAT ONLY JUST BEATS

Seacroft is a community that bites the hand that feeds it. Here community associations struggle to keep their heads above water in a sea of apathy.

26 February 1985

## Local people fight big hotel extension

Local people strongly opposed an application by the Stakis Organisation to build a two-storey extension to the Windmill Hotel, York Road, planners heard yesterday.

30 October 1989

## 'GHOST CENTRE' FEARS OVER £75M REVAMP

Anxious traders are facing a week of delicate negotiations with Leeds councillors over the future of Seacroft Shopping Centre.

31 July 1990

## City newts get purpose-built home

Residents of a wildlife sanctuary in the heart of Seacroft have been provided with purpose-built homes as part of a major business development of the area.

29 July 1992

## CREDIT UNION TO AID NEEDY FAMILIES

A Credit Union has been launched to help the needy people of Seacroft in east Leeds.

22 March 2013

## INSPECTOR'S CALL: 'DON'T LET LOAN SHARKS BENEFIT'

The man in charge of policing in Seacroft has urged cash strapped residents to resist the advances of loan sharks as benefit cuts bite.

8 November 2002

## SPACE-AGE SHOPPING CARTS SLAM BRAKES ON TEENAGE THIEVES

Teenage tearaways on a Leeds estate looking to swipe trolleys from their local supermarket are being stopped in their tracks by new hi-tech sensors fitted to hundreds of trolleys at Tesco's. The Seacroft Store is fed up with them going missing.

1 November 2013

## NEW £5M CARE VILLAGE IS WELCOMED BY RESIDENTS

Residents have welcomed a multi-million pound care village in east Leeds, which opens to the public this weekend.

2 November 2018

## Police hunt for jobs on bikes

Police were called to deal with around 50 youths on motorbikes who were riding dangerously through Seacroft on Halloween night.

13 May 2016

## GO-AHEAD FOR HOSPITAL HOMES PLAN

Plans for 500 homes in the grounds of a historic Leeds hospital have been given the go-ahead by councillors at the third time of asking.

27 November 2018

## HEADS TOGETHER FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Leeds Community Foundation is a grant-giving charity that invests in local community organisations. Thanks to a grant awarded, Chapel FM in East Leeds is able to run a six-month broadcasting course for local young people.

## 6 A SEACROFT COAT OF ARMS

A coat of arms is a colourful logo that knights had on their shields. It was worn in battle, and dates back to the 1100s. Families, organisations, schools and towns can also have their own coat of arms. The shape is traditional, but the elements are personal, expressing something about the person or place, for example history and values. The motto at the bottom is often in Latin.

**We have suggested a coat of arms for Seacroft, with some images you might recognise – and we made up a motto! What would your Seacroft coat of arms look like?**

A version of the Leeds coat of arms can be seen in Leeds City Council's logo. It features a fleece in the middle – a symbol of the wool industry.



The Wilson Family coat of arms on the east wall of Seacroft Grange Care Home. It features a wolf's head and three paws.

The curving **metal gates** are boundary markers along the Wykebeck Way – a green corridor that runs from Roundhay Park to Temple Newsam. Several sections run along and through the Seacroft area.

The **red kite** (*Milvus milvus*) was hunted to near-extinction in Britain, with only a handful of breeding pairs remaining in South Wales. From the late 1980s the species was deliberately reintroduced, and in 1999 they were released on the Harewood Estate. The birds thrived and there is now a self-sustaining population in the area. They can often be seen swooping and hovering over Seacroft.

Although it is home to thousands of people, Seacroft also has plenty of **green space and trees**. It is surrounded by woods, fields and parks. These include Fearnville Fields, Wykebeck Woods, Ramshead Woods, Primrose Valley LNR, Arthur's Rein and Roundhay Park.

**Seacroft Hospital** was built in the grounds of the former Manston Hall in 1893. Originally a tented smallpox hospital, it was extended in 1898 to take in patients suffering from scarlet fever. The current building was opened in 1904 as a permanent hospital for scarlet fever, diphtheria and eutric fever. The redbrick clock tower held water for the site and also for Killingbeck Hospital which was situated nearby.

The **swords** represent three occasions when violence came to the Seacroft area: The Battle of Winwæd in 655AD, The Harrying of the North in the years following the Norman Conquest in 1066, and The Battle of Seacroft Moor in 1643, during the English Civil War.

**Cricket** was often played in Seacroft in the 19th and 20th Centuries and the sport lent its name to the pub on the village green.

We've decorated our coat of arms with **colours** we felt were evocative of the Seacroft landscape. They represent the blue of the open skies, the green of the fields, the red of the bricks and the beige of the concrete from which the local housing estates are formed.

The Latin motto translates as '**Tesco forever**'.

