

This is the sixth in a series of leaflets being produced by the Society to illustrate some of Wakefield's fascinating and rich heritage. Look out for other leaflets as they are published. You can find out more on our website. All leaflets have been printed locally using F&C-certified paper sources, sustainable inks and reduced waste.

You can find out more about the historic pubs of Kirkgate by scanning the QR code or by visiting our Discover Wakefield webpage: wakefieldcivicsociety.org.uk/discover-wakefield



06 Discover Wakefield Historic Pubs of Kirkgate



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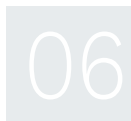
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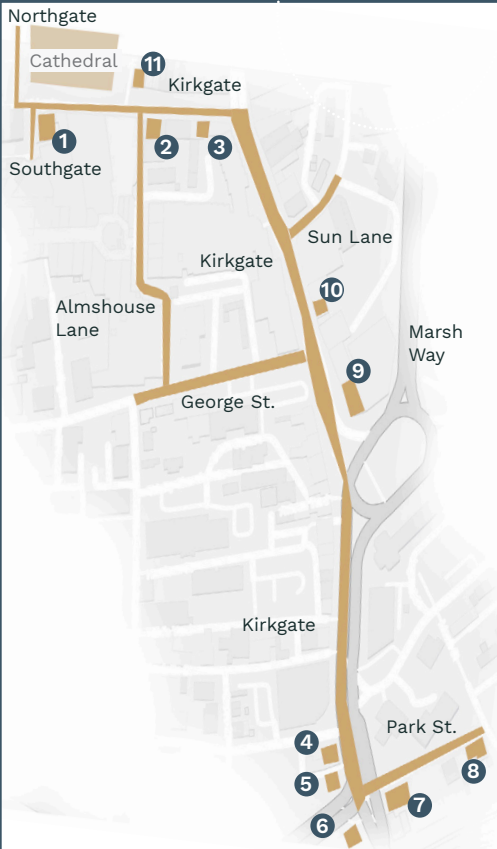
Building interest in Wakefield
since 1964

HISTORIC PUBS OF KIRKGATE

If you know Wakefield, you might well be familiar with the 'Westgate Run' – a famous pub crawl that at one time took in around 30 pubs along Westgate from Westgate End up to the city centre. A less well-known fact is that Kirkgate could at one time have given Westgate a run for its money having at least as many pubs, inns and hotels as its better-known rival. This leaflet highlights just a few of them. Have a look at our Discover Wakefield webpage for details of some of the others.

Note that the illustrations here have been inspired by old drawings and photographs – which exist mostly in black and white so the colours here may not match those of the actual buildings.

HISTORIC PUB ROUTE



1. The George Hotel

Standing opposite the Cathedral, on the corner of Southgate and Upper Kirkgate (where Waterstones is today), and dating from around 1790, the George was one of Wakefield's larger coaching inns on a long plot extending down Southgate with stables and coach houses. Demolished in 1955 as part of the widening of Kirkgate.



2. The Bull and Mouth

A little farther down Kirkgate, on the corner of Almshouse Lane, stood the Bull and Mouth (previously the Sandars Hotel). Also dating from around 1790, it too was demolished (in 1956) as part of the road widening scheme.

3. The Beehive

Farther down, at No.46, stood the Beehive, dating from 1827. It was also demolished in the 1950s but was rebuilt on the same site, set back to match the new building line, on a long, narrow plot emerging into Almshouse Lane (now All Saints' Yard) at the rear. It would later become the Speakeasy and, in the 90s, the Odyssey, a gay bar.



4. The Dewsbury Arms/The King Edward VII

Down at the bottom of Kirkgate, next door to what is now 'the Eastwood building', stands a building which is today a restaurant – the Pizza Yard (previously, Duchniak's). In 1860, this building was the Dewsbury Arms and later the King Edward VII pub – which continued until 1930.



5. The Old Ship Inn

Next to the King Edward VII was the Old Ship. Dating from 1818, it continued until 1964. It was demolished as part of a clearance scheme.



6. The Bridge Hotel

Tucked away next to the railway bridge (where Halfords stands today), stood the Bridge Hotel. Opened in 1830, it continued until 1980 when it was demolished.

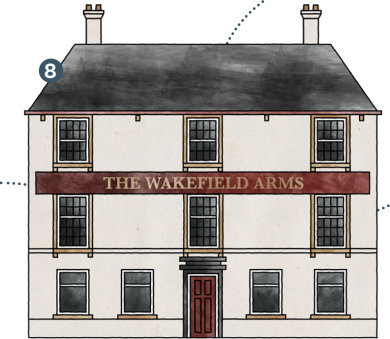


7. The Grey Horse

Standing opposite the Bridge Hotel stood the Grey Horse, dating from 1853. The pub continued until recently but has now been acquired by a developer. The future use is uncertain.

8. The Wakefield Arms

Strictly speaking, this pub is not *on* Kirkgate, but *off* Kirkgate. Walk up Park Street and you will find it next to the railway station. Opening in 1843, it is the oldest surviving building to use Portland Cement, invented at the works of Joseph Aspdin which used to occupy the site where the station is today. When the pub closed, it fell into dereliction but has recently been converted into apartments.



9. The Crown and Anchor

Farther up Kirkgate, at 131 (roughly where the roundabout is today) stood the Crown and Anchor – which was next to the 'famous' Six Chimneys' building. Dating from 1818, the building seen here closed in 1969.



10. The Harewood Arms

The original building was a tall and rather narrow building over five floors (with, presumably, a cellar beneath). It dated from 1828 but was demolished and replaced with the current building which dates from 1907.



11. The Old Kings Arms

Our final pub is the Old Kings Arms. This stood just beneath the Cathedral on what is today the corner of Teall Street and Kirkgate. The pub was demolished and the name transferred to another building just beyond the railway bridge at the bottom of Kirkgate. That building has also been demolished but the 'Kings Arms' stone tablet has been retained in the new building, which is currently a gym.