

POINTS OF INTEREST ON THE WALK

1. 28 Pavement

Joseph's father started a high-class grocery business here. Family and twelve apprentices lived above the shop until Joseph was nine years old. George Cadbury (founder of Cadbury's) was an apprentice for two years. Rats infested the kitchen, children swung off the banisters and created chemical explosions in the attic, but philosophy, parliamentary debates, Quaker thought and sugar, coffee and tea prices were discussed over dinner.

2. Lady Peckitt's Yard

One man in five and one woman in three could neither read nor write in mid-Victorian York. In 1857 Quakers turned this wood-turner's shop into the first Adult School. Using scripture lessons, Joseph, his brothers John and Henry Isaac, and others, taught men to read and write. Joseph learned much about the life of poor people from these students. Eventually classes were also set up for women.

3. Black Horse Passage

Fleeing the Potato Famine, thousands of Irish refugees settled in Walmgate and Fossgate, many forced to live in terrible slum conditions. Joseph's father had visited Ireland and seen the starvation and destitution, and in the hard winter of 1845 he was involved in setting up a soup kitchen in York. In 1850 he and John Ford, Bootham School headmaster, took his sons Joseph and John to Ireland and the trip left a life-long impression on the fourteen year-old Joseph.

4. Rowntree Wharf

This imposing building was originally part of Leatham's Flour Mill. Towering above the river Foss, it dominated the slum district of Hungate. In 1935 it became Rowntree & Co.'s Navigation Warehouse. In 1989 it was converted into flats and offices by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

5. Tanners Moat

Rowntree & Co began here in 1862 in an old iron foundry, several cottages and a tavern beside the river, when Joseph's brother Henry Isaac Rowntree bought a small cocoa and chicory business from the Tuke family. Joseph joined him in 1869 and after years of struggle and near-bankruptcy in the effort to make the best cocoa. It was the Frenchman Claude Gaget and his pastille-making know-how, rather than the cocoa, that turned the business around. Henry Isaac died suddenly of appendicitis in 1883 just as the business was growing. A new factory was built on Haxby Road and by 1908 Tanners Moat was no longer used.

6. Penn House

Known as "Top House" in his lifetime, Penn House was Joseph's home off and on for nearly forty years, from the time of his marriage to his first wife Julia in 1862. Julia died just a year later and Joseph married Emma Antoinette Seebohm (known as Antoinette) in 1867. It had been his parents' house, and when he first moved in, it was ingeniously divided by his mother so that the two households could live closely but separately within the same building. The house is now part of Bootham School. In 1905 Joseph and Antoinette moved out to Clifton Lodge.

7. Bootham School

Founded in 1822 as a Quaker boys' school, Bootham offered a distinctive and progressive education: no corporal punishment (punishment was to sit in seclusion, which many felt to be worse than flogging), much scientific enquiry and natural history, little competitive sport and no corrupting newspapers. Joseph spent five years here, wearing its "plain dress" uniform with a shirt collar nearly wide enough to cover his shoulders, which provoked taunts as he and his brother walked through the city.

8. Central Library

Joseph started a factory library for his employees in 1885 by donating £10 of his own, raising £10 from another source, and docking a penny a week from workers' pay (a substantial sum for the lowest-paid 13 year old girl on 4 shillings and 2 pence a week). He and his son Seebohm later helped establish York Central Library, the city's first public library (though it only opened at this site in 1927). Ironically, the opening ceremony was presided over by his great commercial rival, Sir Joseph Terry.

9. Friends Meeting House

The facade was designed by Thorp and Rowntree in 1885, while the original interior dates back to 1817. Joseph attended thousands of Meetings for Worship here during his life, most of them here. But he is only remembered as having spoken, or "ministered", once. Quakers don't have paid ministers and meet in silence broken only when a member feels moved to speak or offer a prayer, known as "spoken ministry".



THE ROWNTREE FAMILY

Joseph Rowntree (1836-1925), was the son of another Joseph (1801-1859) who was a grocer in York, and his wife, Sarah. Starting out as an apprentice in the shop, the younger Joseph went into partnership with his brother Henry Isaac at the struggling cocoa factory in 1869. In the course of his own lifetime, he turned Rowntree's into one of the most famous chocolate factories in England. Joseph married twice - first to Julia Seebohm, who died in 1863 soon after giving birth to their only child (Lilley, who died six years later), and then in 1867 to Emma Antoinette Seebohm (known as Antoinette and, to the family, as Tonie). Antoinette died in 1924, shortly before Joseph. They had six children, one of whom was Seebohm Rowntree (1871-1954) whose studies of poverty in York at the turn of the century helped to shape the welfare state formed after the Second World War. Amongst other members of this extraordinary family, we should also note Arnold Rowntree (1872-1951), Joseph's nephew, who was for many years Liberal Member of Parliament for York, voted out in 1918 because of his anti-war stance.

NOTE

There are other interesting sites in York associated with the Rowntree family which could be reached by public transport. These include

- Clifton Lodge, where Joseph lived for the last 20 years of his life,
- The Retreat psychiatric hospital, of which he was a governor for over 40 years and where his ashes are buried,
- Rowntree Park, given to the people of York by Rowntree and Company at the close of the First World War as a memorial to all those members of the Company's staff who lost their lives or suffered during the War.
- The Mount School, which educated Rowntree women and which Rowntree men helped to run
- The Homestead, an arts and crafts building designed by Joseph's architect son, Frederick, where his son Seebohm lived till 1936
- The Rowntree 'cocoa works' in Haxby Road (now part of Nestlé), built in 1890.
- New Earswick, the garden village developed for working people and their families Joseph Rowntree.

For more information see www.rowntreewalks.org



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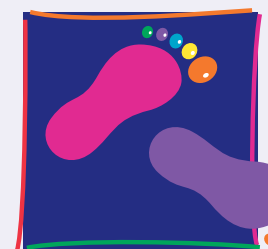
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ROWNTREE



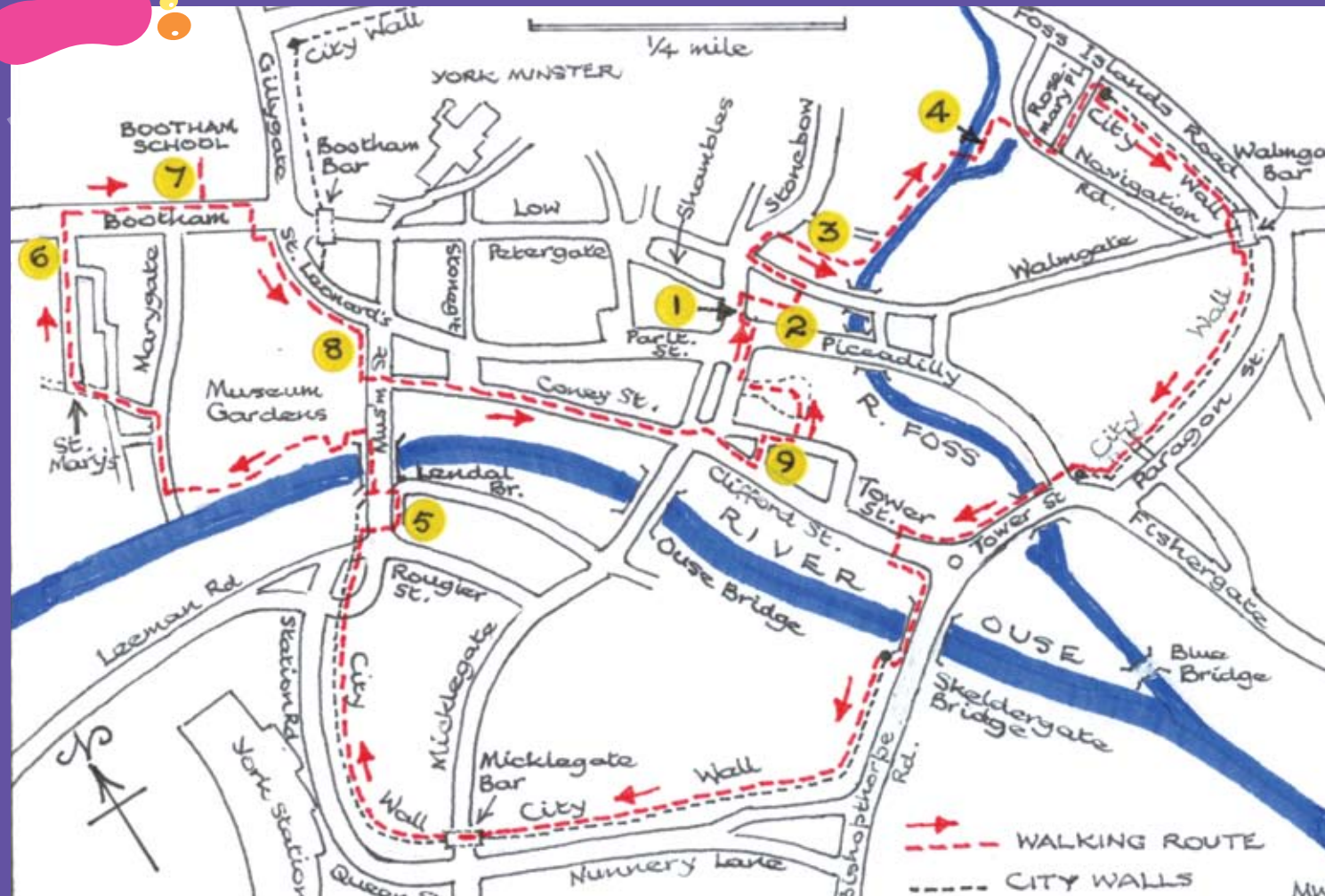
WALKS

York's
an assortment of trails

INTRODUCTION

Anyone who has enjoyed Kit Kat, Black Magic, Smarties, Fruit Gums, Polo, to name just a few, will know the name of Rowntree. But what many won't realise is that the man who made Rowntrees into a household name, Joseph Rowntree, was an extraordinary figure in his own right – a philanthropist far ahead of his time, a progressive employer, a radical thinker, and a social innovator. It's not surprising, then, that readers of the *York Evening Press* voted him York's 'Man of the Millennium' (alongside Dame Judi Dench as 'Woman of the Millennium'). His son, Seebohm, continued in the same tradition – his studies of twentieth century poverty helped to lay the foundations of the modern welfare state. Both men lived and worked here in York - Joseph began life in 1836 at 28 Pavement, and died in 1925. As his biographer wrote *'he belonged to the generation which stared at the last stagecoaches in its childhood and the first aeroplanes in its old age.'*

This unique Rowntree Walk will show you aspects of York which other tours don't reach. Give the Vikings and the Romans a miss for an hour or two – instead learn about 19th and early 20th century York, about its chocolate factories, its Irish immigration, its poverty, and the ways in which the Rowntree family tried to change things for the better. And visit the place where Joseph was born, and the houses where he and his family lived. Take a walk into York's recent past and follow the life and heritage of Joseph Rowntree and his family.... and think of your walk next time you eat a Kit Kat.



Route Guide

PAVEMENT, LADY PECKITT'S YARD & BLACK HORSE PASSAGE

Turn R into Lady Peckitt's Yard, to the right of Jones the Bootmaker's. At the bottom of the Yard, turn L (probably among cars). In Fossgate turn L, then R in Stonebow. Black Horse Passage is sharp R at the 2nd bus stop sign.

BLACK HORSE PASSAGE TO NAVIGATION WAREHOUSE

Continue down Black Horse Passage and past British Telecom building. Bearing right, go down narrow steps to the River Foss. Turn 1, climb the steps to the footbridge to the former Navigation Warehouse.

NAVIGATION WAREHOUSE TO TANNER'S MOAT

Go down the far steps, turn R into Navigation Road, then L into Rosemary Place. At the far end, go onto the City Wall at the Red Tower. Descend again at Walmgate Bar, cross Walmgate with care. Mount the steps again, and continue along the Wall to the Fishergate Tower. Cross Piccadilly, follow Tower Street past the Castle Museum. Bear right, then cross Tower Street at the pedestrian crossing. Cross Skeldergate Bridge, then go up the steps at Baile Hill onto the Wall again. Follow it all the way round, via Micklegate Bar, to Lendal Bridge. At the end of the Wall, turn R down to the traffic lights, cross over, then L into Tanner's Moat.

TANNER'S MOAT TO ST MARY'S AND PENN HOUSE

Go under the arch at the end of Tanner's Moat, then climb the steps to bridge level. Cross Lendal Bridge, then go down steps to L. At the bottom, turn R until the small gate into Museum Gardens. If the gate is locked, continue beside the river to the bottom of Marygate. Otherwise, go through the gate, past the Conveniences, and follow the curving path L through the gardens and round the Hospitium. Go through the exit ahead, then R up Marygate. Take the second turn on L along Marygate Lane. Continue straight along pathway, then R up steps into St Mary's. Penn House is at the top, on the left.

PENN HOUSE, ST MARY'S, TO BOOTHAM & CENTRAL LIBRARY

Cross Bootham at PC, then R to Bootham School. Afterwards, continue down Bootham, then turn R at the traffic lights. Go past Exhibition Square and St. Leonard's Place. Turn R into Museum St, to the Library.

YORK CENTRAL LIBRARY TO THE FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE

Cross Museum St. at the island to R, then head straight along Lendal, Coney Street and Spurriergate. Soon after the start of Clifford Street, turn sharp L up Friargate.

FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE TO 28 PAVEMENT

At the top of Friargate turn R briefly along Castlegate, then L into St Mary's Square, then L again up to Coppergate. Turn R, cross Piccadilly at TL, straight on to Pavement.