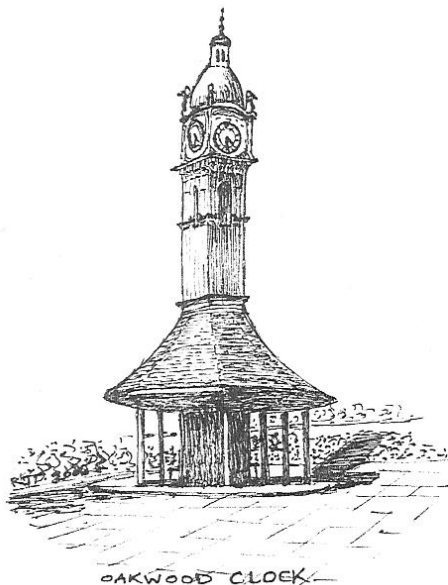


## A WALK ROUND OAKWOOD.

© By Hilary Dyson

***The Map for this Walk is on the Back Page.***



This short walk is intended to be an introduction to Oakwood and is suitable for families. There are just a few steps in Gipton Wood. The walk probably takes about an hour.

Start the walk from the Clock Tower at Oakwood (1) Originally placed in the covered market in Leeds, the Clock was moved to its present position in 1912. There is a Blue Plaque across the road on the Estate Agent's building relating to the Clock.

Cross Gledhow Lane with care. See the two stone built semi detached houses (2) on your right. They were probably built at the same time as Woodlands, the large house at the corner of Gledhow Lane and Old Park Road, (late 18th Century).

Walk down past the parade of shops built in 1925. (3) Originally these had gardens at the rear, and living accommodation over the shop premises.

Continue on the same side of the road to the large shop (4) (Somerfields in 2009). It was originally built as a Cooperative shop. In the rear of the car park there is evidence of quarrying, the principal industry in the area during the 19th Century.

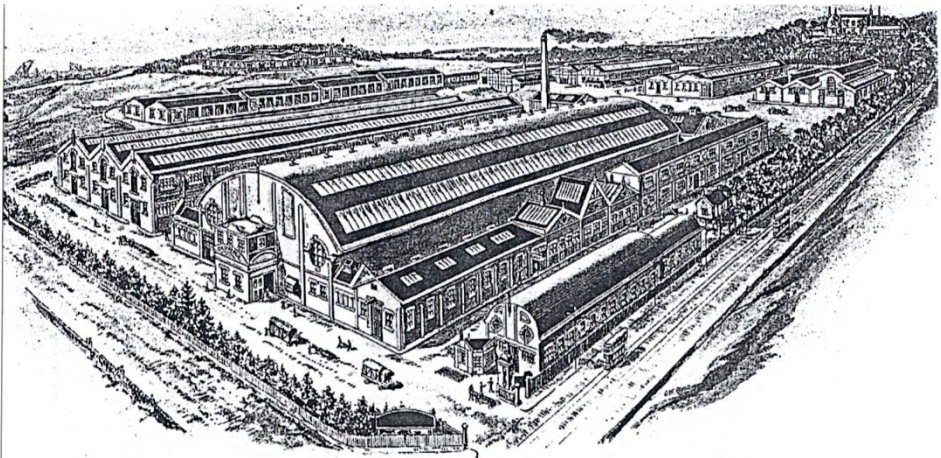
Return to Roundhay Road and continue down the parade of shops. Cross Oakwell Mount to reach Ravenscar Avenue. (5) This is a terrace of houses built for the quarry workers in the 19th Century. In the wood behind was one of the major quarries in the area.



The end house was larger and was probably for the manager.

Notice the Public House called The Roundhay.(6) It was originally called The Gipton and built right up to the pavement edge, with a bowling green behind the premises. Continue

down the road to the Tesco Supermarket (7) and notice the Blue Plaque on the right hand side of the entrance, telling that the site was once the Blackburns Aircraft Factory.



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Return to Roundhay Road and continue to the right to the light controlled crossing. Cross the road and turn left up the road to reach the stone steps at the tiled entrance, done by local school children, leading into Gipton Wood. (8) The Friends of Gipton Wood are very active in promoting and

preserving the flora, fauna and history. There is some evidence of C4th Romano British farms and dwellings.

Take the steps leading into the wood and follow the tarmac path. At the Yfork near a street light, turn left, go up the shallow steps, and follow the tarmac path to the cross paths. Turn left and follow the path to reach Oakwood Boundary Road.(9) This is still surfaced with stone setts. Do not go downhill. Turn right up to reach Oakwood Drive (10) with its early 20th Century large terraced or detached houses built in the grounds of Oakwood House. Take the second entry on the right, Oakwood Mount, (11) to see the back entrance of Oakwood House now Sabourn Court. It was built in the early 19th Century for the Hudson family. (12)

Return to Oakwood Drive and continue to the right to Oakwood Lane. Turn right uphill, turn right on Oakwood Grove and look through the front gates of Sabourn Court, now a nursing home, to admire the house and grounds.



Return to Oakwood Lane, cross the road to see the imposing gate posts (13) at Tudor Lodge. These formerly marked the entrance to Towerhurst, the home of William

Penrose Green, a Lord Mayor of Leeds. Towerhurst was demolished in the 1960s.

Go down Oakwood Lane and turn right on Springwood Road to see Roundhay Methodist Church. (14).



This building was erected in 1986 replacing the earlier Church there built in 1874, this in turn replaced the Meeting House on North Lane which was used before 1815.

Return to Oakwood Lane, turn right downhill to pass Ladywood Cottage. (15) Formerly known as Ladywood Farm, the 18th Century stone and brick buildings are still in evidence.

Continue down the hill to see Oakwood Library. (16) This



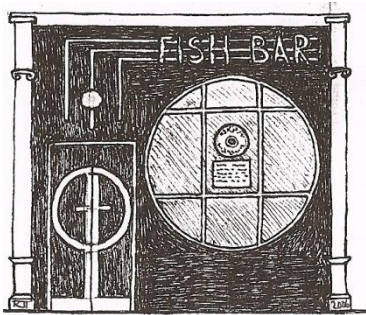
was once a private house with stables which are now used as a garage. In 1898 it was owned by Benjamin Robinson, who was connected

with the well known Leeds jewellers, Owen Robinson.

Cross Oakwood Lane at the traffic lights to see the large stone building (17) which was previously a pair of semi detached houses before becoming the local Post Office, then a private dwelling. It is now Browns estate agency office.

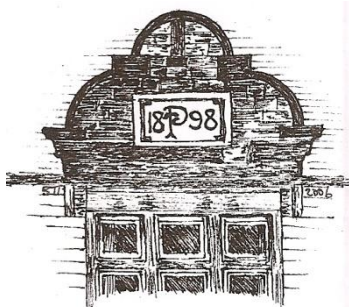


Notice the Blue Plaque dedicated to Oakwood Clock, which was unveiled by Sir James Savile, a Leeds celebrity. The restaurant is built on the site of the old smithy.



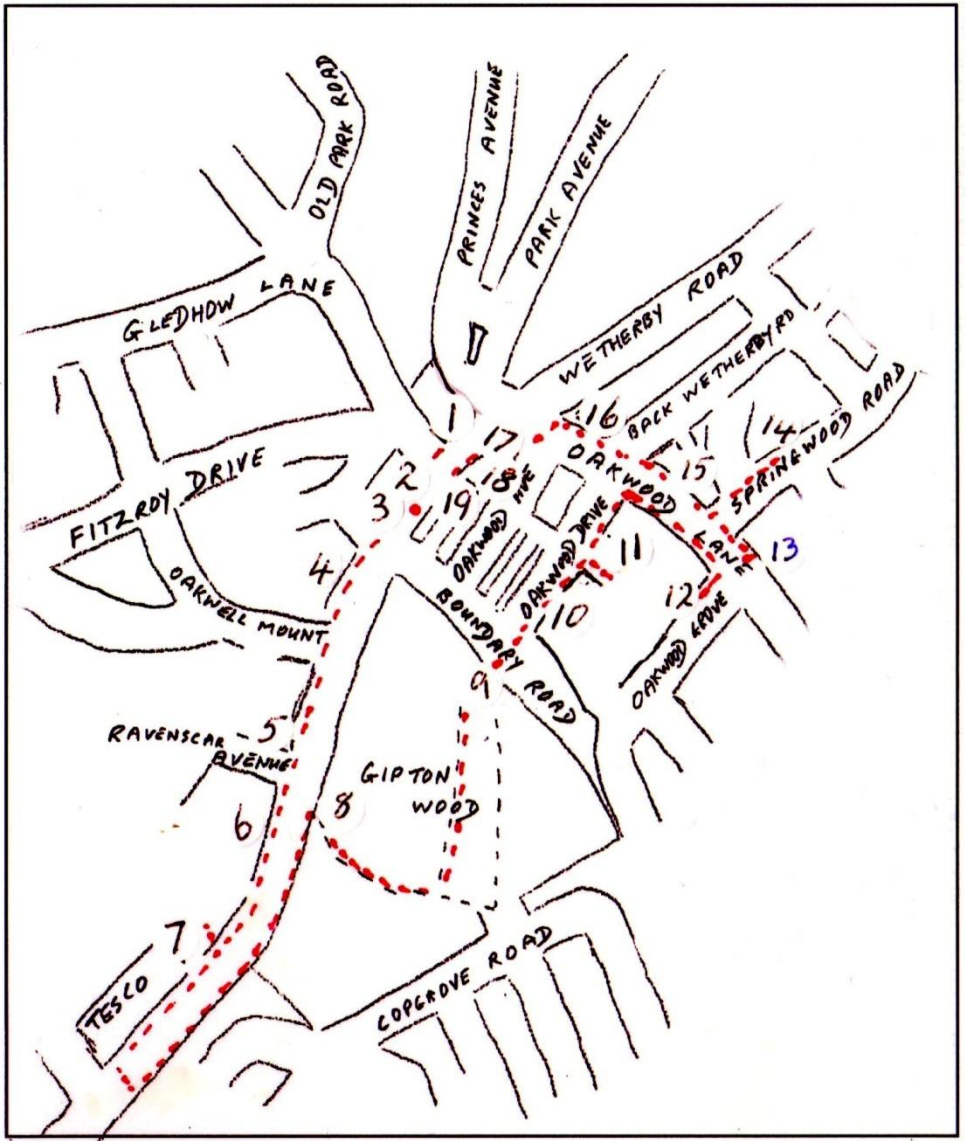
Oakwood Lane was formerly called Horseshoe Lane.

The next building on Roundhay Road is the Fish & Chip shop (18) with its distinctive frontage in the 1920's 1930's style. Continue down Roundhay Road to shop no. 468 where the name Preston is picked out on the tiled entrance floor. T. Preston was a chemist who built these shops in 1898 and put the date on the gable. (19)



Go down the road to the light controlled pedestrian crossing. Cross and turn right back to Oakwood Clock.

I am grateful to Bob Tyrell for the drawings of the buildings.



Map for the 'Walk About Oakwood'