

The Rose and Crown also known as Binks Hotel. It was one of the city's best known coaching inns and stood in a yard where the Queens Arcade now is.

But gone without trace are the Bull and Mouth — said to be a corruption of Boulogne mouth, commemorating a victory over the French by Henry VIII. It was in Briggate along with the Albion and the Talbot and the Rose and Crown, also known as Binks Hotel, in a yard which is now the Queen's Arcade.

The names of the coaches were as picturesque as those of the pubs. The True Briton ran to Kendal, the Accommodation to Otley and the Union to Ilkley. The Defiance left the Bull and Mouth, stopping at the White Horse in Otley and the Rose and Crown in Ilkley on its way to Skipton. The full fare was six shillings and sixpence travelling inside and three and sixpence, outside.

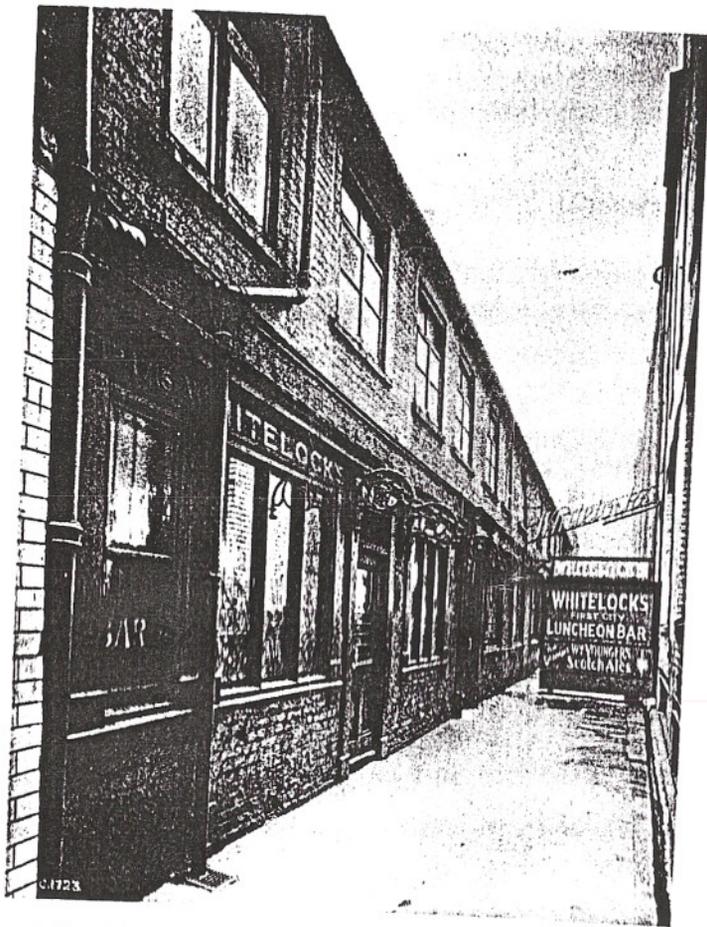
Briggate still houses one of the city's finest pubs, another which claims to be the oldest, and others which are linked with the theatre. In the alleyways off this main thoroughfare were many of the early inns and taverns of the city. The area teemed with overcrowded housing. The markets were nearby along with the cloth halls, the Corn Exchange, the Parish Church and the other buildings that made Leeds the most important city in Yorkshire. Many of these pubs have long since vanished but Whitelocks remains, much changed but none the worse for that.

This splendid tavern stands in Turk's Head Yard, its original name when first licensed in 1715. In 1880 it was bought by the Whitelock family and in 1886 rebuilt in its present form with little changing since then. One wonders what an impression it must have had on the artistic and business community of Leeds that provided much of its trade. Later it was the first place in the city to have electric lighting and an electric clock. Ironically at that time, Charles Francis Tetley, grandson of Joshua and a Lord Mayor of Leeds, was offered a free trial of electricity in his Headingley home and refused it.

John Betjeman enjoyed the atmosphere of Whitelocks. He described it as '...the Leeds equivalent of Fleet Street's Old Cheshire Cheese and far less self-conscious, and does a roaring trade. It is the very heart of Leeds.' It calls itself the 'First City Luncheon Bar' and it is this function that continues. The yard, entered at either end, is long and narrow and this is reflected

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inside with the long, marble-topped bar. Long-lost breweries are commemorated here — Joule and Son of Stone in Staffordshire, Vaux and Company of Macauley Street in Leeds — and on etched mirrors soup and bread is offered for sale for a penny! The original trade mirrors are just one element of this grand pub with its art nouveaux glasswork, cast-iron tables fitting snugly into comfortable settles and the general ambience of a century ago. It is, naturally enough, a listed building of special architectural interest.



*Whitelocks in Turks Head Yard off Briggate said by John Betjeman to be "the very heart of Leeds".*

Higher up Briggate, in a yard named after it, is the Pack Horse, reputed to be the oldest pub in the City of Leeds. Little remains of the original building which dated from medieval times and most of the shell was recently demolished. It was a favourite pub with theatricals with the Empire and the Theatre Royal, both now demolished, as well as the City Varieties and the Grand Theatre all situated nearby. In the next yard is the Ship Inn, a Georgian pub that also attracted actors and musicians. The Wrens in Upper Briggate still retains a theatrical atmosphere and is a favourite with members of Opera North which is based at the Grand.

But the White Swan, now called Barneys, in Swan Street, has the most tangible and lasting links with the theatre. It was built in the middle of the 18th century as a coaching inn. Above it is the City Palace of Varieties built as an extension to the pub in 1865 as Thornton's New Music Hall and Fashionable Lounge. In 1897 a team of clog dancers was on the bill. One of the team was Charlie Chaplin, the first of many famous stars to appear there. In 1953 the filming of the BBC programme *The Good Old Days* started there under producer Barney Colehan, after whom the pub is now named. The programme was to continue for thirty years.

McConnells, more properly known as the Alliance Vaults, stood on the east side of Briggate near to Market Street. It was a most popular place to drink in even though there was nowhere to sit except on a few old barrels. Two-thirds of its trade was in spirits and Ind Coope's Old No. 2 Ale could only be bought in half pints. Despite this records show that more than three thousand pints of beer were sold each week during the thirties.

Higher up Briggate is a yard which once housed the Bay Horse and above the entrance can be seen what may have been the sign of one of its licensees with the name Molyneaux on it. This pub had a gory history with tales of a brutal murder by one customer of another after which the landlady attempted to hide the body by pushing it into a cesspit.

In 1889 there were 135 pubs in the Millgarth Division — the city centre area — of the Leeds City Constabulary. Of these, 31 remain and a dozen or so new ones have been built. On the