



In Booze we trust?

Sep 2004

"Oh great! Just what we need - another fun-pub disco 'cos there aren't enough overpriced, glitzy places in Leeds are there?"

If you're new to Leeds or have lived here for a while you'll probably notice that Leeds overflows with glitzy, pricey, bars and restaurants. One of the newest is the Halo/Quilted Llama in the old Trinity St David's church next to Leeds University.

This site previously owned by the university, was sold for £1.5 million to Ultimate Leisure (a Newcastle based company) on a 99 lease subject to "safeguards as to the external appearance of the buildings and the compatibility of the business with the university's own activities." Vomiting students, glaring lights, booming music, heavy handed bouncers, overpriced drinks - sounds very compatible with the modern day university.

Binge drinking and overspending are essential to student life. Now we at the Rabble Rouser like a drink as much as the next person, but what's the bigger picture? Binge drinking costs the NHS £1.7 billion a year, with booze landing 150,000 people in hospital every year. 40% of A & E admissions are alcohol related. Some of the other effects of our booze culture are 1.2 million incidents of alcohol related violence and 22,000 premature deaths a year. Is a posh fun-pub disco drinking den the best that the university could really think

of? What about something offering more than booze and a hole in your wallet?

Ultimate Leisure have given the old church a £5 million face-lift. Small beans for a company who floated on the stock exchange in 1999 and reported pre-tax profits of £4.2 million in 2003. One of their aims for the Quilted Llama is luxury and exclusivity - this ethos couldn't be further removed from that of the previous tenants (and no we don't mean the vicar).

In 1999 when Trinity St David's was empty and semi-derelect the A-Spire collective moved in, cleaned it up and re-opened it as a free accessible community space - a squatted social centre. During their six weeks occupation a series of free music events, talks and workshops were held. There was also an open mic night, a donations café, bookshop, and free-shop. Now 5 years on we have the Quilted Llama - another expensive alcohol-gearred drinking hole in a city which is rammed full of them and lacks any alternative, affordable accessible, spaces.

But don't despair just yet, the Rabble Rouser can report that over the summer a collective of individuals have been working on setting up an autonomous space in Leeds centre. See over for more details...

Plans for another A-Spire

Those cheeky squatter are at it again. The A-spire collective are beginning meetings to open another free space in Leeds over the autumn. If you are interested, check out the website: www.a-spire.org.uk

NEW SLANTS ON LIFE IN LEEDS...

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'this country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it, or their revolutionary right to dismember or overthrow it'. Abraham Lincoln.

A Radical new free space opening in Leeds centre this autumn

Sick of a world that revolves round money not people? Tired of a politics which preaches freedom and choice but offers only bigger cages and longer chains? Fed up with a city that boasts a 24 hour lifestyle "24 hours dominated by money and power?"

Well you're not alone! We're in the process of raising funds and finding city centre premises for a social centre right in the heart of Leeds. The centre will be collectively run as a libertarian, non-profit space where we can organise ourselves to meet our own needs and desires, rather than those of big business and for politicians.

The shape of the Leeds Social Centre will be up to those who want to get involved, but here are some of the ideas that have been proposed so far: café, gig venue, art space, library meeting room, creche, yoga and health room, multicultural space, games Room, radical bookshop, free internet access, food co-op, film nights and chill-out space. Contact Leeds ARC to get involved.

Abuse in Leeds Prisons

BBC News reported this month that the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) is being asked to set up an inquiry into claims of racially-motivated assaults by prison officers at Leeds Prison. It has been alleged that Asian and black inmates were verbally abused, unfairly denied access to facilities and punched and kicked by prison staff. The allegations surfaced in April, after an Asian prisoner, Shahid Aziz, was found dead in his cell at Leeds. Lawyers for some of the prisoners want the commission to set up an inquiry. Ethnic minority inmates said they had been victims of assaults and five provided details of attacks by a small number of prison officers. For more info see:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/west_yorkshire/3616512.stm

<http://www.enrager.net/hosted/caps/>

Leeds ARC normally meets 1st and 3rd Thurs of the month at Holy Trinity Church café, 7.30pm. Contact us for exact times.

Dissent network against the G8 gathers pace

The G8 have officially declared that the UK will host the leaders of the G8 countries at the exclusive Gleneagles resort in Scotland in July 2005. A Global Day of Action has been called for July 6th 2005. People from Leeds will be helping organise against the G8, through actions, workshops and teach-ins. See www.dissent.org.uk or contact Leeds ARC.



Diary Dates

September 2004

- 19 Incitement II... film night, Emma Goldman 7.30 pm, Packhorse pub, Woodhouse Lane.
- 25 Switch off star wars. National demo at Fylingdales
- 30 Leeds Social centre/Leeds ARC meeting. 7.30pm, Holy Trinity Café, Boar Lane

October 2004

- 1-3 Big Blether. Activist gathering in Scotland. www.bigblether.org.uk
- 6 Leeds Underground Films Day at Leeds Radical Film Festival. Leeds Art Gallery. LS1
- 7 '4 to the Floor' Fundraiser for Leeds Social Centre. 7.30pm-late Brudenell Social Club, Queens Rd, LS6.
- 12 Pachamerica Day Anti-Colombus Day of action
- 14-17 European Social Forum Various venues around London. <http://www.altspaces.net/>
- 17 Incitement II... film night, The Bolivarian Revolution 7.30 pm, Packhorse pub, Woodhouse Lane.
- 21 Leeds Social centre/Leeds ARC meeting. 7.30pm, Holy Trinity Café, Boar Lane
- 31 Incitement II... Day at Leeds Radical Film Festival. Leeds Art Gallery. LS1

November 2004

- 27 Anarchist Bookfair. ULU, Malet St, London.

It's the 21st century in boomtown Leeds, in one of the world's richest countries. Yuppie flats, poverty, shit call-centre jobs, environmental devastation, glitzy overpriced bars, pollution, run-down estates and long working hours. Politicians, business, the media tell us this is as good as it gets. Leeds ARC begs to differ!

Leeds ARC (Action for Radical Change) puts together *The Rabble Rouser*, links local and global issues, promotes and takes collective action to create our own solutions and radically transform our city—without bosses or politicians.

Get involved - send in articles, distribute *The Rabble Rouser*, be a pain in the arse. We want local dirt or gossip about the powers that be—the media, the council, big business—so let us know. Email: leedsarc@yahoo.co.uk. Phone: 07963 951267 Post: Leeds ARC, 145-147 Cardigan Road, Leeds LS6 1LJ. Copies of *Rabble Rouser* available @ www.leedsarc.org.uk.

