

## Sheffield's Historical Troublemakers – 20 September 2022

We began in Paradise Square with a view of what Sheffield life was like in the late eighteenth century, and how the square was used by John Wesley and political activists for meetings.

From there, we walked to the Cathedral and went inside to hear about the Reverend James Wilkinson. In view of Cutlers Hall, David spoke about the conflict between the Cutlers Company and ordinary cutlers.

We walked down East Parade and saw the statue of James Montgomery and where his house in Hartshead had stood. We heard about Quaker meetings and the Mechanics' Library on Watson Walk; with David telling us about 'key players' and putting their lives into the context of the times they lived in.

In the market area: we, sadly, heard about (and saw) the derelict old Town Hall, before working our way back 'up' through Fitzalan Square to the Victoria Hall Methodist Church and the Upper Chapel.

We finished at Holberry's plaque in the Peace Gardens

South Yorkshire Police did their best to 'soundtrack' our tour – on a couple of occasions we witnessed saw police cars, with sirens blaring, presumably on their way to sort out some 'trouble' somewhere.

Of course, this brief bit of reportage goes nowhere near far enough to cover all that David told us, but maybe it gives a flavour.

If I may be allowed to 'promote' here, then I thoroughly recommend David's book "Sheffield Troublemakers: Rebels and Radicals in Sheffield History" which is definitely worth tracking down (easy to do).

A big "thank you" to David for his time and for sharing his knowledge with us.

