

Did you know?



Past and Present

music-house.org.uk

Woodhouse once had its own amusement park.

The Leeds Royal Park was a public pleasure garden that existed in Leeds between 1858 and 1874. The park was opened and run by Tommy Clapham, (1817-1895), a local entrepreneur, who had previously had the lease on the Leeds Zoological and Botanical Gardens in Headingley.

The park, adjacent to Woodhouse Moor, was open every day. It hosted various galas and festivals throughout the year and was apparently home to "the largest dancing platform in the kingdom." Sadly, the park was financially unsuccessful, and Clapham was often in trouble with the law. Amongst other misdemeanours, he was repeatedly fined by local magistrates for allowing music and dancing to take place at the park without a licence.

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To find out more about Leeds Royal Park, scan the QR code >

