

# **RADICALISM OR FADICALISM?**

**The 19<sup>th</sup> Century Vegetarian  
Movement in North East  
England**



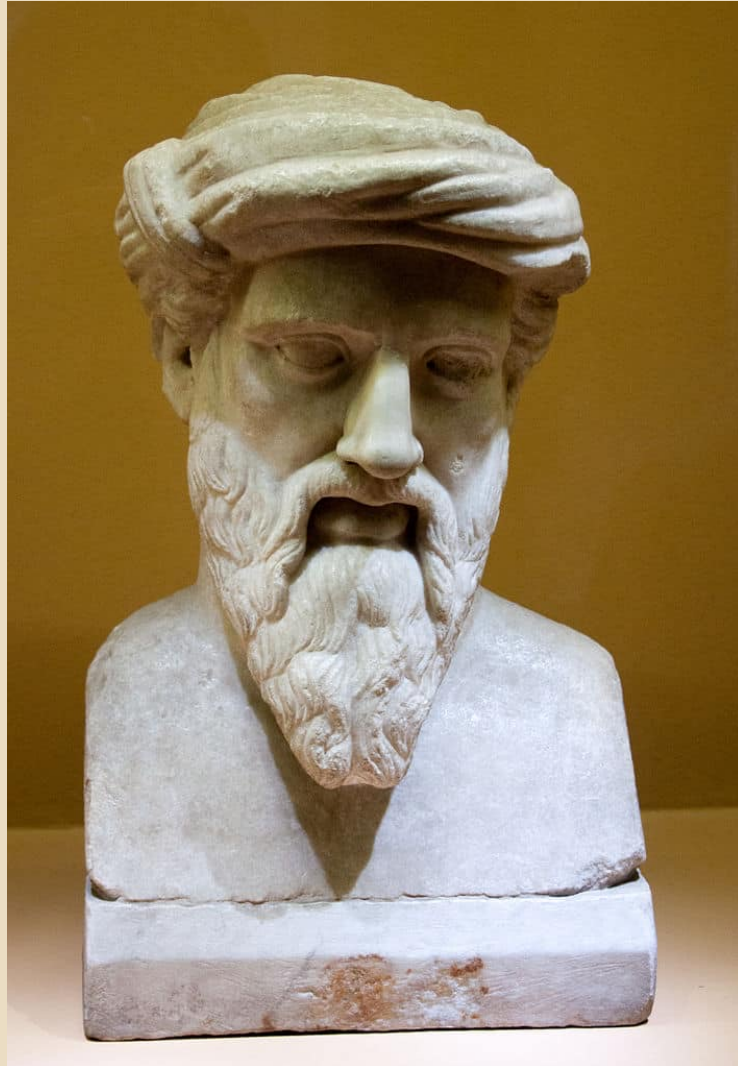
**SUPERNATURAL VEGETARIAN  
RESTAURANT  
(1970s and 80s)**



**4, CLOTH MARKET c1906**



# Pythagoras



# Jainism





# JOSEPH RITSON (1752-1803)

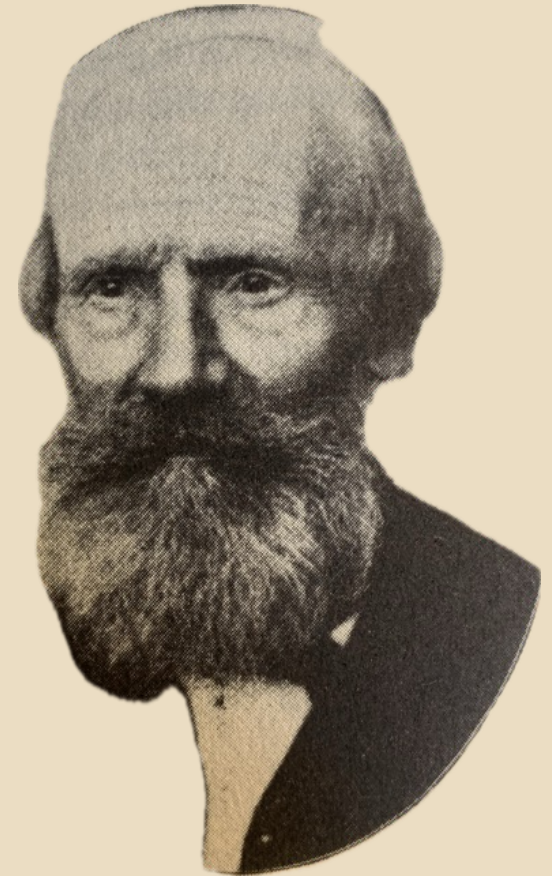
- Born Stockton-on-Tees
- Lawyer/ antiquarian/ folklorist
- Atheist
- Republican
- Vegetarian:
- *An Essay on Abstinence from Animal Food, as a Moral Duty* (1802)
- Influence on Shelley



# DAVID RICHMOND

## (1816-1891)

- Born and died in Darlington
- Plebeian autodidact
- Concordium: vegetarian utopian socialist community
- 1842: Connecticut Shakers
- Spiritualism (Keighley)
- Shoemaker



# **BEGINNING OF VEGETARIAN 'MOVEMENT'**

- 1847: Ramsgate meeting/ establishment of Vegetarian Society.
- Remnants of Concordium/ advanced teetotallers/ Cowherdites (vegetarians since 1809).
- Centre of movement = Salford. Offices and leading activists.
- Strongest in urbanised, industrial north and midlands.
- Movement spread through print media and local meetings.



GRAND SHOW OF PRIZE VEGETARIANS.

**PUNCH**  
**1851**



# EARLY VEGETARIAN ACTIVITY IN THE NORTH EAST (1848-1860s)

- Local press (articles, letters)/ lectures/ discussions.
- Support of prominent people.
- Secretary of Newcastle vegetarian association = John Mawson (1816-67)



# **Vegetarian Society membership, according to ‘position in society’**

**(A sample of 3 typical months, from the *Vegetarian Messenger*)**

	Feb 1850	Feb 1853	Jan 1858
MP	1	1	1
County magistrate	2	1	1
Alderman	1	1	1
Private gentlemen	6	17	19
Physicians /Surgeons	16	20	17
Ministers	5	8	5
Authors/lecturers	7	13	5
Professional men	43	54	no category (nc)
Merchants	15	24	11
Farmers	6	9	12
Tradesmen/ Mechanics/ Labourers	245	466	427
Students	nc	17	13
Book-keepers/ clerks	nc	nc	55
Schoolmasters/ teachers	nc	nc	25
Commercial travellers	nc	nc	7
Females	158	242	218
Totals	478	889	851

**5 January 1878: Vegetarian dinner and  
entertainment in Temperance Hall, Stockton.  
(Flockton Lodge of Independent Organisation of Good Templars)**

- 200 present
- Menu = boiled wheat and rice puddings/ boiled lentles [sic]/ vegetarian soup/ potato cheese cakes/ pea pies/ haricot beans/ Durham puddings/ blancmanges/ potato hash/brown bread etc.
- Chair = Mr William M Wright. Vegetarian question 'concerned the working man...in respect to health, wealth and happiness.
- Mr Hill of Croxdale – miner – vegetarian for 7 years
- Thanks to ladies who prepared meal.



# ***1. DURHAM PUDDING.***

This pudding, if taken regularly, is a great preventative of rheumatic pains, and can be eaten cold or hot.

	d.
One pound of wheat soaked in two quarts of water for twelve hours; then stew in the oven for twelve hours in a stone jar, stirring it occasionally	1½
Quarter pound of raisins put to the wheat and mixed together, then baked in dishes	1
To which add milk	1½
Sugar	0½
Eat with Brown bread	1½
Total	6

# **‘Wholesome, nutritious and palatable’**

## **Newcastle’s first vegetarian restaurant?**

### **December 1888**

no efforts or expense will be spared to ensure the maximum of comfort for its patrons, and to render it  
"A HOME FROM HOME."

---

**VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT,**  
4 & 6, NELSON STREET (one door from Grainger St.)  
**THE CHEAPEST AND BEST DINNER IN THE CITY.**  
Three Courses for 6d. Soup, Savoury, and Sweet.  
Wholesome, nutritious, and palatable. Teas from 4 o'clock.

---

**MELROSE WAVERLEY HYDROPATHIC.**  
MOST MODERATE INCLUSIVE TERMS.

Only. ORIGINAL AND GENUINE BERWICK DOCKLES.  
WM. COWE AND SONS, BRIDGE STREET, BERWICK.  
Purveyors to H.R.H. Duchess of Teck.  
(Large Post Tins free for 1s. 6d.)

---

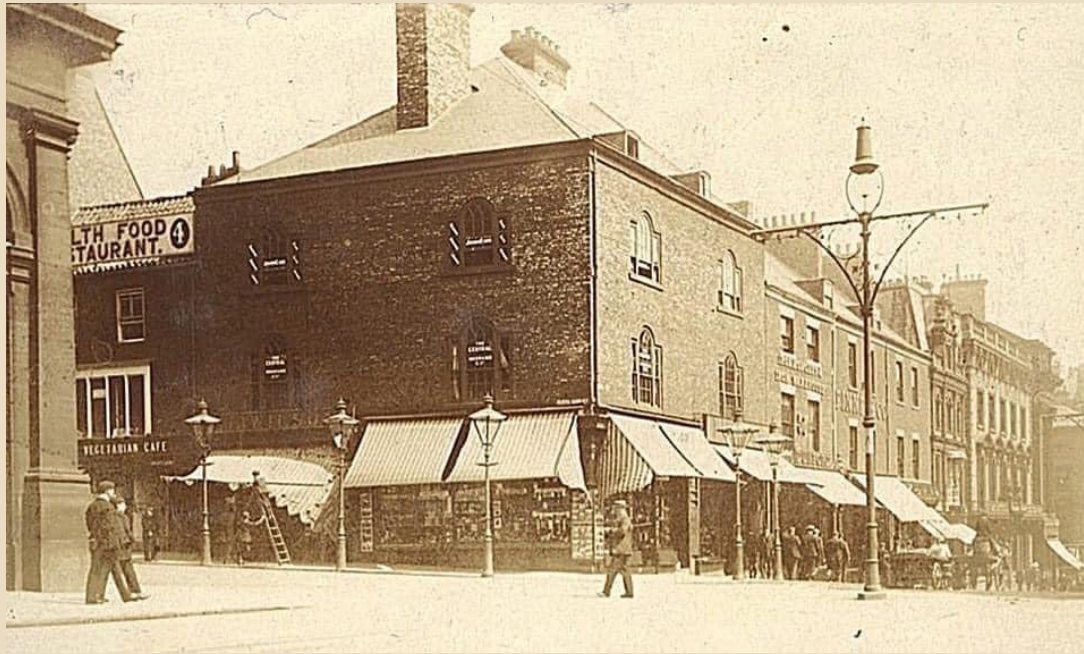
**A PRICOT VEGETARIAN CAFE,**  
4, NELSON STREET. FIRST FLOOR.  
One Door from Grainger Street.  
DELICIOUS AND NUTRITIOUS FOODS.  
3 COURSES—FROM 6d.  
BEST VALUE IN NEWCASTLE.

---

DAY, **SMART & Co's** The Connecting Link between  
School and Business Life—Rapid Tuition  
in Writing, Bookkeeping, Shorthand.

# VEGETARIAN OR DIETETIC REFORM MOVEMENT?

## 4, CLOTH MARKET (from Mosley Street)





# RADICALISM OR FADICALISM?

## DIVERSITY OF MOTIVATIONS



# **GANDHI AND THE LONDON VEGETARIAN SOCIETY**

Meeting of National  
Vegetarian Federation  
Union, c1890



With members of the Vegetarian Society, London, 1890

The Vegetarian Society, London, 1890

## TRACTS FOR THE TIMES BY THE MODERATION SOCIETY

- It is her beer, bread and beef, that has made England predominant in the world. Lower her scale of diet and she will sink in the scale of nations. It is her food that has given her strength, her thews and sinews, and commanding energy of mind. Take this away, and give us the diet of the “gentle and pious population of India”, and we shall be as humble and servile as Ryots; give us the potatoes of Ireland, and we shall become serfs and vagabonds like the Irish.
- **CHARLES LARKIN 30 April 1849**





# THE LAY OF THE VEGETARIAN

Sergeant C Hall (Workington)

Full seven days have gone their  
ways

In direful miseree,

Since I have eat a bite of meat

Or supped a cup of tea;

And o-er my soul the wild waves  
roll

Of famished agonee;

For oh! I'm bad – in fact I'm mad,

With being hungeree.....

But oh! Tis strange the fearful  
change

That's now come o'er the scene!

Of fat I'm shorn, my joy has gone,

Likewise my smile serene;

Brown bread and peas won't give  
me ease,

Nor figs nor kidney bean –

I'm awful glum, for, like a drum,

I'm skin with wind between!

**(Newcastle Chronicle 29 June 1889)**