

Sources for the Study of The Miners' Strike 1984 - 1985



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Front cover illustrations - left to right:

Arthur Scargill, National Union of Mineworkers' President, and Tony Benn MP leading the NUM Strike March at Dinnington, 1984 (colourised)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield s22867*)

Stop Pit Closures sticker, c. 1984
(*Sheffield City Archives: SY689/V7/4*)

Sheffield Women Against Pit Closures (SAPC), 1984
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield arc06175*)

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www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives

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Introduction

This booklet lists sources available within Sheffield Libraries Archives and Information for the study of the year-long miners' strike of 1984 - 1985. It includes introductory information on the coal industry in the region, as well as various aspects of the strike and the legacy of the bitter year-long dispute.

It is not a detailed history of the strike; it merely points the reader who wishes to carry out their own research to what is available within Sheffield Libraries and Archives.

Many sources for researching wider themes such as coal mining, the lives of miners and their communities, trade unionism and other coal strikes have been left out – simply because they demand more detailed guides in their own right.

As more items are catalogued and the collections are used by researchers it is likely that additional references to the strike of 1984 - 1985 will come to light. More detailed searching of our catalogues for related terms may reveal additional material. It is always worth contacting us or checking our website for updates to this *Study Guide*. Our contact details are on the back cover.

Timeline showing key dates 1984 - 1985

Late 1983	National Coal Board announces its pit closure programme. It later announces an accelerated closure programme - a process which would take just 5 weeks to implement for a number of pits.
5 Mar 1984	Cortonwood (Brampton Bierlow, Rotherham) miners walk out on strike following a ballot.
12 Mar 1984	The various local strikes were declared a national strike by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM).
19 Apr 1984	Following a Special Delegate Conference at Sheffield the NUM calls on all of its members to come out on strike.
18 Jun 1984	Major battle between striking miners and the police at Orgreave Coking Plant, near Rotherham.
19 Jul 1984	Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, refers to the 'rule of the mob' and the 'enemy within' (the 'enemy without' had been Argentina who had invaded the British Falkland Islands two years before).
Sep 1984	High Court fines the NUM £200,000 for breaching its own constitution by not holding a national strike ballot.
19 Nov 1984	97.3% of Yorkshire miners on strike.
14 Feb 1985	90% of Yorkshire miners on strike.
1 Mar 1985	83% of Yorkshire miners on strike.
3 Mar 1985	NUM calls off the strike.
5 Mar 1985	Miners return to work.
1985	Barrow Colliery at Worsbrough Bridge, Barnsley was one of the first pits to close in 1985, not from being unprofitable but because the pit had become unsafe. Other pits that closed in 1985 were North Gawber (Barnsley), Cadeby and Denaby (Doncaster), Cortonwood Colliery (Barnsley), Brookhouse Colliery (Rotherham) and Yorkshire Main (Doncaster).
1986	Collieries that closed this year: Hickleton (Barnsley), Cadeby and Denaby (Doncaster) and Wath (Rotherham).
1987	Collieries that closed this year: Dodworth (Barnsley).
1988	Manvers Colliery Complex (near Wath upon Dearne) closed.

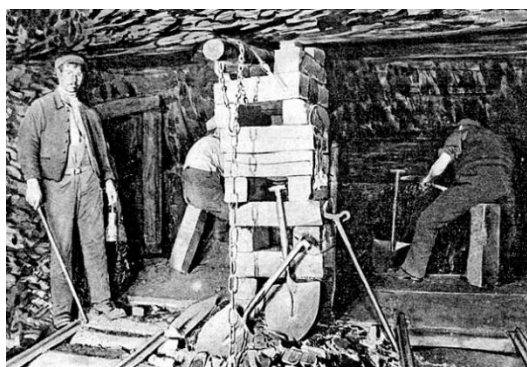
1989	Collieries that closed this year: Barnburgh (Doncaster) Dearne Valley (Barnsley), Darfield (Barnsley), Kilnhurst (Rotherham), Royston (Barnsley).
1990	Brodsworth Colliery (Doncaster) closed.
1991	South Yorkshire Police pay out £425,000 to 39 miners arrested at Orgreave Coking Plant in Jun 1984.
1991	Askern (Doncaster), Barnsley Main (Barnsley), Dinnington (Rotherham), Thurcroft (Rotherham) and Treeton Colliery (Rotherham) closed.
1992	Grimethorpe Colliery (Barnsley) and Houghton (Barnsley) closed.
1993	Bentley Colliery (Doncaster) closed.
1994	Goldthorpe Colliery (Barnsley), Kiveton Park (Rotherham) and Silverwood (Rotherham) closed.
1994	The European Union enquiry into poverty classified Grimesthorpe in South Yorkshire as the poorest settlement in the country and one of the poorest in the EU. South Yorkshire declared as being in considerable need of EU funding.
Dec 1994	Coal industry privatised.
1996	Markham Main Colliery (Doncaster) closed.
1999	Coalfields Regeneration Trust established 'to lead the way in coalfields regeneration and to restore healthy, prosperous and sustainable communities'.
Mar 2005	8 deep mines left in the UK.
2006	Rossington Colliery (Doncaster), the last remaining pit in South Yorkshire, closed.

The South Yorkshire Coal Industry

Coal mining in South Yorkshire has a long history - there are references to coal and mines in documents from at least the 16th century. The coalfield centred around Barnsley and in later years, Doncaster was to become one of the most important mining centres in the country.

By the mid-19th century statistics from the Home Office reveal there were 81 collieries in the South Yorkshire area. By 1870 there were over 100 mines employing over 60,000 miners.

It was in the 20th century that the coalfield reached its peak in terms of production and the numbers employed. In 1900 over 100,000 miners worked in the coal field.



Left-hand image: Coal getting, Birley East Pit, Woodhouse, c. 1900 (Picture Sheffield t01838). Right-hand image: Old and New Oaks Colliery, property of Charles Cammell & Co Ltd, mid-19th cent (Picture Sheffield s10706)

Between the two world wars the South Yorkshire collieries produced over 30 million tons of coal a year. In 1929 this represented 13% of the country's total output. As late as the mid-1970s, the coalfield was described by G D B Gray¹ as 'one of Britain's premier fields'.

With regard to trade unionism and industrial relations the mining industry had a long history of struggle to improve safety and wage rates. The 1850s saw the formation of the Yorkshire Miners' Association which later became part of the Miners' Federation. At the time of nationalisation in 1947 the National Union of Mineworkers was born. There are many references in the collections to strikes from the 19th century right through to the strike of 1984-1985.

¹ 'The South Yorkshire Coalfield' in Studies in the Yorkshire Coal Industry, Benson and Neville, 1976

The Strike

The strike actually had its roots in South Yorkshire. There had been some localised industrial action across the country in late 1983 and early 1984 but it was announcements by the Government for its plans for three pits in particular that led to the call for a national stoppage.



Left-hand image: National Coal Board flier encouraging miners to come back to work, 1985 (Sheffield City Archives ref SY731/V1). Right-hand image: Support the Miners stickers (Sheffield City Archives ref. SY689/V7/4).

In late winter 1983 the Government announced its pit closure programme, a few weeks later it published details of an accelerated closure programme. This process would mean mines would shut down in a matter of weeks after the initial announcements. One of the collieries affected by the accelerated closure was Cortonwood at Brampton Bierlow, Rotherham.

A week after the Cortonwood miners walked out in protest the National Union of Mineworkers declared that the various local disputes across the country were a national strike and in April 1984 at a Special Delegate Conference at Sheffield the NUM called on all its members to come out on strike.

At one point over 165,000 miners were out on strike across the country. Many miners remained out for the whole of the strike, whilst others found the hardship caused by no salary and no state benefits too much to bear. The National Union of Mineworkers paid those strikers who attended picket lines, but they received no help from the Government even if they had children to feed and clothe.

There was a mixed response from other parts of the trade union movement - some unions provided much needed support and raised money and donated food and clothes, whilst others were less sympathetic.

With the country having enough coal stockpiled to see it through the winter of 1984/5 it seemed that with the coming of spring in 1985, and a drift back to work by increasing numbers, the miners were not going to get a settlement to the dispute. In March 1985, by a tiny majority, the NUM called off the strike.

Women and the Strike

During the year-long protest many women mobilised themselves and their communities to defend miners' jobs and fight for the survival of their communities.

Some women were already involved in politics. Some members of the Sheffield Women Against Pit Closures had experiences of being members of the Communist Party, but many others became involved in political struggle for the first time in 1984.



Across the coalfield local women's support groups and WAPC (Women Against Pit Closures) groups were established, for example at Cortonwood (where the strike started), Askern and Rossington etc. The papers of many of these have survived, including fliers, photographs and minutes of meetings.

WAPC members spoke at public meetings joined the picket lines and raised funds. Funds were raised mainly to provide food parcels and clothes to striking miners and their families. The Sheffield WAPC raised over £100,000 which was distributed as food parcels. Fund raising methods included selling t-shirts, calendars, Christmas cards and holding raffles etc.

“[the strike] certainly enhanced my life, broadened my outlook with regard to politics, trade unions and education”

Betty Cook in *Queen Coal* (page 94)

“We are women, we are strong. We are fighting for our lives Side by side with our men...”

Extract from WAPC Campaign song

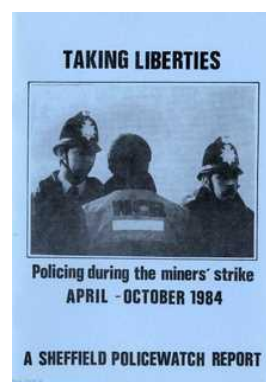
The Trades Union Congress formally recognised the work of the women in the coalfields and stated they believed the strike would not have lasted so long if the women hadn't contributed to the struggle.

After the strike was over, many women had a different outlook on life, not only in terms of new friendships and alliances but also in attitudes towards establishment groups such as the police and the courts. Many went on to continue in politics and activism, travelling abroad to places such as Chile and the Soviet Union, inspiring other women.

Policing the Strike

The strike was one of the most bitter periods of industrial unrest ever seen in Britain. It seemed at times to resemble a class battle between working class miners and the Conservative government, led by Margaret Thatcher and represented by the police who were brought in from many other constabularies - many of which had no experience of mining communities.

There were many scenes of confrontation - not least at Orgreave. Miners attempted to stop coal supplies getting to power stations, some miners didn't wish to strike, and many found the economic difficulties of receiving no wage and no state benefits too much to bear and they returned to work. This mixture caused emotions to run high. As well as violence and aggression by opposing parties there was accusation and counter accusation about the tactics of both the strikers and the police.



Left-hand image: Makeshift barriers at Orgreave Lane, 18 Jun 1984 (Sheffield City Archives: Policing the Coal Industry Dispute SY727); Right-hand image: cover of a Policewatch report - Policing during the Miners' Strike (Sheffield Local Studies 331.892 S)

During the twelve months of the strike over 11,000 men and women were arrested and over 8,000 of those were prosecuted - mainly for public order offences. Magistrates' Court records - available at local archive services in South Yorkshire - may record details of the prosecutions.²

There are numerous documents and oral testimonies in the collections which tell the story from both the miners' and the police points of view.

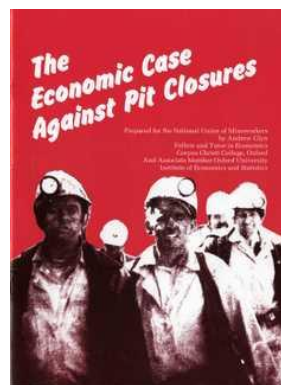
² Note there will be access restrictions on these records which are considered confidential under the terms of the Data Protection Act. Contact the archive services direct for more information.

The Aftermath

With the miners calling off their dispute with no settlement it seemed their fate was sealed. The Conservative government had secured its victory and exorcised the memory of the miners bringing down a government through strike action in the 1970s.

The Government pressed on with its pit closure programme. Within 10 years most of the pits in South Yorkshire were closed and the industry as a whole was privatised.

Bitter opposition to the pit closure programme remained in some quarters though many felt global economics meant the industry had to undergo fundamental and radical change.



Left-hand image: 'The Economic Case Against Pit Closures' (Sheffield City Archives: SY706/V1/1). Right-hand image: The Miners' Strike in Pictures (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SSTQ)

The mining communities faced considerable hardship with high unemployment and its associated problems. Following a further wave of closures in the early 1990s the Coalfields Regeneration Trust was established 'to lead the way in coalfields regeneration and to restore healthy, prosperous and sustainable communities'.

The communities changed as ex-miners sought new careers. Cortonwood Colliery, the pit where the strike began, was later redeveloped as a shopping centre. Orgreave Coking Plant, the scene of the largest and bitterest battle, is now the site of a high-tech business park.

The NUM saw its membership decline, and the establishment of a breakaway group - the Union of Democratic Mineworkers (UDM). Before the strike the NUM moved its HQ from London to Sheffield; however, they later vacated this to move to the historic Yorkshire HQ in Barnsley.

List of documents, books, photographs and other items available at Sheffield Libraries, Archives and Information

Relevant articles and features may appear in local newspapers. As these are mainly unindexed they can be time consuming to search. The main titles available at Sheffield Local Studies Library for this period include: *Sheffield Telegraph* and the *Star*.

Sheffield Local Studies Library local newspaper cuttings collection includes articles on the miners' strike
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: microfiche*)

The British Library British Newspaper Archive (BNA) website includes millions of pages from over 700 UK national and local newspapers [Home | Search the archive | British Newspaper Archive](#). Access to the British Newspaper Archive is free at every Sheffield City Council library and at the City Archives.

Archives of some national newspapers are available on the internet, notably *The Times* (<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/archive/>) and *The Guardian* (<http://archive.guardian.co.uk>)

Over 100,000 images of Sheffield and surrounding areas from the Sheffield City Archives and Sheffield Local Studies library collections are available to view at www.picturesheffield.com

Miners

Yorkshire Miner (magazine), 1977 - 1994
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.2 SF*)

Machin, Frank. *The Yorkshire Miners: A History*, vol. 1 (National Union of Mineworkers, 1958)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 338.2 S*)

Baylies, Carolyn, *The History of the Yorkshire Miners, 1881 - 1958* (Routledge, 1993)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 338.2 S*)

Taylor, Andrew, *The Politics of the Yorkshire Miners* (Croom Helm, 1984)
(*Sheffield Reference Library: 331.88122*)

Elliott, Brian (ed), *Yorkshire Mining Veterans in their Own Words* (Wharncliffe Books, 2005)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.334 S*)

Elliott, Brian, *Pit Voices: Yorkshire Mining Veterans in Their Own Words* [2004]
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: CD 87*)

Elliott, Brian, *Yorkshire Miners* (Sutton Publishing, 2004)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.334 S*)

Elliott, Brian, *Pits and Pitmen of Barnsley: A Pictorial Tribute and Celebration of Miners, Their Families and Communities, 1900 - 2000* (Wharncliffe Books, 2001)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.334 S*)

Scargill, Arthur, *Miners in the Eighties* (National Union of Mineworkers. Yorkshire Area, c.1981)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 338.2724)

Crick, Michael, *Scargill and the Miners* (Penguin, 1985)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 331.88122)

Arthur Scargill - His Policies in Relation to the Election for National Union of Mineworkers President in Yorkshire Miner, Dec 1981
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.2 SF)

Routledge, Paul, *Scargill: Unauthorised Biography* (HarperCollins, 1993)
(Sheffield Central Lending Library B.SCAR)

History of the Coal Industry in South Yorkshire

Paxman, Jeremy, *Black Gold: The History of How Coal Made Britain* (Collins, 2020)
(Sheffield Central Lending Library: 333.822)

Wain, Ken *The Coal Mining Industry of Sheffield and north Derbyshire* (Amberley, 2014)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.334 S)

Benson, J. and R. E. Neville (eds.) *Studies in the South Yorkshire Coal Industry*
(Manchester University press, 1976)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 338.2 S)

Fletcher, Alfred, *The Development of Management in the South Yorkshire Coal Mining Industry, 1770 - 1835: A Study of Management at the Fitzwilliam and Norfolk Collieries* (MA dissertation, University of Sheffield, 1973)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.33 SQ)

Taylor, Warwick, *South Yorkshire Pits* (Wharnccliffe Books, 2001)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.334 S)

Hill, Alan, *The South Yorkshire Coalfield: A History and Development* (Tempus, 2001)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.334 S)

Williams, Peter, *Images of Yorkshire Coal* (Landmark, 2005)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.334 S)

Goodchild, John, *South Yorkshire Collieries* (Tempus Publishing, 2001)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.334 S)

Threlkeld, John, *Pits: A Pictorial History of Mining* (Wharnccliffe Books, 2003)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.334 S)

Threlkeld, John, *Pits 1: A Pictorial Record of Mining* (Wharnccliffe Publishing, 1994)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.334 SSTQ)

Rossington, Tom, *The Story of Treeton Colliery: One Hundred Years of Coal Mining, 1875-1975* (Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham, 1976)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.33 S)

Joy, David, *Life in the Yorkshire Coalfield* (Dalesman, 1989)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.334 SST)

Jones, Melvyn, *South Yorkshire Yesterday: Glimpses of the Past* (Smith Settle, 2003)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S)

Jones, Melvyn, *Denaby Main: The Development of a South Yorkshire Mining Village in Aspects of Doncaster 2*, Brian Elliott (ed) (pp.123-142) (Wharnccliffe, 2000)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S)

Turner, Royce, *Coal Was Our Life: An Essay on Life in a Yorkshire Former Pit Town* [Featherstone], (Sheffield Hallam University Press, 2000)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 307.766 SST)

Notes on current statistics for Yorkshire coalfield in Quality of Sheffield, Jul/Aug 1983
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 380 SQ)

National Coal Board: reports and accounts, 1948 - 1986
(Sheffield Business Science and Technology Library: 622.00942 ST. Sheffield City Archives also has 1983 - 1986: SY705)

Glyn, Andrew, *The Economic Case Against Pit Closures*, 1985
(Sheffield City Archives: SY706)

Rowles, Alan, *Winding up: A History of Birley East Colliery*, 1992
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.33 SQ)

Sampson, Michael A., *Kiveton Park Colliery, 1866 - 1994: A History of a Pit, Its Village and People*, 2007
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.334 SQ)

The Strike - General

National Coal Board - numerous files regarding the strike
Note access to these items may be restricted, please contact Sheffield City Archives for further information.
(Sheffield City Archives: NCB)

National Coal Board (British Coal Corporation) - North Eastern and Yorkshire Division Legal Department and Industrial Relations Department - numerous files regarding the strike
Note access to these items may be restricted, please contact Sheffield City Archives for further information.
(Sheffield City Archives: BCC/5 and BCC/7)

Arkell, Peter, and Ray Rising, *Unfinished Business: The Miners' Strike for Jobs 1984-5* (Lupus, 2009)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 S)

Coal Not Dole (National Union of Mineworkers, 198-)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 4797 S)

Bell, Peter, *Coal Not Dole!!: The Case for Coal* (Tommy Healey Fund, 1984)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 6681 M)

Wilsher, Peter, Donald Macintyre and Michael Jones, *Strike: Thatcher, Scargill and the Miners* (Deutsch, 1985)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 331.892822)

Jenkinson, Martin and Mark Metcalf and Mark Harvey, *The Miners Strike* (Pen and Sword, Images of the Past series, 2014)
(Sheffield Local Studies library: 331.8 S)

The Miners' Strike 1984-85 in Pictures, News Line (New Park Publications, 1985)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SSTQ)

Lloyd, J., *Understanding the Miners' Strike* (Fabian Society, 1985)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 335.1)

The Miners' Case (Labour Research Department, LRD Publications, Oct 1984)
(Sheffield City Archives: SY726)

Solidarity with the Miners (Labour Research Department LRD Publications, Aug 1985)
(Sheffield City Archives: SY726)

The Miners' Strike Factsheet (Sheffield Trades Council, [1984])
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 4348 S)

BBC Radio Sheffield news broadcasts, 1980s
Search our online Archive catalogue for specific references.
(Sheffield City Archives: SY425 and SY685)

BBC Radio Sheffield, Adult Education programmes made by Christine Gregory, 1980s: The Miners' Strike
(Sheffield City Archives: X1057/1-30)

Collection of newsletters, press notices, news releases and press releases relating to the 1984-5 miners' strike (mainly Department of Energy, Department of Health and Social Security, Home Office and NALGO)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 6148 M)

Waddington, David, Karen Jones and Chas Critcher, *Flashpoints: Studies in Public Disorder* (1989)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 364.14 S)

Samuel, Raphael, and others (eds), *The Enemy Within: Pit Villages and the Miners' Strike of 1984-85* (Routledge, 1986)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 S)

Ross, Cilla, and Andrew Middleton (eds), *Undermined? Britain and the Miners' Strike* (1994)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SST)

Callinicos, Alex, and Mike Simons, *The Great Strike: The Miners' Strike of 1984-5 and its Lessons*, (Socialist Worker, 1985)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 331.892822)

Learning Lessons, A Discussion on the Strategy of the Miners' Strike (Steel Bank Film Co-op, 1985)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: VID 280)

South Yorkshire: Coalfield in Crisis (South Yorkshire County Council, 1985)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library 331.137 SQ)

Reed, David, and Olivia Adamson, *Miners' Strike 1984-1985: People Versus State* (Larkin, 1985)
(Sheffield Central Library Store: 331.892822)

The Heart and Soul of it - A Documentation of how the 1984-1985 Miners' Strike Affected the People in the Pit Village of Worsbrough and Surrounding Districts, and of their Survival (Worsbrough Community Group, 1985)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SST)

Cumberbatch, Guy, *Television and the Miners' Strike* (Broadcasting Research Unit, 1986)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 791.455 Q)

Catalogue of Films and Videotapes ... 1984/85 Miners' Strike (Northern Film and Television Archive, 1980s)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 016.331[892822] Q)

Thurcroft: A Village and the Miners' Strike (1986)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SST)

Sheffield Trades Council. Miners Support Committee publicity leaflet [1980s]
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 4201 S)

Ambler, Ken, *A Coalfield in Chaos* [1988?]
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SST)

Hoyles, Martin, *More Valuable Than Gold: A Collection of Writings on the Miners' Strike of 1984-1985 by Striking Miners' Children* (1985)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library 331.892822 S)

Incomplete notes on the miners' strike, 1984-85 (includes facsimiles of a number of strike newsletters)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SST)

Twelve Months of Strife special supplement of the *Rotherham Advertiser* looking at the effect of the 1984-85 miners' strike on communities and individuals in Rotherham and South Yorkshire, Mar 2004
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 1593 L)

Jackson, Bernard and Tony Wardle, *The Battle for Orgreave* (Vanson Wardle, 1986)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SST)

Deller, Jeremy, *The Battle of Orgreave* [re-enactment on] 17 June 2001
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 3519 S)

Charges of Riot and Unlawful Assembly: Report by the Chief Constable to the Police Committee, 25 Sep 1985 (South Yorkshire County Council, Police Committee 1985)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SSTQ)

Parsons, Rob, *I Won't just Empty Out Orgreave Archive onto the Street, says South Yorkshire Police Chief* (Yorkshire Post, 2017)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 6693 M)

Oral History Collection: there are a number of interviews with miners, members of the Women Against Pit Closures campaign, NUM officials, local politicians, a clergyman, head teacher, police officers and a shopkeeper etc. The interviews were conducted for the most part in early 1986.
(Sheffield City Archives: SY691, SY692, SY694, SY711, SY714, SY729, SY731, SY734 and SY735)

Batley, David W., and Hilary A. Pearson, *How we Lost the Miner's Strike: Play & Counterplay*, (Fact & Fiction, 2001)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library 331.892 S)

Jenner, Brian, *The Coal Strike: Christian Reflections on the Miners' Struggle*, (Urban Theology Unit, 1986)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SST)

Striking Back, Welsh Campaign for Civil and Political Liberties (Wccpl, 1985)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 331.892822)

Lloyd, J., *Understanding the Miners' Strike* (1985)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 335.1)

Sheffield City Council, Policy Committee minutes, Jan 1984 - Sep 1985 includes references to the strike.
(Sheffield City Archives: CA-POL/17-18)

South Yorkshire County Council, minutes, includes references to the strike, 1984 - 1985
(Sheffield City Archives: SYCC/MIN/1/22 and SYCC/MIN/1/25)

South Yorkshire County Council, Leader's correspondence, includes references to the strike, 1984 - 1985
(Sheffield City Archives: SYCC/CLLR/1/2/17)

South Yorkshire County Council, Department of Recreation and Culture, County Record Office file re. miners' strike
(Sheffield City Archives: SYCC-REC/4/13)

Sheffield Trades Council - posters and leaflets advertising events in support of the miners and their families during the strike, 1984 - 1985
(Sheffield City Archives: SYCC/NALGO/8/5)

Barnsley Trades Council, minutes, includes reference to the strike, 1984 - 1985
(Sheffield City Archives: SYCC/NALGO/8/2)

Papers of William Beighton of High Green, Sheffield (1912 - 1998) scrapbook entitled 'N.U.M. A Scargill', 1961 - 1990
(Sheffield City Archives: X110/2/2)

Signed resolution relating to the NUM Yorkshire Area Miners' Gala and Demonstration Day held in Rotherham, signed by Arthur Scargill, Rodney Bickerstaffe and Jack Taylor, 15 Jun 1985
(Sheffield City Archives: X139)

McHugh, Phil, *Unfinished Business: Photo-text Constructions from the Miners' Strike 1984 - 85* (Coppice, 1985)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 331.892822 Q)

Saunders, Jonathan, *Across Frontiers: International Support for the Miners' Strike 1984 - 1985* (Canary, 1989)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 331.892822)

Goodman, Geoffrey, *The Miners' Strike* (Pluto, 1985)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 331.892822)

Harman, Chris, *The Miners' Strike and the Struggle for Socialism* (Socialist Worker Pamphlet, 1985)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 331.892822 Q Series)

Speech notes of Ray McElvenney, South Yorkshire County Council member on the South Yorkshire Police Authority, 1985
(Sheffield City Archives: MD7235)

Chile, Nicaragua and the Miners' Strike (Sheffield Latin America Solidarity Front (SLASF), 1985)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: PAMP 705 S)

Dore Ward Labour Party, correspondence files (including references to the strike), 1981 - 1986
(Sheffield City Archives: MD7471/3/2,4,6, and 7)

Sheffield Industrial Mission, correspondence regarding proposed research project into the strike, 1984 - 1985
(Sheffield City Archives: DIOC/IM/14/3)

Bacon, Sheila, *The Miners' Strike 1984-1985: Government Involvement in an Industrial Dispute* (MA dissertation, University of Bradford, 1986)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SSTQ)

MacGregor, Ian K. and Rodney Tyler, *The Enemies Within: The Story of the Miners' Strike, 1984-5* (Collins, 1986)
(Sheffield Central Library Store: 331.8928)

Jackson, Mary, *The Great Money Trick: Another World is Possible* [a novel] (Authorhouse, 2015)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 823 JACK SST)

The Strike - Miners

Askern Colliery: papers, photographs and maps relating to events (including picketing) at Askern, Orgreave and Mansfield and elsewhere, 1984 - 1985
(Sheffield City Archives: SY691)

Grimethorpe Colliery: papers and photographs from the National Coal Board, the NUM, strike sympathisers, etc., 1984 - 1986
(Sheffield City Archives: SY731)

Frank, Vernon, *Pride and Poverty: Memories of a Mexborough Miner* (Doncaster Library Service, 1984)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: B Vern S)

Reports broadcast by Radio Orwell about life in Rossington during the strike
(Sheffield City Archives: SY714)

Keating, Jackie, *Counting the Cost: A Family in the Miners' Strike* (Wharncliffe, 1991)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SST)

Douglass, D. J., (ed) *A Year in Our Lives: A Colliery Community in the Great Coal Strike of 1984 - 1985* (Hooligan Press, [1986])
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SST)

Daddy, What Did You Do in The Strike? (Blackthorne Records, [1984])
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: cassette CAS 21)

Burkham, Chris, *A Dirty Business* [interviews with miners twenty years after the miners' strike] in *The Observer Magazine*, 1 Feb 2004, pp. 26-35
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 3543 M)

Deller, Jeremy and Gerrie van Struktur, *The English Civil War, part II: Personal Accounts of the 1984-85 Miners' Strike* (Artangel Publishing, [2001])
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 S)

Confessions of A Picket. Written by Peter Richardson, ex-miner at Askern pit. Describes his experiences over the year of the strike in detail, including his various arrests, the return to work at Askern, picketing etc., Dec 1985
(Sheffield City Archives: SY692)

Otley, Roy, *The Strike: An Insider's Story* (Sidgwick & Jackson, 1985)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 331.892822)

Wilson, Bruce and Brian Elliott, *Yorkshire's Flying Pickets in the 1984-85 Miners' Strike*. Based on the diary of Silverwood miner Bruce Wilson (Wharncliffe, 2004)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 S)

Elliott, Brian (ed) *The Miner's Strike Day by Day: The Illustrated 1984-85 Diary of Yorkshire Miner Arthur Wakefield* (Wharncliffe Books, 2002)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 S)

Your Miners' Strike Stories (print of a BBC Sheffield web article publishing the stories and recollections of people involved in the strike, 2009)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 7371 M)

Amalgamated Engineering Union Sheffield District Committee, minutes (including references to the strike), 1984 - 1985
Note access to these items is restricted, please contact Sheffield City Archives for further information.
(Sheffield City Archives: X53/2/37 and X53/2/38)

Shiregreen Co-operative Women's Guild, minutes (includes reference to donations made to the Miners' Strike Fund), 1985 - 1986
(Sheffield City Archives: MD7746/2/7/1/3)

Policy enquiry, Miners' Strike BBC News report, Apr 1984
Note: due to its format (VHS video) this item is not currently available to view.
(*Sheffield City Archives: SYCC/MISC/1/16*)

Jones, Maurice, *Against all the Odds* (National Union of Mineworkers. Yorkshire Area, 1984)
[a collection of poems written by miners and their families during the miner's strike]
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: PAMP 1205 S*)

Griffin, Alan R., *County Under Siege: Nottinghamshire Miners in the Miners' Strike 1984-5*
(Moorland, 1985)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SSTQ*)

The Strike - Women

Papers related to Houghton Main and Sheffield Women Against Pit Closures (SWAPC).
Includes administrative papers, campaign material and photographs related to the activities
of Women Against Pit Closures (WAPC) and Sheffield WAPC during the strike.
(*Sheffield City Archives: X987*)

Several oral histories which form part of the Sheffield Feminist Archive Project include
interviews with women who discuss experiences and memories of the miners' strike, 2015 -
2021
(*Sheffield City Archives: X771/2/1, 23, 24 and 27*)

Askern Women's Support Group: papers, photographs, maps etc., 1984 - 1986
(*Sheffield City Archives: SY689*)

Rossington branch of Women Against Pit Closures: papers, 1984
(*Sheffield City Archives: SY714*)

Rossington Women's Support Group: photographs etc., 1984-1985
(*Sheffield City Archives: SY748*)

Sheffield Women Against Pit Closures: Christmas cards produced by, c. 1985
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Christmas Card Collection*)

Sheffield Women Against Pit Closures publicity leaflet, [1980s]
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 4200 S*)

Handbill advertising meeting to support miners at which Grimethorpe Women's Support
Group spoke, Jan 1985
(*Sheffield City Archives: SY731*)

Papers of Lesley Boulton (involved in the 'Battle for Orgreave'), c. 1984
(*Sheffield City Archives: SY729 and SY749*)

Shaw, Grace, *Miners' Strike, What Happened Next?* (print of a BBC Sheffield web article
relating to Lesley Boulton, 2009)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 7370 M*)

Beckwith, Karen, *The Effects of Losing: Social Movement Campaigns and the 1992-93 Anti-Pit Closure Campaign in Britain* (Political Studies Association, 2009)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 322.4 SSTQ)

Holden, Triona, *Queen Coal: Women of the Miners' Strike* (Sutton, 2005)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 S)

Stead, Jean, *Never the Same Again: Women and the Miners' Strike* (Women's Press, 1987)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 331.892822)

Miller, Jill, *You Can't Kill the Spirit: Women in a Welsh Mining Village* ([1987])
(Sheffield Reference Library: 331.892822)

Sheffield Women Against Pit Closures (WAPC) *You Can't Kill the Spirit, Houghton Main Pit Camp, South Yorkshire, The Untold Story of the Women who set up Camp to Stop Pit Closures* (Northend, 2018)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library 331.8928 S)

Women Against Pit Closures calendar 1985
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Calendar 78)

People To People: Notts Women Strike Back (Steel Bank Film Co-operative, [1984])
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: VID 200)

Seddon, Vicky, *The Cutting Edge: Women and the Pit Strike*, 1986
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 S)

We are Women, We are Strong (Sheffield Women Against Pit Closures, 1987)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 S)

Barnsley Women Against Pit Closures, (1984)
(Sheffield City Archives: SY733 and Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SST)

Barnsley Women vol. 2, published by Barnsley Women Against Pit Closures (People's History of Yorkshire No. 12, 1985)
(Sheffield City Archives: SY733)

Dolby, Norma, *Norma Dolby's Diary: An Account of the Great Miners' Strike* (Verso, 1987)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SST)

Salt, Chrys and Jim Layzell (eds), *Here We Go! Women's Memories of the 1984/85 Miners Strike* (Co-operative Retail Services, 1985)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 331.892822 Q)

Sheffield City Council, Environmental Protection Committee, minutes, includes reference to a donation to the Women Against Pit Closures (WAPC), 1984 - 1985
(Sheffield City Archives: CA-EPC/14 page 63)

Women, Mining Family: Remember the Strike of 1984-5 (University College, London, 2018)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 5284 S)

Women Fought Side by Side to Save Pits from closure (Sheffield Newspapers, 2018)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 7211 M)

'Ey Up Mi Duck': Images and Poetry from Derbyshire Miners' Wives (Derbyshire Women's Action Group, [1980s])
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 828.08 SST)

Ditton, Cordelia, *About Face in Plays by Women*, vol. 6
(Sheffield Central Library Drama Collection)

The Strike - Policing the Strike

South Yorkshire Police Authority minutes, 1985-1987
(Note: advice on access to these papers can be obtained from the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner's office. Contact Sheffield City Archives for further information.)
(Sheffield City Archives: SYJA/2)

South Yorkshire County Council Police Committee agendas, minutes and reports, 1984 onwards
(Sheffield City Archives: SYCC-CTTE/4)

Enquiry into Incidents at Stainforth and Armthorpe on 21 August 1984 (South Yorkshire County Council, Police Committee, 1984)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SSTQ)

Open Space: Taking Liberties (BBC Community Programme Unit / Sheffield Policewatch, 1984). Videorecording.
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: VID 125)

Douglass, Dave, *Come and Wet this Truncheon: The Role of the Police in the Coal Strike of 1984-1985* (Canary Press, 1986)
(Sheffield City Archives: SY733 and Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.982 SST)

Coulter, Jim, Susan Miller and Martin Walker, *A State of Siege: Politics and Policing of the Coalfields: Miners' Strike, 1984* (Canary Press, 1984)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.982 S)

Walker, Martin and Susan Miller, *The Iron Fist: A State of Siege, Vol. II: A Report to the Yorkshire Area NUM on Policing the Coalfields in the First Six Weeks of the Miners' Strike, 1984*
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 S)

South Yorkshire Police: Mineworkers' Dispute papers, 1984 - 1985
(Note: written permission is required to access these papers. Contact Sheffield City Archives for information.)
(Sheffield City Archives: SYP-MD)

Policing Policy During the Strike of the NUM (Yorkshire Area), Feb 1985
(Sheffield City Archives: SY661; Sheffield Local Studies Library: 351.74 SQ)

Fine, B., *Policing the Miners' Strike*, 1985
(Sheffield Reference Library: 331.892822)

Second Interim Report of the Police Special Sub-Committee Established to Inquire into Policing Policy during the current Miners' Strike, 1984
(Sheffield City Archives: SYJA/2/4/6)

Policing the Coal Industry Dispute in South Yorkshire, 1984 - 1985 (South Yorkshire Police Authority, 1985)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SQ; Sheffield City Archives: SY727 and SYJA/2/4/9*)

Taking Liberties: Policing During the Miners' Strike, Apr - Oct 1984 issued by Sheffield Policewatch
(*Sheffield City Archives: SY704; Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 S and Sheffield Reference Library: 351.75*)

Sheffield Policewatch Observers daily report on the policing of the Miners' Strike, Apr 1984 - 1985
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 S*)

Sheffield Policewatch: Daily reports: eyewitness accounts of police activity on picket lines at pits in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and South Yorkshire, and elsewhere. Also includes tables, press releases and correspondence, Apr 1984 - Mar 1985
(*Sheffield City Archives: SY704*)

Patch-Work, No. 54 (South Yorkshire Police, 1984)
Newsletter published for the interest and information of South Yorkshire Personnel. Includes an article on the front page by Chief Constable P. Wright about the miners' strike.
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 1745 L*)

Sheffield Campaign Against the Police Bill - March and Rally, 21 Jul 1984 (fliers)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 7790 M and MP 7791 M*)

IPCC Decision on Matters relating to the Policing of Events at Orgreave Coking Plant in 1984 (Independent Police Complaints Commission, 2015)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SQ*)

Annexe 1: IPCC Review of Matters relating to the Policing of Events at Orgreave Coking Plant in 1984 (Independent Police Complaints Commission, 2015)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SQ*)

Sheffield Magistrates' Court: papers regarding the miners' strike, 1984 - 1985
(Note: access to these items is restricted, please contact Sheffield City Archives for further information.)
(*Sheffield City Archives: MC (AccNo. 2009/43 box 8)*)

The Strike - Other

Reminiscence of John Tunney, who was Chief Reporter at the *Morning Telegraph* during the Strike, in Hallam University Bulletin, Vol. 8, 9 May 1995, pp. 5-6
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 374.8 SQ*)

The Life of Riley, Coalfield Characters - One (Percy Riley, 1986)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: B. Rile S*)

The Church in the Community: A Reflection on the Experiences of Parishes in the Diocese of Sheffield during the Mining Dispute, 1984/5 (Diocese of Sheffield Social Responsibility Working Party)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 S)

The Celebrated Sheffield Street Band Songbook, 1984
Contains songs in support of the miners.
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 4993 S)

The Aftermath

Coal and Community Conference, Sheffield, documents 1986
(Sheffield City Archives: SY733)

Note of pit closures in South Yorkshire in *Yorkshire Miner*, Mar 1991
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.2 SF)

Lodge, Trevor, *Coal for Commerce: Sustaining a Manufacturing Economy in Aspects of Rotherham: Discovering Local History 3* (pp.170-188), Melvyn Jones (ed) (Wharnccliffe Publishing, 1998)
(Sheffield Central Lending Library and various community libraries: 942.823)

Dave Waddington and others, *Split at the Seams? Community, Continuity and Change after the 1984-1985 Coal Dispute* (Open University Press, 1990)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 S)

Bean, J. P., *The Effect of the [miners' strike] on the Police Force and the Resulting Increase in Crime in Sheffield* in Crime in Sheffield, 1987
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 364.1 S)

The Prospects for Coal: Conclusions of the Government's Coal Review (HMSO 1993)
(Sheffield Business Science and Technology Library: 338.7622334 Q)

Markets for Coal, Coal Review, Benchmarking Overheads and Productivity, Reviews of Collieries, Closure Review (HMSO, 1993)
(Sheffield Business Science and Technology Library: 338.7622334 Q)

Independent Analysis 21 Closure Review Collieries British Coal Corporation, United Kingdom: Report for the Department of Trade and Industry Coal Review Team (HMSO, 1993)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.33 SSTQ)

Who Said Coal Was Dead? (Coalfield Communities Campaign, 1995)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 338.2724 Q)

Investment in the Community Coalmining and Iron and Steel Industries: Report on the Survey (Commission of the European Communities, 1995 - 2001)
(Sheffield Business Science and Technology Library: 338.272 Q)

Lewis, Brian and Don Stewart, *From the Enemy Within to the Russians are Coming: The Fifth and Sixth Coalfield Regeneration Budget schemes, 2000-2007* (Yorkshire Forward, 2007)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 771.4 SST)

Bell, George (ed), *A Mine, Memories and a Marina: A Short History of Shireoaks Colliery, The People who Worked There, and its Transition after Closure* (Nottinghamshire Living History Archive Millennium Award Scheme, 2001)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.334 SQ)

Monaghan, Angela, *Scargill's Last Stand*, taken from Property Week, 16 May 2003
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 5548 M)

The Miners Strike: 25 Years On (Financial Times, 2009)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 504 VL)

Robinson, Colin, and Eileen Marshall, *Can Coal be Saved? A Radical Proposal to Reverse the Decline of a Major Industry*, 1985
(Sheffield Reference Library: 338.272 Series Hobart Papers No.105)

Department of Trade and Industry: Sale of the Mining Operations of the British Coal Corporation (HMSO, May 1996)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 351.72 Q)

Coal: Fourth Report [of the] Trade and Industry Committee... session 1997-98 (The Stationery Office, 1998)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 338.0941 Q)

Article on the compensation paid by South Yorkshire Police to mineworkers acquitted of riot at Orgreave in Yorkshire Miner, Jul 1991
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.2 SF)

Mingay, Martha, *Waverley: An Uncontaminated Name? Excavating the Memory Politics of the Miners' Strike from Placemaking at Orgreave, South Yorkshire* (MSc dissertation, University College London, 2012)
(Sheffield City Archives: searchroom library/ LOCAL HISTORY NO. 29)

Beckett, Francis, and David Hencke, *Marching to the Fault Line: The 1984 Miners' Strike and the Death of Industrial Britain* (Constable, 2009)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.8928 S)

Beatty, Christina, Stephen Fothergill and Ryan Powell, *Twenty Years On: Has the Economy of the Coalfields Recovered?* (Sheffield Hallam University. CRESR, 2005)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 338.942 SSTQ)

Miner's Strike: 30th Anniversary (Sheffield Newspapers, 2014)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 2150 L)

Strike! - A New Musical (Spectrum Theatre 2019) (flier)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 5678 S)

Library and Archive collections held elsewhere

Archives and Local Studies services in Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham will also hold relevant information. Their contact details are:

- Barnsley Archives and Local Studies <https://www.experience-barnsley.com/our-archives> (accessed Nov 2023)
- Doncaster Archives <https://www.heritagedoncaster.org.uk/archives/> (accessed Nov 2023)
- Doncaster Local Studies Library <https://library.doncaster.gov.uk/web/arena/local-studies> (accessed Nov 2023)
- Rotherham Archives and Local Studies <https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/leisure-culture/archives-local-history/1> (accessed Nov 2023)

The National Archives online database (Discovery) contains catalogues describing archives held locally in England and Wales <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> (accessed Nov 2023)

The National Archives (TNA) holds records of central government departments and agencies which will include references to the strike. For example it has records of the Industrial Relations Department of the National Coal Board and British Coal Corporation (ref. COAL 26) You can search the TNA catalogue online at <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> (accessed Nov 2023)

The Archives Hub contains catalogues describing archives held in universities and colleges in the UK <https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/> (accessed Nov 2023)

The archives of the National Union of Mineworkers are held by the Modern Records Centre based at the University of Warwick (refs. MFG and 1479). The Centre has published a guide to its sources: https://warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/research_guides/miners_strike/ (accessed Nov 2023)

Records of local branches of the National Union of Mineworkers and of the National Coal Board are arranged by branch / coalfield and are spread across many different record offices and archives. Search the National Archives catalogue for details: <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> (accessed Nov 2023)

National Coal Mining Museum (Wakefield, West Yorkshire) www.ncm.org.uk (accessed Nov 2023)

Images by Martin Shakeshaft www.strike84.co.uk (accessed Nov 2023)

BBC News - the miners' strike 20 years on http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/uk/2004/miners_strike/default.stm (accessed Nov 2023)

The Yorkshire Film Archive / North East Film Archive has numerous films about the strike [Yorkshire Film Archive \(yfanefa.com\)](http://yfanefa.com) (accessed Nov 2023)

Local Studies Library and Sheffield City Archives Facilities

Sheffield Archives and Local Studies services collect and preserve original records and printed material relating to Sheffield and the surrounding area.

The information dates from the 12th century to the present and relates to Sheffield, South Yorkshire and north Derbyshire.

Included are extensive collections of books • pamphlets • photographs • church registers • newspapers • census records • minutes • diaries • films • maps • deeds • records from schools • hospitals • businesses and charities • family estates • personal papers etc.

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Sheffield Libraries and Archives seeks to preserve information about events in our city's history. If you have photographs or personal papers that may be worth preserving please consider safeguarding them for current and future generations by placing them in the care of Sheffield Libraries and Archives. It is only through the generosity of individuals and organisations that we are able to have a complete record of important events in the history of Sheffield and the nation. We are interested in photographs, flyers and posters, minutes of meetings etc. For advice on record keeping and the facilities we offer please email us (archives@sheffield.gov.uk or telephone 0114 203 9395).

Contact Details

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Email: archives@sheffield.gov.uk

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Tel: 0114 203 9395

Email: archives@sheffield.gov.uk

Website: www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives

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