Sources for the Study of the History of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Communities
Front cover illustrations - left to right:

Lesbians Do It better fly poster in Sheffield City Centre, 1988  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield: s22774*)

‘Say no to homophobia’, International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, 2010  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield: a00613*)

Detail from Spring Out festival flier, 2007  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 5933 M*)

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Introduction

Sheffield Local Studies and Sheffield City Archives has produced this guide in an attempt to open up the collections within its care and point the researcher to information sources that will aid their research into the history of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) experience in Sheffield over many centuries. It has to be said that whilst there may be many references LGBT communities within the collections, it can be a time consuming task to find them. It is only recently that archivists and librarians have begun highlighting suitable terminology in their catalogues.

Considerable time is required to search records, which at first view, do not appear to contain any references to LGBT persons or communities, but searching within the records may yield results. Many official documents refer to relevant issues from a legal and administrative viewpoint, which until recent times, would almost always be negative.

As more items are catalogued and the collections are used by researchers it is likely that additional LGBT references will come to light. More detailed searching of our catalogues for a broad range of relevant terms (such as equal opportunities or Section 28, for example) may reveal additional material. It is always worth contacting the service points or checking our website for updates to this study guide. Our contact details are on the back cover.

Reference will be found in this guide to HIV/AIDS. Whilst this condition affects the whole community, regardless of age, background or lifestyle, a few references to the issue have been included as this could be an avenue of research that may be of interest.

There is a growing amount of documents and photographs from LGBT individuals and support/campaigning groups themselves. But, if we are to truly reflect the LGBT experience in Sheffield we need more! If you have personal papers or papers from a group you belong to or help administer please consider safeguarding them for current and future historians by placing them in the care of Sheffield Libraries. We are interested in photographs of events and venues, flyers and posters, minutes of meetings, etc., of any date. For advice on record keeping and the facilities we offer please contact archives@sheffield.gov.uk 0114 203 9395.
Timeline showing key dates 1861 - 2008

The following timeline highlights some of the key dates in LGBT history over the last 100 years or so. This will prove useful when searching newspapers and other records to see if local information is available. For a more detailed timeline of events see [http://www.stonewall.org.uk](http://www.stonewall.org.uk)

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>1861</td>
<td>Death penalty for (hetero and homo-sexual) buggery abolished (it had been illegal since 1533).</td>
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<tr>
<td>1869</td>
<td>The term ‘homosexuality’ first appears in print.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1885</td>
<td>The ‘Labouchere Amendment’ made male same sex acts illegal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1894</td>
<td>Edward Carpenter wrote ‘Homogenic Love’.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>‘The Intermediate Sex’ by Edward Carpenter published.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1896</td>
<td>Oscar Wilde prosecuted and imprisoned</td>
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<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>Radclyffe Hall’s Lesbian novel ‘The Well of Loneliness’ published</td>
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<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>The UK’s first surgical transex procedure carried out.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>The Wolfenden Report was published. It made recommendations about legalising homosexuality.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Sexual Offences Act decriminalised homosexuality for those over 21 years of age.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>BBC TV broadcast ‘A Change of Sex’ documenting a transsexuals transition</td>
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<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Major TV documentary on AIDS (BBC Horizon’s ‘Killer in the Village’) transmitted.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>National AIDS awareness campaign launched.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988 banned local authorities from ‘promoting homosexuality’.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Stonewall, the campaigning and lobbying organisation for lesbians, gay men and bisexuals was established, mainly in response to section 28.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Age of consent for same sex lowered to 18.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Sex Discrimination Act (Gender Reassignment) Regulations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Age of consent for same sex lowered to 16.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>The Gender Recognition Act provide transgender people with legal recognition of their change of gender. The Sexual Offences Act removed certain laws from the statute book.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Civil Partnership Act came into effect.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>First Sheffield Pride</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act legalised same sex marriage</td>
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Edward Carpenter - a man ahead of his time

Edward Carpenter was an early advocate of equality for a variety of groups in society. He himself lived relatively openly with his male partner, George Merrill, at their home in Millthorpe in Derbyshire. Carpenter actively campaigned for what many would consider alternate lifestyles. He was a firm believer in rights for homosexuals and women; he promoted vegetarianism, socialism, spirituality and simple living. His breadth of writing was quite phenomenal and his influence spread across Britain and further afield.

In 1894 Carpenter wrote ‘Homogenic Love’. Originally circulated privately, it was later (1908) published as ‘The Intermediate Sex’.

Carpenter has left an excellent archive and library. Thousands of his letters to friends and colleagues are preserved at Sheffield Archives, as well as copies of many of his published works and his own library.

His extensive correspondence includes letters from E M Forster, Siegfried Sassoon, Ramsay MacDonald and many others.

If sacrifice, unswerving devotion and lifelong union, constitute proofs of the reality and intensity ... of an affection, then these proofs have been ... existing between men, [and] also between women since the world began.

(Extract from Homogenic Love and its Place in a Free Society, Edward Carpenter, 1894)
Signs of Community and Culture

The Northern Scene: gay guide to northern England listed the main ‘gay friendly’ venues in the region in 1993. The Cossack Hotel (now demolished) was described as Sheffield’s oldest established gay bar. Other venues included the Queen’s Hotel (Scotland Street, Sheffield), The Griff Inn (at Bawtry, near Doncaster), the Albert Inn (Sutherland Street, Attercliffe), the Norfolk Arms (Saville Street, Sheffield) and Rockies Club (Effingham Road, Sheffield). By the 21st century more pubs and clubs made themselves open to customers, regardless of sexuality by a variety of themed nights. ‘Exclusively gay’ became less in vogue for many.

Sheffield Pink: Sheffield’s Gay and Lesbian news-sheet ran for a few years in the mid 1990s. It covered the South Yorkshire area and included news as well as articles on society, groups, the scene (bars, clubs), reviews (cinema, theatre, music, arts), and health issues.

A search of cinema listings (such as for the Showroom) and theatrical productions (from the Sheffield Crucible, Lyceum and Lantern theatres) will provide references to relevant shows, particularly from the 1970s onwards. Copies of programmes are available in the Local Studies Library.

Other societies and groups such as the University of Sheffield Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Society will be mentioned in magazines and listing guides, many of which are available at the Local Studies Library.
A 19th century same sex marriage

In 1817 it appears that two women were married at Sheffield Parish Church.

‘Henry / Henrietta’ Stoake married Ann Hants on 14th Jan 1817. As was usual practice the man signed his name first. In this case the first name recorded is Harriet which was crossed out and replaced by Henry. At the entry for the bride’s name the vicar wrote Harriet but crossed it out and replaced it with Ann. It appears there was confusion as to who was the bride and groom all round!

The case only appeared to come to light many years later. Reports in The Times and The Guardian in April 1838 refer to a case of a married couple at Manchester falling out over house keeping money with the case going before a solicitor. At this point the woman accused her husband of being a woman! A medical examination at the police office confirmed ‘in the most distinct and unqualified manner’ that the husband was indeed a ‘woman’. She had been in the habit of wearing men’s clothes and had a successful business as a master bricklayer. During examination by the solicitor and magistrate the woman confirmed she has been married ‘many years earlier’ in Sheffield.

A play was produced in 2016 examining the life of Harry Stokes/Stoake: http://www.mancunianmatters.co.uk/content/200275514-remarkable-story-trans-pioneer-found-victorian-manchester-canal-be-remembered-new

Above: the marriage entry of two women at Sheffield Parish Church in Jan 1817 (Sheffield City Archives: PR 138/114 page 203);
Left: 1838 newspaper report on the case of ‘A Female Husband’.

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Criminalisation and Court records (1)

Many references in the archives to homosexuality reflect the establishment view that such lifestyles were not acceptable. With legislation outlawing gay sex, records from the police and the courts record prosecutions, which together with newspaper reports, build up a picture of individual’s lives and society’s reaction.

An early case is that of Thomas Rodgers, a 32-year old Sheffield labourer who was executed in 1834 for committing an ‘unnatural act’ with a work colleague.

Apparently Rodgers admitted what he had done to his employer and it was this admission that led to his trial at York Assizes. He was found guilty and condemned to death. He was hanged outside York Gaol, along with two other prisoners, in front a crowd of about 6,000 onlookers.

Details of Rodgers case may be held in the Assize Court records which are held at The National Archives at Kew (ref. ASSI). Further information is available in newspaper reports, notably in the Sheffield Mercury, 5 Apr 1834 and the Sheffield Independent, 1 Feb and 5 Apr 1834 (available at the Sheffield Local Studies Library).

The case was also reported in the Hull Rockingham, 2 Mar 1834, the Hull Packet, 4 Apr 1834; the Hull Advertiser, 4 Apr 1834 and The Times, 29 Apr 1834.
Criminalisation and Court records (2)

Court cases were reported locally in the newspapers. As such, they're an excellent source of information:

**WEST RIDING ASSIZES:**

**LEEDS TOWN HALL.**

**THURSDAY.** Before Mr. S. D. WADDEY, Q.C., Commissioner.

**GROSS INDECENCY NEAR SHEFFIELD.**

Thomas Grindlay, 32, miner, and John Maston, 25, miner, were indicted for having committed an act of gross indecency at Handsworth, near Sheffield, on the 27th June.—Mr. Harold Thomas prosecuted, and the prisoners were defended by Mr. Ellison.—The offence was committed on the day of the great demonstration of miners at Leeds. Instead of attending the demonstration, the prisoners made up their minds to get drunk, and succeeded in carrying out their intention. Between six and seven o'clock in the evening they were seen by four witnesses to commit the offence complained of in a field near the railway at Handsworth.—The jury found both the prisoners guilty.—Mr. Ellison proposed to put in letters as to character. —Mr. Waddy: No, no, certainly not. They are not worth the paper they are written on.—In sentencing the prisoners, Mr. Waddy said it had been proved that they were members of a Methodist chapel, but that fact only made their position the more lamentable. It was pitiable that they should allow themselves to get drunk and commit such an offence. He was sorry that he could not lay his hands on the man who allowed them to get drunk. They ought to have been refused liquor long before they got into such a condition. He hoped that the present case would be a lesson to them as long as they lived. Such filthy offences of which they had been found guilty must be put down with a strong hand, and although he would not give them the full penalty of two years' hard labour, the justice of the case would not be met by a shorter term than six months' imprisonment.

**SUBSIDIARY CROWN COURT.**

(On motion of Commissioner J. E. BARKER, Q.C.)

**SENTENCES.**

John Holmes (30), wood turner, was found guilty of indecency at Pontefract, on October 11th, and was sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour.

Ehram Boulton (34), cutler, and James Stafford (21), cutler or soldier, were found guilty of indecency, at Sheffield, on December 6th, and were sentenced to two months' imprisonment with hard labour.

Walter Wilson (20), bootmaker, was found guilty of stealing postal orders, value £10 17s., at North Street, on September 16th. He was sentenced to three years' penal servitude.

LEEDS ASSIZES.—At the Leeds Assizes yesterday Arthur Lomas, 41, greengrocer, and Frederick W. Hall, 24, weights and measures inspector's assistant, were indicted for gross indecency at Sheffield on the 19th May. George Brown, 27, clerk, and William Smith, 54, saw smith, were indicted for a similar offence. Prisoners were acquitted.—William Henry Long, 21, mill hand, and James Lawson, cooper, were indicted for a disgraceful offence at Guiseley on the 19th June. Both prisoners produced evidence as to good character, upon which his Lordship remarked that everyone had a good character until found out. The fact of such evidence was not of any avail in disproof of a charge. The jury were absent for three hours, and eventually returned a verdict of “Guilty,” recommending prisoners to mercy. His Lordship sentenced them to three years' penal servitude.
Criminalisation and Court records (3)

The annual reports of the Chief Constable include reference to what the police termed ‘sexual offences’. Statistical data is provided on the occurrences of crimes such as buggery.

Sheffield City Archives has records from the Sheffield Borough Quarter Sessions Courts, which dealt with certain (usually minor) crimes dating from 1880. Records of judgements and details of prisoners in gaol may record details of relevant offences.

A higher court - the Assize Court - dealt with more serious offences. Records of the assize are held at The National Archives in London (http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/).

Prior to 1880 Sheffield came within the jurisdiction of the West Riding of Yorkshire Quarter Sessions (as did other parts of South Yorkshire, prior to their Quarter Sessions courts being established). Records of this court, dating back to the 17th century are available at the West Yorkshire Archive Service, Wakefield Headquarters, Registry of Deeds, Newstead Road, Wakefield, WF1 2DE (www.archives.wyjs.org.uk).

The Proceedings of the Old Bailey, London 1674 to 1913 are available to search online at www.oldbaileyonline.org. There are numerous sexual offence cases (mainly in London).

Like today, newspapers record details of crimes and prosecutions. Searching through these may reveal relevant cases. Newspapers for Sheffield, dating from 1760 are available at the Local Studies Library.

Religious (or church) courts also dealt with cases of sexual misdemeanour (hetero and homo sexual). Sheffield and South Yorkshire came within the jurisdiction of the Diocese of York until recent times, the archives of which are held at the Borthwick Institute for Archives at York University. Cases of homosexual acts have been found in these records. The Borthwick has produced introductory information on such cases which is available on its website (http://www.york.ac.uk/borthwick/holdings-guides/research-guides/lgbt/).
1967 Decriminalisation

In 1967 the Government passed the Sexual Offences (No. 2) Bill which permitted same sex relationships between men aged 21 and over (same sex relationships between women had never been illegal).

Newspapers of the period include letters and reports on the passage of the Bill. This excerpt reports on the Bill becoming law.

Changes in the law since 1967, (especially the lowering of the age of consent to 18 in 1994 and then to 16 in 2000), as well as the development of Civil Partnerships in 2004, generated further newspaper coverage in the Sheffield Star and Sheffield Telegraph. Local newspapers are available at the Local Studies Library.
Section 28 and beyond

In 1988 the Local Government Act contained a clause (known as Section 28) which stated that a local authority “shall not intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality” or "promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship”. There was great hostility to the clause and some local authorities opposed it.

A search of numerous Council committees, notably the Policy Committee for 1988, reveals reports and deliberations on how the Council felt Section 28 could affect all manner of services. Of particular interest is a report from the Head of the Administration and Legal Department to the Policy Committee meeting in September 1988, outlining the possible effects (or not) of Section 28 on the Council’s services.

Section 28 was repealed in 2003.

Again, local newspaper reports from 1988 and 2003 may carry stories and letters, reflecting both sides of the debate.

By the turn of the 20th century attitudes amongst employers towards issues of sexuality were beginning to change. In Sheffield Council, support mechanisms for LGBT workers were introduced. The Council established a corporate Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Trans (LGBT) working group with representatives from all Council directorates. The remit of the group is to address LGBT issues in both service delivery and employment within the Council.

In January 2008 it was announced by Stonewall (a national campaign, lobbying and support group for the gay community) that Sheffield Council was amongst the top 5 highest scorers of local authority employers in their annual Workplace Equality Index.

“…the report on ways to offer a [library] service for homosexuals would offend many people and would be a waste of money.”

“It is important that we get rid of some of the myths and clap-trap so young people don’t grow up with bigoted views.”

Above: debate around improving the library service for LGBT communities, The Star, Oct 1986; Left: Sheffield City Council opposition to Section 28, 1988 (Sheffield City Archives: CA-POL/38)
Supporting Each Other

By the 1980s advice and guidance was becoming widely available to a number of groups with regard to health matters. The Local Studies Library holds copies of the Yellow Pages™ and the Thomson Local Directories from the first editions up to the present day. A simple search of these telephone directories reveals that it wasn’t until 1994/5 that telephone numbers for LGBT helplines were published, and even then they were mainly for national (London based) groups. Sheffield’s Lesbian Line is first mentioned in 1994/5. Advertisements and listings for other local organisations start to appear in the latter part of the 20th century.

A number of groups were available to offer advice and support - SHOUT (Sheffield OUT); International TV Repartee and the Centre for HIV and Sexual Health are just a few examples.

International TV Repartee - ‘the best magazine around for TVs (transvestites)’ (based in Sheffield) and Rose’s Club Flyer, 1994 (Sheffield Local Studies Library); ‘Gay rights and work’, article in ‘Root and Branch’ (NALGO newsletter), 1977-79 (Sheffield City Archives: CB NALGO 195); Letter from ‘Bond’ of Sheffield in Gay Scene, 1978 (Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP2934M).
The art of protest: Wildcat Cards

Wildcat Cards (1988-1994) was founded in Sep 1988 by the Sheffield-based cartoonist and graphic designer Fi Frances in order to make modern women’s art more accessible to the public via high quality cards produced by women artists to promote images and messages by women for women. It produced greetings cards, postcards and posters designed by women artists and actively sought input from women in a wide range of different life situations (from different classes, ethnic backgrounds, sexualities, abilities, ages and educational and political backgrounds). Some designs were produced as support cards for women’s organisations and campaigns.

Images © Wildcat Cards. The collection of cards and posters is available to view at Sheffield City Archives (X649).
List of documents, pamphlets and other items available at Sheffield Local Studies Library and Sheffield City Archives

Official Organisations

Sheffield City Council Corporate Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Trans (LGBT) working group terms of reference, objectives and a brief action plan c. 2006. (Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 5934 M)

Sheffield City Council Equality Unit - LGBT Corporate Action Plan, Stonewall Diversity Champions Scheme papers, Equality Scheme, fliers and other papers, 2009 - 2010 (Sheffield City Archives: CA acc. 2010/147)

‘Gay? Lesbian? and Harassed?’ - leaflet offering advice and details of other contacts who may be able to help you, Sheffield Community Safety Unit, 1996 (Sheffield Local Studies Library: PAMP 577)

Sheffield City Council, Libraries and Information sub-committee of the Libraries, Arts and Museum’s Programme Committee, resolution as to the legal case involving ‘Gay’s the Word’ bookshop in London and the work of the Libraries department in relation to services for gay men and lesbians, Jul - Sep 1986 (Sheffield City Archives: CA-LAM/2/42 (4 Jul 1986 and 10 Sep 1986))

Sheffield City Council Libraries Department: final report of the 'Policy Development Group on Services to Lesbian and Gay Men', Jun 1987 (the group had been established to develop adequate library services to reflect the interests of the gay community) (Sheffield City Archives: Acc. 2003/37 box 2)

Sheffield Women’s Handbook, c. 1991 and 1992 and includes references to services and organisations offering support to lesbians (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 396 SST)

‘Tackling Harassment - advice about housing rights and community safety for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and support’ Sheffield City Council and South Yorkshire Police Authority 1998 (Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 3431 S)


The City Council Watch Committee was responsible for policing matters (which included a wide range of responsibilities, including for example, licensing of cinemas etc). Signed minutes from 1843 to 1967 are available. (Sheffield City Archives: CA 134)
Sheffield City Council has offered grants to a wide variety of community groups. Lists of grants awarded are often given in committee minutes, for example in the Family and Community Services Programme Committee minutes of the 1980s. *(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 352.042 SQ)*

Between 1974 and 1986 South Yorkshire County Council provided some local services. Relevant references may be found in certain committees, such as the Policy Committee. *(Sheffield City Archives: SYCC)*

Court records: It is possible that relevant cases are recorded in court records. Sheffield Archives holds records of the Sheffield Quarter Sessions court from 1880 (QS). Prior to 1880 Sheffield came within the jurisdiction of the West Riding of Yorkshire Quarter Sessions (as did other parts of South Yorkshire, prior to their Quarter Sessions courts being established). Records of this court, dating back to the 17th century are available at the West Yorkshire Archive Service, Wakefield Headquarters, Registry of Deeds, Newstead Road, Wakefield, WF1 2DE ([www.archives.wyjs.org.uk](http://www.archives.wyjs.org.uk)).

Police records: these include charge books, occurrence books, annual statistics (which may refer to sodomy for instance). Sheffield Archives holds records of Sheffield Police, 1831 - 1975 (SY295). The annual reports of the Chief Constable include reference to what were known as 'sexual offences’. Statistical data is provided on the occurrences of prosecutions for crimes such as buggery. *(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 352.2 S)*

Criminal statistical returns of the Sheffield Police, 1845 - 1862
These include references to assault with intent to commit an unnatural crime (which may be a reference to same sex) *(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 352.2 S)*

Sheffield Magistrates Court Petty Sessional register – case of John Goodwin of Handsworth charged with indecency with a male person, (committed to Assize court), 10 May 1898 *(Sheffield City Archives: MC/3/1)*

BBC Radio Sheffield interview with the Director of Social Services regarding the decision by the City Council’s Labour Group to allow homosexuals to be foster parents, [1980s] *(Sheffield City Archives: SY425 8212/4 band 4)*

**Newspapers and Telephone Directories**

Relevant articles and features may appear in local newspapers. The main titles available (on microfilm) at Sheffield Local Studies Library include: *Iris* or *Sheffield Advertiser for the Northern Counties*, 1794 - 1856; *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, 1855 - 1986; *Sheffield Mercury*, 1807 - 1848; *Sheffield Telegraph* (weekly) 1989 - date; *Sheffield Independent* 1819 - 1938 and the *Star* 1873 - date

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The British Library British Newspapers website includes over nine million pages from over 300 national and local newspapers (including the Sheffield and Rotherham Independent 1819-1909, Sheffield Daily Telegraph 1855-1950 and Sheffield Evening Telegraph 1887-1920) (http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/)

There is a card index covering the 1930s to the 1950s, and from the 1960s onwards there are files of news cuttings arranged by subject (both available in the Local Studies Library). Searching through them requires some lateral thinking on behalf of the researcher as over time the subject terms used have necessarily changed. There are certainly cuttings from at least the 1970s referring to the Campaign for Homosexual Equality and similar issues. Later years see cuttings arranged under terms such as ‘homosexuals’ or ‘gay community’ for example. (Sheffield Local Studies Library)

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)

The Post Office/British Telecom Yellow Pages for Sheffield include telephone numbers, and later, advertisements of numerous organisations. A search of key terms for the late 1980s/mid 1990s reveals that it was not until 1994-1995 that references to LGBT services were mentioned. The 1994-1995 directory lists the London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard, Sheffield Lesbian Line and various other groups in the ‘Social Service and Welfare Organisations’ section. (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 914.274 SQ)

Lifestyle

There is a case of a ‘female husband’ reported in The Times on 13 Apr 1838. The case came to light in Manchester and it appears the couple were married at Sheffield Parish Church in 1816. The Times is available on microfilm at the Reference and Information Library in the Central Library. It is also available online at www.timesonline.co.uk.

Marriage entry for Henry / Henrietta Stoakes and Ann Hants, Sheffield Parish Church, Jan 1817 (Sheffield City Archives: PR 138/114 page 203)

Edward Carpenter correspondence, papers and library, 19th - 20th cent. (Sheffield City Archives: Carpenter Collection)

Includes a reference to Edward Carpenter. (Sheffield City Archives: Biographies General No. 19)

Strangers - Homosex Love in the 19th century, Graham Robb (Picador, 2003) (refers to Edward Carpenter)
(Sheffield City Archives: ROB/HIST; copies also available in Sheffield Central Lending and Sheffield Reference and Information library: 306.766)


The Northern Scene: gay guide to northern England written and compiled by Mike Parker (GMP Publishers Ltd, 1993). Photocopies of pages relating to Sheffield (pp. 124 - 133) lists the main ‘gay friendly’ venues. (Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 4197 S)


Gay Scene, Feb 1978 (photocopy)  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 2934 M)

Sheffield Steel City Scene by Tim Laming (taken from All Points North magazine), issue 60, Oct 1995  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 4981 M)

The rough guide to coming out (Sheffield Youth Service, 1990s)  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 306.766 SST)

Marvin, Katie, *Stepping Out: a rough guide for young people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or questioning their sexuality* (Centre for HIV and Sexual Health, 2004) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 306.766 SST)

Shout - Yorkshire’s lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender paper - extracts from this are included in the Local Studies library press cuttings files  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library)

Sheffield Pride annual report, 2010 - 2011  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 306.766 SQ)

Leaflets, flyers and other documents regarding Sheffield Pride, 2008 onwards  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP Folder 4)

Leaflets, flyers and other documents regarding lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans communities and services, c. 1990 onwards  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP Folder 8)

Showroom Cinema, Sheffield, programmes of events (include the London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival on tour (LLFG))  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 791.43 S)
International TV Repartee – ‘The best magazine around for TVs (transvestites)’ (based in Sheffield) and Rose’s Club Flyer, 1994
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 4194 S)

Article on Martin/Martine, founder of Attercliffe based magazine, ‘Roses Repartee’ in Telegraph magazine, Feb 1995, pages 16-17
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 052.74 SF)

Article regarding Trevor Houcher Jones (drag queen) in Sam. Apr 1995 (pages 6-7) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 052.74 SQ)

Standing Up for Students: One Hundred Years of the University of Sheffield Union of Students, Helen Mathers, 2007 (p. 58 refers to the Lesbian and Gay Society (later Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Society) being established in 1973). (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 378.4274 S)

A Tale of Two Cities: Global Change, Local Feeling, and Everyday Life in the North of England: A Study of Manchester and Sheffield, I Taylor, K Evans, P Fraser, 1996, pp.180-197 [refers mainly to Manchester’s Gay Village] (Sheffield Local Studies Library 307.76 Ma (S); copy also available at Darnall Community Library)

Civil Partnerships: The Essential Guide to Planning Your Civil Partnerships in the Sheffield Area. Published by Scott International, c. 2005 (Sheffield Local Studies Library: PAMP 211 SQ)

Sheffield Free Press (Nos. 1-56, Jul 1975 - May 1982) include occasional news, features and relevant events, e.g. references to the Campaign for Homosexual Equality (No. 5, Dec 1995) and ‘Council Says No to Gay News’ (No. 24, Sep/Oct 1978) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 072.74 SQ)

DARTS (University of Sheffield Union of Students newspaper) 1947 - 1997 occasionally includes items relating to local and national gay issues, e.g. Student Gay Society in Sheffield (No. 359) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 378.4274)

Out There - a DVD portraying the different aspects of the lives of LGB people - their lives with their families and friends, their significant relationships, their interests, their work and their celebrations. Sheffield Centre for HIV and Sexual Health, 2007 (Sheffield Local Studies Library: DVD 31)

Recent additions to the Gay and Lesbian Collection (Sheffield Libraries Archives and Information, c. 2005) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: PAMP 766 S)

A Search for Sheffield Gay Icons: an exhibition [poster], 2010 (Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 577 VL)

Queer Sheffield posters, c. 2000

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Shout! An alternative space for gay and bisexual men - boards produced by participants in a Shout! workshop regarding gay icons, 2010
(Sheffield City Archives: X429)

Out Aloud Choir, Sheffield: fliers and DVD of songs and stores if LGBY activism; ‘Allowed Out’ stories, compiled 2012
Note: some items in this collection have restricted access. Please contact Sheffield Archives for further advice.
(Sheffield City Archives: X584)

Sheffield LGBT+ History Month 2017 programme
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 4955 S)

Helplines, Charities, Self-Help Groups

Gayphone (Sheffield) annual report 1986/7 - 1993/4, 1998/9 - 2000/1, 2002/3
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 363.49 S)

Campaign for Homosexual Equality (Sheffield): details of lectures held at the University [of Sheffield] on 24 Oct 1974
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 2447 M)

Campaign for Homosexual Equality (Sheffield): list of events for Aug 1975
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 2409 M)

Campaign for Homosexual Equality in Sheffield in Sheffield Free Press, No. 5, Dec 1975 (pp. 8-9)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 072.74 SF)

Campaign for Homosexual Equality (Sheffield): references to meetings in Sheffield in ‘Sexual Politics in Britain during 1975’, Harvester Press Primary Social Sources
(Sheffield Reference and Information Library: 301.424 ST)

BBC Radio Sheffield interview with a representative of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality on their argument with Rotherham Borough Council following refusal to let them use the Assembly Rooms, [1980s]
(Sheffield City Archives: SY425 7708/7 band 8)

SHOUT (Sheffiel OUT) - ‘Gay Men, Bisexual Men and our Allies in Sheffield’ flyer, 1994
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 4195 S)

Shout! Centre annual report, 2006
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: PAMP 251 SQ)
Sheffield Information Service ‘Help Yourself Directory’ lists groups and organisations in a category ‘gay, lesbian and bi-sexual people’ [www.sheffieldhelpyourself.org.uk].

Flyer for International Day Against Homophobia (IDAHO) event in Sheffield, 2007. (Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 5932 M)

Flyers for ‘Spring Out’ - Celebrating and Promoting Healthy Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Communities in Sheffield, 2004 - 2007 (Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 5933 M)

Spring Out - photographs, stories, recordings, notes, etc., 2008 (Sheffield City Archives: X178)

Gay Girls Group (Sheffield) We can’t even think straight: a booklet to support other young women in coming to terms with their sexuality [c. 2000] (Sheffield Local Studies Library: PAMP 767 S)

University of Sheffield, Student Community Action Group project manual for 1986/7 mentions the Sheffield Lesbian Line and Young Lesbian Group (Sheffield Local Studies Library: PAMP 714 S)

Women’s Liberation Movement: newsletters of Sheffield Group & other national groups; correspondence files and posters/pamphlets re events, 1960s - 1980s (Sheffield Archives MD7966) and University of Sheffield Women’s Liberation Group, Libido, No. 1 1974 - No. 3, October 1975 (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 396 SQ)


Reference to Sheffield Lesbians Education Group in Urban Strategy Panel (Policy) Decisions of the Self Help Panel, 31 Jan 1990 (Sheffield City Archives: CA-POL/55)

Wildcat Cards, Sheffield, 1988 - 1994 (includes cards and posters relating to LGBT issues) (Sheffield City Archives: X649)

1967 Sexual Offences Act

Homosexual Bill ‘end of monstrous road’ report re the passing of the Sexual Offences (No. 2) Bill, Sheffield Telegraph, 22 Jul 1967 (Sheffield Local Studies Library)
Health Issues

*Our City Our Health: Ideas for Improving Health in Sheffield. A Healthy Sheffield Discussion Document* (Health Sheffield Planning Team, 1991)  
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 614.094274 SQ)*

Bains, Anthony, *Primary Health Care and Gay and Bisexual Men* (Sheffield Centre for HIV and Sexual Health, 1997)  
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.19695 SQ)*

*Sheffield in the Pink: providing excellent care for lesbian, gay and bisexual people - a practical guide for GPs and other health practitioners* (NHS Sheffield, c. 2010)  
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.19695 SQ)*

Sheffield Centre for HIV and Sexual Health - selection of leaflets and publicity, c. 2005 onwards  
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 4199 S and MP Folder 7)*

Healthy Sheffield: Health Promotion Programme Strategic Plan, 1990 - 1993  
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 614.094274)*

Sheffield Health Authority Lesbian Health Needs Assessment report, c. 1994  
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.19695 SQ)*

Lesbian, gay & bisexual young people's needs assessment: summary of findings, 2004  
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.19695 SQ)*

In 2004 a Sheffield based research project into the mental health needs of lesbian, gay and bisexual people published its findings under the title ‘Swept under the Carpet’  

Socialising and sexual health: an evaluation of the needs of gay and bisexual men and men who have sex with men in Sheffield, Centre for HIV and Sexual Health, 2009  
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP6205 M)*

‘Lesbian, bisexual women and women who have sex with women: an evaluation of sexual health needs and experience in Sheffield’, Centre for HIV and Sexual Health, 2009 (ISBN 978-1-84387-297-9)  
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.19695 SSTQ; summary at MP 6206 M)*

Brothers: a booklet for black men who have sex with men (Centre for HIV and Sexual Health, 1995)  
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: PAMP 847 S)*

The Central Health Clinic, Sheffield, offered advice on contraception, pregnancy, sexual health and sexuality: records 1917 – 1988
HIV AIDS is not a disease that affects only the homosexual community. It affects everyone. High-risk groups include drug users, prostitutes and anyone who practices unsafe sex. Reference to HIV AIDS is included here as some attention was directed, rightly or wrongly, towards the homosexual community, particularly in the early period of awareness about the issue c. 1984

Sheffield City Council’s Health and Consumer Services department’s annual reports include reference to HIV AIDS from c. 1985. It was recognised in the 1986 annual report that ‘it soon became apparent that the homosexual community in Sheffield had already been providing support and education campaigns within the area’ (page 49). The 1987 report recorded that there were just 10 cases of AIDS registered from Sheffield (page 77).

Using the terms HIV and AIDS in the catalogues will reveal references to the Sheffield Aids Education Project, Sheffield Centre for HIV and Sexual Health etc.


‘Internet Liaisons – A Practical Guide To Safer Cruising On The Net – For Men Looking For Sex With Men’ (Sheffield Centre for HIV & Sexual Health c. 2005)


Flyer for ‘Indigo – a Service for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual People from a Black and Minority Ethnic Background in Sheffield’, 2007

Swept under the Carpet? The Mental Health Support Needs of LGB People - A Sheffield Based Research project funded by Sheffield Care Trust. Sheffield Centre for HIV and Sexual Health and South East Sheffield Primary Care Trust 2004

Section 28

Photographs of protests by Sheffield women against clause 28, day of action, 8 April 1988

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Sheffield City Council minutes of 6 January and 2 March 1988 report the Council’s resolution to (a) ‘oppose Clause 20 of the Local Government Bill 1987 and support the campaign against the Clause …’ (pp. 1292 and 1305) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: minutes of the District Council 1988 352.042 SQ)

Sheffield City Council: Policy Committee minutes 1988: agenda item report L Policy Review Sub-Committee (Policy) Committee minutes of 12 Jul 1988 refers to Section 28; report H is a report on the ‘prohibition on promoting homosexuality’ (Sheffield City Archives CA-POL/37)

Sheffield City Council: Policy Committee minutes 1988: agenda item report Z is a report and analysis of the Head of the Administration and Legal Department on Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988 (this refers to a Council resolution of 3 Feb 1988 (page 1305) which resolved that the City Council opposed clause 28 and supported the campaign against it. (Sheffield City Archives CA-POL/38 part 2)

Sheffield City Council Libraries and Information Services: extract from Staff Guidance Manual re Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988, 1989 (Sheffield City Archives: Acc. 2007/96 Box 12)

Posters designed by Angela Martin, including: Stop The Clause [28] - public meeting with a speaker from the north west campaign for gay and lesbian equality, Salford College of Technology Students’ Union. [1990s] (Sheffield City Archives: X649/6/2)

Poster by Angela Martin: Stop the Clause [28] - public meeting with a speaker from the north west campaign for gay and lesbian equality, Salford College of Technology Students’ Union (part of the Wildcat Cards collection) (Sheffield City Archives: X649/6/2)
Archive and Library collections held elsewhere


The National Archives’ Discovery database contains catalogues describing archives held locally in England and Wales and dating from the eighth century to the present day. http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ (accessed October 2017)

The Proceedings of the Old Bailey, London 1674 to 1913 are available to search online at www.oldbaileyonline.org (accessed October 2017). There are numerous sexual offence cases (mainly in London).

The most significant resource for researchers interested in the history of gay and lesbian political activism since 1957 is the Hall-Carpenter Archive at the London School of Economics. Founded in 1982, it holds the archives of organisations including the Campaign for Homosexual Equality and the Homosexual Law Reform Society, as well as of individual activists. It also contains a collection of periodicals and newspaper cuttings. http://www.lse.ac.uk/Library/Collections/Collection-highlights/LGBT-collections (accessed October 2017)

The Lesbian and Gay Newsmedia Archive (LAGNA) set up by Hall Carpenter has over 80,000 press cuttings covering all aspects of gay life from the 1930s to the present. It is based at Middlesex University Cat Hill campus. www.lagna.org.uk/ (accessed October 2017)

The Lesbian Archive was set up in London in 1984 and (now in Glasgow) contains the UK’s largest and most significant collection of materials about lesbian lives, activism and achievements. http://womenslibrary.org.uk (accessed October 2017)

National Lesbian and Gay Survey, 1986 onwards, University of Sussex Library (Special Collections) http://alpha.thekeep.info/collections/getrecord/GB181_SxMOA16 (accessed October 2017)

Lesbian and Gay Foundation Archives (the UK’s largest lesbian, gay and bisexual health and lifestyle organisation) www.lgf.org.uk/ (accessed October 2017)


Queerupnorth archives (1992 - 2006) at Manchester Archives & Local Studies (ref. M800)
www.manchester.gov.uk/info/1062/archive_collections/520/lgbt_source_guide
(accessed October 2017)

LGBT History Month www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk (accessed October 2017)

There are a number of local history projects with information available online i.e. Edinburgh http://livingmemory.org.uk/rememberwhen/; Brighton www.brightonourstory.co.uk and Norfolk www.lgbthistorymonthnorfolk.org.uk (all accessed October 2017)

Further Reading

Who’s Who in Gay and Lesbian History: From Antiquity to World War II by Robert Aldrich (Routledge, 2002) (Sheffield Reference and Information Library and Highfield Community Library: 920.00866)

Who’s Who in Gay and Lesbian History: From World War II to the Present Day by Robert Aldrich and Garry Wotherspoon (Routledge, 2000) (Sheffield Reference and Information Library and Highfield Community Library 920.00866)


Social Differences and Divisions by Peter Braham and Linda Janes (Blackwell, 2002) (refers to lack of gay ‘village’ in Sheffield, compared to Manchester)

Homosexuality in Renaissance England by Alan Bray (Gay Men's Press 1988)


Homosexuality: A History by Colin Spencer (Fourth Estate, 1995)

London and the Culture of Homosexuality 1885 - 1914 by Matt Cook (Cambridge University Press, 2003)


Out of the Past: Gay and Lesbian History from 1869 to the Present by Neil Miller (Allyson, 2006) (Sheffield Central Lending Library and Highfield Community Library: 306.766)


Britannia's Glory: A History of Twentieth Century Lesbians by Emily Hamer (Cassell, 1996)

Hidden from History: Reclaiming the Gay and Lesbian Past by Martin Duberman, Martha Vicinus and George Chauncey (Penguin Books, 1989)


Fashioning Sapphism: The Origins of a Modern English Lesbian Culture by Laura Doan (Columbia University Press, 2001)

Coming Out: Homosexual Politics in Britain from the Nineteenth Century to the Present by Jeffrey Weeks (Quartet, 1990)  
(Sheffield Reference and Information Library: 301.424 ST)

Acknowledgements

Sheffield Libraries Archives and Information would like to thank the City Council’s LGBT Officer Group; John Baker of the Edward Carpenter Forum and the Sheffield Centre for HIV and Sexual Health for their advice, guidance and encouragement during the compilation of this Guide.

Be Part of History

There is a growing amount of documents and photographs from LGBT individuals and support/campaigning groups themselves. But, if we are to truly reflect the LGBT experience in Sheffield we need more! If you have personal papers or papers from a group you belong to or help administer please consider safeguarding them for current and future historians by placing them in the care of Sheffield Libraries. We are interested in photographs of events and venues, flyers and posters, minutes of meetings, etc., of any date. For advice on record keeping and the facilities we offer please contact archives@sheffield.gov.uk 0114 203 9395.
Sheffield City 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.

Our facilities include:

Study areas ● expert staff on hand to help you make the most of your visit ● a library of reference books ● photocopying and photography services ● free Internet access ● microform machines and printers ● catalogues and indexes ● a range of useful publications for sale ● CD-Rom library ● on-line image library.

Adding to our collections

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 contact us: archives@sheffield.gov.uk or 0114 203 9395).
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