

# Sources for the History of Handsworth



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Front cover illustrations from left to right:

Haymaking at Myrtle Bank Farm, Handsworth, c. 1900  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield s09642*)

Handsworth Traditional Sword Dancers (the Siddall brothers), c. 1890  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield s04045*)

Miners queuing for strike pay at Cross Keys Public House, Handsworth Road,  
Handsworth, 1926  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield s03748*)

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# Sources for the History of Handsworth

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This guide gives a brief introduction to the variety of sources available for researching the history of Handsworth at Sheffield Archives and Local Studies Library.

Handsworth lies 4 miles south east of Sheffield City Centre. Handsworth was formerly a village in the West Riding of Yorkshire, with Handsworth Hill becoming part of Sheffield in 1901 and the remaining parts of Handsworth absorbed into the city in 1921.

For advice and guidance on any of the information in this *Guide* please contact Sheffield Archives and Local Studies.

There are separate [Community History](#) guides for neighbouring areas such as Woodhouse.

### **Books and Pamphlets, etc.**

Binfield, Clive, *The History of the City of Sheffield 1843 - 1993* (Sheffield Academic Press, 1993) (3 vols)  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S; Sheffield Archives: SHE/LOCAL; also available at most Sheffield libraries*)

Birks, Walter, *Handsworth parish, past and present; with a review of the West Riding and Hallamshire* (W. J. Greenup, 1890)  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S; Sheffield Archives: BIR/LOCAL*)

'Birley Vale Magazine and monthly review of the parishes of Handsworth, Beighton and Ridgeway', 1875 - 1876  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 283.4274 S*)

Dewar, David, *Hallamshire: a district from ancient times embracing the parishes of Sheffield, Handsworth, Ecclesfield with the chapelry of Bradfield: a note on its Justices' Courts, Justices and Clerks* (1975)  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 347.994274 S*)

Earl, Florence Margaret, *The Handsworth I Remember* (2005)  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S; also available at Darnall Library and the Mobile Library Service: 942.821*)

Ferraby, Heneage, 'An Introduction to the Story of Handsworth' [notes used by Canon Ferraby at a talk at Handsworth Library, 28 Feb 1973] (1973)  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 2113 S*)

Ferraby, Heneage, *Handsworth Annals: a time chart from the earliest times to the present day* (Church Publishers, 1969)  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 2984 S or 942.74 SST*)

Ferraby, Heneage, *Handsworth: ground-work of the history of Handsworth, Yorkshire. Part 1, From the earliest days to the beginning of the Parish Register, 1558*

(Church Publishers, 1963)

(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S PHOTOCOPY; Sheffield Archives: FER/LOCAL pamphlet*)

Gillott, Sandra, *Handsworth* (Tempus Publishing, 1999)

(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S; copies also available at a number of Sheffield Community Libraries: 942.821*)

Gillott, Sandra, *Handsworth: the second selection* (Tempus Publishing, 2002)

(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S; copies also available at a number of Sheffield Community Libraries: 942.821*)

Gillott, Sandra, *Handsworth in days gone by* (ARC, 2009)

(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S; copies also available at a number of Sheffield Community Libraries: 942.821*)

Gillott, Sandra, *Orbit: historical Handsworth jottings* (2002)

(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: PAMP 377*)

Gillott, Sandra, *101 things to know about Handsworth* (2004)

(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S*)

Harrison, John, *Survey of the Manor of Sheffield with other lands, 1637* [transcribed and edited by James George Ronksley with introduction by R. E. Leader] (Arthur Wightman, 1908)

(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 333.094274 S; Sheffield Archives: HAR/LOCAL*)

Hey, David, *A History of Sheffield* (Carnegie, 2005)

(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S; Sheffield Archives: HEY/LOCAL; also available at most Sheffield Community Libraries*)

Hunter, Joseph, *Hallamshire: the history and topography of the parish of Sheffield: with historical and descriptive notices of the parishes of Ecclesfield, Hansworth [sic], Treeton and Whiston, and of the chapelry of Bradfield* (1819)

(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SSTF; Sheffield Archives: HUN/LOCAL*)

Le Tall, W. J, *Doings in Handsworth Woodhouse, and in Handsworth Parish, 1876 to 1899* (Sessions, York, 1916)

(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S; Sheffield Archives: LET/LOCAL pamphlet*)

Le Tall, W. J , *Le Tall's Woodhouse : Woodhouse and the parish of Handsworth, past and present* (Sheaf Publishing Ltd, 1981)

(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S*)

Lester, Geoff, *Handsworth Traditional Sword Dancers*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (1979)  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 793.31 SST*)

Oates, Mark, *A Guide to Historical Handsworth* (c. 1980s)  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: PAMP 30 SQ*)

Oates, Mark, *A Guide to St. Mary's Churchyard, Handsworth*  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 042 S*)

Sanderson, Derek [Director], *Handsworth: Past and Present* [Video] (1995)  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: VID 36*)

Sharp, Cecil James, *The Sword Dances of Northern England: Part 3* (Novello, 1913)  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 793.31 SST*)

Thomas, A. Rev., *The History of the Parishes and Churches in the Deanery of Handsworth* (Sir W. C. Leng & Co., 1932)  
(*Sheffield Archives: THO/PAR HIST*)

*Transactions of the Hunter Archaeological Society*  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 913.4274 S; Sheffield Archives: HAS*)

Vickers, J. Edward, *The Ancient suburbs of Sheffield* (Jev Publications, 1971)  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S*)

Walton, Mary, 'Old Handsworth and Woodhouse' [adapted from a lecture given at Woodhouse Branch Library in January] (1939)  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: PAMP 331 SQ or Local Pamphlets no. 1 - 042 SQ*)

Whiston, David, *Handsworth Woodhouse Catholic Deaf and Dumb Institution, 1870-1875* (British Deaf History Society, 2000)  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: PAMP 39/1; also available at Woodhouse Library: 362.42*)

Yorkshire Archaeological Society  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 913.4274 S*)

Trade Directories which give a history of the district, main occupants and businesses, 1774 - 1974, and telephone directories thereafter. A full list of trade directories at Archives and Local Studies is available: [www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/trade-directories.html](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/trade-directories.html). Most West Riding directories, however, are available in the Sheffield Reference Library or at [West Yorkshire Archives](http://West Yorkshire Archives). Some directories are available to view online: [www.historicaldirectories.org](http://www.historicaldirectories.org).

## Census returns

These list every resident by household and include names, relationships, occupations, ages and birth places, every 10 years from 1841 through to 1911, available free at every Sheffield library and at Sheffield Archives via [www.Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com)

## Church registers and records, monumental (gravestone) inscriptions and cemeteries

St Mary's Church, Handsworth dates from around 1170 and is thought to have been founded by Richard de Lovetot, Lord of the Manor. The ancient parish of Handsworth was incorporated into the City of Sheffield in 1921.

St Mary's Church, Handsworth, Anglican Parish, registers and records, 1558 onwards  
(*Sheffield Archives: PR158*)

St Mary's Church, Handsworth, transcripts and indexes of parish records, [1558 onwards] and monumental inscriptions [covering 1686 - 1970]  
(*Sheffield Archives: ROM/15*)

St Mary's Church, Handsworth, survey of churchyard and memorial inscription index, 1983 - 1985  
(*Sheffield Archives: MD7477*)

St Mary's Church, Handsworth, partial section plan of churchyard survey, 1984  
(*Sheffield Archives: MD7911*)

St Mary's Church, Handsworth, copies of 'Orbit' magazine, from 2008  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 283.4274 S*)

Papers of Canon Heneage Ferraby (Rector of St Mary's, Handsworth) relating to local history of Handsworth etc., c. 1964 - 1975  
(*Sheffield Archives: MD7552*)

Handsworth Wesleyan Methodist Church trust minutes and other records, 1925 - 1960  
(*Sheffield Archives: NR279-281*)

Handsworth Wesleyan Reform Church (Richmond Road) marriage register, 1981 - 1993  
(*Sheffield Archives: 1998/95*)

Handsworth Methodist Church Sisterhood Ladies minutes and accounts, 1913 - 2004  
(*Sheffield Archives: 2005/74*)

Handsworth Primitive Methodist Church (Hall Road) marriage registers, 1925 - 1942  
(*Sheffield Archives: SY139/15/1/1-2*)

Handsworth Woodhouse Bethel Methodist Chapel marriage registers, 1935 - 1950  
(*Sheffield Archives: SY139/15/2/1-2*)

Handsworth Woodhouse United Methodist Church baptism register, 1851 - 1880;  
and church council minutes of meetings 1974 - 1991  
(*Sheffield Archives: 1995/71*)

Intake Primitive Methodist Church baptism register (relating to "Handsworth and  
area"), 1887 - 1943  
(*Sheffield Archives: NR2069*)

Sheffield, St Joseph, Roman Catholic Parish, Handsworth, registers and records,  
1870 onwards  
(*Sheffield Archives: CATH50*)

Intake Cemetery (Handsworth) (opened 1880), registers, 1880 - 1996  
(*Sheffield Archives: Microfilms A316 and A463*)

For Woodhouse church records see [Community History](#) guide for Woodhouse.

For further details on Anglican parish registers see  
[www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/parish-registers.html](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/parish-registers.html)

For further details on non-conformist chapel registers see  
[www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/non-conformist-chapel-registers.html](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/non-conformist-chapel-registers.html)

For further details on Roman Catholic church registers see  
[www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/roman-catholic-church-registers.html](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/roman-catholic-church-registers.html)

For further details on cemeteries see  
[www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/cemetery-registers.html](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/cemetery-registers.html)

For further details on monumental inscriptions (gravestone transcriptions) see  
[www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/monumentalinscriptions.html](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/monumentalinscriptions.html)

Diocese of Sheffield, faculties from 1914 onwards (these detail changes made to  
Anglican church buildings)  
(*Sheffield Archives: DIOC/FAC*)



## **Clubs, Societies and Charities**

A search of the online catalogues and the card indexes at Archives and Local Studies may reveal records from Handsworth based clubs, societies and charities; for instance:

Handsworth charities' accounts, 1901 - 1953  
(*Sheffield Archives: SY614/K45*)

Handsworth Community Association Amateur Operatic Society programmes  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: AM DRAM CABINET*)

## **Courts**

The Magistrates Court (or Petty Sessions court) records deal mainly with minor offences and licensing the sale and consumption of liquor. Records of the Sheffield Division cover the borough and City of Sheffield and records of Upper Strafforth and Tickhill Division of the West Riding of Yorkshire cover areas outside the borough such as Handsworth, Ecclesfield and Bradfield, c. 1870 - 1976  
(*Sheffield Archives: MC*)

There are also records of the Sheffield Court of Quarter Sessions from 1880  
(*Sheffield Archives: QS*)

For records of West Riding of Yorkshire courts (parts of Handsworth were formerly in the West Riding until 1921) contact [West Yorkshire Archives](#)

## **Electoral Registers and Poll Books**

Sometimes known as Burgess Rolls or voters' lists, in essence, electoral rolls are lists of people that are entitled to vote. The Sheffield Local Studies Library has a comprehensive collection from 1841 onwards. More details are available:  
[www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/electoral-registers.html](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/electoral-registers.html)

Poll books list the votes cast by each voter at elections prior to the introduction of the secret ballot in 1872. More details are available:  
[www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/poll-books.html](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/poll-books.html)

For West Riding electoral registers and poll books courts (parts of Handsworth were formerly in the West Riding of Yorkshire until 1921) contact [West Yorkshire Archives](#)

## Hospitals

Sheffield Archives has records from over 50 hospitals, including annual reports, photographs and administrative records.

For a full list of hospital records see [www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/hospital-records.html](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/hospital-records.html)

As parts of Handsworth were formerly in the West Riding of Yorkshire until 1921 older records may be at [West Yorkshire Archives](#)

## Land, Building and Property Records

Sale particulars (often with plans) date from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century; for instance, Bramley Hall, Handsworth, particulars of sale and plan of substantial family residence with grounds, lodge and stabling, farms and land, 23 Jun 1896 (*Sheffield Local Studies Library*).

In addition, some Sheffield City Council planning applications survive from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards (*Sheffield Archives: CA206*), etc.; for instance, Finchwell Road, Sheffield (site of Handsworth Hall Farm), 1969 (*Sheffield Archives: CA206/63475*).

As parts of Handsworth were formerly in the West Riding of Yorkshire until 1921 there may also be planning applications at [West Yorkshire Archives](#).

Sheffield Archives may also hold separate architectural plans of individual buildings; for instance, plan of St Joseph's Roman Catholic School, Handsworth, 1940 (*Sheffield Archives: AP/488*). Sheffield Archives also holds deeds to properties and records of land valuations which detail owners and occupiers; for instance, deeds relating to the sale of parts of the Manor of Handsworth, 1663 - 1676 (*Sheffield Archives: MD5781*).

A search of the Archives and Local Studies online catalogues and the card indexes may reveal relevant entries.

(*Sheffield Archives and Sheffield Local Studies Library*)

As parts of Handsworth were in the West Riding of Yorkshire until 1921 some land, building and property records may be at [West Yorkshire Archives](#).

## Maps

There are large-scale maps of the Sheffield area from 1853 to the present day. Comprehensive coverage of Sheffield and partial coverage of the surrounding areas is available at Sheffield Local Studies Library. Sheffield Archives has incomplete historic coverage of most of South Yorkshire. More details are available here: [www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/ordnance-survey-maps.html](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/ordnance-survey-maps.html)

Prior to the Ordnance Survey there may be estate and other maps such as tithes ([www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/tithe-maps.html](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/tithe-maps.html)) and enclosures [www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/enclosure-awards-and-maps.html](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/enclosure-awards-and-maps.html)

A search of the Archives and Local Studies online catalogues and the card indexes may reveal other maps.

*(Sheffield Archives and Sheffield Local Studies Library)*

For West Riding of Yorkshire maps (parts of Handsworth were in the West Riding of Yorkshire until 1921) contact [West Yorkshire Archives](#)

## Newspapers

The two main Sheffield newspapers are the *Sheffield Morning Telegraph* (later *Sheffield Telegraph*) and *The Star*, and these are available on microfilm at Sheffield Local Studies Library.

The *Sheffield Independent*, 1819 - 1900; *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* 1855 - 1903 and *Sheffield Evening Telegraph*, 1887 - 1897 are available online at [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/)

For West Riding of Yorkshire newspapers (parts of Handsworth were in the West Riding of Yorkshire until 1921) contact [West Yorkshire Archives](#)

## Photographs and Illustrations

The main series of photographs and illustrations (60,000+) is available at Sheffield Local Studies Library in the Central Library. Over 50,000 of these are available online at [Picture Sheffield](#). In addition Sheffield Archives has photographs and illustrations within its collections.

*(Sheffield Local Studies Library and Sheffield Archives)*

## **Poor Law, Civil Parish and Local Government records**

Handsworth Civil Parish records (including Overseers of the Poor records), 1759 - 1927

*(Sheffield Archives: CA19 and X545)*

Handsworth Local Board of Health and Urban District Council minutes, 1873 - 1921

*(Sheffield Archives: CA46)*

Handsworth Sanitary Committee of Urban District Council minutes, 1895 - 1908

*(Sheffield Archives: CA47)*

Handsworth Highway Committee (Local Board and Urban District Council) minutes, 1877 - 1921

*(Sheffield Archives: CA48)*

Handsworth Licensing (Local Board and Urban District Council) registers (relating to store petrol and slaughterhouses), 1875 - 1921

*(Sheffield Archives: CA49-50)*

For more information: [www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/poor-law-records](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/poor-law-records) and [www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/workhouses-and-poor-law-unions.html](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/workhouses-and-poor-law-unions.html)

As parts of Handsworth were in the West Riding of Yorkshire until 1921 other records of the poor law and local government may be available at [West Yorkshire Archives](#).

## **Schools**

Sheffield Archives has records from over 200 schools, including admission registers and head teachers' log books (diaries). For instance, there are log books of Handsworth Mixed Infant School, Fitzalan Road, 1900 - 1953 *(Sheffield Archives: CA35/58)*. For a full list of school records see

[www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/school-records](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/school-records)

Printed sources may also be held at Sheffield Local Studies Library; for example, there is a prospectus and community newsletter for Handsworth Grange School *(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 373.4274 SQ and 371.2 SQ)*

As parts of Handsworth were in the West Riding of Yorkshire until 1921 some school records may be at [West Yorkshire Archives](#).

## Other libraries and archives

In addition to information held at Sheffield Archives and Local Studies other library and archive services will also hold relevant material:

For areas formerly in the West Riding of Yorkshire such as Handsworth there may be relevant records at the [West Yorkshire Archives Service](#).

Prior to 1914, Sheffield came within the jurisdiction of the Diocese of York. There are extensive archives of the Diocese at the [Borthwick Institute for Archives](#) in York.

Wills and probate records relating to those who died in Sheffield prior to 1858 are either held at the [Borthwick Institute](#) for Diocese of York parishes or the [Lichfield Record Office](#) for areas formerly in the Derbyshire area. Probate records after 1858 are held at [The National Archives](#) (TNA).

Court records will also be held at the [West Yorkshire Archive Service](#) and at the [National Archives](#).

[The National Archives](#) (TNA) holds records of central government departments and agencies. You can search the [TNA catalogue](#) online.

Information on archaeological sites and ancient monuments is held by the [South Yorkshire Archaeology Service's Sites and Monuments Record](#).

Handsworth Historical Society

[http://www.sheffieldhelpyourself.org.uk/full\\_search\\_new.asp?group=18272&searchname=handsworth](http://www.sheffieldhelpyourself.org.uk/full_search_new.asp?group=18272&searchname=handsworth)

### Other titles in this series

Arbourthorne	Deepcar	Lodge Moor	Ringinglow
Attercliffe	Dore	Loxley	Sharrow
Beauchief	Dungworth	Manor	Shirebrook
Beighton	Ecclesall	Midhopestones	Shirecliffe
Bents Green	Ecclesfield	Millhouses	Shiregreen
Birley	Firshill	Mosborough	Southey
Bolsterstone	Firth Park	Nether Edge	Stannington
Bradfield	Frecheville	Nether Green	Stocksbridge
Bradway	Fulwood	Netherthorpe	Tinsley
Brightside	Gleadless	Newfield Green	Totley
Broomhall	Greenhill	Norton	Upperthorpe
Broomhill	Grenoside	Oughtibridge	Wadsley
Burngreave	Greystones	Owlerton	Walkley
Carbrook	Hackenthorpe	Park	Whirlow
Chapelton and High Green	Handsworth	Parson Cross	Wincobank
Crookes	Heeley	Pitsmoor	Winn Gardens
Crosspool	Hillsborough	Porter Valley	Wisewood
Crystal Peaks	Jordanthorpe	Ranmoor	Woodhouse
Darnall	Kelham Island	Richmond	Woodseats

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

The information dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> 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:

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<p><b>Sheffield Local Studies Library</b>  1<sup>st</sup> floor  Central Library  Surrey Street  Sheffield  S1 1XZ</p> <p>Tel: 0114 273 4753  Fax: 0114 273 5009</p> <p><a href="mailto:localstudies.library@sheffield.gov.uk">localstudies.library@sheffield.gov.uk</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives">www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives</a></p> <p>(selected) Sheffield Local Studies Library catalogue  <a href="http://library.sheffield.gov.uk/uhtbin/webcat">http://library.sheffield.gov.uk/uhtbin/webcat</a></p>	<p><b>Sheffield Archives</b></p> <p>52 Shoreham Street  Sheffield  S1 4SP</p> <p>Tel: 0114 203 9395  Fax: 0114 203 9398</p> <p><a href="mailto:archives@sheffield.gov.uk">archives@sheffield.gov.uk</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives">www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives</a></p> <p>(selected) Archives catalogues:  <a href="http://www.calmview.eu/SheffieldArchives/CalmView">www.calmview.eu/SheffieldArchives/CalmView</a>  and  <a href="http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a">www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a</a></p>
<p>For 55,000 images of Sheffield: <a href="http://www.picturesheffield.com">www.picturesheffield.com</a></p>	

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	<p><a href="http://www.youtube.com/user/SheffieldArchives1">www.youtube.com/user/SheffieldArchives1</a></p>
	<p><a href="http://www.facebook.com/shefflibraries">www.facebook.com/shefflibraries</a></p>