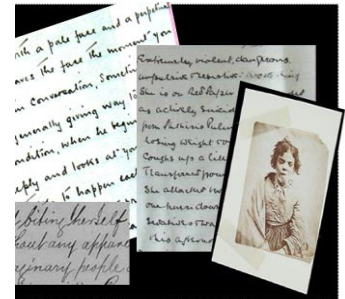


Sources for the Study of Lunatic Asylums and Mental Hospitals in Sheffield



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Front cover illustrations from left to right:

Staff of South Yorkshire Mental Hospital, 1955
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield u01200*)

Wadsley Park Village (site of former Middlewood Hospital), 2011

Documents from the Middlewood Hospital archive collection, 1872 - 1996
(*Sheffield Archives: NHS3*)

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Introduction

The first recorded psychiatric hospital in the UK was the Bethlem Royal Hospital in London; it has been a part of London since 1247 when it was built as a priory. It became a hospital in 1330 and admitted its first mentally ill patients in 1407. The institution gained a reputation for inhumane treatment of its inmates. It was not until 1700 that lunatics were called patients; shortly after curable and incurable wards were set up which signalled a move from mental illnesses being considered an infliction to a curable disease.

It was not until after 1780 that asylums were built on a mass scale around the UK, when the system became standardised across the country and local arrangements were abolished. The first major act was passed in 1808 which aimed to provide facilities for pauper lunatics who could not afford the private asylums and were housed inappropriately in prisons and workhouses.

From the passing of the Asylum Act in 1808 the United Kingdom saw the beginning of the mass construction of asylums around the country. The act empowered the local Justices of Peace to build asylums within the district using local funding. This resulted in the West Riding of Yorkshire building its first asylum at Wakefield in 1818. The general response to this permissive legislation was, however, poor and for a long time the workhouse in Sheffield provided the main local accommodation for pauper lunatics, with only the more difficult cases being transferred to Wakefield. As early as 1797, at the establishment of Sheffield General Infirmary, the need to provide an asylum or lunatic hospital in Sheffield had actually been first suggested.

Public concern about the apparent increase in insanity and the overcrowding in the Wakefield asylum grew and under this pressure for action, a Select Committee of Justices, under the chairmanship of Lord Wharnccliffe, was appointed to explore the possibility of finding a suitable location for a new asylum in South Yorkshire. A site was identified, adjacent to the Wharnccliffe estate, between Middlewood and Wadsley, and permission was sought from the Commissioners in Lunacy for sanction to purchase it. South Yorkshire Lunatic Asylum (later known as Middlewood Hospital) opened in 1872. It closed in 1996.

This *Guide* points researchers towards the key sources available at Sheffield Archives and Local Studies Library for the study of lunatic asylums, mental hospitals and the provision of mental health care in Sheffield.

Timeline showing key dates

1601	Poor Law Act. The Justices of the Peace, with the help of parish officers, organised a system of poor relief including the care of those insane persons unable to work.
1788-1789	Treatment and cure of madness of King George III.
1797	The first mention was made in Sheffield of the need for an asylum during the foundation of the Sheffield General Infirmary, when it was suggested that a lunatic hospital and a dispensary should be provided in addition to the general wards. Funds were insufficient and the asylum project deferred.
1802	Dr Phillippe Pinel wrote his classic <i>Treatise on Insanity</i> which paved the way for his recognition as the founder of modern psychiatry. A very early translation of the <i>Treatise</i> into English was made in 1806 by Dr David Daniel Davis, a Sheffield physician.
1808	County Asylums Act was the first Act permitting counties to levy a rate to build asylums. Its main purpose was to remove lunatics from gaols and workhouses to buildings where they would be easier to manage.
1818	The West Riding of Yorkshire built its first asylum at Wakefield.
1834	Poor Law Amendment Act passed. Boards of Guardians provided special wards in workhouses for the care of the mentally ill. The Sheffield Union Workhouse in Kelham Street had a separate ward for the insane after 1865, as did the Ecclesall Bierlow Workhouse built at Nether Edge.
1866	By this time the West Riding County Asylum at Wakefield had trebled in size and a site was sought for a second asylum - a temporary asylum was found by leasing Mount Pleasant House in Sharrow Lane and after suitable adaptation became a branch of the Wakefield Asylum.
1872	South Yorkshire Lunatic Asylum opened for the reception of patients and a small group of 7 were admitted – the first to be transferred from Wakefield Asylum.
1915	South Yorkshire Lunatic Asylum (by then known as Wadsley Asylum) was used as a war hospital known as Wharncliffe War Hospital. It was also a war hospital during World War Two.
1948	The National Health Service (NHS) Act was passed in 1946. The mental hospital in Sheffield became known as Middlewood Hospital.
1974	Reorganisation of NHS: Regional and Area Health Authorities established. At Middlewood the old No 2 Management Committee was abolished.
1996	Middlewood Hospital closed.

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

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. There are no indexes to the newspapers but other sources can be used to try to establish the dates of events. 'The year's record' in *The Sheffield Year Book* (Local Studies Library: 032.74 S) provides a chronological list of events taken from the newspapers.

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

The British Library British Newspapers 1800-1900 website includes over two million pages from over 70 national and local newspapers (including the *Sheffield and Rotherham Independent*) (<http://gdc.gale.com/products/19th-century-british-library-newspapers-part-i-and-part-ii>)

Photographs

Over 70,000 images from the Sheffield Local Studies Library photographic collection are available to search online at www.picturesheffield.com.

Books on lunatic asylums

Anne Digby, *From York Lunatic Asylum to Bootham Park Hospital*, 1986
(Central Library Store: 906)

Roy Porter, *Madmen: a social history of madhouses, mad-doctors and lunatics*, 2006
(Ecclesall Library: 362.2094)

Paul Chambers, *Bedlam: London's hospital for the mad*, 2009
(Central Lending Library: 362.21)

Sarah Rutherford, *The Victorian Asylum*, 2008
(Central Library Store: 362.2109)

Mental health in Sheffield

David Parkin, *Mental illness in a northern city: a study of the geographical distribution of psychiatric patients discharged to the City of Sheffield in 1968, 1971*
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.2 SSTQ)

Records of Sheffield No 2 Hospital Management Committee, 1948 – 1983
(Sheffield Archives: NHS36)

Sheffield No 2 Hospital Management Committee had its headquarters at Middlewood Hospital. It was responsible for the administration of a number of Sheffield hospitals and hostels mainly for patients with mental illness: Aston Hall Institution (later Aughton Court), Aston; Girls' Hostel, Scott Road (later Scott Road Hostel), Sheffield; Thundercliffe Grange, Kimberworth; Grenoside Institution (and Annexe), later Hospital; Hollow Meadows Institution at Malin Bridge; Wharnccliffe Emergency Hospital; 'Wadsley Mental Hospital' later Middlewood Hospital; Wales Court MD Institution, Kiveton; and Woodhouse Girls' Hostel. Later additions were: from 1957 the Yews at Worrall, Oughtibridge, adapted to provide a psychiatric day hospital in association with Middlewood Hospital; from 1959 Commonsides Hostel, a former hospital adapted in 1958/59 as a hostel for working male mental defectives; and from 1972/73 St Joseph's Hospital.

Records of Sheffield Area Health Authority (Teaching), 1957 – 1983
(*Sheffield Archives: NHS31*)

Sheffield Area Health Authority (Teaching) was established following the reorganisation of the National Health Service (NHS) in 1974.

National Association for Mental Health/MIND, Northern Branch, 1954 – 1980
(*Sheffield Archives: MD7851*)

Records of Sheffield Regional Hospital Board, 1936 – 1986
(*Sheffield Archives: NHS27*)

Magistrates Court: City of Sheffield Division - Precept Book, 1918 – 1935. Includes: appointing of Special Sessions under the Lunacy Acts 1890 and 1911, the Mental Deficiency Act 1913 and the Mental Treatment Act 1930.
(*Sheffield Archives: MC/5*)

Painted Fabrics Ltd, Sheffield, 1915 – 1959
(*Sheffield Archives: PF*)

Painted Fabrics was a company established following the success of organised painting classes at Wharnccliffe War Hospital (Middlewood Hospital) as a form of occupational therapy for soldiers who had suffered physical and psychological injuries during the First World War.

Sheffield Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare – report and statement of accounts, 1923-1924 to date.
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 371.9 S*)

Alzheimers Disease Society (Sheffield), newsletter, no.6, autumn 1987 to date
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 616.8983 S*)

Sheffield Area Health Authority – mental illness specialist planning group long-term strategy for mental illness services, 1979
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.2 SSTQ*)

Article on new facilities at Beighton, *Vision*, no.19, October 1991, p.1

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.205 SQ)

Article on the *Out of Mind, Out of Sight* festival, *University of Sheffield newsletter*, vol.20, no.10, 1996, p.12

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 378.4274 SQ)

Michael Bayley, *Mental handicap and community care: a study of mentally handicapped people in Sheffield*, 1973

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.3 S)

Community Health Councils (Sheffield) - evidence prepared for the visit of the NHS Health Advisory Service (Mental Health) Team to Sheffield, 1977

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Local Pamphlets, vol.50, no.7, 042 SQ)

Community Health Councils (Sheffield) - good practices in mental health project, 1979

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.2 SSTQ)

Sheffield Health Authority, *Mental Health Strategy*, 1991

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.2 SSTQ)

Health Authority (Sheffield) – *NHS Health Advisory Service and Department of Health Social Services Inspectorate report on services for mentally ill people and elderly people in the Sheffield Health District: joint responses of the statutory authorities*, 1991

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.2 SSTQ)

Philip Hutchinson (ed.), *S5 7AU: In and out of a psychiatric unit*, 1990

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.2 S)

Sheffield Mental Health Week, 1968 – programme of lectures on mental health organised by the Ministry of Health, 1968

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 1608 M; MP 445 L)

Article on the modern approach to mental illness practiced in Middlewood Hospital's Industrial Unit, *Sheffield Forward*, March 1965

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.88 SF)

Article on the use of tranquilisers on patients due to staff shortages, *Sheffield Free Press*, no.3, October 1975

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 072.74 SF)

For books on psychiatry (including statistics, conference reports and other general texts) search the library catalogue: <http://library.sheffield.gov.uk/uhtbin/webcat>

Middlewood Hospital (Formerly South Yorkshire Lunatic Asylum; Wadsley Asylum)

Records of Middlewood Hospital (formerly South Yorkshire Lunatic Asylum), 1872 - 1996

(Sheffield Archives: NHS3)

These include: records of administration, land and buildings records, chaplaincy records, staff records, patient registers and case files, photographs and records of related institutions. *Information in staff and patient records may be subject to access restrictions under the General Data Protection Regulation. For further information please contact Sheffield Archives.*

Middlewood Hospital architectural plans, 1875 - 1926

(Sheffield Archives: X224)

Wadsley parish baptism (1834 -1968) and burial registers (1835-1966)

(Sheffield Archives: PR78)

Annual report of the Commissioners in Lunacy on the South Yorkshire Pauper Lunatic Asylum, 1881

(Sheffield Archives: SY116)

F. T. Thorpe, *A History of Middlewood Psychiatric Hospital, 1872-1972*, 1972

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.20942)

F. T. Thorpe, *Middlewood Hospital, Sheffield: a brief history 1872-1995*; [based on work by Dr. F. T. Thorpe; produced by Community Health Sheffield], 1995

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 5036 M)

Christine Beevers, *How far does the history of Middlewood (Psychiatric) Hospital reflect the change in attitudes towards mental illness?* [Dissertation submitted to Totley-Thornbridge College of Education], 1976

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.2 SSTQ)

Sale plans: *Middlewood Church and Apartments at Kingswood Hall; Wadsley Park Village*, 2000 - 2008

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Sale Plans)

Sheffield City Council: Directorate of Planning and Economic Development, *Sheffield's historic parks and gardens* [Unitary Development Plan Policy Background Paper; No.4], 1997 (includes information on the grounds of Middlewood Hospital)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 712.5 SQ)

Community Health Sheffield NHS Trust, *Middlewood Church, Sheffield: a brief history 1875-1995*, 1995

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 5011 M)

Sheffield City Council: Department of Land and Planning. Planning Division, *Proposed residential development (outline), part Middlewood Hospital site, Middlewood Road, Sheffield, for Trent Regional Health Authority: report to North Sub-Committee (Planning & Transportation Programme)*, 20th November, 1990

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 2194 M)

Sheffield Health Authority, *Middlewood Hospital estate [plan]*, [20th cent]
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 3352 M*)

West Riding of Yorkshire Asylum Board, *Report of the Sub-Committee and of the Medical Superintendent of the South Yorkshire Pauper Lunatic Asylum for the West Riding at Wadsley, near Sheffield: for the year 1920, 1921*
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: PAMP 33*)

Site plans, Middlewood Hospital, c.1900-1931
(*Sheffield Archives: MD8230*)

Plans mainly by Bernard Hartley, West Riding surveyor, 1868-1884; Ordnance Survey plan marked to show asylum premises, 1911
(*Sheffield Archives: SY346/C1-8*)

Poor Law valuation maps showing location of the asylum, c. 1870s - 1880s
(*Sheffield Archives: SY555/C1/10R and SY555/C2/3*)

Three plans: ground plan of laundry residence by B[ernard] H[artley], 1870; sections through central (administrative) block, 19th century; ground plan of men's detached block with plan and elevation of proposed solarium by W.E.H. Burton, 1927
(*Sheffield Archives: MD7740*)

Plans, sections and elevations of laundry residence, South Yorkshire Lunatic Asylum, 1870; copy site plan of the West Riding Asylum estate, 20th century
(*Sheffield Archives: X71*)

Postcard view of Wharncliffe War Hospital, c.1920
(*Sheffield Archives: SY216/Z10/2*)

Contact, [Middlewood Hospital magazine] August 1965 to May 1974
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.205 S*)

Middlewood and Wharncliffe Times (formerly *Contact*), no.1, 1974 to no.20, 1978
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.205 S*)

Middlewood Times (formerly *Middlewood and Wharncliffe Times*), no.21, 1979 to no.55, 1986
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.205 S*)

Vision, no.1, March 1987 to no.26, December 1992
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.205 SQ*)

Sheffield City Council, Department of Land and Planning, *Middlewood Hospital – Wadsley Park Village*, September 1988
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 4820 M*)

Jean Endersby, *Middlewood Hospital – an independent study* [first published in *The Star*, Jan 1967], [1967]
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Local Pamphlets, vol.25, no.1, 042 SQ*)

Peter Morris, *Middlewood: whose conscience was pricked?*, 1975
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 2491 M)

'Working at Middlewood', *Sheffield Women's Paper*, 1981, p.21
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 396 SQ)

Middlewood Hospital Group, Memories linger on, [Occupational Therapy Unit],
[1980s]
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 821.08 SST)

Records of other mental institutions, Sheffield

Northern General Psychiatric Ward 54, Sheffield, 1980 - 1986
(Sheffield Archives: NHS3/6/1)
Information in staff and patient records may be subject to access restrictions under the General Data Protection Regulation. For further information please contact Sheffield Archives.

Grenoside Institution, later Grenoside Hospital, Salt Box Lane, Sheffield,
1930 - c. 1989
(Sheffield Archives: NHS19)
Information in staff and patient records may be subject to access restrictions under the General Data Protection Regulation. For further information please contact Sheffield Archives.

Nether Edge Hospital, Sheffield (formerly Ecclesall Bierlow Institution): registers of
admission to asylum (male and female), 1920 - 1928
(Sheffield Archives: NHS21)
Information in staff and patient records may be subject to access restrictions under the General Data Protection Regulation. For further information please contact Sheffield Archives.

Hollow Meadows Institution, Malin Bridge, 1924 - 1976
(Sheffield Archives: NHS3/6/2)
Information in staff and patient records may be subject to access restrictions under the General Data Protection Regulation. For further information please contact Sheffield Archives.

Scott Road Hostel, Sheffield, 1942 - 1983
(Sheffield Archives: NHS3/6/3)
Information in staff and patient records may be subject to access restrictions under the General Data Protection Regulation. For further information please contact Sheffield Archives.

Thundercliffe Grange, Kimberworth, 1950 - 1978
(Sheffield Archives: NHS3/6/4)
Information in staff and patient records may be subject to access restrictions under the General Data Protection Regulation. For further information please contact Sheffield Archives.

Wales Court, Kiveton, [1957] - 1990

(Sheffield Archives: NHS3/6/5)

Information in staff and patient records may be subject to access restrictions under the General Data Protection Regulation. For further information please contact Sheffield Archives.

Records of unidentified [Sheffield] observation ward: admissions under Sections 20-21 of Lunacy Act, 1951 - 1962

(Sheffield Archives: NHS3/6/6)

Information in staff and patient records may be subject to access restrictions under the General Data Protection Regulation. For further information please contact Sheffield Archives.

Records of unidentified [Sheffield] outpatients, 1957

(Sheffield Archives: NHS3/6/7)

Information in staff and patient records may be subject to access restrictions under the General Data Protection Regulation. For further information please contact Sheffield Archives.

Sheffield City Council records

Bill to constitute a Lunatic Asylums Board for the West Riding of Yorkshire, 1912

(Sheffield Archives: CA455)

Sheffield City Council: Mentally Defective Committee, minutes, 1914 - 1926

(Sheffield Archives: CA-MDC/1/1-2)

Sheffield City Council: Mental Defectives/Mental Health Subcommittee minutes noted in: Sheffield Health Committee minutes, 1927 - 1968

(Sheffield Archives: CA-HEA/1/29-37)

File on provision of Special School in Sheffield for mentally subnormal, handicapped and disturbed children, 1968-1971

(Sheffield Archives: CA630/193)

Sheffield City Council: Mental Health Sub-Committee Draft Minutes, 1946 - 1957

(Sheffield Archives: CA-VAC/83)

Bill and papers relating to transfer of administration of South Yorkshire Mental Hospital from West Riding Mental Hospitals Board to Sheffield City Council, 1936 - 1937

(Sheffield Archives: CA649/1-2; CA582/1-6)

Planning applications and records relating to various hospital sites, 20th - 21st cent.

(Sheffield Archives: CA206)

Miscellaneous sources

Letters to Edward Carpenter from Havelock Ellis regarding his wife's mental illness and committal to Bethlem Royal Hospital, London, 1885 - 1921

(Sheffield Archives: Carpenter/Mss/357)

Letter to Edward Carpenter from Sol van Raalte, of the Bethlem Royal Hospital, London, 1902

(Sheffield Archives: Carpenter/Mss/386/97)

Records of other Mental Institutions, Yorkshire

West Riding:

The Four Hospitals of the West Riding General Asylums Committee, later known as the Mental Hospitals Board were:

- Stanley Royd Hospital, Stanley, Wakefield (opened 1818)
- Wadsley, Middlewood, Sheffield (opened 1872)
- High Royds Hospital, Menston, Bradford (opened 1888)
- Storthes Hall, Kirkburton (opened 1904)

Amount of expenses in building and completing the West Riding Pauper Lunatic Asylum at Wakefield, [19th cent]

(Sheffield Archives: WWM/H/230)

West Riding Pauper Lunatic Asylum: 12th report of the Director, 1831

(Sheffield Archives: WWM/P/16)

Stanley Royd Hospital, Wakefield (formerly West Riding Pauper Lunatic Asylum), 1814 - 1960

(West Yorkshire Archive Service, Wakefield Headquarters: C85)

Leeds western Health Authority, High Royds Hospital, Menston, West Yorkshire, 1884 - 1974

(West Yorkshire Archive Service, Wakefield Headquarters: C488)

Storthes Hall Hospital, Kirkburton, West Yorkshire, 1898 - 1991

(West Yorkshire Archive Service, Wakefield Headquarters: C416)

York:

Bootham Park Hospital (formerly York Lunatic Hospital), 1772 - 1984

(York University, Borthwick Institute of Historical Research: BOO)

Clifton Hospital, York, 1844 - 1990s

(York University, Borthwick Institute of Historical Research: CLF)

Doncaster:

Records of St Catherine's Hospital [established by the South-West Yorkshire Joint Board for the Mentally Defective in 1928], 1928 - 1970s

(Doncaster Archives: HR/4)

For more detailed listings of lunatic asylums and mental hospitals in Yorkshire (and more widely the UK) search the National Archives' website:
<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

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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Adding to our collections

Sheffield Libraries and Archives seek 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 Peter Evans, Archives & Local Studies Manager (pete.evans@sheffield.gov.uk or 0114 203 9397).

<p>Sheffield Local Studies Library 1st floor Central Library Surrey Street Sheffield S1 1XZ</p> <p>Tel: 0114 273 4753</p> <p>archives@sheffield.gov.uk</p> <p>www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives</p> <p>(selected) Sheffield Local Studies Library catalogue http://library.sheffield.gov.uk/uhtbin/webcat</p>	<p>Sheffield Archives</p> <p>52 Shoreham Street Sheffield S1 4SP</p> <p>Tel: 0114 203 9395</p> <p>archives@sheffield.gov.uk</p> <p>www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives</p> <p>(selected) Archives catalogues: www.calmview.eu/SheffieldArchives/CalmView and https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/</p>
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