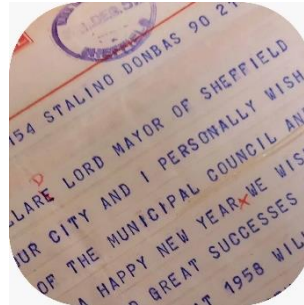


Sources for researching links between Sheffield (UK) and Donetsk (Ukraine)



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Front cover illustrations:

Sheffield visitors at Donetsk, c. 1982 (*Sheffield Local Studies: Picture Sheffield: s46697*)

Telegram from Stalino Town Council, 1955 (*City Archives: CA776/3*)

Visiting dance group celebrating the Sheffield / Donetsk Week of Friendship, c. 1985 (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield: s46689*)

You can download a copy of this *Guide* from
www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives

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Contents

Introduction	4
Timeline showing key dates	5
List of documents, books, photographs and other items available at Sheffield City Archives and Local Studies Library	7
Newspapers	12
Photographs	12
Library and Archive collections held elsewhere	13
Local Studies Library and Sheffield City Archives Facilities	14
Contact Details	15

Introduction

This booklet lists sources available within Sheffield City Archives and Local Studies Library for the study of the twinning links between Sheffield in the UK and Donetsk in Ukraine.

It is believed Sheffield was the first UK city to officially twin with a city in the Soviet Union; twinning itself developed after the end of World War Two with the aims of promoting peace and friendship between different parts of Europe. It would later develop into a worldwide initiative.

Sheffield officially twinned with what was then known as Stalino in 1956 (the city changed its name to Donetsk in 1961). Over the decades that followed the cities exchanged official greetings, particularly at new year and on May Day. There were also regular official visits to and from the two cities. Sporting and cultural links were also developed. Sheffield named a road in honour of its twin city (Donetsk Way) around 1981. Donetsk named a public Square - Sheffield Square (Shefildskaga Square) in a similar manner.

The last official exchange visit appears to have been made in 1988. With the end of the Cold War in 1989 and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 the ties between the two cities gradually loosened and official links withered away.

This *Guide* is not a detailed study of town twinning or the history of Sheffield or Donetsk. It merely points the reader who wishes to carry out their own research to what is available within Sheffield Libraries and Archives.

As more items are catalogued and the collections are used by researchers it is likely that additional references will come to light. More detailed searching of our catalogues for a wide range of terms may reveal additional material.

Timeline showing key dates

1924	Yuzovka (later Donetsk) renamed as Stalin
1929 - 1931	City of Stalin renamed Stalino
Jun 1950	The British Soviet Friendship Society conference in Sheffield sends a message of peace and friendship to trade unionists in Stalino ¹
Nov 1950	Greetings to Sheffield from Stalino - via a 45-minute telephone call from Stalino to the organisers of the World Peace Conference due to open in Sheffield ²
21 Feb 1953	Delegation from Donetsk presents the City Libraries with a 'sumptuously' bound album of photographs of Stalino and the works of Shakespeare in Russian.
1956	Sheffield and Donetsk become twin cities.
Apr - May 1956	Visit by Sheffield civic party to Stalino, headed by Alderman Joseph Curtis.
6 - 18 Sep 1956	Visit to Sheffield by a delegation from Stalino Town Council. During the visit Sheffield was presented with a large bronze statuette of a Russian miner holding a large piece of coal.
9 Oct 1959	<i>Coventry Evening Telegraph</i> describes Stalino as ' <i>the Sheffield of Russia</i> '
Nov 1961	Stalino renamed as Donetsk
c. 1965 - 1966	Visit of civic delegation from Donetsk
c. 1966 - 1967	Visit of civic delegation to Donetsk
c. 1971 - 1972	Visit of civic delegation from Donetsk
Oct 1973	Visit of civic delegation to Donetsk
Early 1974	Visit of civic delegation from Donetsk
Apr 1976	Visit of civic delegation to Donetsk
Spring 1976	Sheffield Week held in Donetsk / Donetsk Week held in Sheffield
c. 1977 - 1978	Visit of civic delegation from Donetsk
Jun 1979	Visit of civic delegation from Donetsk
4 - 9 May 1980	Visit of civic delegation to Donetsk
Sep 1981	Visit of civic delegation from Donetsk
Late 1981	Donetsk Way named in Sheffield
Unknown date	Shefildskaga Square named in Donetsk
Sep 1982	Visit of civic delegation to Donetsk. During the visit two agreements are signed by the Sheffield representatives and V. Spitsyn, Chairman of the Donetsk City Soviet.
c. 1983	Donetsk Week in Sheffield / Visit of civic delegation from Donetsk
Aug 1984	Reaffirmation of commitment between Sheffield City Council and Donetsk City Soviet to the declaration for peace and the removal of the nuclear threat

¹ *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* 13 Jun 1950 p. 5

² *Bradford Observer* 3 Nov 1950 p2

Jun - Jul 1985	Visit of civic delegation from Donetsk. The visit included a football match between Sheffield Wednesday Boys and Donetsk.
Sep 1986	Visit of civic delegation to Donetsk
Oct 1988	Visit of civic delegation to Donetsk

List of documents, books, photographs and other items available at Sheffield City Archives and Local Studies Library

Photographic record of the Sheffield civic visit to Stalino, Apr - May 1956
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 352.042 SSTF*)

Correspondence relating to the photographic record of the Sheffield civic visit to Stalino, Apr - May 1956
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 1955 M*)

Stalino guidebook, 1956
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 914.7 SST*)

Papers relating to the Lord Mayor's visit to Stalino [Donetsk]
Includes copy of telegram received from Stalino Oblastnoe U.S.S.R. on 15 Oct 1955:
'During the years of struggle of the Soviet and English peoples against the fascist aggression, the citizens of Stalino and Sheffield made a notable contribution to the cause of victory over the common enemy. At that time friendly relations were established between our towns. The citizens of Stalino town keep most warm recollections of the interchange of friendly messages with the citizens of Sheffield. The Stalino Town Council deems it necessary to maintain and develop friendly bonds between our towns with the purpose of strengthening friendly relations between the Soviet and English peoples... (and) considers it an honour to invite you and members of Sheffield Town Council to pay a visit to the town of Stalino and to be our honourable guest in May 1956...'
(*Sheffield City Archives: CA776/3*)

Conversazione [on] 11 Sep 1956 - to meet members of a civic delegation to the city from Stalino (Sheffield City Art Galleries, 1956)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 875 S*)

BBC Radio Sheffield tapes:

- Lord Mayor, Kenneth Arnold, visits Donetsk. His impressions of the town and way of life, Oct 1974 (*Sheffield City Archives: SY425/A/7310/1 band 1*)
- Lord Mayor returns from his visit to Donetsk. Interviewed on his arrival, Oct 1974 (*Sheffield City Archives: SY425/A/7310/2 band 11*)
- Report of two Jews to be executed in Donetsk. Report on views of Councillors Irvine Patrick and David Blunkett, May 1980 (*Sheffield City Archives: SY425/A/8005/5 band 4*)
- Lord Mayor of Sheffield says reported death sentence on two Jews will not curtail appeal to send athletes to Moscow Olympics, Jun 1980 (*Sheffield City Archives: SY425/A/8006/1 band 1*)
- Head of Sheffield Soviet Jewry Committee says a protest is being made to the Soviet embassy. Sheffield should break off twin town arrangements, Jun 1980 (*Sheffield City Archives: SY425/A/8006/1 band 4*)
- Visitors from Donetsk include some KGB. Representative of Sheffield Education Department does not foresee problems, Jun 1980 (*Sheffield City Archives: SY425/A/8006/5 band 1*)

- Local tennis teams visit to cement ties between Donetsk and Sheffield through sport. Interview with chairman of organising committee, Sep 1981 (*Sheffield City Archives: SY425/A/8109/4*)
- Councillor David Blunkett talks of anti-nuclear treaty signed with Donetsk, Sep 1982 (*Sheffield City Archives: SY425/A/8209/18 band 4*)
- Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament / links between Sheffield and its twin town, Donetsk, in Russia, Nov 1982 (*Sheffield City Archives: SY425/A/8211/7 band 2*)
- Discussion on decision by Sheffield City Council to appoint a Town Twinning Officer, Mar 1983 (*Sheffield City Archives: SY425/A/8303/21*)
- Visit of delegation from Donetsk, Jun 1983
 - Councillor Geoffrey Griffiths talks about a protest to show the delegates that people are concerned about dissidents in Russia.
 - Spokesman for delegates on why the link is important. The visit has been a success.
 - Councillor David Blunkett says he hopes visit has strengthened links etc. (*Sheffield City Archives: SY425/A/8306/5 band 2*)

Sheffield City Council, Council minutes:

- Communication received from Chairman of Stalino Town Council, Jan 1957 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/94, page 552; copy also available at Sheffield Local Studies Library: 352.02*)
- Lord Mayor: Telegram to Stalino Town Council, Feb 1958 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/95, page 586; copy also available at Sheffield Local Studies Library: 352.02*)
- Telegram of new year's greetings from Stalino Town Council, Feb 1959 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/96, page 729; copy also available at Sheffield Local Studies Library: 352.02*)
- Telegram from Lord Mayor to Stalino Town Council, May 1960 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/97, page 1425; copy also available at Sheffield Local Studies Library: 352.02*)
- Telegram to / from Stalino Town Council, Feb and May 1961 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/98, pages 995 and 1494; copy also available at Sheffield Local Studies Library: 352.02*)
- Telegram from Chairman of Donetsk Town Soviet, Feb 1963 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/100, page 49; copy also available at Sheffield Local Studies Library: 352.02*)
- Greetings from Donetsk City Council, May 1965 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/103, page 47; copy also available at Sheffield Local Studies Library: 352.02*)
- Twinning link with Donetsk, Mar 1974 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/111b, page 283; copy also available at Sheffield Local Studies Library: 352.02*)
- Notice of motion re. town twinning arrangements with Donetsk, Feb 1980 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/117, page 849; copy also available at Sheffield Local Studies Library: 352.02*)
- Notice of motion re. Donetsk, Oct 1982 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/120, page 521; copy also available at Sheffield Local Studies Library: 352.02*)

Sheffield City Council, Policy Committee minutes:

- Visit to Donetsk, Sep - Oct 1973 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-POL/6, pages 100 and 116*)
- Twinning link with Donetsk, Mar 1974 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-POL/7, page 128*)
- Civic Visit to Donetsk, Jan 1976 and Sheffield Exhibition at Donetsk, Apr 1976 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-POL/9, pages 10 and 53*)
- Visit of delegation from Donetsk, c. 1977/8 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-POL/10 page 234*)
- Report on visit to Donetsk, Oct 1978 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-POL/11 page 168*)
- Decision of Supreme Court of Donetsk, Sep 1979 - Mar 1980 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-POL/12 pages 117, 203, 254, and 281*)
- Twinning arrangements with Donetsk, Jun and Sep 1979 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-POL/12 pages 44 and 116*)
- Visit of Sheffield Combined Tennis Association to Donetsk, Apr 1981 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-POL/13 page 347*)
- Town twinning, Donetsk, Jan 1981 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-POL/13 page 225*)
- Donetsk, Anatoly Sharansky (1948 -) (Soviet dissident, later Israeli politician), Oct 1981 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-POL/14 page 141*)
- Civic delegation to Donetsk, May - Sep 1982 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-POL/14 pages 379, 411, 496, 501*)
- Further exchange visits to Donetsk, Sep 1981 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-POL/14 pages 101 and 129*)
- Naming of street [Donetsk Way], Sep 1981 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-POL/14 page 7*)
- Visit of members from Donetsk, Sep 1981 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-POL/14 page 129*)
- Policy Review sub-committee, visit to the City of Donetsk, Oct 1982 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-POL/15 page 9*)
- Civic delegation from Donetsk, May - Jun 1983 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-POL/16 page 12*)
- Town twinning links, Donetsk, May and Nov 1983 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-POL/16 pages 18 and 256*)
- Visit to Donetsk, Feb 1984 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-POL/17 page 50*)

Lord Mayor's diaries:

- Joseph Curtis, May 1955 - May 1956 - Visit to Stalino (*Sheffield City Archives: CA656/12*)
- Robert Neill, May 1956 - May 1957 - Visit of civic delegation from Stalino, (*Sheffield City Archives: CA656/13*)
- John Stenton Worrall, May 1965 - May 1966 - Visit of civic delegation from Donetsk (*Sheffield City Archives: CA656/22*)
- Lionel Stephen Edward Farris, May 1966 - May 1967 - Civic delegation to Donetsk (*Sheffield City Archives: CA656/23*)
- Harold Hebblethwaite, May 1971 - May 1972 - Visit of delegation from Donetsk (*Sheffield City Archives: CA656/28*)

- Albert E. Richardson, May 1975 - Apr 1976 - Civic visit to Donetsk (*Sheffield City Archives: CA656/32*)
- Winifred E. Golding, May 1977 - May 1978 - Delegation from Donetsk (*Sheffield City Archives: CA656/34*)
- Peter H. Jackson, May 1978 - May 1979 - Visiting group from Donetsk (*Sheffield City Archives: CA656/35*)
- George Armitage, May 1979 - May 1980 - Donetsk Twin City delegation at Sheffield, Jun 1979, and visit to Donetsk, May 1980 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA656/36*)

Communique made in connection with the Sheffield City Council delegation visit to Donetsk and establishing friendly relations between the cities of Donetsk and Sheffield, 4 Oct 1973

(*Sheffield City Archives: CA631/4*)

Sheffield City Council, Education Committee minutes, Mar 1974

At page 233 reference is made to 'consideration be given to the possibility of arranging an exchange of teachers with the Russian Town of Donetsk'

(*Sheffield City Archives: CA-EDU/71*)

Photograph of the dinner held at the Cutlers Hall in honour of visitors from Donetsk in *Sheffield and North Derbyshire Spectator*, vol. 16 No. 109, May 1974

(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 052.74 SQ*)

Sheffield City Council City Promotion Committee, minutes

Exhibitions, Donetsk, May 1975 - Feb 1976

(*Sheffield City Archives: CA-VAC/49 pages 39, 41, 45, 50, and 58*)

Communique made in connection with the visit to the city of Donetsk by Sheffield Council and the developing of friendly contacts between the cities of Donetsk and Sheffield, 15 Apr 1976

(*Sheffield City Archives: CA631/5*)

Sheffield City Council's Publicity Team - notes relating to the exhibition about Sheffield held at Donetsk, 1976

(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 2532 M*)

Notes relating to the visit by Sheffield City Council's Publicity Team to Donetsk in *Town Hall Talks*, Summer 1976

(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 352.042 SF*)

'Stay programme' of the delegation of Sheffield City Council upon their visit to Donetsk, 1980.

Album of photographs relating to the above.

A Sheffield City Council delegation visited Donetsk on the 4th - 9th May 1980.

Members of the delegation included the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, the Lord Mayor's Secretary, 4 Sheffield City Councillors, and the Head of the Department of Slavonic Languages at the University of Sheffield. The trip included visits to various local schools, the 'Cosmos' Circus, a Mine-Rescue Research Institute, Donetsk Metallurgical Plant, the Polytechnic Institute, the 'Yunost' Young

People Palace, Donetsk Railway Administration, 'Oktyabrskaya' Coal Mine, Young Pioneers' Palace, the Regional Library named after N. Krupskaya, the Opera and Ballet Theatre, 'Electromagnit' Production Amalgamation, and the Museum of Regional Studies.

(Sheffield City Archives: CA AccNo. 2010/106)

Sheffield City Council, Engineering Services Sub-Committee of the Environmental Planning Committee, minute recording '*consideration be given in the future to the use of the name Donetsk in the naming of a new road or precinct*', 6 Jul 1981

(Sheffield City Archives: CA-EPC/9 page 5)

Town Twinning Agreement between the cities of Sheffield, Great Britain and Donetsk, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, 13 Sep 1982

(Sheffield City Archives: CA617/1)

Declaration for peace and for the removal of fear and the threat of nuclear annihilation, 17 Sep 1982

(Sheffield City Archives: CA617/2; available to view on www.picturesheffield.com (arc01471))

Reaffirmation of commitment between Sheffield City Council and Donetsk City Soviet to the declaration for peace and the removal of the nuclear threat, 7 Aug 1984. Signed by G. Roy Munn, Lord Mayor of Sheffield and David Blunkett, Leader of Sheffield City Council, and the chair of Stara Zagora City Council. [c. 1984].

(Sheffield City Archives: CA631/7 available to view on www.picturesheffield.com (arc01678))

Appeal to the women of twin cities of the world from Donetsk, USSR and Sheffield, [made] on the International Day for the Defence of Children, Jun 1985. Signed by Councillor Mrs D. Walton, Lord Mayor of Sheffield; Councillor Mrs J. Barton; Councillor Ms S. Clarke; Janna Timofeyevna Lysenko and Ludmila Fyodorovna Bezlipkina.

(Sheffield City Archives: CA631/9 available to view on www.picturesheffield.com (arc01679))

The Joint Appeal of the Lord Mayor of the City of Sheffield and the Chairman of the Donetsk City Soviet of Workers' Deputies to all nations and peoples ... on the 30th anniversary of our twinning, calling for support and discussion which opens up the way for agreements to be signed concerning the cessation of nuclear testing throughout the world and to aim to achieve the complete elimination of nuclear weapons as well as the radical improvement of conditions in the world as a whole. Signed at Donetsk, 4 Sep 1986 by Frank Price, Lord Mayor of Sheffield; Vladimir Spitsyn, Chairman of the Soviet of Workers' Deputies, Donetsk.

(Sheffield City Archives: CA631/10 available to view on www.picturesheffield.com (arc01680))

Address of participants of the conference of twin cities - Donetsk and Sheffield to their citizens [relating to co-operation between the two cities]. Signed at Donetsk, 23 Oct 1988 by Phyllis M. Smith, Lord Mayor of Sheffield and G. I. Onischuk, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Donetsk City Soviet of People's Deputies of the Ukrainian SSR.

(Sheffield City Archives: CA631/11a-b available to view on www.picturesheffield.com (arc01681 and arc01682))

Newspapers

The British Library British Newspaper Archive (BNA) website includes over forty-six million pages from over 700 UK national and local newspapers (including a number of Sheffield titles, 1819 - c.1950). [Home | Search the archive | British Newspaper Archive](#). Access to the British Newspaper Archive is free at every Sheffield City Council Library and at the City Archives.

A few examples of relevant articles include:

- Accounts of civic delegation to Stalino, *Star*, 27 Apr - 5 May 1956
- Return of the civic delegation from Donetsk, *Sheffield Telegraph*, 9 May 1956 (page 2)
- Photographs taken at Stalino, *Star*, 11 May 1956 (pages 1 and 19)
- Civic delegation from Stalino to visit Sheffield, *Star*, 31 Jul 1956 (page 9)
- Details of the programme for the delegation from Stalino, *Star*, 16 Aug 1956 (page 10)
- Telegram of thanks and the Lord Mayor, *Star*, 1 Oct 1956 (page 12)
- Film of views of Sheffield to be sent to Stalino, *Star*, 18 Apr 1957 (page 14)
- Letter from Stalino to Alderman Ballard, *Star*, 19 Nov 1957 (page 10) and 20 Nov 1957 (page 2)
- New year message from the Mayor of Donetsk, *Sheffield Telegraph*, 31 December 1957 (page 21)

The Local Studies Library local newspaper cuttings collection may include articles on Stalino and Donetsk, c. 1950s onwards
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: microfiche*)

In addition, microfilms of the main Sheffield titles are also available at Sheffield Local Studies Library, namely: *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, 1855 - 1986; *Sheffield Telegraph* (weekly) 1989 - date; *Sheffield Independent* 1819 - 1938 and the *Star* 1873 - date

Archives of some national newspapers are available on the internet, notably *The Times* ([The Times Digital Archive \(gale.com\)](http://www.gale.com)) and *The Guardian* ([How to access past articles from the Guardian and Observer archive | Information | The Guardian](#))

Photographs

Over 100,000 images from the Sheffield Local Studies Library and City Archives collections are available to search online at www.picturesheffield.com. A number of them relate to the twinning arrangements between Sheffield and Donetsk.

Library and Archive collections held elsewhere

The National Archives holds documents of the UK Government. A search of their catalogue <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> (accessed Feb 2022) reveals three particularly relevant files:

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Exchange of civic delegations between Sheffield and Stalino, 1955
(*The National Archives: FO 371/116692*)
- Foreign and Commonwealth Office: File relating to Civic visits between Soviet Union and UK: Sheffield and Stalino, 1956
(*The National Archives: FO 371/122840*)
- Foreign and Commonwealth Office: File relating to Town Twinning between UK and Soviet Union: including Sheffield and Donetsk, 1978
(*The National Archives: FCO 28/3497*)

It is possible the State Archives of Donetsk Region holds information relating to the twinning link with Sheffield: [State Archives of Donetsk Region - State Archives of Donetsk Region](#) (accessed February 2022)

Local Studies Library and Sheffield City Archives Facilities

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

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

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

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- 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 email us (archives@sheffield.gov.uk or telephone 0114 203 9395).

Contact Details

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Email: archives@sheffield.gov.uk

Website: www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives

Search our catalogues:

(not all of the collections are fully catalogued so if you can't find what you are looking for please contact us for further advice)

Local Studies Library catalogue: https://library.sheffield.gov.uk/client/en_GB/default

City Archives catalogue: <http://www.calmview.eu/SheffieldArchives/CalmView/>

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