

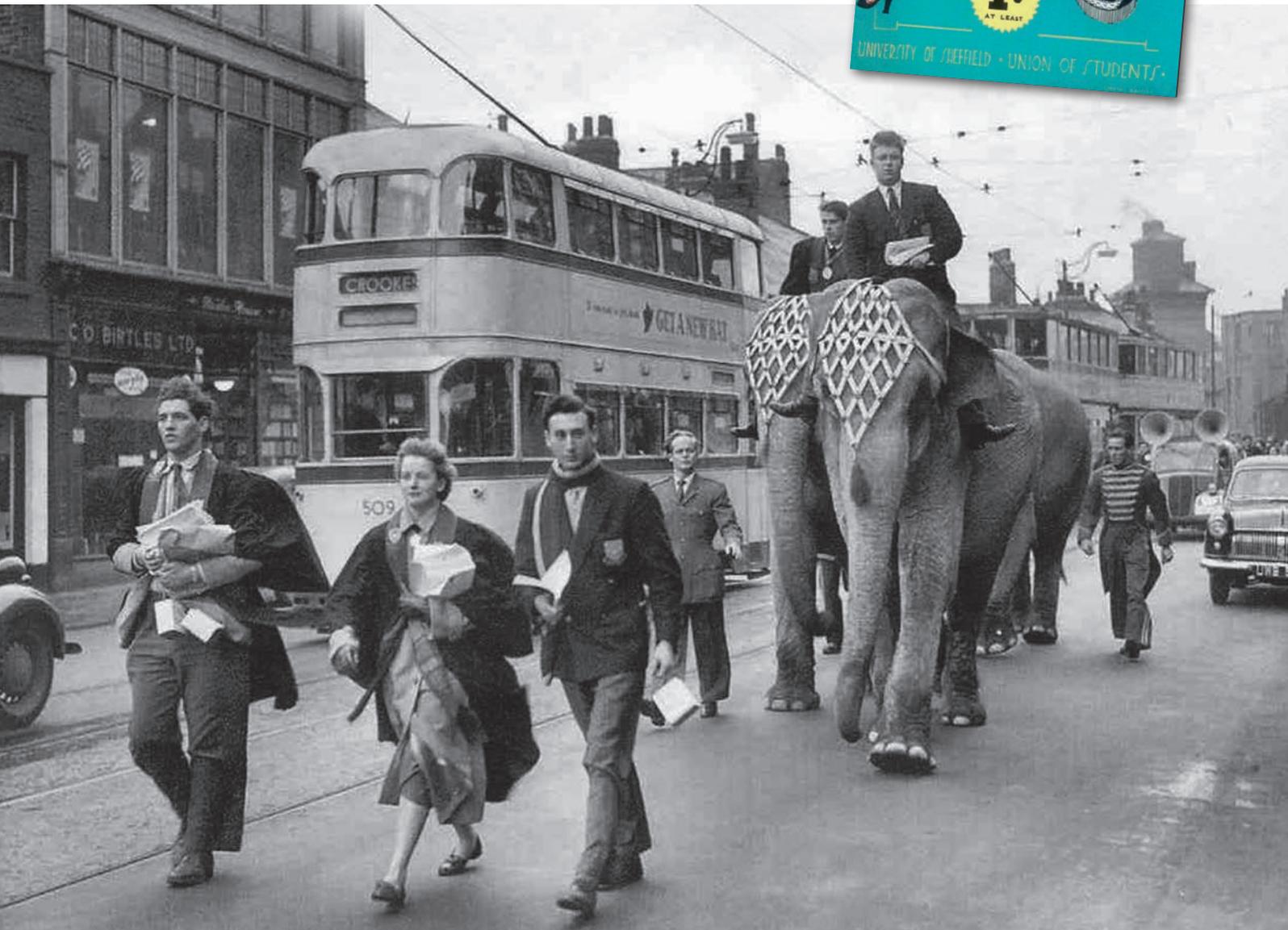
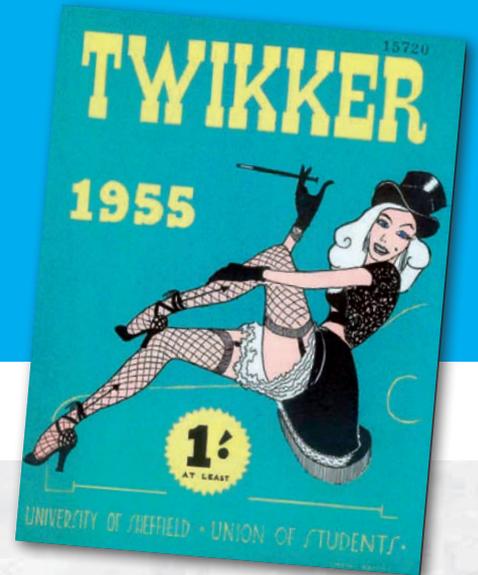


The
University
Of
Sheffield.

Development &
Alumni
Relations
Office.

Boats, Trams & Elephants.

Experiences of University life 1935–65



Distributing copies of *Twikker*, the Rag magazine, in 1955. The procession down West Street is led by Frank Falkingham, Shirley Wray and Gerry Fishbone, with Gordon Kember (editor) on the first elephant, and Alan Cox, President of the Students' Union, behind. The elephants were supplied by Chipperfield's Circus.
Photo from Dr Alan Cox (MB ChB Medicine 1958, MD Medicine 1962)

Thank you

This magazine is the result of a request for memories of student life from pre-1965 alumni of the University of Sheffield. The response has been fantastic and I wish to thank everyone who has taken the time to commit their recollections to paper and sent in photos and other memorabilia.

The magazine includes just a fraction of the material supplied: I apologise if your contribution doesn't appear here, and we will endeavour to include other examples in future alumni publications. All the material which people have allowed us to keep will become part of the University Archives.

I hope you enjoy reading these recollections and looking at the illustrations. I'm certain there is much that reflects shared experiences for more recent graduates and students, but many aspects of life at the University described here will undoubtedly be unfamiliar and surprising.

Miles Stevenson
Director of Development
Autumn 2010

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I caught a bus up to the University [for my interview] and was directed to the Architecture Department. I went to see the secretary, a small, thin woman with a curt manner – known by all as 'Crawfie'. I was directed into a small office. A big bear of a man rose to greet me. "Hello, Mr Clarke, I'm Professor Welsh. I see from your application that you play football?" (He spoke with a Scottish accent.) "Yes, sir," came the cautious reply. "Are you any gud?" I told him I was in the school team. Professor Welsh's ambition was that the Architects team came top in the inter-departmental league and was always looking for prospective players. "OK, we'll have yee, just get two A levels, off yee go, see yee in October."

Mr William Clarke
(BArch Architecture 1960,
Cert Architecture 1961)

When I started at Sheffield in 1944 the undergraduates numbered about 750, almost all male in both the physical and applied sciences and the medical faculty. Then there was a large intake of ex-service men in 1946 so the numbers shot up. In addition the University provided three-month courses for American service men. With all these older men, we youngsters saw precious little of what female students there were available socially. This dire situation at least encouraged serious study and we were able to write home that we were keeping our noses to The Grindstone, that being the name of a local pub, though few of us had much money for beer.

Dr Benjamin Malcolm
(BSc Physics 1947, PhD Physics 1953)

I was introduced to Violet Dimpleby on my first day – she ruled the chemistry laboratories rather like an old-fashioned hospital matron. We reckoned we were doing well if we had more of our own notes than her red corrections on our reports of analyses. The second day we went to St George's Square for laboratory work in Fuel Technology. I found the right room. In it was a big man dressed in an old brown warehouse coat, full of burn holes. He looked up and in a loud voice, and distinctly Sheffield, said, "What doesn't tha want buggerlugs?" This was Dr Arthur Beet whose mastery of detailed techniques for chemical and physical analyses of fuels was recognised internationally.

Mr Colin Rigg TD, CEng
(BSc Tech Glass Technology 1957)

I went back to Sheffield about 20 years ago and found that a very busy, very noisy dual carriageway bisected the campus, a startling contrast to the scene which greeted me when I came to Sheffield for the first time in 1958. The Arts Faculty was housed in several small cottages along Western Bank, including Philosophy, Latin and French, with the German Department up the hill. The students today would not recognise us as students – jackets and ties were the norm for the men, pencil skirts, high heels or sensible flat shoes, handbags for the girls, even beehive hairdos for some.

Mrs Margaret Graham (née Crompton)
(BA General – French, German and Latin 1962)



Blazer badge
Mrs Marjorie Baker (née King)
(BSc Zoology 1959)

Opening meeting for freshers' weekend in Graves Hall, 1955
Dr Alan Cox (MB ChB Medicine 1958,
MD Medicine 1962)





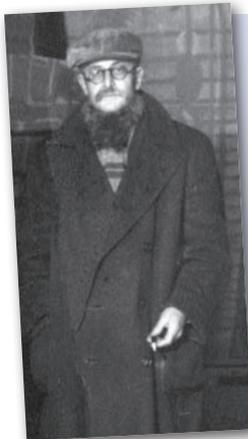
Medical graduates outside Weston Park Museum, 1963
Mrs Kay Smith (wife of Dr Neville Smith, MB ChB Medicine 1963)

In April 1940 several of us went to France ostensibly to have a term at French universities and then some weeks with families (most of the English universities had cancelled their French courses on the outbreak of war, but Professor Clapton was made of sterner stuff and, as the War Office agreed to our going, some of us went!). It was the time of what became known as the Phoney War but when the Germans invaded France in May our stay was cut short and we hurried home.

Miss Marian Baynes
(BA Latin and French 1941, Dip Education 1942)

When we started human anatomy the lab was run by a jolly little man called Jess who prepared the specimens (paupers from various hospitals) and donned a pair of shorts in demonstrations of surface anatomy. Before being let loose on patients we practised fillings on a phantom head, but extractions had to be learned the hard way by trial and error! People came in droves with toothache and we removed hundreds of teeth in the course of our training.

Mrs Joan Miller (née Pascoe)
(LDS Dentistry 1940)



In my first year I took English as one of my four subjects and so went to Professor Empson [left] for tutorials. He was a striking figure with a longish grey beard which did not grow from his clean-shaven chin but seemed to be a sort of fringe emanating from his neck. In tutorials he often became very animated at which times he would lie back in his chair, roll his eyes and spout wisdom. An unforgettable character!

Mrs Rosemary Low (née Blake)
(BA Modern History and Politics 1961, Dip Social Studies 1962)

Photo Archive, University of Sheffield



Architecture Department on Shearwood Road, early 1960s
Mr Adrian Cooley, (Cert Arch Architecture 1959, Dip Arch Architecture 1961)

Botany field course on Anglesey, 1951: (left-right) 'Rico' Whitehead, Assistant Lecturer; Professor Roy Clapham, Head of Botany; Sybil Edwards; and Alan Smith
Emeritus Professor Alan Smith (BSc Botany 1951)



We had some most interesting and enjoyable field courses with the Geology and Geography Departments. At St Luc in Switzerland, as impecunious students we were horrified to find that a bath cost 1SwF, approx 5p today. We shared one bath and 12 of us had used it before the owner brought that initiative to an end!

Mr John Fishburne
(BSc Geology and Geography 1956)

We were a very small class of 12 students – five females and seven males – and we met in an old movie theatre down the hill from Firth Hall. In those days the graduate students would extract their own sources of enzymes such as trypsin and chymotrypsinogen from animal organs obtained from the local abattoir: a very messy and time-consuming job.

Dr Jill Parker (née Luffman)
(BSc Biochemistry 1963)

The first MSc Microbiology students, c1952
Emeritus Professor John Ormerod (MSc Microbiology 1952, PhD Botany 1957)



1937: Introduction of the 'medical'; this was the start of the Student Health Service

1938: Irvine Masson appointed as Vice-Chancellor

Accommodation



Crewe Hall cricket team dressed in Victorian costume, 1949

Mr Austin Cole (Cert Arch Architecture 1948, Dip Arch Architecture 1950)

I was in digs with four others and a chap doing research for the Coal Board. No laundrettes in those days or not near us anyway. So my laundry was parcelled up each week and sent home to go in the family wash. We used the same stout wrapping paper which used to manage for a term. One week my mother put the wrap on the wrong way round so it was addressed to home not the digs. It still arrived as usual. The postman simply remarked, "It's Wednesday so it's got to be going to Sheffield Nether Edge."

Mr Michael Sharman MBE, FICE
(BEng Civil Engineering 1957)

Very few students lived in a hall of residence, most lived in private lodgings. Because of bombing damage there was a great shortage of suitable accommodation and many lived in the most deplorable conditions. The lodgings that my roommate and I shared were terrible. They were located between a gas works and the Salvation Army Citadel. If one was interested in drinking it was surrounded by pubs but our interest was in food and within a short distance were eight chip shops. As fish and cooking fat were in short supply they would only open on certain days so pinned to the wall of our room was a list of all the chip shops showing their days and hours of opening. It was by their usage that we kept hunger at bay but even so I would lose a stone every term.

Mr Harry Rhys Davies
(BEng Civil Engineering 1949)



Study bedroom at the Hall for Women, 1938

Mrs Winifred Woolley (née Peake)
(BA French 1941, Dip Education 1942)

I was a resident in various quarters of Crewe Hall for five years, so it was quite a long time before I was initiated into one of its mysteries. In the library was a portrait of the Marquess of Crewe. Those about to leave hall for the last time were taken into the library, the portrait was taken down and the leaver was invited to inscribe his name on the reverse side. My name went on, at last.

Dr Tim Healey
(MB ChB Medicine 1959)



Digs at 8 Eastgrove Road, 1955–56

Mr Kjell-Peder Midttun (Cert Arch Architecture 1958, BA Architecture 1960)

Most rooms [at Endcliffe] were in the two three-storey purpose-built wings, with a kitchen on each floor. I can still hear the shriek of 'Kettle!' along the corridor to summon whoever had put the kettle on. Rooms had a single bed, a small wardrobe, a gas fire, desk, bookcase and a wash bowl; baths and toilets were along the corridor. Life in a hall of residence may sound very restrictive and dull to modern youth, but I can only say that I wouldn't have missed these years and look back on them with great pleasure and happiness.

Miss Mabel Wooldridge
(BA History 1947, Dip Education 1948)



Crewe Hall barrel stand: "18 of us got on to the barrel", 1962

Mr Robert Baird (BSc Chemical Process Engineering and Fuel Technology 1963)

There were a few occasions when the war intruded: the women in Endcliffe had to take turns in sitting in the attic in pairs at night to make sure no enemy dropped anything on the roof. We also spent some of our spare time making anti-tank mine fuses in one of the labs.

Mrs Mary Riddell (née Godwin)
(BSc Mathematics 1945, Dip Education 1945)

I couldn't get a place in Hall and was lodged instead with the redoubtable Miss Mabel Tomlinson out on the Manchester Road beyond Crosspool. She was a student landlady of the 'old school' who ruled with a rod of iron, evinced through a command of blistering language a sergeant major might have envied, and a heart of gold: "I am noted throughout Yorkshire for my shepherd's pie."

Mr David Rogers
(*Dip Education 1963*)

I was in residence at Tapton Elms Hall from 1948–50. Rationing was still in force then for some foods, including fats and sugar. Half was kept by the kitchen for cooking, the remainder for distribution individually, and we each had to provide our own containers for butter/margarine and sugar. It must have been a nightmare for the kitchen staff to have to weigh it all out. There was a breakfast egg on Sundays, and we had one jar of jam or marmalade per term. I can't remember any prices, except that a cup of coffee in the Union cost twopence halfpenny (approx 1p!).

Dr Audrey Ward (née Lee)
(*BSc Zoology 1951*)



Endcliffe Hall residents, 1939
Mrs B Joan Lumley (née Whitworth) (BSc Geography 1938, Dip Education 1939)

Gowns were worn for dinner each evening (sounds really archaic, but I guess it was an attempt to copy Oxbridge!). Proved useful, as we didn't need to hire a gown for the graduation ceremony and, for those of us who went on to teach at grammar schools, we wore them for teaching – useful sleeves for cleaning the blackboard!

Mrs Helen Holmes (née Farrington)
(*BA English Literature, French and History 1953*)



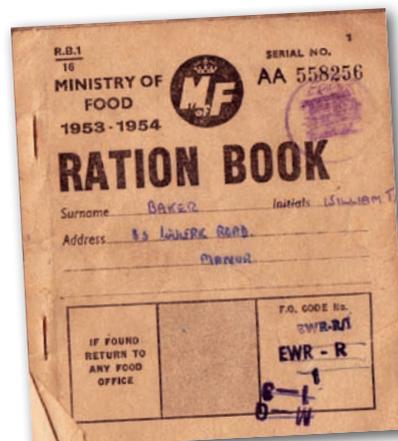
Crewe Hall common room, 1959
Dr Jack Kushner MD (American Year Abroad student 1959–60)

I had a happy experience of four years' residence in University Hall, Endcliffe Vale Road. Full board was provided, plus a beaker of milk at 10pm. Students were expected to walk back for lunch, and to be 'in Hall' for dinner, but could obtain tickets to eat in the Refectory [Western Bank] if lectures made this impossible. Each student contributed one penny per week to the Common Room Fund, to buy newspapers and vinyl records of popular and classical music. Some favourite artists were Bing Crosby, Jessie Matthews, Paul Robeson and Marion Anderson. Both floors of student rooms had facilities for hand-washing clothes: in pre-Clean Air Legislation days the heavily polluted air of industrial Sheffield turned a white petticoat into a grey one by evening.

Mrs B Joan Lumley (née Whitworth)
(*BSc Geography 1938, Dip Education 1939*)

I took up residence in Endcliffe Hall in my second year. We had nourishing meals at breakfast and dinner and I still remember Miss Bones' grace "Benedictus, benedicat" at the beginning of the evening meal. I can also remember her anger when students did not sign in the late book after a night out. When we entertained gentlemen in our rooms we had to hang a 'Do not disturb' sign on our doors and the visitor had to be out by 5.30pm.

Mrs Beryl Corbishley (née Robinson)
(*BA General – Biblical Studies, French and Spanish 1950, Dip Education 1951*)



Ration book, 1954
Mr William T Baker (BSc Chemistry 1955)



Invitation to a ball at Crewe Hall, designed by Professor Sir Harry Kroto (BSc Chemistry 1961, PhD Chemistry 1964, Hon DSc 1995), 1963
Dr James Whiteside (PhD Mechanical Engineering 1968)

The Rag Parade and Boat Race



My postgrad colleague and friend Dr Mike Lorenz wanted to contribute to the annual Rag Day procession but without being encumbered with the restrictions imposed by using a lorry. Thus the idea of the Walking Float Society was born. The 1960 entry was Boudica on her chariot. The Edwardian bus was built in 1961 – I remember it had a huge turning circle and at certain corners on the route the rear ‘passengers’ had to lift the rear end and walk it sideways to point in the right direction! The 1962 Viking longboat had to be built in sections and the police had to be consulted about the mast height which caused our ambitions to be revised. 1963 saw the society at its zenith with the production of three Fokker triplanes of WW1 vintage [see above]. One even boasted ‘pedal power’ and performed a few excursions en route.

Mr Victor Leedham

(BEng Mechanical Engineering 1961, MEng Mechanical Engineering 1965)

Tanya Katkov and I were the women’s boat race team for Ranmoor in 1961 and we won! The Hall was then men only. They made us a canoe and I remember practising on some water near there in the dark. We canoed down the Don and everyone was trying to sink each other. It was survival of the fittest. We shot a waterfall near the end which was quite hairy. Tanya was a very good canoeist and I was a Yorkshire lacrosse player so we were pretty tough.

Mrs Jane Blayney (née Archer)

(Cert Social Studies 1962)

The first Rag after the war, the VC decreed there should be ‘no indecent vulgarity and he would inspect the entire procession before it set off’. The Met Fac had decided to commemorate The Society for the Preservation of Old Sheffield Tools and they loaned us for the centrepiece a huge old (pre-1900) hand saw. The sides of the lorry were decorated by planks with suitable, acceptable wording. After the lorry set off the planks were rotated to reveal the hidden side. A prominent medical issue in 1945–46 was the prevalence of venereal disease. The new sign read: ‘Do you suffer from tool trouble? Free & confidential advice here’. And the crew rapidly adopted suitable medical gear.

Mr Roger A Day

(BMet Metallurgy 1947)



Rag Ball, 1951 – can you spot anyone you know?

Mrs Helen Holmes (née Farrington) (BA English Literature, French and History 1953)

The Rag Parade and Boat Race

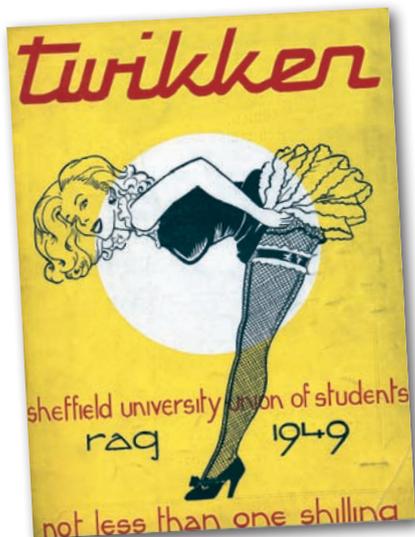


Patricia Wallace (left) and Elizabeth Austin taking part in the Boat Race, 1950

Mrs A Patricia Beardmore JP (née Wallace) (BA Economics and Law 1952)

I entered the 1961 boat race with Sally Ann Bissett. Weirs took a bit of negotiating but we quickly worked out that the best way to negotiate them was to sit down and slide. The last weir at Lady's Bridge is very long and runs across the river at an angle. We adopted our by then well-practised routine and shot down the weir in style. Unfortunately at the bottom, Sally totally disappeared under the water whereas I was left high and dry on the pebbles. It was fortunate that we sat that way round on the boat because at the time I could not swim!

Mrs Alison Moore (née Patrick)
(BEng Civil Engineering 1964)



The 1949 rag magazine Twikker – banned because its contents upset the Lord Mayor
Photo Archive, University of Sheffield

One of the halls of residence had a light alloy fuel tank that frequently won the boat race ... it was usually out of sight before our boat made it into the water. I can remember a number of vessels that immediately sank without trace. These joined the wide assortment of bicycles and prams on the riverbed. These did not constitute a hazard to fish as there weren't any. There was little fear of being drowned – if you fell in you would be poisoned before you reached the bottom!

Dr Terence Gladman MBE, FREng
(AMet 1956, MMet 1958, PhD Metallurgy 1960)

We did the Pyjama Patrol of Rag Week from Oakholme Lodge, round the steel mills, collecting. No 'elf 'n' safety – there we were while the molten white hot steel snaked along the rolling floor production line!

Mrs Enid Hanavan (née Jenkinson)
(BA General – English, Music and Geography 1964)



The Chemistry Society fire engine float, 1957
Mrs Eileen Richards (née Preston) (BSc Chemistry 1958)



Selling the first copy of the 1947 Twikker to the Lord Mayor
Dr Jack Barrott OBE (BSc Chemistry 1949, PhD Chemistry 1952)

The Sheffield Blitz

The Luftwaffe targeted British cities during the Blitz campaign, September 1940 to May 1941. The worst bombing took place on Sheffield on 12 and 15 December 1940; the steel works in the Don Valley were the prime target. Much of the city centre was destroyed; the University escaped any serious damage. In total over 660 people were killed, 1,500 injured and 40,000 made homeless.



High Street in flames
Sheffield Libraries, Archives & Information

The centre of the city was devastated, there was debris everywhere, many buildings completely destroyed, many still on fire, trams and buses overturned and one tram was snapped in half. Our year had a terminal exam scheduled for the next morning. We reported to Firth Hall where there was a hole in the roof made by an incendiary bomb that had gone through but not exploded. We swept up the debris, then sat at our desks and took our exam, whilst the staff kindly brought us coffee during the morning.

Dr Aileen Adams CBE, FRCS, FRCA
(MB ChB Medicine 1945)

I had a part-time job sorting Christmas mail at the Post Office. I went straight there from University on the night of the Blitz and was doing some sorting when the siren went. We were sent downstairs to a room below street level. We all talked and gasped at every screech of a bomb and then sighs of relief until the next one. Eventually there was the All Clear. My vivid memory on going outside was of moonlight on rivers of water running down the street. There were lots of hosepipes and dark uniformed figures. I started to walk home and was directed away into safe streets with "Not that way, love" – and eventually I found my way home to Walkley where I lived with my sister and husband who were relieved to see me.

Mrs Gladys Pollard (née Cocking)
(BSc Zoology 1941)

I was due to sit a Chemistry exam on Friday 13 December 1940; there wasn't much sleep the previous night as we huddled in Crewe Hall basement shelter. Friday dawned with the knowledge and thankfulness that we had survived a near miss – houses had been destroyed in nearby Westbourne Road. As I approached Western Bank, passing gushing water mains and gas mains ablaze, one dared expect that the exam might have been cancelled. Firth Hall had lost most of its windows and there was no heating. Our Chemistry lecturer, Emily Turner, was not one to be daunted by a mere air raid ... it was certainly not the way I had expected to sit my first examination at Sheffield.

Mr Cliff Ashall OBE
(BSc General – Chemistry, Geography and Zoology 1943, BSc Zoology 1949)



Jessop Hospital for Women, Gell Street, air raid damage
Sheffield Libraries, Archives & Information

I was a first-year student living in Endcliffe Hall when the first blitz struck on a Thursday in December 1940. When the sirens sounded in the early evening we all trooped down to the shelter. We were diverted from revision every so often to take a turn on the strange air-conditioning system. This was worked via a prototype exercise bicycle on which we peddled away keeping our eyes on a spirit level which had to be kept in a steady position. Every so often we heard bangs above and speculated as to what we would discover when we emerged. What we did find was an intact residence but with many windows shattered including the one in my own room.

Miss Margaret Wooldridge
(BA History 1943, Cert Education 1943)
We had a summer term in 1943 in order to speed up supply of teachers to replace those in the armed forces.



The Quadrangle in 1944 with air raid precautions in place
Photo Archive, University of Sheffield



Brook Hill, repairs after air raid damage
Sheffield Libraries, Archives & Information



Fire fighting
Sheffield Libraries, Archives & Information

We also 'did our bit' for the war. Some of my friends worked occasionally in a munitions factory where they were paid by the hour to screw parts together. I tried it for an hour. I spent every Monday evening and night at the local Red Cross Centre where we were taught to treat casualties by a nurse and a St John Ambulance man. This earned me a smart uniform and an ARP [Air Raid Precautions] badge. I was returning from an evening class on 12 December when the Sheffield Blitz began. At about 7.30 the drone of planes overhead was heard and from then on to 4am it never ceased – and gunfire and the rattle of machine guns. Bombs fell with a rattle, a shriek and a thud all round – some extremely close. Once there was a lull of ten minutes during which time we saw several huge fires extending across town – fumes and smoke rising high. Roofs gleamed white in the frost. What a target! *From my diary – Saturday 14 December: Sheffield Moor is non-existent. Buses and trams derelict, damaged and burnt everywhere. Hardly any tram track left untouched. Systematic gutting from Ecclesall Rd to the Wicker. The Empire Central and umpteen other places hit. Delayed action bombs keep being discovered, increasing travelling difficulties.*

Mrs Joan Bowman (née Hartley)
(BA English 1942, Dip Education 1943)

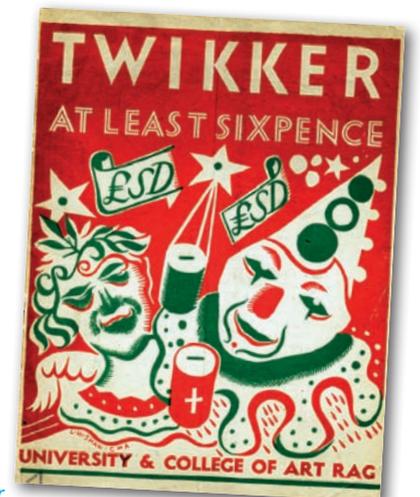
Living in Dalton Magna, east of Rotherham, I had a long journey to the University by trolley bus and two trams. One of my finals' practical exams took place the day after German bombers had flattened the centre of Sheffield. My father took me by car to the outskirts of the city and I walked smartly up Exchange Street. Where was King Street? Gone! It no longer existed nor did Fitzalan Square. I continued undaunted to scramble over the wreckage soon to realise that there would be no exams that day – nor indeed for the next three weeks. When I did take my finals there was no gas supply and my practical exams were carried out with spirit lamps.

Dr Robert Brian
(BSc Chemistry 1942)

As I lived at home, in Rotherham, I travelled each day by tram to Sheffield with my pal Alan. A major disruption happened in December 1940. We reached Templeborough on a Rotherham tram and walked from there to St George's Square to find that all University activities were suspended until further notice. As we passed the Wicker arches, it was clear that a bomb had passed right through them and blown a huge crater in the road below, into which a tram had tumbled. We went to the City Hall for lunch. The whole of the basement had been converted into a British Restaurant (establishments funded throughout the country by Local Authorities). Looking back I can remember the exotic Egyptian décor, the crowds of Sheffield folk who had been bombed out of their homes and that the music played over and over again on the PA system was Ravel's *Bolero*.

Dr Robert Yorke
(BEng Electrical Engineering 1943)

The 1940 Rag Fairy Quentin Maclaïne receiving a donation from a small boy wearing a siren suit
Photo Archive, University of Sheffield



The 1940 copy of Twicker
Photo Archive, University of Sheffield

The Union of Students

All student activity occurred in the Union building, and most of us ate there. Saturday nights, it was packed to capacity for the weekly 'hop', leading to a minimalist form of dancing known as the Union Shuffle. Scholarships and grants, which enabled so many of us to have an education, were not over generous so that for those on the SRC [Student Representative Council] a non-trivial part of our duties was to keep food costs as low as possible. I remember discussing whether we could supply free HP Sauce while keeping the lunch price to 1s 10d. Politics were taken very seriously with societies from Communist to Conservative and everything in between. We entertained Krishna Menon, at one time the Indian Foreign Minister, Chedi Jagan, left-wing leader of what had been British Guiana, and more local British politicians.

Dr Michael Sheff

(BSc Physiology 1954, PhD Physiology 1957)



Going Down Dance in the Union, Easter 1952

Mr Frank Soer (MSc Chemistry 1953)

I was a Union type, rarely visiting Western Bank. I was a member of the SRC, Union Exec and the NUS representative at a number of Councils. There was still a post-war feeling in 1949. Many of the male students were mature war veterans and others still wore their National Service khaki tops and black berets. I recall a conversation with Harold Clark, then Union President, telling him that I was born in 1930. "That's the year I took my School Cert," he said. Quite a few of us attended the Sheffield Peace Conference in City Hall. Present was Pablo Picasso. During the meeting he drew a picture of a dove which was later auctioned for £50.

Mr Jack Schofield OBE

(BA Geography 1952, Dip Education 1953)



This photo shows me (second from left) having a much deserved beer at the Students' Union bar following the Rag day in 1954. It illustrates one of the big unsung benefits of studying at Sheffield – the opportunity to meet many students from overseas. My companions were (to my left) Ahmad Mazhar Kadri, a Syrian, and Kahtan Abdul Ahmed, an Iraqi. On my right is a Saudi Arabian, whose name unfortunately escapes me. Collectively, these guys gave me a tremendous education in the seemingly perpetual Middle East crisis.

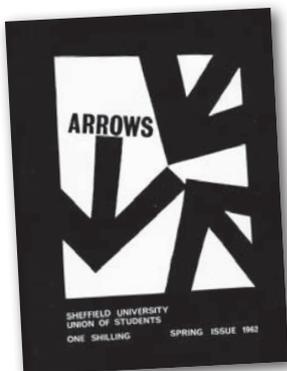
Mr Roger Croft

(BA Economics 1955)

The Union played an important part of our lives, with its coffee bar, impassioned weekly debates in Graves Hall, Saturday night bops with busloads of girls from training colleges outside Sheffield – as boys outnumbered girls by massive numbers. We saw all sorts of emerging 60s pop groups. There were also a large number of formal balls, Hall balls, Union Ball, Rag Ball, Graduation Ball where the possession of a sewing machine to make a new creation for the occasion was a great help and we all seemed to spend a lot of time dressmaking.

Mrs Sheila Williams (née Ford)

(BA Economics 1964)



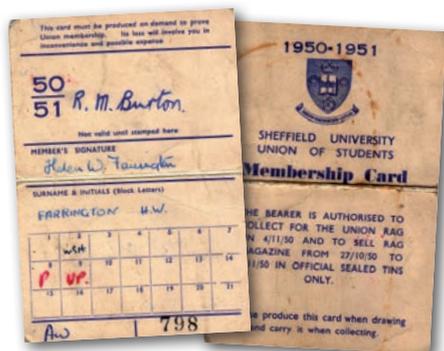
The Spring 1962 issue of Arrows, the Union magazine

Mrs Alison Ross (née Bradbury) (LLB Law 1963)

The Union was lively during the day, with a variety of formal and informal activities. The formal tended to be held in the lunch break and ranged from a display of fiery political oratory by Eamon de Valera to a demonstration of hypnotism. There were also regular concerts. Debates were held from time to time. Evenings were quieter with few students present unless there was a Dram Soc production or a film show. Only on Saturdays did the building come alive as the regular 'hops' took place.

Dr Jack Barrott OBE

(BSc Chemistry 1949, PhD Chemistry 1952)



Union of Students' membership card, 1950-51

Mrs Helen Holmes (née Farrington) (BA English Literature, French and History 1953)



One lunchtime sitting outside the Union, late 1950s

Mr William Clarke (BArch Architecture 1960, Cert Professional Practice 1961)

Timeline

5 May 1957: Last tram to Crookes ran past the University

1959: Rt Hon Richard Butler, Baron Butler of Saffron Walden, appointed as Chancellor

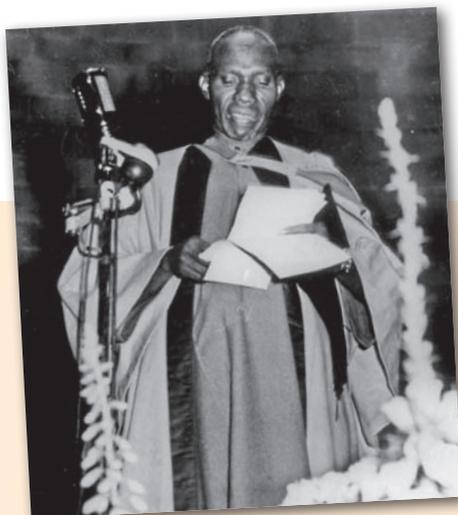
The photo shows a visit by the Duke of Edinburgh to the Chemistry Department. Professor RD Haworth had reluctantly accepted me as I would be the only female postgraduate in the department and he found a space for me in a small lab next to his office rather than in the 'Tannin lab' where all his other students worked. He gave me a project that was entirely separate from the other tannin work and kept a very fatherly eye on me.

Dr Jill Gigg (née Cunningham)
(PhD Chemistry 1963)



My wife Daphne Pavitt (née Loraine) [BA English, French and Geography 1952, Dip Education 1953] was Chairman of the Union Coronation Committee early in 1953. There were to be two venues for a Coronation Ball – Graves Hall in the Union building and Firth Hall. But how could students be attracted to dance in Firth Hall, more often associated with examinations? The fourth-year architects came on board to solve this problem. Firth Hall was transformed to become the premier attraction for the night. Daphne still remembers her relief of removing her four-inch heels to walk home across the grass near Hunter's Bar.

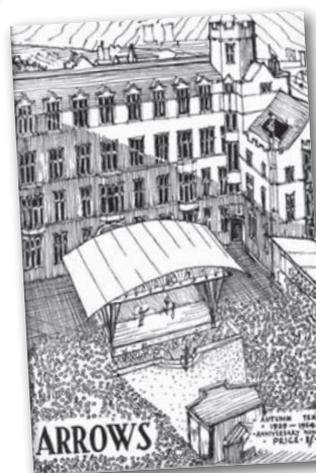
Mr John Pavitt RIBA
(BA Architecture 1954)



Sir Abubakir Tafawa Balewa at his honorary degree congregation, 1960
Photo Archive, University of Sheffield

The late Prime Minister of Nigeria, Sir Abubakir Tafawa Balewa, was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the University in 1960. Nigerian students from the University and other institutions in Sheffield had a photograph taken with their Prime Minister. The local newspaper said he spoke with a golden voice and stole the show.

Deacon Samuel Laosebikan
(BA History 1962)



The Autumn 1954 issue of Arrows, showing the Birth of Steel masque taking place in the Quadrangle
Mr William T Baker (BSc Chemistry 1955)

I was recruited to play bass for the masque called *The Birth of Steel* for a visit by Her Majesty the Queen to the University to mark its jubilee. The libretto was written in blank verse by Professor Empson and set to music by his friend, a professor of inorganic chemistry, whose musical credentials were unknown to the Faculty of Music. The score was idiosyncratic and very difficult. A large pavilion of bullet-proof glass was built for the Queen, her retinue and senior Faculty. On the day [of the dress rehearsal], the weather was threatening, so the stage crew hastily rigged up a tarpaulin extension to the proscenium to give us some shelter. The performance started well – but the rain began to fall in torrents. Finally, the tarpaulin gave way, emptying scores of gallons of water on music and audience alike. The next day, of course, the weather was perfect for the [royal] performance.

Professor David Williams
(MB ChB Medicine 1958)

Lord Halifax with HM The Queen during the royal visit to the University in 1954

Dr Lawrence Lloyd
(BSc Chemistry 1953,
PhD Chemistry 1956)



In 1952 the Union Dinner and Ball was arranged for early in February. As chairman of the Entertainments Committee I was much involved. The whole of the Cutlers' Hall complex was booked. I heard the news of the death of George VI as I was returning from our printer with the Menu and Toast cards. At a few hours' notice all public entertainment was closed down at the start of official mourning. With telegrams and telephones we cancelled all arrangements.

Mr Francis Soer
(MSc Chemistry 1953)

Advertising poster for the Arts Festival, initiated by the Students' Union in 1963
Mrs Christine Los
(née Baxter)
(BSc Chemistry and Botany 1964)



Societies and sport



This is me sailing one of the boats from the sailing club. The first two boats in the club were called Ratty and Moley and our hut was Toad Hall. Note that my shirt has cufflinks and arm bands. We wore suits to attend lectures!

Mr David Bedwell
(BSc Zoology 1954)

By the Wednesday of my first week I had discovered the mountaineering club (SUMC) and I did my first rock climbs then. SUMC had a programme of events throughout the year – Sundays and weekend meets, with some rock climbing, some walking and some caving, evening slide talks by older members who had been on great expeditions, and two dinners. One fresher was older as he had done his National Service and had an ex-army jeep – this transport was very important as no-one else owned four wheels. We also had weekends called Bus Meets in Snowdonia or the Lake District.

Ms Liz James (née Cannon)
(BSc General – Geography, Geology and Zoology 1959)



The ladies first squash team, 1963
Mrs Ruth Whiteside (née Chatterton)
(BSc Physiology and Zoology 1965)

I can recall playing in the University orchestra in Firth Hall, under Professor Shera. The ancient gas lights failed at a critical point in our rendering of Cesar Franck's *Symphonic Variations*. Shera did not bat an eyelid. Somebody had a pocket torch and we all, half blinded, managed to stagger through the rest of the score. Heaven knows what it sounded like!

Mr L Ronald Kay OBE
(BA English 1940)

In charge of all sport was Harry Cofield ('Sarge'). Fencing was a particular interest to him and after I joined the Fencing Club I saw that he was a second father to his fencers and would sometimes accompany them to big events like the Liverpool Open Fencing Competition. Fencing was a big part of my University life. Even in lectures next door to the old gym (adjoining the main Western Bank building) you would sometimes hear sabres clashing!

Mrs Janet Coddington (née Hodge)
(BA French and Spanish 1949)



'Sarge' Cofield, 1946
Photo Archive, University of Sheffield

I was chairman for a time of the Students' Union Dramatics Committee and, in 1959, the Drama Group took two plays (which I produced) to the fringe of the Edinburgh Festival. One of the plays – *Salome* – was selected by the *Sunday Times* to take part in an Oxford University drama festival the following year.

Dr Malcolm Segall
(MB ChB Medicine 1959)

John the Baptist (William Moore) curses Salome (Gillian Stevens). This photo appeared in *The Scotsman*





Two sisters from HMS Pinafore, 1962
Mrs Suzanne Watwood (née White)
(BA General – Ancient History, Modern History and English 1965) on the left

The clubs with which I was most active were the Folk Dance Society (FDS) and the Scout and Guide Club. With other rovers I enjoyed long hikes in Derbyshire. I was chairman of the FDS and not only helped run the club's programme for Rag Week but also organised an Inter-Varsity Folk Dance weekend. It was a truly international programme of dancing in Firth Hall and Stephenson. We depended on Colin Armstrong for musical accompaniment on his accordion, particularly on Rag Days, when we danced through the city streets and on the many rough bomb sites.

Mr Gordon Shaw
(studied BSc General – Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and Statistics 1950–53)

We formed a madrigal group and for many years we performed Tudor church music in various venues. We were a very close knit group and we have managed to keep in touch ever since. Three members became Professors of Music – Denis Arnold at Oxford, Gilbert Reaney at UCLA and David Brown at Southampton. We had tremendous fun but I had no idea at the time that so many of our group would achieve such tremendous success.

Miss Millicent Brown
(BA Music and English 1948, Dip Education 1949)



Folk Dance Society, 1951
Mr John Knowles (BSc Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics 1954)

I discovered that there were three more or less functioning theatres in Sheffield and there was also a student group that put on plays in Graves Hall. *Death of a Salesman* was directed by Brian Gathercole and had Norman Southward as the salesman and Bill Moore and me as his sons. His wife was played by Susan Melder, daughter of a visiting economics professor from the USA, and it was her accent that the local newspaper critic reported as not coming up to scratch, much to our great delight.

Mr John Walsh OBE
(BEng Mechanical Engineering 1959)



The madrigal group broadcasting from the Students' Union, 1949
Mrs Jessie Rossington (née Currie)
(BA General – Geography, Economics and History 1950, Dip Education 1953)



The photo is of the 1947 cricket team which won the Universities Athletic Union Cricket Final, played at Norton over four days against Loughborough. The outstanding memory is a tremendous innings of 190 by Noble Sarkar [MB ChB Medicine 1950], who played for Trinidad, in our first innings.

Mr Hollie Berry
(BSc Mathematics, Geology and Physics 1949)



The Mountaineering Society tackle the Prow at Wharnccliffe, c1950
Mr Francis Soer (MSc Chemistry 1953)

Discover today's University

Make a date

Our Reunion Luncheon is now a popular feature of the University's social calendar. Claire Rundström, Development Manager – Alumni Relations, explains its appeal.

In 2007, the Development and Alumni Relations Office launched Anniversary Reunions to celebrate special graduation anniversaries. In 2009, we included a special Reunion Luncheon for those alumni celebrating 50 and 60 years since graduating, hosted by the Vice-Chancellor and taking place in Firth Hall. We also arrange guided tours of the campus, featuring many of the new buildings. This year's luncheon proved extremely popular with 200 alumni and guests attending, including some returning to Sheffield from as far afield as Norway, Nigeria and Bermuda.

The Reunion Luncheon usually takes place on the final weekend in June. If you are interested in attending when it is your 50th or 60th anniversary, please remember to keep that weekend free!

We always try to send an official invitation to as many of our former students as possible, but unfortunately we are not in touch with all of our graduates. If you know of anyone who will be celebrating their 50th or 60th anniversary since graduating, but is not in touch with the Development and Alumni Relations Office, please let us know so that we can ensure that as many of our alumni as possible receive invitations.

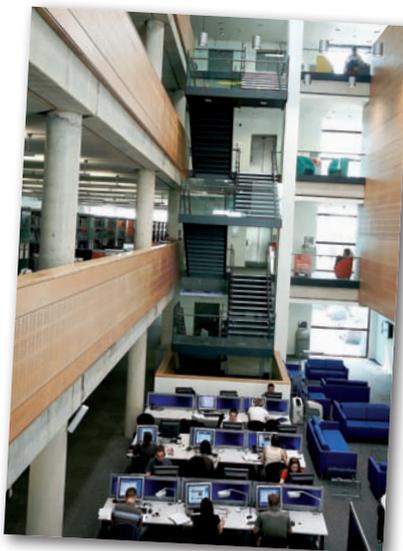
In 2011, the 50th and 60th Anniversary Reunion Luncheon will be for the **Classes of 1951 and 1961** and will be held on **Saturday 25 June 2011**. If you graduated in either of these years and would like to attend, please contact Sarah Heslop on 0114 222 5592 or email alumni@sheffield.ac.uk.



The 2010 reunion luncheon in Firth Hall



Jessop West, home to several departments of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities



State-of-the-art accommodation at The Edge, Endcliffe Village

Thank you

We are pleased to report that the class reunions of alumni celebrating the 50th and 60th anniversaries of their graduations have already raised almost £40,000 through donations of all different sizes.



The Information Commons, exterior and interior

Celebrating our friends and supporters

We are extremely grateful to all the people who are helping to make the University a better place for today's students. Your generosity has the power to change lives. Here we focus on four supporters who have made a difference across the campus.



Professor Thomas Stevens

A linchpin of the Department of Chemistry for 20 years from 1946, Professor Thomas Stevens was awarded the University's first personal chair in 1963 after his election to the Royal Society. Emeritus Professor Stevens sadly died a few weeks after his 100th birthday in 2000. He remembered the University in his Will, making an extremely generous bequest of nearly £400,000 "for research and student welfare". His legacy has transformed several facilities on campus, including the Disability and Dyslexia Support Service, which received a £40,000 grant from Professor Stevens' legacy gift and an additional £10,000 from the Alumni Fund.

Professor Thomas Stevens

Professor Frank Ellis

Professor Frank Ellis (MB ChB Medicine 1929, Hon DSc 2005) chose to remember the University in his Will with a gift of £10,000: "I always wanted to be a doctor ... I have always been so full of gratitude to the University for enabling me to realise this ambition." Frank helped us to celebrate the University's Centenary alongside his own 100th birthday in 2005. He sadly died the following year and we used his legacy to buy a crucial piece of equipment for training the next generation of doctors. The SimMan is an advanced patient simulator, with realistic anatomy and functionality.



SimMan, purchased with Professor Frank Ellis' gift

Miss Kathleen Rogers

Kathleen Rogers (BA English Literature 1934, MA English Literature 1935) left a gift of £14,000 in her Will to the Alumni Foundation. We used her generous legacy to provide aspiring student journalists with an outstanding resource in the University's Media Hub in the Students' Union. This comprehensive facility, providing the latest technology for print and web publishing, design, audio and video, is now the home of Forge Media – the collaborative name for Forgetoday.com, Forge Radio, *Forge Press* and Forge TV. Additional funding for the project came from the Students' Union and Convocation.



Mr Henry Whiston

The Rotunda at Firth Court, first established as the Edgar Allen Library, has received a new lease of life thanks in part to a generous legacy gift from Henry Whiston (BSc Pure Mathematics and Accounting 1954). The Rotunda's refurbishment included the remodelling of its reception area: by day it acts as a visitor information desk/reception for the Vice-Chancellor and other senior staff; and in the evening it can be turned into a stunning event and exhibition space.

The Edgar Allen Library, from a print commemorating its opening in 1909

Donations

For further information about how to make a donation or leave a legacy to the University of Sheffield, please contact:

Ruth Stanley, Deputy Director of Development

Tel: 0114 222 1075

Email: r.e.stanley@sheffield.ac.uk

www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/support

Finding out more

If you are interested in the history of the University of Sheffield and the Union of Students then you may wish to purchase the following publications, both written by Dr Helen Mathers (BA History and Politics 1974, PhD History 1980):

Steel City Scholars: the Centenary History of the University of Sheffield

Available from Jeanette Peat, tel: 0114 222 1030,

www.shef.ac.uk/steel-city-scholars-book/buy.html

Standing up for students: one hundred years of the University of Sheffield Union of Students

Available from the Union of Students, tel: 0114 222 8667,

email: oursheffield@sheffield.ac.uk

The city of Sheffield



The Wicker Arch with a 4-6-0 steam train going over and a Sheffield tram and bus below, 1958

Dr Gordon Kember (MB ChB Medicine 1958)

Sometimes we would go to the City Hall where the Sheffield Philharmonic Society arranged recitals by famous soloists such as Max Rostal and Myra Hess, and concerts by the Hallé Orchestra conducted by Constance Lambert and John Barbirolli. At the Lyceum Theatre we saw the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company perform *The Mikado*. Sheffield was well-endowed with cinemas, in the centre and the suburbs, and we saw a number of films which became classics; one was *Mrs Miniver* starring Greer Garson. We were watching her acting with Ronald Colman in *Random Harvest* at the Heeley Palace when we were given the dramatic news that Italy had surrendered to the Allies.

Mrs Rita Corbridge (née Benson)
(BA English 1945)

To get to lectures I caught a bus which went up and down hills that looked down on the industrial centre of the city. It was like a view of Hades. The valley was covered by a pall of thick smoke which rose in pillars, wraiths and then thin wisps into the sky. The next stage of the journey was on a swaying, jerking tram.

Mrs Shirley Carter (née Moore)
(BA English 1953, Dip Education 1954)

Memories of Sheffield buses: the experience of being addressed as “Come on, love” by a rough tough conductor on my first day at Sheffield; riding on the top deck around Attercliffe and watching the serried ranks of enormous red hot steel ingots over the factory walls; being able to buy an 11½d ticket on the bus and ending up right out in the Peak District for a hike; Fitzalan Square and the late night buses – all the buses were drawn up around the square and on the hour, when an inspector blew his whistle, every bus shot off in a sort of Le Mans start.

Dr David Twiss
(BSc Physics and Chemistry 1965)

My first impressions of Sheffield as the train drew into the Midland Station in early October 1952 were of smoke and gloom; these impressions were not helped by the sight of the Cholera Monument. This was my very first acquaintance with a city which I learned to love and revere for its courage and resilience.

Mrs Eileen Clark (née Astle)
(BA French 1956)



Sheffield city centre, c1958

Dr Gun Nagamati
(PhD Applied Mechanics 1958)

We used the excellent reference library at the Graves Art Gallery rather than the University Library which was always overcrowded. In 1947 the city centre was suffering from the extensive damage caused by the Blitz and there were many bomb damaged sites especially down the Moor. At that time Sheffield was a very dirty city from the industrial and domestic pollution. Most of the older buildings were black from soot.

Mrs Jessie Rossington (née Currie)
(BA General – Geography, Economics and History 1950, Dip Education 1953)

Student numbers

1935–36: 865 | 1940–41: 714 | 1945–46: 918 | 1950–51: 2,025 | 1955–56: 2,097
1960–61: 3,009 | 1965–66: 4,707 | 2009–10: 24,319