

Sheffield (some historical notes).

The history of Sheffield can be traced back to the Norman Invasion of 1066. After that a castle was built on the site shown on the map. There are indications to suggest that it was built on the site of the hall of the Saxon ruler Waltheof who was beheaded on the orders of William the Conqueror in 1076. Waltheof was Earl of Northumberland, his father Siward defeated Macbeth at the battle of Dunsinane in 1054.

The first castle of earth and timber was built around 1100 by William de Lovetot, a Norman knight. In 1266 this castle was destroyed in the Simon de Montfort rebellion. It was replaced by a castle built of stone.

There has always been a market in the shadow of the castle, the first known charter for the market dates from 1296. The market rights and property were sold by the Duke of Norfolk to Sheffield Council in 1899 for the price of £526,000.

The splendid Norman castle which occupied around four acres was demolished in 1648 by order of Parliament. The castle site has had a number of uses since then. It had a bowling green on it, and some housing.



From the roof of Davy's restaurant on Haymarket, looking towards the Royal Victoria Hotel before the area was redeveloped in 1914-20. The view is of historical interest as it shows the site of the medieval castle, subsequently covered by a jumble of property including the cone of an early steel cementation furnace.

This picture shows the castle site before it was bought by B & C Co-op in 1915. In 1929 Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Society opened their flagship

Department Store on the site, City Stores. It was destroyed eleven years later by enemy action in the terrible blitz of December 1940. Temporary premises were erected on Angel Street which served until the new building, Castle House, was opened in 1964. In 2009 it was given grade 2 listing by English Heritage. After the merger of the Co-operative Societies, a decision was taken to close the non-food departments, restaurant and coffee shop. The Post office counter moved to Wilkinsons, Haymarket.

HOW BRIGHTSIDE AND CARBROOK CO-OP SOCIETY BEGAN

It was 1868 and a man called William Shaw happened to notice a clock over a shop in Kilnhurst bearing the words 'Co-operative Society'. He belonged to a group of artisans in Carbrook who had formed a mutual improvement society, and the subject of 'Co-operation' had been discussed with some enthusiasm. Seeing the clock triggered a desire to find out more about Co-operation. Soon after, a delegation from Carbrook visited the Kilnhurst Co-operative Society and were tutored in the principles of the Movement along the lines as laid down by 'The Rochdale Pioneers'. The result was that a year later a small shop in Carbrook was opened with formation expenses of 8s 7d. After five months the profit made was £6 - 4s – 8d, and after eight months £40. The first dividend paid was 1/- in the pound on purchases.

The first branch was opened in Wincobank in 1876. By 1900 the Society had 12,000 members and annual sales were £300,000.

By 1903 The Society had the confidence to build a new headquarters on the corner of Kirkbridge Road and Attercliffe Common.

The table below shows how The Society grew.

Year	Members	Capital	Trade
1914	29,000	£290,000	£758,000
1916	33,000	£390,000	£1,077,000
1918	36,000	£427,000	£1,409,000
1921	38,000	£567,000	£2,040,000

SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

There was, of course, another co-operative society in Sheffield, Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Society. This too had its origins in the nineteenth century and was formed after an amalgamation of Ecclesall and Sheffield co-operative societies. Its headquarters were in Napier Street and its trading area was in the South West of the city.

For more about co-operation in Sheffield see:

https://sheffield.coop/wiki/Co-operative_Culture
and

<https://sheffield.coop/wiki/CWS150>

THE CITY OF SHEFFIELD TODAY

Social divisions in the city have sharpened since the onset of unemployment as a result of the demise of the steel and coal industries and the virtual disappearance of manufacturing. The political decisions of the 1980's government had an impact on the social life of the city which we all still have to live with. A culture where unemployment is accepted as normal has developed in large sections of the city. New skills such as I.T. are required for many jobs, this seems to put them out of the reach of many people.

Drugs, crime, gambling and debt have become the way of life for many. This will create problems for the next generation. There is a high rate of illiteracy in these areas of the city.

David Blunkett commissioned a report on the state of our divided city and it has now been published as 'A Tale of Two Cities' and it has been written by Professor Danny Dorling and others:

http://sasi.group.shef.ac.uk/research/sheffield/a_tale_of_2_cities_sheffield_project_final_report.pdf

THE OLD TOWN HALL

The Old Town Hall is the derelict building in Waingate opposite the Castle Market. In the 20th century it was the Sheffield Crown Court.

On the night of the 11th/12th January 1839 there was an attempted Chartist uprising led by Samuel Holberry. The plan was to seize the Town Hall and the famous Tontine Inn which stood roughly where Wilco on Haymarket is now. The plan failed but the campaign went on. The Chartists demands were:

1. Universal Male Suffrage
2. No Property Qualification for M.P.s
3. Annual Parliaments
4. Equal Electoral Districts
5. Payment of M.P.s
6. A Secret Ballot

Samuel Holberry died, still a young man, in jail. Today there is a plaque in the Peace Gardens dedicated to his memory. He was buried in The General Cemetery.

see

Samuel Holberry – Revolutionary Democrat 1814 – 1842

Available at 1889 Books

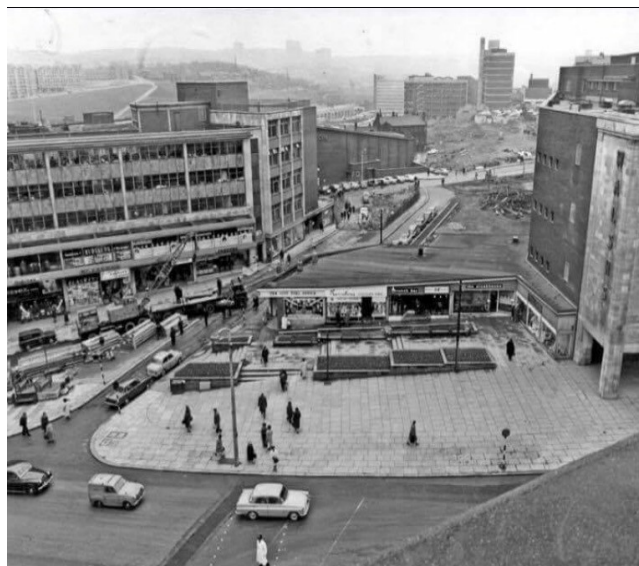
<https://www.1889books.co.uk/samuel-holberry>

Old Sheffield

Sheffield was built up round the castle, church and market. The historic places included: Haymarket, King Street, Waingate, Angel Street, Market Place (now High Street), Exchange Street, Castle Street, Snig Hill (leading to West Bar). Beyond this, the town was giving way to countryside. For example, there were orchards around Change Alley (now long since gone and replaced by Arundel Gate/High Street). Alsop Fields were where the present Norfolk Street is now.



Change Alley



Change Alley being transformed



Timber framed house on the corner of Change Alley and High Street
(demolished in 1895 to allow for road widening).

The pictures give an example of how the city has changed.

Public Houses

The Kings Head on Change Alley was built before 1572. There was a bowling green and fine gardens situated by this pub and Alsop Field was on the site of the present Norfolk Street. It was Leonard Webster (Master Cutler 1748 – 49) and owner of the Kings Head who had the gardens dug up and extended Change Alley through Alsop Field. From 1745 it was the centre for meetings of the Cutlers Company. In 1821 the landlord is said to have driven the first stagecoach over the newly opened turnpike road between Sheffield and Glossop.

The Kings Head Hotel was a well known establishment in the city centre. It was destroyed by enemy action in December 1940.



The Kings Head Hotel

The Angel Hotel (which gave Angel Street its name) was built in 1657 out of local granite. Sheffield's first theatre building was built in the yard of the Angel Hotel in 1728.



The Angel Hotel

This famous Sheffield establishment was situated on Angel Street around where Cockaynes store, later Schofields, and later Argos stood.



The Historic Hotel of Sheffield.

Phones:
Central 5090, 5091.



"The Angel"

The Business Man's Restaurant

Grams:
"Angel Hotel, Sheffield."



FIRST CLASS COMMERCIAL.
Bed and Full Breakfast, 8/- per head.

Club Dinners,
Whist Drives
and
Private Dances
catered for.

—
Billiards.



Table d'hôte
and
a la Carte
Luncheons,
Four Course,
2/-

—
Commercial
High Tea,
Afternoon Tea,
1/3.

Light Refreshments all day.

Suppers till 10 p.m.

Open Sundays, 12 to 9.30 p.m.

ANGEL STREET, SHEFFIELD.

Advertisement for the Angel Hotel, Angel Street, 1923
(PictureSheffield: y04997)