



St Helens
Archive Service



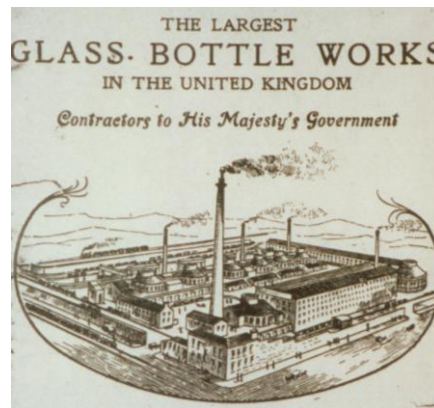
St Helens Glass Industry Research Guide



About this guide

This guide gives an overview of the glass industry records held by St Helens Archive Service. It is intended as a starting point: not every surviving item is listed, and researchers should check the online catalogue or contact the Archive Service for the full description and current access status.

For over three centuries, glassmaking has contributed to the shape of St Helens landscape, economy and communities; an industry which provided employment for thousands of local people and produced innovations that have transformed glass production across the world.



Images from various St Helens Archive Service collections

1. Using this guide

Records relating to the glass industry can be useful to research the development of glass manufacturers and companies, individual glassworkers and their families, trade union activity, working conditions, technological innovation, women's employment, apprenticeships and training, industrial accidents, factory buildings and sites.

Major Glass Manufacturers in St Helens

- British Plate Glass Company (Plate Glass)
- Cannington, Shaw & Company Ltd (Glass Bottles and Containers)
- Charles Borron & Co. (Newton-le-Willows) (Glass Bottles and Containers)
- Fibreglass Ltd (*Glass Fibre / Fibreglass Products*)
- Forsters Glass Company Ltd
- Gardner & Newton Glass Works (Glass Benders)
- Nuttall & Company Ltd (Glass Bottles and Containers)
- Pilkington Brothers Ltd (*Crown Glass, Sheet Glass, Plate Glass, Float Glass, Rolled Glass*)
- Ravenhead Glass Works (Glass Bottles and Containers)
- St Helens Crown Glass Company (*Crown Glass*)
- Rockware Glass Ltd (Glass Bottles and Containers)
- Triplex Safety Glass Ltd (*Laminated Safety Glass and Vehicle Glass*)
- Union Plate Glass Company (*Plate Glass*)
- United Glass Bottle Manufacturers Ltd (Glass Bottles and Containers)

A Timeline of the glass industry in St Helens

c.1700	The first glass furnace is established in St Helens. The area's plentiful coal reserves make it an ideal location for glass manufacture and other industries.
1773	British Plate Glass Co. is established. The company's first manager is believed to have been Jean-Baptiste François Graux de la Bruyère, who is buried in St Helens.
1826	The St Helens Crown Glass Company is founded by local investors. The business would later become Greenall & Pilkington and eventually Pilkington Brothers.
1827	Production begins at the Grove Street works, marking the start of what would become the Pilkington glass empire.
1832	Newton Glass Works is established
1849	The St Helens Crown Glass Company becomes known as Pilkington Brothers, reflecting the growing influence of the Pilkington family.
1850	Ravenhead Glass Works is founded, later becoming one of Britain's leading producers of bottles, containers and domestic glassware.
1866	Newton Glass Works reopens as a glass bottle works under the management of Charles Bell Ford Borron.
1873	Nuttall & Co. is founded by Francis Dixon and his associates.
1875	Cannington, Shaw & Co. establish the Sherdley Glass Works.

1878	Forster & Sons is established, further strengthening St Helens' reputation as a centre for glass bottle production.
1886	The No. 7 Bottle Shop is constructed at Sherdley Glass Works by Cannington, Shaw & Co. It was among the first bottle-making furnaces capable of operating continuously.
1887	William Windle Pilkington completes Tank House No. 9 and perfects the regenerative furnace process, revolutionising continuous glassmaking and significantly improving efficiency and productivity.
1901	Pilkington acquires the Ravenhead plate glass works, becoming Britain's sole manufacturer of plate glass.
1912	Triplex Safety Glass is founded by Reginald Delpech. A joint agreement with Pilkington would later be signed in 1929, linking two major innovators in glass technology.
1913	United Glass Bottle Manufacturers Ltd. is formed through the amalgamation of Ravenhead Glass, Cannington Shaw & Co., Nuttall & Co., Alfred Alexander & Co., and Robert Candlish & Son.
1914-1918	During the First World War, St Helens glassworks support the war effort through the continued production of industrial and military glass products.
1919	Rockware Glass Syndicate Ltd. is incorporated by William Asbury Bailey to manufacture glass containers.
1939-1945	Glass manufacturers across St Helens contribute significantly to the Second World War effort through the production of specialist and industrial glass products.
1948	St Helens and Stuttgart establish Europe's first post-war town-twinning relationship; supported by St Helens' assistance with the reconstruction of the German city following WWII, with glass supplied by Pilkingtons.
1952	Sir Alastair Pilkington and Kenneth Bickerstaff begin developing what will become the revolutionary Float Glass Process.
1959	The Float Glass Process enters commercial production. The innovation transforms global flat-glass manufacture and establishes St Helens as a world centre of glass technology.
2000	The World of Glass Museum and visitor centre is officially opened by HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, bringing together the Pilkington Collection and St Helens Borough Council fine art and local history collections.
2006	Pilkington becomes part of the NSG Group (Nippon Sheet Glass) following an international takeover.
2008	Tank House No. 9 is designated a Grade II Listed Building, recognising its importance in the history of industrial glassmaking.
2014	The No. 7 Bottle Shop receives Grade II Listed status and continues to be recognised as one of the most important surviving examples of a nineteenth-century bottle shop.
2021	Glass Futures, the world's first openly accessible global glass research and technology facility, opens in St Helens, reinforcing the town's historic role at the forefront of glass innovation.
2025	Pilkington UK invests in upgrading its historic Greengate Works, integrating a new highly efficient rolled glass line to reduce the site's carbon footprint
2026	Cannington Shaw No. 7 Bottle Shop opens as a heritage location, hosting community events.

2026	The World of Glass and the Glass Art Society bring the International Festival of Glass to St Helens, an international celebration of glass art, design, technology and innovation.
Present Day	Glassmaking remains an important part of St Helens' identity and heritage. The borough continues its long tradition of innovation through advanced manufacturing, glass technology and research, while celebrating and preserving its rich industrial legacy.

What different records may tell you

Record type	What you may find
Minutes and committee papers	Decisions about company management, production, staffing, factory expansion, technological developments, industrial relations, finance and policy.
Annual reports	Production figures, financial performance, workforce statistics, major developments, factory expansion projects, exports, innovations and company achievements.
Correspondence	Letters between company directors, managers, suppliers, customers, trade organisations, local authorities and employees. These can provide insight into business operations, disputes and industrial development.
Financial accounts	Income and expenditure, wages, production costs, profits, investments, shareholder information and details of factory operations.
Staff magazines	News about employees, social events, sports teams, retirements, awards, training schemes, company developments and workplace culture.
Photographic collections	Images of glassworks, furnaces, machinery, production processes, workers, company events, factory expansion and products.
Trade directories	Information about glass manufacturers, factory locations, company officers, suppliers, merchants and occupations connected with the industry.
Plans and drawings	Factory layouts, building extensions, furnace construction, chimney designs, site development and industrial architecture.
Oral and written histories	First-hand accounts describing working conditions, technological change, workplace culture and community life.
Newspapers	Reports on factory openings, industrial disputes, strikes, accidents, technological innovations, company successes, community events and obituaries of prominent figures.
Published books and local histories	Histories of glass companies, biographies, technological developments, communities, industrial action and broader histories of industry in St Helens. These can provide valuable background information and references to original archival sources.

Access restrictions and confidential information

Staff and administrative records may be restricted where they contain personal or confidential information. The catalogue and Archive Service staff can confirm the current position for a particular item. Where a record is closed, Archive Service staff can advise whether an access request is possible and what evidence, permission or explanation may be required. Closure dates shown in older catalogues may also need to be reviewed before access is confirmed.

2. Records held at St Helens Archive Service

The archive collections and documents listed relate to a variety of St Helens companies and are presented in alphabetical order. Dates given are the dates of the records held, not necessarily the full dates during which a company or organisation operated. Series are not always complete, even where a long date range is shown.

The below gives an overview of the types of documents available at St Helens Archive Service, although not an exhaustive list - records may also be held in other private or publicly accessible archives.

British Plate Glass Company (Plate Glass)

Established in 1773 at Ravenhead, the British Plate Glass Company was one of the earliest and most important glass manufacturers in St Helens. Although no single company archive survives, relevant records can be found across several collections.

Records	Useful for
A37.8 (P) - Tariff of the prices of polished plates of glass, 1794	Business record providing information on products, pricing, production standards and the commercial operation
MI/20 - (Typewritten copies of) letters concerning British Plate Glass, 1788-1789, 1843-1844	Correspondence concerning the erection of an engine and alterations, evidence of early industrial technology
SP/61 - Building application for proposed chimney at the British Plate Glass Company, 1899	The scale of the company and its impact on the local landscape
GE/4/1/246, PH/1/54, MFZ/207, MFZ/209 – various dates	Photographs and visual references relating to British Plate Glass Company
MBA/4/7/5 - Notes by J.R. Harris relating to British Plate Glass Company, c1950	Previous notes and research
JHJ/11/13 - Essay regarding Robert Sherbourne (1792-1829), owner of Hurst Park, Huyton, Lancashire, and Manager of the British Plate Glass Company, 2001	Previous notes and research

Cannington, Shaw & Company Ltd (Glass Bottles and Containers)

Founded in 1875, Cannington Shaw & Company became one of the most important bottle manufacturers in St Helens. Operating principally from the Sherdley Glass Works and Sutton Lodge Works, the company pioneered bottle production techniques and constructed the No. 7 Bottle Shop in 1886. In 1913 the business became a founding member of United Glass Bottle Manufacturers Ltd.

Records	Useful for
MCA/1-3 – Cannington Shaw and Co, 1981-1913, MBU/20/2 – Memorandum for Cannington Shaw and Co, 1892	Board minutes, correspondence and Articles of Association documenting the management and development of the business.
MBL/17 - Cannington Shaw and Company versus Nuttall and Company, 1869-1983	Documents relating to a three-year patent dispute between Cannington Shaw and Nuttall & Company over tank furnace design
MBL/16/22-28 – Catalogues, 1890s-1920s	Product catalogues, price lists and advertising material illustrating the range of bottles manufactured by the company and its marketing activities.
UG/2,3,4 – Receipt books and cash account books, 1892-1926	Company history, financial accounts

UG/8/4,5 – notice and correspondence, 1894-1915	Miscellaneous correspondence, calculations and notices. Useful for the development and operations of the company.
MBL/16/29-34, notes and copies from 1970s relating to earlier developments	Technical and manufacturing records documenting furnaces, machinery, bottle-making processes and production methods.
MBL/16/11, PH/8/140, PH/17/101/102, SP/15, SP/70, various dates	Plans, maps and photographs showing the development of Sherdley Glass Works, Sutton Lodge Works and the No. 7 Bottle Shop.
MBL/16/16-21, transcriptions of oral histories and recollections, c1970s	Describes life and work at Sherdley Glass Works
A37.8 CAN P – St Helens Reporter newspaper article, 1969	Details the working conditions and general running of Cannington Shaw and Company
MBL/16/3-6 - Notes and documents relating to the history of Cannington Shaw and Co. by Alan Ball, c1970	Collection of notes slides and presentation text outlining the development from 1755-1896

Charles Borron & Co. (Newton-le-Willows) (Glass Bottles and Containers)

Founded at Newton Glass Works, Charles Borron & Co. was an important nineteenth-century glass bottle manufacturer based in Newton-le-Willows. The works formed part of the wider St Helens glass industry and contributed to the borough's reputation as a major centre of bottle production.

Records	Useful for
MBL/9 – Records relating to Charles Borron & Co, c1914-1970s	History of company, recollections of working life and newspaper cuttings relating to the company
SIM/2/1 – image of H.R.H. Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, visit to Newton-le-Willows, 1898	Charles Belford Borron is prominent in the photograph

Fibreglass Ltd (Glass Fibre / Fibreglass Products)

In 1938 Pilkington acquired an interest in the glass fibre operation of Chance Brothers and Co. (Glasgow). In 1944 Glass Fibre was reorganized as Fibreglass and a new works was erected at Ravenhead, producing glass fibre and reinforced-plastic products for insulation, engineering and industrial applications.

Records	Useful for
A37.8 FIB P - Fibreglass Ltd pamphlets, 1957, 1967, 1982	Company history relating to insulation products and glass fibre technology.
A37.8 - Progress of Glass Reinforced Plastics by Alan Hudson Davies, Managing Director of Fibreglass Ltd, 1957	Development and applications of glass-reinforced plastics.
GWP/6/2, c1950s, PH/8/126, c1980s collections showing buildings, products, machinery, staff and events	Photographs and visual sources documenting the development of the company

Forsters Glass Company Ltd (Glass Bottles and Containers)

Forsters Glass Company was a major British glass bottle and container manufacturer founded in 1878 in St Helens, by the Forster brothers, later run by John Forster and sons. Operating out of the Atlas Glass Works, the firm became a public company in 1919 and was later acquired by Rockware Glass in 1968. The 'FO' collection below also includes items relating to Rockware.

Records	Useful for
FO - Forsters Glass Company Limited, St.Helens (and its successor Rockware Glass Limited), 1905-1982.	Photographs, plans and drawings, agreements and correspondence, research book, logbooks, account books and notebooks
FO/4/5/784,785,786,793,794,811 - Forsters Glass account books, 1927-1947	
FO/4/5/1 – The Forster Bulletin, 1966	Company development and staff research
FO/4/5/7 - 'Comrades in Arms', nd	Booklet on Forsters Glass contribution to the war effort
MBU/21/1 – Photograph of a camera	Forsters Glass factory was used to fit reconnaissance cameras during WWII.
MBL/11/4 - Photocopies of letter and report from Sir Sidney Henn	Correspondence and reports relating to the proposed formation of the Glass Manufacturers Federation, including material connected with Forsters Glass Company.

Gardner and Newton Ltd (Glass Benders)

Gardner & Newton was a specialist glass-bending company producing curved and shaped glass for architectural and industrial applications and represents an important part of the borough's specialist glass sector beyond traditional flat glass and bottle manufacture. Surviving records relate primarily to the company's premises, equipment and products rather than a comprehensive company archive.

Records	Useful for
PH/13/8 – photographs of Gardner Newton Ltd, c1950	Photographs of the factory site
PH/17/38/32-35, photographs of Gardner and Newton, 1996	Photographs of the factory site
STSD/36/53 – photographs of Gardner Newton Ltd, c1950	Photographs of the bending kilns

Nuttall & Company Ltd (Glass Bottles and Containers)

Nuttall & Company was established by Francis Dixon-Nuttall and the company relocated to Ravenhead Glass Works in 1871, producing glass bottles for the food, beverage and pharmaceutical industries. Following the death of Francis Dixon-Nuttall in 1900, the business continued under his son, Frederick R. Dixon-Nuttall, before joining Cannington Shaw & Company, Alfred Alexander & Company and Robert Candlish & Son in 1913 to form United Glass Bottle Manufacturers Ltd.

Records	Useful for
MBL/49 - Records relating to Nuttall and Company Limited, c1899-1971	Company history, notes and site plans
MBL/49/10,11, transcriptions of oral histories, 1971	Describes life and work at Nuttall and Co
MBL/16 – Notes relating to the history of Nuttall and Company (along with Cannington Shaw and Company), 1970s	Company history and development
MBL/17 - Cannington Shaw and Company versus Nuttall and Company, 1869-1983	Documents relating to a three-year patent dispute between Cannington Shaw and Nuttall & Company over tank furnace design
SP/5,34,62 - Building application plans for chimneys, 1882-1899	Corporate history and interpretation of the company's development, local landscape

Pilkington Brothers Ltd (Crown Glass, Sheet Glass, Plate Glass, Float Glass, Rolled Glass)

Founded in 1826 as the St Helens Crown Glass Company, Pilkington became one of the most significant glass manufacturers in the world and St Helens' largest industrial employer. Renamed Pilkington Brothers in 1849, the company pioneered major advances in glassmaking, including the development of Siemens tank furnaces in the nineteenth century and Sir Alastair Pilkington's revolutionary Float Glass process in the 1950s,

which transformed global flat glass production. Operating from extensive works at Grove Street, Cowley Hill and Ravenhead, Pilkington became Britain's leading manufacturer of sheet and plate glass and played a central role in St Helens' economic growth, technological innovation and international reputation as a centre of glassmaking. The below is not a corporate archive, but a collection through a variety of deposits.

Records	Useful for
Q/1 – Records relating to John Crossley (1830-1886), glass manufacturer based in St Helens, 1857-c.1970s.	Includes a patent assignment for improvements to machinery. Useful for early glassmaking technology.
Q/2 – Wages ledgers presumably from the Pilkington Brothers Limited Watson Street site, 1903-1909.	Employment history, family history, workforce studies.
Q/12, Q/30, MU/2 - Company communications and printed publications of Pilkington PLC including Cullet Magazine, Pilkington News and Financial Reports	Includes anniversary publications, company magazines, financial reports, newsletters and corporate communications documenting the development of Pilkington from a local manufacturer to an international company. Useful for corporate history and interpretation of the company's development.
Q/6, Q/8, Q/9 – Press releases, publicity and promotional material, 1940s-60s	Architectural glass, building design and specialist glass products
Q/15-19, GWP/6/1, PH/17/31, PH/17/94 - Photographs and diagrams, various dates	Includes furnaces, rolling machinery, annealing towers, polishing plants, photographic surveys of premises, and factory workers. Useful for manufacturing history, industrial processes and workplace studies.
SP/9,24,43,52,55,58,63,64,73,79,84,85, Building application plans for chimneys, 1882-1920	Corporate history and interpretation of the company's development, local landscape
Q/20-29 - Records relating to sand getting	Plans, surveys, production records, compensation claims, environmental management records, photographs and planning files relating to sandgetting operations across Rainford, Windle, Bickerstaffe, Eccleston, Knowsley, Ormskirk and surrounding districts.
MBU/2 – Extel news cards, 1978-79	Brief data on profit and loss, business activities and executive management
MBL/50 – Notes and surveys relating to Pilkington Brothers Limited, glass manufacturers	Company history
Q/3, Q/7 – photographs of royal visits, 1913, 1950	Company history, civic pride and the public profile of Pilkington
Q/11 - Brochure regarding welfare benefits, facilities and services for pensioners and widows	Understanding employee welfare, pensions and social provision
JHJ/6 - information regarding the provision of medical services to the employees at Pilkingtons Brothers Ltd, 1864-2002	Understanding employee welfare, company history
LAN, Q/10 - notes, interviews, photographs and a published book ('Strike at Pilkingtons', Tony Lane and Kenneth Roberts, 1971) relating to the strike in 1970	Understanding employee welfare, pensions and social provision
MM/60, OH/2/5/9/29/32 - Transcriptions and oral histories recording daily life at Pilkington Ltd, 1901-1990s	Understanding employee welfare, company history
Q/14, PH/16/112 - BTR takeover bid, 1986-87	Useful for business history, corporate governance and mergers and acquisitions
SHC – St Helens Hockey Club (part of Pilkington Recreation Club), 1920-2005	Employee welfare and social provision
STSD/25 - Photographs, relating correspondence, drawings and plans of Pilkington P.L.C. glass fountain, 1977-1989	Civic pride and the public profile of Pilkington

Ravenhead Glass Works (Glass Bottles and Containers)

Ravenhead Glass Works was established at Ravenhead, St Helens, in 1850 by Francis Dixon and John Merson and became one of Britain's best-known glass manufacturers. Originally specialising in bottles and containers, the company joined several other St Helens firms in 1913 to form United Glass Bottle Manufacturers Ltd. From the 1930s onwards, Ravenhead expanded into domestic tableware, producing bowls, drinking glasses, jugs and barware that became household names across Britain. The company closed in 2001.

Records	Useful for
MBU/38 – Records relating to Ravenhead Glass Limited, 1965-1966	Material regarding wages and personnel of Ravenhead Glass
PH/8/3 – photographs, c1900-1950	Useful for industrial processes and workplace studies.
PH/7/116 – Aerial photographs, c1900	Site plan, company development

Rockware Glass Ltd (Glass Bottles and Containers)

Rockware Glass Ltd became one of Britain's leading glass container manufacturers following the acquisition of Forsters Glass Company in 1968. Rockware produced bottles and glass containers for a wide range of industries and became a major employer in the borough. The 'FO' collection below also includes items relating to Forsters.

Records	Useful for
FO - Forsters Glass Company Limited, St.Helens (and its successor Rockware Glass Limited), 1905-1982.	Photographs, plans and drawings, agreements and correspondence, research book, logbooks, account books and notebooks
FO/1/1,2,4,5,6, PH/17/98/43-46 – photographs relating to Rockware	Useful for manufacturing history, industrial processes and workplace studies.
STSD/36/14 - Photographs of smoke emissions from Rockware industrial chimneys, 1970-79	Environmental impact of industry
A37.8, A37.8 P, FO/4/5/3 - Rockware newscuttings, booklets and advertising material, 1969-1983	Useful for corporate history and the company's development.
A37.8 P - Rockware Company Ltd. United Glass Ltd. Redfearn National Glass Limited. A report on the proposed mergers	Useful for business history, corporate governance and mergers and acquisitions

St Helens Crown Glass Company (Crown Glass)

Founded in 1826, the St Helens Crown Glass Company was established to manufacture crown glass for windows and quickly became one of the most important glassworks in the town. Production began at Grove Street in 1827, supported by investment from the Pilkington, Greenall and Bromilow families and the technical expertise of John William Bell. Following changes in ownership during the late 1820s and 1840s, the business evolved into Greenall & Pilkington and was subsequently renamed Pilkington Brothers in 1849.

Records	Useful for
A37.8 PIL P - Plan of St.Helens Crown, Sheet and Plate Glass Works, 1856	Company history
A37.8 – 'St.Helens Crown Glass Works: Pilkington 1826-1976', 1976	A written account of the early company history
MBU/4 - Handbill advertising the products of St.Helens Crown Sheet and Plate Glass Company, nd	Company history, early record of the glass industry and founding of Pilkington Glass.

Triplex Safety Glass Ltd (Laminated Safety Glass and Vehicle Glass)

Triplex Safety Glass was established in 1912 by Raymond Delpuch. The company produced laminated vehicle windscreens under French patents. In 1929, Pilkingtons and Triplex formed a joint company in St Helens and built a new factory in Eccleston. Pilkington gradually increased its shareholding in Triplex until by 1965 it was the majority shareholder. The factory was extended in 1956 and was closed in 2007.

Records	Useful for
A37.8 P, Triplex: News Of The Triplex Group, 1961	Company magazine, history of the organisation.
GWP/6/3, PH/8/8 - photographs showing buildings, products, staff and events, 1930s-1950s	Useful for manufacturing history, industrial processes and workplace studies.

Union Plate Glass Company (Plate Glass)

The Union Plate Glass Company was established in 1837 and built plate glass works at Pocket Nook, St Helens.

Records	Useful for
PH/17/7/9 – Photographs of company offices, 1898	Company history
SP/31,39 – building application plans for chimneys, 1888-1890	Corporate history and interpretation of the company's development

United Glass Bottle Manufacturers Ltd (Glass Bottles and Containers)

Founded in 1913 through the amalgamation of Cannington Shaw & Company, Nuttall & Company, Alfred Alexander & Company and Robert Candlish & Son, United Glass Bottle Manufacturers Ltd became one of Britain's largest manufacturers of glass containers with production concentrated at Sherdley, Ravenhead and the purpose-built Peasley Cross factory in St Helens. The UG collection contains over 2,000 photographs as well as business records, technical records, plans, company newspapers and press cuttings.

Records	Useful for
UG/1/1-4, UG/1/116-120, UG/1/589-613, UG/1/631-1416 - Aerial photographs, exterior views and site surveys of the Peasley Cross factory c1950s-80s	Documents the growth of the works. Useful for researching factory development, industrial archaeology and changing urban landscapes.
UG/1/406, UG/1/410-411, UG/1/428-431, UG/1/1244-1249, UG/10/1-4, c1960s-80s	Records relating to the social life of employees, including sports clubs, social clubs, parties, service awards, staff outings, retirement presentations and pensioners' events. Valuable for research into workplace culture, community life and employee welfare.
UG/5/1-2, 1956-1964	Notes, calculations, drawings and correspondence relating to sand extraction at Rainford, Skelmersdale and Coronation Sand Pit. A key source for studying the raw materials required for glass manufacture.
UG/6/1-35, 1938-198	Press cuttings, photographs and correspondence documenting company developments, technological innovation, industrial relations and public perceptions of United Glas
UG/10, 1963-1983	<i>Goodware</i> , the company newspaper of United Glass. Contains staff news, achievements, workplace developments, social events, retirements, apprenticeship schemes. A significant source for researching everyday life within the company
UG/11 – Ledger, 1959-1967	Company history and development
UG/13/1	Company films covering glassmaking processes, technological innovation, safety procedures and factory operation

3. Other St Helens sources to try

The following may be useful:

Maps and plans

MMP and other map or building-plan collections can show company sites and extensions.

Photographs and postcards

Search PH, aerial photographs and other image collections by company name, street or area

Newspapers and cuttings

Company events and activities may have been reported in local newspapers.

Census, electoral and civil registration sources

These can help identify workers, confirm addresses, births and deaths.

Published local histories

Local history bookstock relating to the St Helens glass industry

4. Searching the catalogue and contacting us

[Search the St Helens Archive Service catalogue](http://www.sthelens.gov.uk/history) (www.sthelens.gov.uk/history)

Staff can assist you in searching the catalogue or guiding you to relevant sources. Please give the name of the organisation or individual you are researching; an approximate date; any known address or date of birth; and the catalogue references that appear relevant.

Staff can advise on holdings and access but cannot guarantee that a named person will appear or undertake extensive research without prior arrangement. Search by company name. Try former and alternative names, less may be more such as simply 'Pilkington' or 'Pilkington Glass' rather than 'Pilkington Bros' or 'Pilkington Brothers Limited'.

5. Contacting us

St Helens Archive Service, part of St Helens Borough Council, collects, preserves and provides access to the documentary heritage of the borough. Records span hundreds of years and include material relating to the glass industry, coal mining, railways, local government, businesses, families, community organisations and many other aspects of local life in St Helens. Accredited under The National Archives' Archive Accreditation Scheme and temporarily based within The World of Glass, the service provides free public access to the borough's archive collections, supporting education, research and the enjoyment of our shared heritage. The service also welcomes the donation of suitable historical records from individuals, businesses, community groups and organisations.

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Visits are by appointment. Please check the St Helens Council webpage for current opening times, appointment arrangements and copying charges before travelling.