

# Principle FIVE

# P5

Yorkshire Co-operative Resource Centre

Newsletter  
January 2020

## **Principle 5 Study Group: Understanding the Co-operative Movement**

Members are invited to participate in the study group. So far it takes the form of study notes which are sent to anyone who wishes to enrol.

The notes are all then posted on the 'study' page of the principle 5 website where anyone can download them. If you would like to receive regular updates, please let me know:

[steve@sheffield.coop](mailto:steve@sheffield.coop)

The Study page is:

<https://www.principle5.coop/p5-study-programme-unit-1>

Comments are always welcomed.

The group will meet up from time to time.

# Festival of Debate 2020

Sheffield

Principle 5 will again be taking part

**NOTE THERE ARE 2 EVENTS !!!**

VENUE, both events: Union Street: [see below](#)

## Co-operatives: an introduction

**Fri 8 May 2020, 7pm for 7.30 start**

**Union Street**

**ROOM IS BOOKED: 6.30pm-9.30**

*Across the world, co-operatives are being formed by ordinary people, as a logical, fair and practical way to supply human needs. Cath Muller has experienced working and living in a co-operative, and has visited co-ops in various parts of the world. She will explain the basics of why and how co-operatives work, with time for questions and discussion afterwards.*

## Co-operatives, ethics and change

**Sat 9 May, 10.30 for 11am start**

**Union Street**

**ROOM IS BOOKED 10-1pm**

*Tony Webster, academic and author, discusses co-operative ethics and the Co-op Group. This was a global network of trade, manufacturing, farming and services. Now, many Co-op supermarkets have closed, what happened? He is joined by co-operative worker and activist, Cath Muller. She recently took a low-carbon tour of co-operatives in Europe and the Americas, to visit and learn about alternative co-operative economies, radical worker co-operatives and strategies for social change.*

**FORMAT FOR BOTH EVENTS:** Talk followed by discussion:

## VENUE DETAILS

“One Space”, the upstairs room in Union Street co-working space.

Union St, 18-20 Union Street, Sheffield, S1 2JP

Telephone: 0114 205 1051 <https://union-st.org/> Email: [matt@union-st.org](mailto:matt@union-st.org)

Details are also on the Co-operatives UK website

[https://www.uk.coop/all-events?field\\_event\\_type\\_tid=All&field\\_tags\\_tid=All&page=1](https://www.uk.coop/all-events?field_event_type_tid=All&field_tags_tid=All&page=1)

**Latest addition to the Principle 5 Library**  
**Dr William King and the Co-operator 1828 – 1830**  
**Edited by T. W. Mercer**

When it was agreed that the Fifty-Fourth Annual Co-operative Congress should be held in Brighton in June, 1922, the General Publications Committee of the Co-operative Union decided that the time was opportune to reprint “The Co-operator,” a small co-operative periodical, first published by Dr William King nearly a century ago.

In consequence of that decision, the present volume has been prepared. It includes a faithful reprint of the twenty-eight numbers of “The Co-operator”; a sketch of Dr. King's life and teaching, containing information not previously published; and a few notes contributed by the present writer. Several letters written by Dr. King to other early co-operators are also here reprinted. In “The Co-operator” both spelling and punctuation have been left as they are in the original edition, but a few obvious printers errors have been corrected.

From Prefatory Note by T. W. Mercer  
Holyoake House,  
Manchester  
May 1922

SEE THE REVIEW

<https://www.principle5.coop/books/dr-william-king-and-the-co-operator-1828-1830>

This book has been digitalised and can be read online at  
<https://archive.org/details/drwilliamkingcoo00king/page/n1>

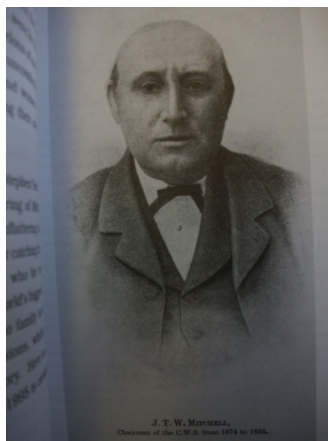
## A Bit of Co-op History

This picture shows the two Societies in Sheffield co-operating with each other at the time of the first world war



This ambulance was presented as a Joint Gift by the members of the Sheffield & Ecclesall and Brightside & Carbrook Co-operative Societies.  
November 4<sup>th</sup>, 1915. Cost: £556

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Who Was J.T.W Mitchell?

<https://www.principle5.coop/books/who-was-j-t-w-mitchell>





This Co-operative Society money box sits on the desk in the Resource Centre. Does anyone know anything about how they were used?

Let us know. [steve@sheffield.coop](mailto:steve@sheffield.coop)

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## **Sheffield Co-ops**

Get to know the Co-operative Movement in Sheffield.

[https://sheffield.coop/wiki/Main\\_Page](https://sheffield.coop/wiki/Main_Page)

## **Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Society Central Comrades Circle**

The youth wing of the S&E Co-operative Society, known as the Circlites published a monthly journal, 'The Circle Review'. There were 22 editions in all, number one was Friday 6th June 1924 and the last came out on Friday 5th March 1926. All 22 editions have been bound in one volume which is kept at the National Co-operative Archive. Like co-operators everywhere they were focussed on working towards the co-operative commonwealth. They were very much in tune with the Sheffield Branch of the ILP Guild of Youth who were always given space in the The Circle Review.

The Circlites were represented on the S&E Co-op Society Education Committee. Education was always considered central to the purposes of the co-operative movement. Co-operation if it is to mean anything is a way of life with all the relationships, work, trade, culture, education, play, physical activity, sport, and all the social activities that go together to make community. Of course, in all groups of people there will sometimes be disagreements and upset. Strong words were voiced in edition one by the editor, the rambles section refused to give proper recognition to the core 'circle' thus threatening a damaging split. We see in the second edition;



# The Circle Monthly Review.

of the Sheffield & Ecclesall Co-op Soc. Central Comrades' Circle

NO. 2

FRIDAY, JULY 4, 1924.

## OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Our Paper. The response to our present issue in the way of contributions has hardly been satisfying and it will be necessary to cut the pages down to four during the Summer in consequence. It is a pity that there are so many members who leave the work for others. A little enthusiasm from each one would greatly ease the work of the few and make their efforts a potent factor in the movement, instead of being lost in the opacity of the crowd.

\* \* \*


Co-operators Day One way in which we can prove our worth is to do our bit for Co-operation next Saturday in Endcliffe Park. The Circle has taken over a vehicle and hopes to advertise the real aims and objects of the Educational side of the movement—International Peace and Comradeship in the Youth of to-day in which lies the hope of humanity.

If you are not in the procession, at least you can join in the singing and cheering to make Co-operators Day another step in the path of Progress and Hope.

At last! The fight. Cyril Ford is indignant over the references made to him and his club in our last issue.

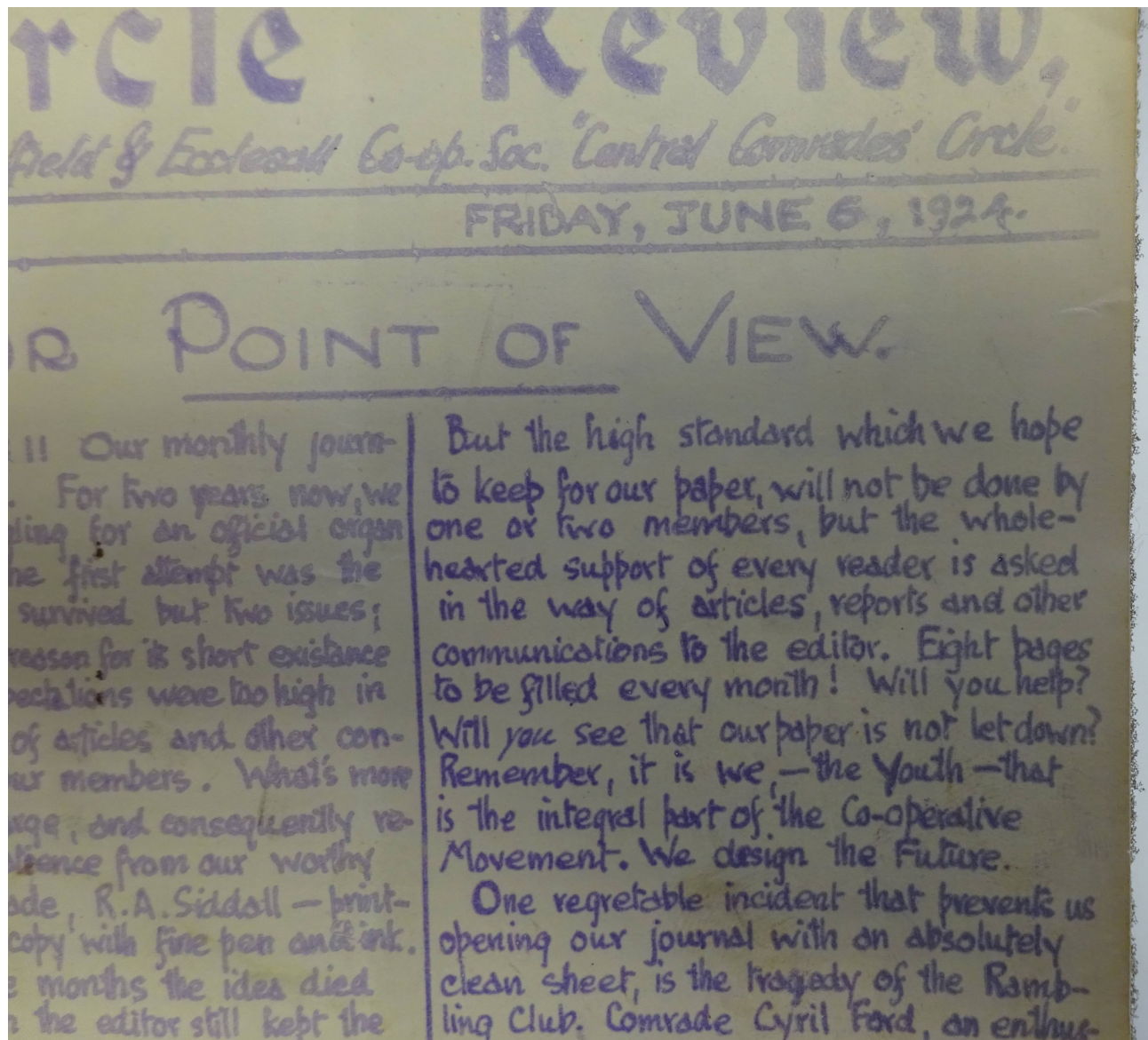
At last we have broken his contemptibility! He has recognised us; he wants a fight—he wants space to explain his point of view. We fervently hoped for his request; we gladly gave him his desires. He has not appeared; he has not responded. His wrath has abated; he is thinking? The Circle anxiously awaits his resignation. True comradeship cannot be contaminated with such selfish ends. We want to hear the last of it—come, Cyril, play the game.

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Don't forget  
the AUGUST   
issue out Aug. 1st. (Fri.)  
ONLY 1d. interesting  
ARTICLES and REPORTS.



An enduring problem, it seems, was that there was a reluctance amongst the members to contribute material for the journal, and so most of the work was left to a few stalwarts.



From edition one

That aside, The Circle Review was consistently positive, inspiring, informative and interesting. The following pages give some examples of its contents.



## A Visit to the CWS Shirt Factory

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### A VISIT TO THE C.W.S. Shirt Factory. (Sheffield.)

by  
"Jumbo" the Baby Effalant.

Do you know how to make a shirt, or a pair of overalls? If not, why not? Just take a glimpse in that wonderful factory of ours in West Street and you can learn from A to Z.

The building, from the outside doesn't look very interesting, but as you step inside, up tiled passages of winding steps you scent romantic ideas of what might be behind those doors. Talk about perfume, why! it meets you as you enter — prints, shirtings, flannelette, etc. In the first room you visit, you see the material in bales for shirts, pyjamas, and overalls being pegged up, ready for marking and cutting. There are one dozen shirt-lengths in a pile, the first having the pattern marked out in chalk. These then being passed on to the cutters, who slice them out with a dangerous-looking knife; it only takes 3 mins to cut the dozen.

We pass on to the next, a machine which cuts out 6 dozen shirts at once. This machine, with overhead workings, reminds one of a circular saw with a knife edge inserted. (Men work this machinery, not the girls, as in other departments). Then we pass through stockrooms, the fixtures being full of material.

As you open the door of the next

department you are met with a sea of faces. Girls! girls!! girls!!! everywhere. (now boys here's your chance for there are 150 girls in this room working machines that sew buttons while you wait, different machines different buttons, (eg. 2 holes and 4 holes). Machines that cut slits, and sew them round — button holes. Machines that and felt seems like ironing. Three more rooms like this with its sea of faces, to the finishing department (a brainy idea too showing how fold like an expert) packing, pressing, and studing shirt collars — all sorts of work here. Another department where overalls are sent to a shoot to be folded, packed and labelled. More stock rooms, and yet more till we go through the overhead passage that leads from the old building in Trippett Lane to the new one in West St., to the Dining hall which seats 250 people. This hall is clean, comfortable and well equipped — by the way it has a good polished dancing floor. It is rather interesting to know that the machinists are on piece-work, and the average for the button-hole makers are — six a minute! — that the total numbers of buttons sewn on overalls alone is 13,000 a day! — that there is one room with 150 machines idle owing to lack of material so "come forth ye workers" — men and boys, and get your shirts and overalls from the Co-operative and make it possible for those machinists to be working again for you.



## Youth and the Movement

### Review YOUTH and the MOVEMENT. <sup>by</sup> A. Binns.

The events of the last few weeks plainly show that if the Co-operative Movement is to exist, we of the youth organisations must get busy and lead our backsliding elders in the straight and narrow path.

As one of our "non-political" friends remarked, the Co-operative Society has gone too far to be broken. No doubt there will always be that type of person who will cling to the society to obtain benefits in "divi". But we require more. We want to see Co-operation sweep the board — clean of all reactionaries, fighting its way to the Commonwealth in Commerce, Industry, home, and the House of Commons.

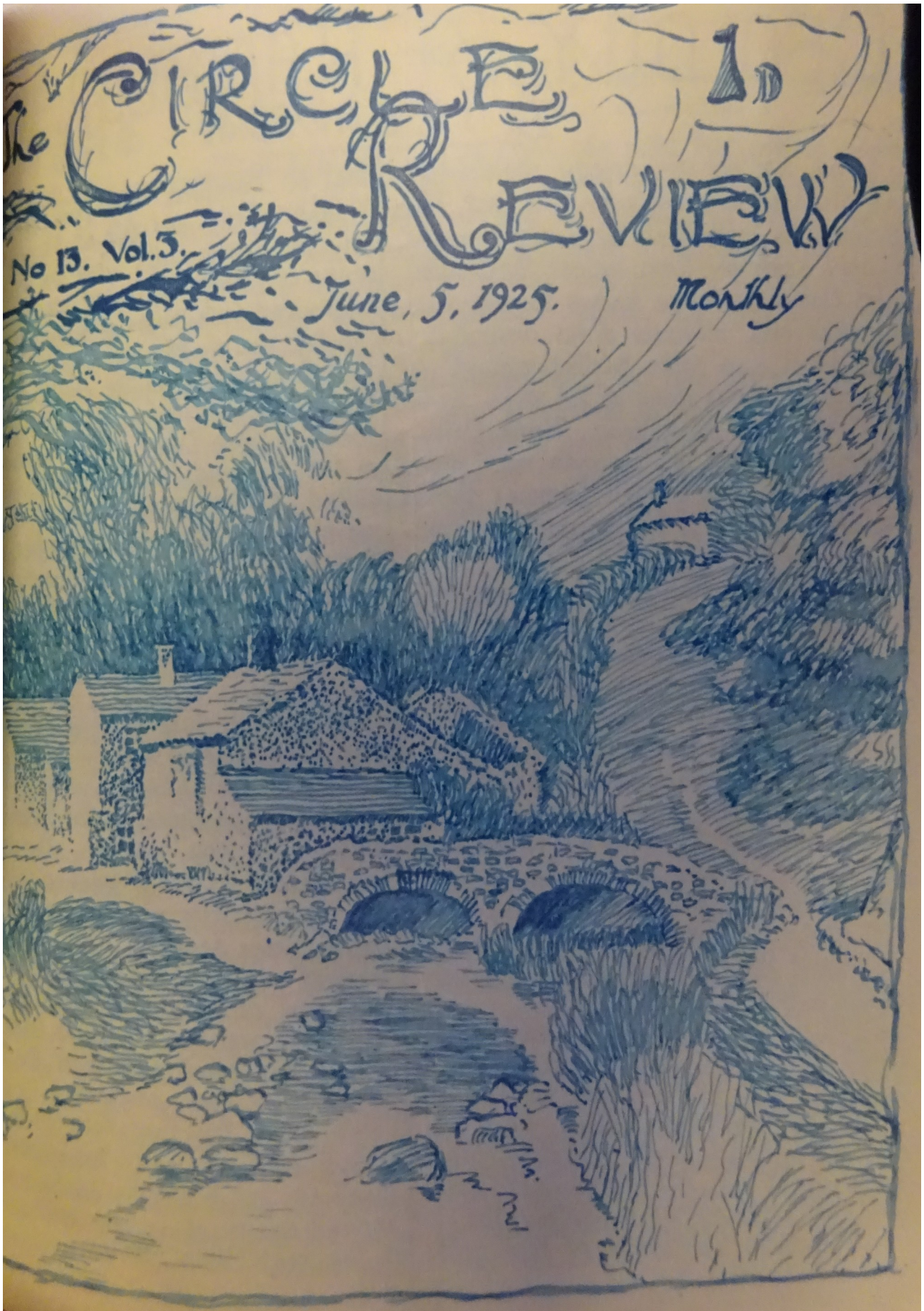
In co-operation, non-politics cannot exist yet we have these people whose politics are anti-co-operative. We cannot conceive any normally intellectual Co-operator moving such a motion as Mr. Fisher, of our board, moved at the Annual Meeting. With the growth of such combine, trust, and price-fixing organisations as the Proprietary Articles Retailers' Association and the new Grocers' P.A.T.H. fighting us, our only hope is to get Government legislation.

How does the Movement expect Party politicians to be earnest about removing its grievances when they are more interested in those who are seeking legislation to hold back the power of the Proletariat through Co-operation.

We of the Circle Movement are at that  
(on prev. col.)



Great artwork





Some of the other articles include:

William Morris by J. Bruce Glasier.

A report on a visit to Stanley Street, Sheffield by Fenner Brockway. Stanley Street is just off the Wicker, towards Aizlewood's Mill.

Ebenezer Elliot Co-operators and politics.

Socialism in our time, Part one– the living wage.

ILP Guild of Youth.

ILP Guild of Youth Conference.

ILP Dramatic Society.

Towards the Co-operative Commonwealth.

May the first – International Labour Day.

You can see these articles [HERE](#)

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This newsletter is quite late going out, if you would like to contribute anything for the February edition, please send it to:  
[steve@sheffield.coop](mailto:steve@sheffield.coop)

To book a visit to the Library, e.mail:  
[steve@sheffield.coop](mailto:steve@sheffield.coop)

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