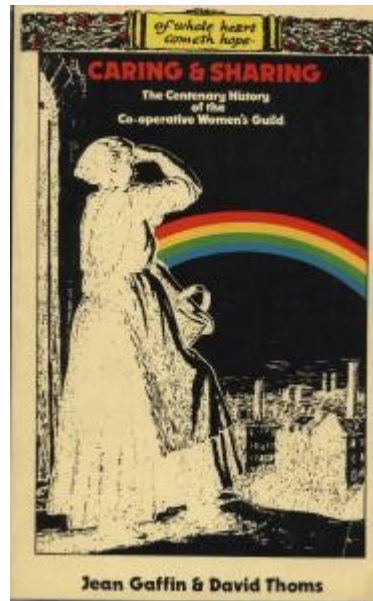


*Women's Co-operative Guild



When the Guild was founded in 1883, working class women had no public voice and were widely exploited at work and in the home. The Guild quickly became one of the first radical feminist groups to identify and challenge sexual prejudice and oppression, and to fight for change. Guildswomen were active in the campaign for maternity benefit, and improved infant and child care facilities. They defied convention by demanding easier divorce, and in the 1930's bravely supported the Peace Movement by initiating the White Poppy Campaign. By 1939 the Guild's 87,000 members belonged to an organisation of national reputation and importance.

After the upheavals of the war the Guild found it difficult to compete with other claims on women's free time, and met new problems associated with the decline in the number of Co-operative outlets. Nevertheless, Guildswomen continued to campaign vigorously for a wide range of radical social policies. The Guild continued to provide an outlet for the campaigning, creative and caring interests of its thousands of members until its dissolution in 2016.

* the name changed to the Co-operative Women's Guild

“Caring and Sharing – the centenary history of the Co-operative Women's Guild.
<https://www.principle5.coop/books/caring-and-sharing-the-centenary-history-of-the-co-operative-women-guild>

NOTE:

The Co-operative Women's Guild ceased to be a national organisation in June 2016. At a special general meeting in Coventry on 6 October 2015 a proposal to dissolve, put forward by the guild's national executive committee (NEC), was carried by 27 votes to 3. Local branches can continue their activities.