

Principle FIVE

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[Yorkshire Co-operative Resource Centre](#)

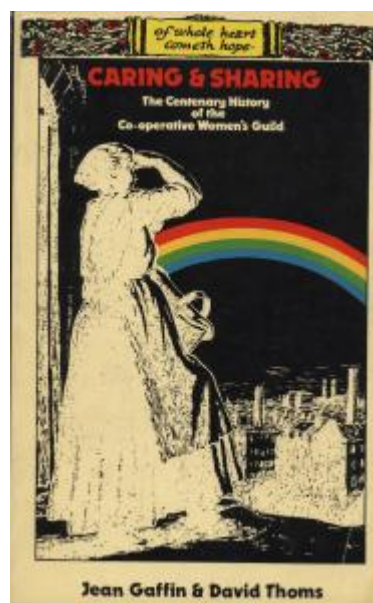
Newsletter - May 2020

The Principle 5 Resource Centre is closed while the distancing restrictions are in place. But we have digital resources and are happy to help with enquiries electronically. The digital catalogue is not yet completed, but we will endeavour to provide resources by e.mail as requested. Contact: steve@sheffield.coop

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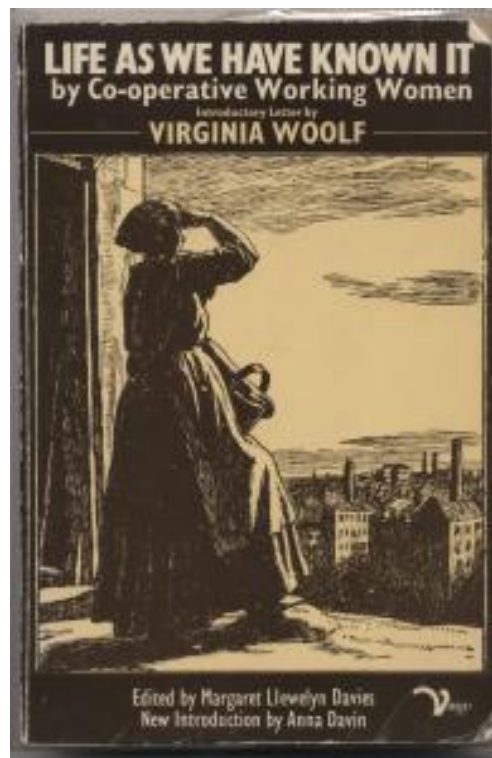
The Co-operative Women's Guild

The Co-operative Women's Guild ceased to be a national organisation in June 2016. But it has a proud legacy. The Principle 5 collection has a wealth of useful material about that legacy. Here are two examples.



<https://www.principle5.coop/books/caring-and-sharing-the-centenary-history-of-the-co-operative-womens-guild>

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 belonged to an organisation of national reputation and importance.



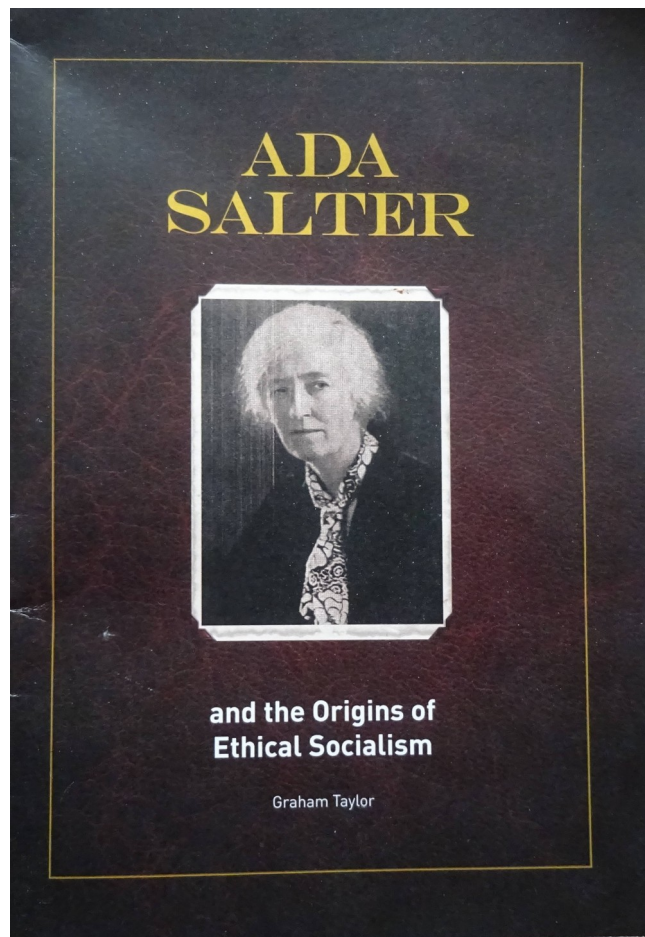
<https://www.principle5.coop/books/life-as-we-have-known-it>

The Remarkable women who wrote this book were members of the Women's Co-operative Guild. The Guild became a most important agent in the education of women and the lives recorded here demonstrate the need the Guild fulfilled, the eagerness with which working women grasped opportunities to learn and to act.

This book (Published in 1931) begins with a note on the Co-operative Women's Guild by

Margaret Llewelyn Davies which you can read **HERE**

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Ada Salter 1866 – 1942

Graham Taylor, author of this pamphlet (and the book “Ada Salter: pioneer of Ethical Socialism”) says:

“Ada Salter was the wife of Dr Alfred Salter MP, a brilliant doctor who gave up his promising career to settle in Bermondsey with Ada and supply free medical care to the poor. Alfred followed Ada first into the Liberal Party and then into the Independent Labour Party but he was always presented as the leader and she the follower. This false impression had been created by *Bermondsey Story*, an otherwise wonderful biography of Alfred by Fenner Brockway, published in 1949 and reissued in 1995 on the 50th anniversary of Alfred’s death. It was the preface to the 1995 edition, written by Barry Winter of the ILP, that corrected my erroneous view of Ada. Winter’s first sentence reads: “This is the story not just of a remarkable man, Dr Alfred Salter, but of his equally remarkable wife, Ada.”

He then went further, adding that the *Bermondsey Story* was not just the story of the Salters but of “a movement”. The ILP was not just a political party, Winter wrote, but “a way of life” and this way of life attempted to create a socialist life in

the future out of “the way it was lived in the present”. The future socialist society would rest on certain human values but these would never be realised unless incorporated into “daily practices”.

The ethical means must always match the ethical ends. From Winter’s account it seemed that not only had Ada herself been underrated but also the philosophy of the ILP which in his book Brockway had called ‘ethical socialism’.

Keir Hardie, in effect the founder of the ILP, articulated this spirit of a ‘human socialism’ grounded in a materialist analysis. Socialism built bottom up, winning over hearts and minds, prefiguring the future, and setting up co-operatives. The ILP aimed to turn the country into “one vast co-operative”, Hardie said, for under socialism “land and capital will be held by the community”. He was in favour of class struggle, but not class warfare, for there were good and bad employers and the ILP did not accept the use of inhumane means to achieve humane ends.

Graham Taylor says that the expression ‘Ethical Socialism’ is not to be confused with the politically right wing use of that expression from the 1950’s onwards, with the theories of people like Anthony Crossland. It was an expression that was never used by the Salters, at that time ‘ethical’ denoted anti-religious and humanist, as in the ‘Ethical Society’, and to use it would have been divisive for an ILP whose membership was roughly half religious and half not.

This interesting pamphlet is available to borrow from Principle 5 (by post while restrictions are in place)

Or you can buy a copy from the ILP - [**HERE**](#)

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Sheffield and Socialism

Principle 5 Pamphlet No: 1

Sheffield and Socialism was first published in 1916 as part of Edward Carpenter’s autobiography My Days and Dreams.

Still available. Order from Principle 5 [**steve@sheffield.coop**](mailto:steve@sheffield.coop)

£2.00

Historic worker co-op celebration moves online for lockdown

The 150th anniversary of the Hebden Bridge Fustian Manufacturing Co-operative Celebrations are still going ahead for a milestone anniversary of the UK worker co-op movement, with a series of online events.

Next month sees the 150th anniversary of the foundation of one of Britain's most successful early worker-led co-operatives, the Hebden Bridge Fustian Manufacturing Co-operative.



Article in Co-operative News May 2020

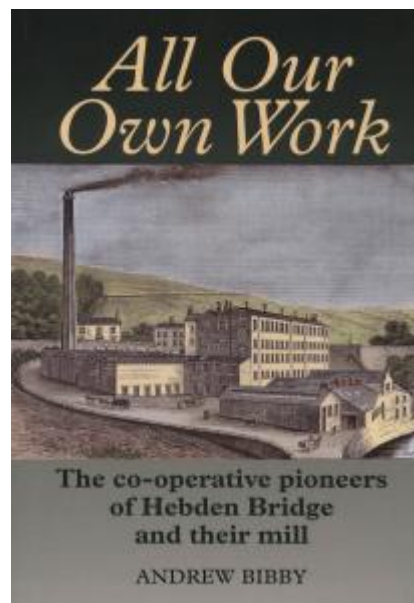
<https://www.thenews.coop/147746/sector/worker-coops/historic-worker-co-op-celebration-moves-online-for-lockdown/>

Virtual lecture with Andrew Bibby 3rd July (19:30 – 21:00)

Reassessing the early productive co-operatives: worker democracy then and now

[https://ukscs.coop/event/coopfortnight-lecture/?](https://ukscs.coop/event/coopfortnight-lecture/?fbclid=IwAR0NfsZoxsEqfFud86vvom_7c7VRqEOmotBeLrJRkIVhz8gbH6PxWr6dh)

[fbclid=IwAR0NfsZoxsEqfFud86vvom_7c7VRqEOmotBeLrJRkIVhz8gbH6PxWr6dh](https://ukscs.coop/event/coopfortnight-lecture/?fbclid=IwAR0NfsZoxsEqfFud86vvom_7c7VRqEOmotBeLrJRkIVhz8gbH6PxWr6dh)
[Bk](#)



<https://www.principle5.coop/books/all-our-own-work>

Top seven co-operative tech alternatives for working from home during Covid-19

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Co-operative Quiz

Here's a quiz to get you thinking. The answers will be in the next newsletter in June.

1. What is the 6th principle of the Co-operative Values and Principles. (International Co-operative Alliance 1995)
2. At which Co-operative Congress was the electoral pact between the Labour Party and the Co-operative Party agreed.
3. What was the title of the Co-operative Commission report 2001.
4. What was the original name of the Co-operative Union and when was it established.
5. Who chaired the Co-operative Commission 1958.
6. Name three publications which are co-operatively owned.
7. When was the Co-operative Retail Trading Group created.
8. When was the Co-operative Retail Trading Group replaced by the Co-operative Federal Retail Trading Services.
9. What year did the Industrial Common Ownership Movement merge with the Co-operative Union to form Co-operatives UK.
10. Who chaired the Co-operative Commission 2001.

For enquiries contact: steve@sheffield.coop

Back editions of the newsletter are available to read on the website
home page:

<https://www.principle5.coop/>

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