

Co-operative Press, Publisher of Co-operative News

Established in 1871, Co-operative News is published by Co-operative Press Ltd, an independent registered co-operative society. It is registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 as a bona fide co-operative, registration IP 1585R.

Membership of Co-operative Press is open to individual readers as well as to other co-operatives, corporate bodies and unincorporated organisations. The Co-operative News mission statement is to:

- **connect**
- **champion**
- **challenge**

the global co-operative movement, through fair and objective journalism and open and honest comment and debate.

A basic principle of the Co-op Press – Editorial Freedom.

All co-operatives which abide by the Values and Principles subscribe to the concept of 'Autonomy and Independence'. I would even say 'integrity'. The Co-operative News is a publication with integrity. It serves the purpose of reporting (now monthly) on everything of interest to the co-operative movement.

The Co-operative Movement has changed out of all recognition over the last twenty years. Up until then the CWS was the huge co-operative business which held the Movement together, connecting all of the co-operative retail societies together and playing a 'federal' role. The CWS and other co-operative societies funded Co-operative Press through their membership subscriptions to supply Co-operative News to the Movement, and the weekly newspaper was distributed to all of the Societies in large numbers. In those days, retail co-operative societies played a dominant role, but now many new kinds of innovative co-operatives are taking centre stage. The Co-operative News keeps its readers aware and well informed about developments in the whole movement both in this country and internationally.

Principle 5 started with the collection of back editions of Co-operative News and this provides a resource for students of co-operation. The process of indexing these editions has already begun. The editions in the Principle 5 collection went back to 1997, but now thanks to the Co-operative Group, 67

volumes of back editions have been added. This means that our collection covers most of the period between 1871 and the present day. To see the catalogue go to:

<https://www.principle5.coop/archives> 'Reference Shelves' - Co-op News

The complete collection is held by the [National Co-operative Archive](#)

To search the Principle 5 Co-operative News index, go to:

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

Celebrating 150 years of Co-operative Press

Co-operative organisations used to publish a souvenir book or booklet on their coming of age i.e when they had reached 21 years, then another book telling their history and celebrating their achievements and dramas when they reached 50, and 100 and so on.

In 2021 Co-operative Press will celebrate 150 years since its foundation in 1871. So what about such a book for the Press. Co-operative publishing and journalism would make an excellent story, and it could be traced back to William King's 'Co-operator' 1828 – 1830' and through the Co-op News predecessors and all the way to the present day.

Or perhaps a less ambitious booklet or pamphlet.

Another idea which was suggested (at the Co-operative Press AGM 2019) is to produce a large print run of a 'Co-op News Special' on newsprint (broadsheet or tabloid) like the Sheffield Co-operator which could be distributed much more widely than the magazine format ever has been.

There were other ideas. And being the Co-operative Movement there will be lots of collaboration between sister organisations.

Steve Thompson
2019 revised 2020

National Co-operative Archive

<https://www.co-operativeheritage.coop/search-the-archive>

Co-operative News website

www.thenews.coop

On-line editions of Co-operative News from February 2017

<https://www.yumpu.com/user/cooperativenews>