

Principle FIVE

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Co-operative News 150 years celebration 1871 - 2021



Co-operative News celebrating 150 years 1871 – 2021

Rebecca Harvey, editor of Co-operative News writes:

On 2 September 1871, the first issue of The Co-operative News was published, as “A Record of Industrial, Political, Humanitarian, and Educational Progress”.

Read the article in full [HERE](#)

Every edition from the 2nd September 1871 to September 2021 is in the
National Co-operative Archive

Most editions from the 2nd September 1871 to September 2021 are kept in the Principle 5 library, unfortunately, our collection is not complete. You can see the editions which we hold in the catalogue – Reference – Co-op News page:

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

The catalogue gives details of which editions of Co-operative News are indexed.

Principle 5 has indexed 148 editions which can be searched on the index website:

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

Indexing is ongoing. There are also printed indexes for the first 50 years of Co-operative News.



Co-operative News has had just 15 editors in its 150-year existence including a father and son who held the post for 46 of the publication's first 50 years – and just two women, Lily Howe and myself. They are: R Bailey Walker(1871); John Collier Farn (1871-1875); Samuel Bamford (1875-1898); William Bamford (1898-1921); James A Flanagan (1921-1937); William Richardson (later Sir William, 1937-1942); Fred Tootill (1942-1955); David Boydell (1955); Frank Bruckshaw (1955-1972); Lily Howe (1972-1984); David Short (1984-1986); Geoff Whiteley (1984-1999); David Bowman (1999-2012); Anthony Murray (2012-2018); and Rebecca Harvey (2018- present).

Between us we have witnessed huge changes within the co-operative movement, both in the UK and internationally, as well as wider changes in technology, communication and the role of the media. As society and co-operatives have evolved, so too has Co-op News, in scale, scope and in its fundamental role of connecting co-operatives, championing their successes and challenging their misdemeanors. We have a growing number of organisational and individual members around the world. Last year, our website was visited by someone in every single country in the world (except three). We are adapting and developing while staying respectful of our – and the movement's past.

Thank you for coming on this journey with us. We are looking forward to seeing where we go next.

Rebecca Harvey



There have indeed been huge changes in the Co-operative Movement. And week by week and month by month the stories of the Movement have been recorded in the pages of the Co-op News. If we are to come to an understanding about what has happened to this movement towards a more human and humane society, the pages of The News are invaluable.

It has provided source material for co-operative historians from its earliest days. The Principle 5 Study Group (which is as yet only in development) will seek to understand what was inspiring in the co-operative story, and where things went wrong. The materials are available for research into the story of the development of the CWS from its origin in 1865 to its end in 2000 and its successor The Co-operative Group to the present day. This story has been written, by John F. Wilson, Anthony Webster & Rachael Vorberg-Rugh in their book Building Co-operation - Published by Oxford University Press 2013. The story from 2013 must be researched and written so that the implications for today's co-op movement can be better understood. The materials are available, but it will be a big task.

Common ownership is political and no understanding of the Movement is possible without the study of the role of the Co-operative Union (Co-operatives UK) and The Co-operative Party. The Study Group will continue to seek out material to further this understanding. A wonderful asset in this is the Sheffield Co-operative Party's own newspaper "The Sheffield Co-operator". Month by month from May 1922 to July 1939 the Sheffield Co-operator championed the drive towards 'The Co-operative Commonwealth' through political, social, educational and trading matters.

Principle 5 is not alone when it comes to the study and practice of Co-operation.

[The Co-operative College](#)

[UK Society for Co-operative Studies](#)

[Co-operatives UK](#)

and of course, [Co-operative News](#)

All play an important role in preserving and developing the Co-operative Movement to bring about a more humane and authentic society in this unpredictable world.

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