

Principle
FIVE

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**January 2022
Happy New Year!**

**An incredible win for the
mutual movement**

Liverpool Victoria is to stay mutual. Miles Hadfield writes in Co-operative News:

“Members of LV= have today voted down controversial proposals to sell the insurance mutual to US private equity firm *Bain Capital* for £530m – a move which would have led to its demutualisation.” Read the full article at:

www.thenews.coop/158877/sector/banking-and-insurance/lv-members-vote-to-block-sale-to-bain-capital/

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1922 – 2022

We are celebrating 2022 with a special edition of *The Sheffield Co-operator*, on the theme:
Food Sovereignty the co-operative way
Look out for your copy coming soon.

Principle 5 AGM 2021

The 2021 Principle 5 AGM took place remotely due to the covid pandemic. The online facilities were provided by [The Online Meeting Cooperative](http://www.meet.coop) (www.meet.coop).

Our three directors were re-elected:

- Dennis Chambers
- Jonathan Cook
- Chris Olewicz

Many thanks to all who attended.

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Dr. William King

The person who perhaps more than any other influenced and guided the early co-operatives was Dr. William King of Brighton. He was a medical doctor, Christian socialist, educator and co-operator and an active participant in the Co-operative Trading Association and Brighton Co-operative Society. Even now it is possible to read his journal, *The Co-operator*, which he published every month from 1st May 1828 to August 1830.

At the Annual Co-operative Congress held at Brighton, June, 1922, the General Publications Committee of the Co-operative Union was supported in its proposal to reprint the collected editions of '*The Co-operator*'. This was the Fifty-Fourth Co-operative Congress.

Dr. William King and the Co-operator 1828-1830

*Manchester: The Co-operative Union Limited,
Holyoake House, Hanover Street. (1922).*

This volume had a good deal of additional material including a brief biography of William King.

We have a copy of it in the Principle 5 library:
www.principle5.coop/books/dr-william-king-and-the-co-operator-1828-1830

For those who like to read online, it can be downloaded at:
<https://archive.org/details/drwilliamkingcoo00king/mode/2up>

Much has been written about Robert Owen who was undoubtedly a visionary, but it was King who through his writings, particularly *The Co-operator*, gave the practical advice which so influenced the nascent co-operative movement. *The Co-operator* was indispensable reading for members of the early co-operatives and was very influential in Rochdale at the pioneering stage of the co-operative movement in the 1820s, '30s & '40s.

“Co-operation is a voluntary act, and all the power in the world cannot make it compulsory: nor is it desirable that it should depend upon any power but its own”

Dr. William King, The Co-operator, 1829

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Tony Blair’s rush for power left co-ops out in the cold, argues new study

Writing in [Co-operative News](#), Dr Rita Rhodes reviews a critical history of the rise of New Labour, which points to a sidelining of co-operation.

Besides instilling ideas of self-help and mutuality into co-operative ideas, Dr William King urged steering clear of government involvement; it could possibly corrupt co-operatives’ operations. This advice was followed. In the 19th century, co-ops mostly limited themselves to

observing governments' legal and tax requirements. This later widened to include direct political action, and they accepted increased government direction in both world wars.

In more recent times of benefits, loans and grants, co-operatives have moved closer to government. But in this new study, Les Huckfield claims that 'under New Labour this almost killed them'.

Read the review in full here:

www.thenews.coop/158561/topic/history/tony-blairs-rush-for-power-left-co-ops-out-in-the-cold-argues-new-study

How Blair killed the co-ops: Reclaiming social enterprise from its neoliberal turn.

Les Huckfield, Manchester University Press. (2021, £80)

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Members are always welcome to visit the resource centre.

For appointment contact steve@sheffield.coop

Tel: 0114 282 3132

www.principle5.coop

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Yorkshire Co-operative Resource Centre

Aizlewood's Mill, Nursery Street, Sheffield, S3 8GG

