

Principle FIVE

P5

February 2022



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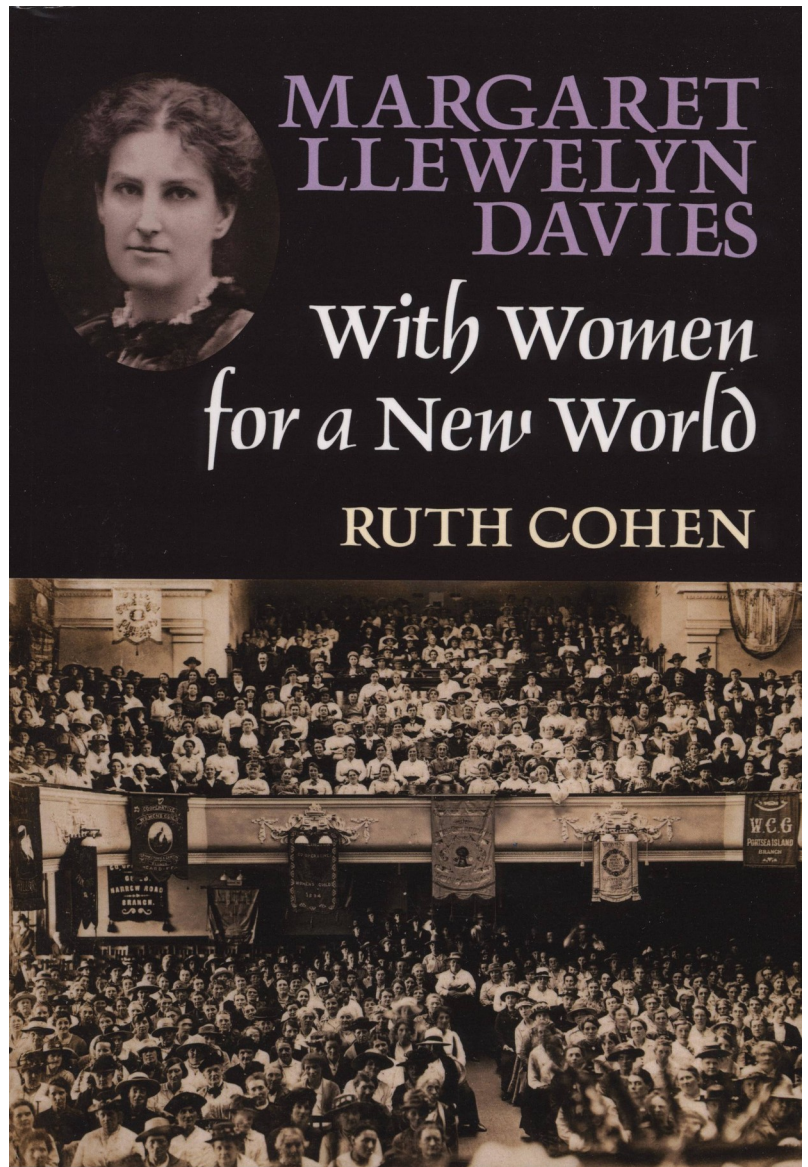
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New Books & Resources

New books for the library this month include a biography of Margaret Llewelyn Davies.

Brought up in a mixed Christian and Marxist background, Margaret Llewelyn Davies was an outstanding General Secretary of the Women's Co-operative Guild.

Her life was lived as a pioneering and remarkable campaigner for women, co-operation, trade unionism, peace and socialism



Review in *Co-op News* by Andrew Bibby:

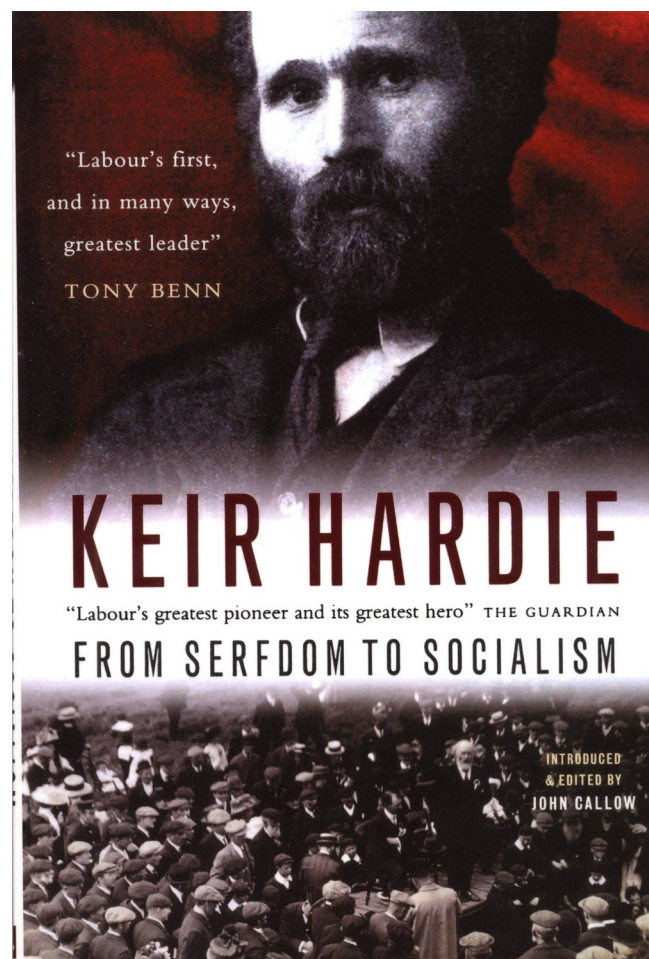
<https://www.thenews.coop/148214/topic/history/a-pioneer-for-women-in-the-co-op-movement>

J. B. Priestley and the Common Wealth Party

In 1941, a new party was set up in Britain, The Common Wealth Party. It was supported by J. B. Priestley for a short while. Priestley wrote a book in that year outlining his ideas for a socialist society. The title of the book is ***Out of the People*** and a copy has been added to the Principle 5 library.

Priestley saw true democracy as devolution of power, not centralisation. It required local action. He saw the trades unions, the co-operative movement, cultural, professional and charitable organisations as the sinews of democracy. He was opposed to state socialism. (Text adapted from *J. B. Priestley* by Judith Cook).

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back cover below

**KEIR HARDIE WAS UNPRECEDENTED AS A
WORKING-CLASS LEADER IN THIS COUNTRY.**

He was the founder of the Labour Party; a pioneer trade unionist; a campaigner for women's rights; and the first working man to be elected to Parliament.

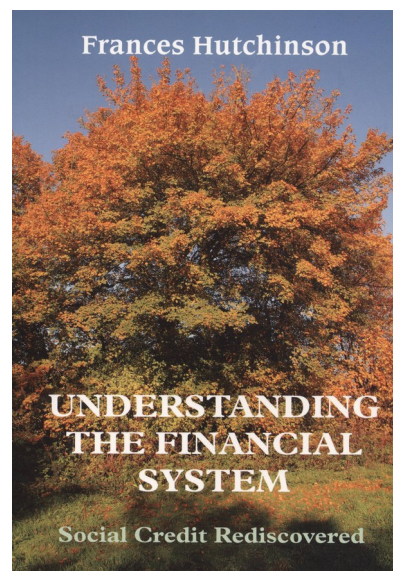
From Serfdom to Socialism stands both as the founding document of the Labour Party and as the fullest exposition of Hardie's political thought. Unlike the majority of his works, it deals with core ideas and fundamental principles; and it was a seminal text for the first generation of Labour Party activists. The book draws together into a coherent and explicitly Socialist whole Hardie's – often disparate – ideas on history, religion, women's rights, and local and national government.

The book has been republished to mark the centenary of Hardie's death, and to make once more available a text that can be seen as his political testament. In signalling the arrival of the Labour Party on the national stage, and defining all that it stood for, this book was to change the political landscape of Britain forever.

As James Maxton put it, Keir Hardie was the epitome of Socialism, 'the British expression of a world-wide movement': 'France had her Jaures, Germany her Bebel and Liebknecht, Austria her Victor Adler, Russia her Lenin. Britain produced, and continues to produce, men to carry on the struggle of the poor, but no one who more personifies the spirit of that struggle than the miner from the coalfields of Lanarkshire'.

Understanding the Financial System: Social Credit Rediscovered

This book aims to re-introduce the ideas of the once-popular Social Credit movement, a radical departure from 'neoliberal' economics.



VERY FEW PEOPLE can say with any certainty what money is, exactly how the financial system operates, or why finance dominates policy formation throughout the social order. This has not always been the case. During the inter-war years of the 1920s and 1930s countless ordinary men and women conducted an informed debate on the flawed economic thinking which led simultaneously to war, waste and poverty on an unprecedented scale. The worldwide Social Credit movement of this period gave rise to a practical political venture in the Canadian province of Alberta.

In this meticulously researched book, the reasons for the systematic misrepresentation of the Alberta Experiment (1935-1948) in mainstream literature, the press and media are revealed for the first time.

Clifford Hugh Douglas' institutional analysis of the role of banking and finance in the social order continues to provide the missing link necessary for the comprehensive development of economic thought beyond the rational choice theories of neoclassical economics. In order to make some sense of the political economy of the early twenty-first century it is necessary to understand how economic, political and cultural policies have come to be determined primarily by finance.

Drawing upon the writings of key twentieth-century social thinkers, including Clifford Hugh Douglas, Rudolf Steiner and Thorstein Veblen, Frances Hutchinson moves beyond negative critiques of global corporatism to suggest a transformation in our understanding of the relationship between finance and the three spheres of society: the cultural, the political and the economic.

New Writing

A Manifesto for Decent Work

This is a new 23-page document produced after much useful research work by *Union-Coops:UK*. This group of UK trade unionists, co-operators, educators and academics seek to encourage collaboration between the union and co-operative movements.

- What does the future of work look like?
- Will disruptive technologies and automation create a race to the bottom for workers' rights?
- Must accept the gig economy and precarity?
- Can we achieve democracy and fairness in the workplace and fight in-work poverty without the broader labour and union movement?

Union-Coops:UK is also running a conference in May 2022, details below (page 9).

You can read **A Manifesto for Decent Work** at:

<https://unioncoopsuk.files.wordpress.com/2020/07/a-manifesto-for-decent-work-fw4.pdf>

union-coops:uk

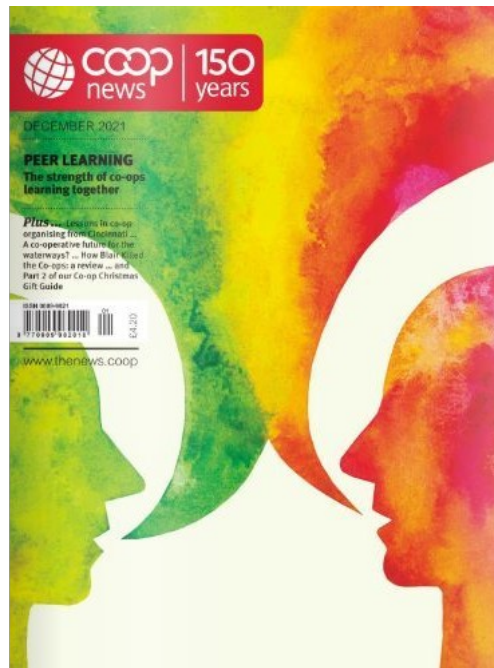
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The Diversity Forum: Manifesto 2.0

The Diversity Forum addresses 'social investors' in its new Manifesto (<https://www.diversityforum.org.uk/manifesto>). It calls for the sort of real commitment to diversity, inclusion and accountability to communities and social groups, in boardrooms and executive teams, which the Co-operative Principles seek to cover.

<https://www.pioneerspost.com/news-views/20220201/less-talk-more-action-social-investors-must-act-now-on-diversity>

Recommended articles in the current edition of Co-operative News



Editorial – ***Principles 5 & 6***

Co-op College campaign to put education into climate action (Page 9)

Driving the green transition: Co-op Banks in Europe (Page 25)

Co-op Sector responds to COP 26 agreement (Page 27)

You can read the full December 2021 edition here:

<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/66017796/co-op-news-december-2021>

Become a member of Co-operative Press and receive your monthly edition of Co-operative News:

<https://www.thenews.coop/be-a-member/>

Portland Works on air

Following release of the 2021 film “Saving Portland Works” produced by Andy Kershaw, Portland Works chair, Dr Chris Corker was interviewed recently on BBC Radio Sheffield. In a ten-minute chat with presenter Paulette Edwards (link below) Chris discussed the film and the role that Portland Works played in Sheffield’s industrial history, and its new life as a co-operatively run working building.

<https://www.portlandworks.co.uk/bbc-radio-interview-with-portland-works-chair-now-available/>



Events & Vacancies

Fairtrade Fortnight

This year, the big annual event of the Fairtrade movement runs from 21st February through to 6th March 2022.

Principle 5, like many co-operatives, supports this (and sells certain Fairtrade products such as coffee).



See more information here:

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/Get-Involved/Current-campaigns/Fairtrade-Fortnight/>

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“Decent Work & Democracy: a Conference on Union Co-ops”

Union-Coops:UK is bringing together expert speakers on discussions such as: How can workers get control over our daily working lives? Is the union co-op a model whose time has come? The conference (sponsored by BFAWU, MU, and *Co-operative Ways Forward*) is on **20th/21st May 2022 at Wortley Hall, near **Sheffield****, “the worker’s stately home”. This venue (built in 1586, with 26 acres of parkland) is now a co-op.

This event has been rescheduled from 2021 due to Covid-19. Bookings are open now. Tickets:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/decent-work-our-first-conference-is-rescheduled-to-may-20th21st-2022-tickets-149918110103>

Essential Economics for “Levelling Up”

Sterling Works, 88 Arundel Street, S1 2NG

February 19th, 2021, 10.30 to 13.00 am

A conversation with Dr John Carlisle – international advocate on the dangers of competition and the economic benefits of collaboration at work and in communities. The subject is the vital need for economically informed public debate to get policies that really do level up society.

It is time to renew the great debates of the late 1800's and early 1900's when the Independent Labour Party and the Guild Socialists came into being. These debates were generated largely by the growing awareness of the scandal of worker exploitation by the industrialists and the wilful ignorance of the wealthy.

Yorkshire was the epicentre of these meetings in the North, thanks to Ruskin, and given great exposure by Edward Carpenter in Sheffield when he set up the Sheffield Socialist Society and Alfred Orage in Leeds with his weekly, *New Age*. The Workers Education Authority provided a structure for studying society, as did the Sheffield Educational Settlement set up by Arnold Freeman in 1918. The objective was informed study and debate. The subject was the political economy.

The debates led to an awakening in the working classes that inequality was not the inevitable consequence of economic growth. This debate continues today – however, it is crippled by the lack of a depth of understanding of “economics” on the Left. Edward Carpenter's concern was that his friends and colleagues had not appreciated **‘the immense and growing power of money’**. In other words, wrong economic thinking was destructive.

This is the gravest issue today. We must address it through sound study and debate, and thus equip ourselves to challenge the socio-economic policies that inflict such great human, spiritual and environmental damage in the world today.

JOHN CARLISLE background

Born in Zambia and worked on the mines in the Copperbelt before emigrating to the UK.

Collaboration in business

He is a recognised authority in the field of supply chain collaboration, whose work has been written up in *the Financial Times*, the *International Management* journal, and referenced in the *Harvard Business Review*.

Collaborative Project strategies

His company, JCP, was the largest provider of “Cooperation and Beyond” partnering workshops in Europe in the 1990's. By 1997 the consultants were delivering 200 workshops a year across Europe, helping to reduce the cost of project construction by £500 million p.a.

Public Sector

John Carlisle designed and ran the Win/Win negotiation training for blue chip companies across the world and for the senior Civil Servants at the UK Top Management Programme at Sunningdale 1989-1992.

The UK Government Construction strategy: John Carlisle was a working member of HMG Cabinet Office Government Construction Strategy (2011-2014)

Academic

In 2001/2002 John Carlisle was Chair of the Johnson and Johnson Leadership Development Institute at Rhodes University, South Africa, and later was visiting Professor at the Sheffield Business School for eight years. In 2004 he was awarded his D.Univ from the Sheffield Business School for his international work on collaborative supply chains.

The Third Sector

John Carlisle and his wife set up an HIV/Aids refuge (*Intlitzyo*) on their farm in one of the poorest regions of South Africa where people with HIV were treated as outcasts. It was runner-up in the Mail & Guardian National *Investing in Life* award 2005.

You can book for the above event at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/essential-economics-for-levelling-up-tickets-255846221937>

Beanies co-operative seeks new member

Beanies, the long-established Sheffield wholefoods co-op, needs a new Probationary Co-operative Member, working on fresh produce and deliveries. The position would normally lead on to co-op membership.

Probationary period of 6 months, 32 to 40 hours p/w at £10.50 p/h after which membership of the co-op will be offered if appropriate. Members are paid £11.50 p/h.

This is described as a hugely rewarding job which provides meaningful connection to the community of growers, suppliers and customers. They are seeking someone who cares deeply about food and food production, with a full clean driving licence, professional attitude and a long-term commitment to the business.

The deadline for applications is Tuesday 15th February.

<https://www.beanieswholefoods.co.uk/2022/01/beanies-is-hiring>

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Rural co-operative seeks six members

Wild Peak Housing Co-op is a rural housing co-op near Belper, in the Derwent Valley in Derbyshire. It was set up to house people working or volunteering for environmental change while working and living co-operatively as a positive and resilient choice. They manage land for conservation along with food growing, and host events in the summer.

Wild Peak is currently looking for six new members. If you are interested to know more, send them a message:

friendsofwildpeak@gmail.com

<https://diggersanddreamers.org.uk/community/wild-peak-housing-co-op/>

Other Publications available at the Resource Centre:

[Stir To Action magazine](#)

[Tribune](#)

[Journal of Co-operative Studies](#)

Recommended:

[Independent Labour Publications \(ILP\)](#)

For information about the Co-operative Movement in Sheffield:

[Sheffield Co-ops website](#)

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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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