

# Principle FIVE

# P5

September 2022

## Consumer Co-operation: The Future

### Cost of Living Crisis: Why We Need a New Wave of Co-operatives

Can consumer or multi-stakeholder co-operation come to the rescue of communities in poverty?

“..communities need more mutual local institutions they can have a stake in. And these need to be part of the wider movement for hope and change....”

This article written by Chris Olewicz has been published by the [ILP](#) and well worth consideration.

<https://www.independentlabour.org.uk/2022/08/26/cost-of-living-crisis-why-we-need-a-new-wave-of-co-operatives/>

## Consumer Co-operation: The Past



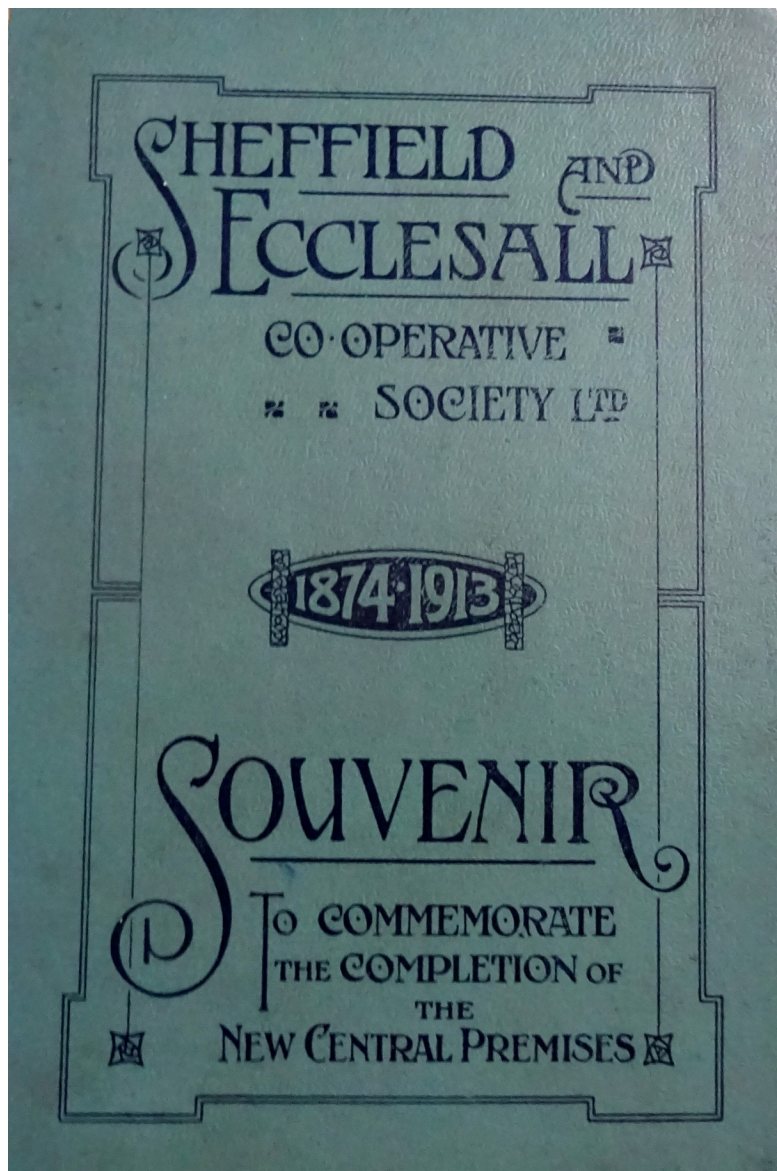
Sheffield & Ecclesall Co-operative Society  
Central Stores  
known as The Arcade and later as Sunwin House



The Central Stores had a magnificent interior. This photograph (left) formed the frontispiece of the S&E Souvenir 1874 - 1913 which celebrated the opening of the New Central Stores.

There is a copy of this book in the Principle 5 archive.





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### **Brightside & Carbrook Co-operative Society (Sheffield Co-operative Society from 1985)**

We have a booklet in the Principle 5 archive called 'Castle House'. It has some good pictures, diagrams and information on the story of Sheffield Co-op. It was published as part of Sheffield's Festival of the Mind in collaboration with the University of Sheffield.

It includes a quotation from the June 1964 edition of 'Sheffield Forward':

“The Co-operative movement has over the years been the main bulwark against the monopolistic tendencies inherent in capitalist society which seeks to profit from another’s labour. Its practical policies to provide people with goods and services without exploitation at fair prices and of a uniform high quality, have curtailed profiteers in peace and war.

It forms with the Labour Party and the Trades Union Congress the trinity of the National Council of Labour pledged to advance and support the interests of those who toil by hand and brain to rid Britain and the world of exploitation of one by another and to seek by common ownership the fruits of their labour.”

You can read more about Castle House [HERE](#)

## **The B&C City Stores**

After purchasing the site of Sheffield Castle B&C Co-op opened their city department store in 1929. It only lasted 11 years before being destroyed by enemy action in December 1940.



ABOVE: THE ORIGINAL EXCHANGE STREET SHOP, POST 1936.

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The City Stores souvenir book is kept in the Principle 5 archive.



After the war, a temporary 'Castle House' was opened on Angel Street in 1962. Picture below:





Sadly, the permanent 'Castle House' opened in 1964 was sold to a property developer in 2008, but it still has the Sheffield Co-operative Society signage. The building is English Heritage listed grade II.





### Castle House spiral staircase

To read more about consumer co-operation in Sheffield,  
click on the link below:

<https://sheffield.coop/wiki/Perspective>

If you are interested in helping to research the consumer  
co-operative movement, its past, present and possibilities  
for the future, please contact;

[steve@sheffield.coop](mailto:steve@sheffield.coop)

**Members are always welcome to visit the resource centre.**

**For appointment contact [steve@sheffield.coop](mailto:steve@sheffield.coop)**

**Tel: 0114 282 3132**

**[www.principle5.coop](http://www.principle5.coop)**

**Principle 5 Yorkshire Co-operative Resource Centre**

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