

Principle FIVE

P5

April 2023



Sheffield & Ecclesall Co-operative Society



The S&E brass plaque, which is now in the Principle 5 Resource Centre

The first Co-operative Society on record in Sheffield was started in 1865 at 127, Devonshire Street and its name was 'The Sheffield Improved Industrial and Provident Society.'

For details about this Society see page 123 of 'Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Society Ltd. 1874 – 1913 Souvenir to Commemorate the Completion of the New Central Premises' This book is in the reference section of the Principle 5 Resource Centre, and there is also a copy in the Sheffield Central Library, Local Studies.

The Ecclesall Co-operative Society was established in 1874.

In 1907 these two societies merged to form 'The Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Society' The souvenir book is an excellent resource for the story of Sheffield and Ecclesall up to the opening of new Central Premises in 1913 'The Arcade' later to be called 'Sunwin House.'

FROM THE SHEFFIELD YEAR BOOK OF 1925 Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-op Society Ltd

29 Grocery Branches.

16 Butchering.

6 Boot and Drapery.

8 Branch Boot Repairing Factories.

For information about co-operative culture in Sheffield see:

https://sheffield.coop/wiki/Co-operative_Culture



Sheffield Co-operative Society, Snig Hill.

Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Society
Central Comrades Circle

The youth wing of the S&E Co-operative Society, known as the Circlites published a monthly journal, 'The Circle Review'. There were 22 editions in all, number one was Friday 6th June 1924 and the last came out on Friday 5th March 1926. All 22 editions have been bound in one volume which is kept at the National Co-operative Archive.

Like co-operators everywhere they were focussed on working towards the co-operative commonwealth and world socialism. They were very much in tune with the Sheffield Branch of the ILP Guild of Youth who were always given space in the The Circle Review. The Circlites were represented on the S&E Co-op Society Education Committee. Education was always considered central to the purposes of the co-operative movement.

Co-operation if it is to mean anything is a way of life with all the relationships, work, trade, culture, education, play, physical activity, sport, and all the social activities that go together to make community.

Of course, in all groups of people there will sometimes be disagreements and upset.

The link below takes you to a document of 23 pages from the collected volume of the Circle Review.

With thanks to the National Co-operative Archive, Holyoake House.

<https://www.principle5.coop/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Central-Comrades-Circle.pdf>

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Co-op study discussion papers

[Introduction to Pamphlet 3](#)

[Charity v. Socialism](#)

[Charity v. Co-operation](#)

Festival of debate

12th April - 26th May 2023

<https://festivalofdebate.com/>



The Co-operative Party

The Sheffield Co-operator was published every month from May 1922 to July 1939 by the Sheffield Co-operative Party.

With a guaranteed circulation of 30,000 copies, it reported on issues which were of interest to people in Sheffield and refuted the negative reporting from the mainstream press towards co-operatives at that time.

The complete collection of 170 editions and 13 Bulletins were bound in volumes and donated to Sheffield Libraries (Local Studies) by the Sheffield Co-operative Party.

Largely the work of one man — Albert Ballard, the Secretary of the Sheffield Co-operative Party — the Sheffield Co-operator survives as a unique example of a locally produced co-operative newspaper.

Principle 5 director, Chris Olewicz, has written all about the Sheffield Co-operator in an article for the UK Society for Co-operative Studies. This is recommended reading for anyone who is interested in co-operation during the inter-war years. It can be downloaded [**HERE**](#)

If you would like to study this period in co-operative history, please contact: steve@sheffield.coop for online source material.

workers.coop

workers.coop unites co-ops as a movement and collaborates to reach training, political and commercial goals, and spread the word about cooperation among new generations and groups of workers.

By taking part in this growing network of cooperators from different places and industries, you will be able to:

- Act together with workers from our four home countries, Europe and the global movement
- Identify new trading and development opportunities
- Co-create learning, development and support programmes
- Share resources and insights
- Connect with new audiences and sectors through youth and worker awareness activities

If you are a worker-led cooperative, you can [join as an enterprise member](#).

You can read more **[HERE](#)**

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To check out the co-operative scene in Sheffield see: https://sheffield.coop/wiki/Main_Page

If you would like to suggest any additions, deletions or amendments, contact: steve@sheffield.coop

Members are always welcome to visit the resource centre.

For appointment contact steve@sheffield.coop

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Principle 5 Yorkshire Co-operative Resource Centre

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