



Nottinghamshire Local History Association

NLHA celebrates its 60th anniversary this year with more than 80 Nottinghamshire history societies on its register. The Association publishes *Nottinghamshire Historian* twice a year, publishes a diary of local societies' events-more than thirty in July and August alone, and will be holding a Day School in the autumn.

<http://www.nlha.org.uk>



Nottingham Secular Society

This society has regular meetings in Nottingham with guest speakers. On Monday 28th October, Terry Sanderson, President of the National Secular Society will debate with David Hilborn, Principal of University of Nottingham's Theological College on "This House Believes that all Religions Should Embrace Secularism."

<http://www.nottinghamsecularsociety.org.uk>

Nottingham Women's History Group

The group's next event is *Poverty, Prosperity and Politics A summer walk through the city*. Thursday 18th July at 7 pm.

Their popular women's history walk from the Castle, through to the Market Square. Meet at Nottingham Castle Gatehouse. Charge: £2 donation.

<http://www.nottinghamwomenshistory.org.uk>



The Histreh group are a bunch of people with different political backgrounds, interested in what has been called 'history from below', 'grassroots history' or 'social history'. As Nottingham and Nottinghamshire have such a long and turbulent history of socioeconomic transformation, disturbance and conflict, there is a lot to be unearthed. In fact, the most amazing, inspiring, shocking and outrageous stories leap out wherever the surface is scratched.

<http://www.peopleshistreh.wordpress.com>

Events arranged for Co-operatives Fortnight (22nd June to 6th July 2013 or thereabouts):

Exhibitions (free):

Nottinghamshire Archives, Castle Meadow Road,
Nottingham Local Studies Library, Angel Row.

Book Launch (free):

A City of Light: Socialism, Chartism and Co-operation – Nottingham 1844 (with People's Histreh – Nottingham Radical History Group).

Saturday 22nd June, 2-4pm at the Sparrows Nest, St. Anns.

Historic Walk (free):

Secular Origins of Co-operation (with Nottingham Secular Society and Nottingham Women's History Group). Estimated duration 2 hours.

Sunday 23rd June, meet at 2pm outside Boots, Upper Parliament Street.

Book Signing:

A City of Light... at the Ex-Libris stall.

Saturday 29th June, Lowdham Book Festival, Lowdham Village.

Film and Discussion:

European Confederation of Worker Co-operatives' film *Together* (with a talk by Andy Woodcock and discussion).

Saturday 6th July, 11am-1pm at Broadway cinema, Broad Street. Followed by Atmosphere Glee Choir on the Broadway terrace 1-2pm. Film Tickets £3 from Broadway Box Office.

Book and *Together* information stall:

At the Co-operative store re-opening, Lowdham. See in store for details. Thursday 4th July.

Author Talk (free):

A City of Light... by Christopher Richardson.

Saturday 13th July, 2-3pm, Local Studies Library, Angel Row.

All events wheelchair accessible. For directions to the Sparrows' Nest, please email us.

For further information, updates, links, etc. please see:

acityoflight.wordpress.com

acityoflight@phonecoop.coop

150 THE LENTON CO-OP SESQUICENTENNIAL

Celebrating 150 Years of Co-operation in Nottingham

The first co-operative society in Nottingham set up on the principles of the Rochdale Pioneers was the Lenton Industrial & Provident Society. The first shop opened in Old Lenton on the 30th May 1863. The building was demolished in April 2013 to make way for the new tram line.

Within a year the Society was building its own bakery, attracting new members and opening branch stores. Within five years there stores in New Lenton, Radford, London Road, Bath Street, Beeston, and Arnold.



There had been many earlier co-operative societies in Nottinghamshire, going back to 1827. Of all those co-operatives, the little society established in Lenton in 1863 is the sole survivor, as part of the Co-operative Group, one of the world's largest consumer co-operatives.

A City of Light

Socialism, Chartism and Co-operation – Nottingham 1844

A book by Christopher Richardson

In the dark days of the 1840s when Britain was hit by industrial stagnation, financial markets collapsed, and in Ireland famine stalked the land, working class pioneers sought new lives and futures, a new society of their own choosing – 'a city of light upon a hill'. They were not alone.

From the claustrophobic yards of the parish of St Mary and the gloomy streets of Narrow Marsh they came, courageous women and men seeking enlightenment from libraries that were theirs, from books and newspapers of their own choice, asserting the right to freedom of association. As chartists, socialists, co-operators, they challenged the inhumanities of the Poor Law; contested charges of sedition, blasphemy and riot; confronted the forces of established religion; and championed new forms of democratic control. Their struggles became beacons of hope.

These are stories from Nottingham in 1844, many of them previously untold, and their deeds resonate across the generations to this day.

Published by



£ 7.99*

Nottingham 2013

*Paperback (244 pages)

ISBN 978-0-9569139-4-4

Also available as eBook.

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Book Launch: Sat 22nd June, 2-4pm, the Sparrows Nest.

Book Signing: Sat 29th June, Lowdham Book Festival.

Author Talk (free): Sat 13th July, 2-3pm, Local Studies Library.

Secular Origins of Co-operation

Historic Walk

With Nottingham Secular Society and Nottingham Women's History Group. Estimated duration 2 hours.

FREE Event. Sunday 23rd June.

Meet at 2pm outside Boots, Upper Parliament Street.

The Co-op in Lenton in 1863 came from non-conformism and temperance, both of which were important influences on Co-operation, but the Co-operative Movement traces its history from the socialism and secularism of Robert Owen several decades earlier. This Walk will visit sites of some notable events and people, including several courageous women. Many have been hidden from our history for nearly two centuries.

The Walk start at Boots, Upper Parliament Street.

1. The site of the Tradesmen's Mart where Nottingham lace mender and embroiderer, Susannah Wright, opened her freethought bookstall in 1826.
 2. The home of James Sweet, prominent in the Chartist campaigns for universal suffrage, and a founder of several local co-operatives.
 3. The People's Hall, the outcome of a struggle for an 'Operatives Hall'.
 4. Susannah Wright's bookshop in Goosegate, under siege for 4 weeks in 1826.
 5. The Democratic Chapel, meeting place of the Chartists from 1839 to 1845, home of the secular Sunday school for children and day school for adults.
 6. The Theatre, where Robert Owen and 'Social Missionaries' Margaret Chappellsmith and Henry Knight spoke and debated.
 7. St Mary's Church, scene of protests against compulsory church rates, and the place where Revs. Wilkins and Brooks plotted against 'infidel' socialists.
 8. The County Gaol, where William Saville was publicly executed for murder in 1844.
 9. Garners Hill, where 17 people fell and were trampled to death after Saville's execution.
 10. The Assembly Rooms, where Emma Martin was evicted by Rev. Joshua Brooks.
 11. Greyfriargate, the Lenton & Nottingham Co-operative Society premises where Secular Society meetings were held and Charles Bradlaugh spoke.
- The walk finishes at Greyfriargate, outside Boots.

Together

How Co-operatives Show Resilience to the Crisis

Documentary film produced by CECOP-CICOPA Europe in the framework of the UN-proclaimed International Year of Cooperatives.

Saturday 6th July.

11am-1pm, Broadway cinema, Nottingham.

Film Tickets £3 from Broadway Box Office.

Worker co-ops in Europe have mostly survived the financial crisis, and in many cases prospered, as a consequence of being co-operatives and employing different principles and practices in their activities. This film takes four examples: the Muszynianka mineral water plant in Poland; a bankrupt company in France taken over by its workers; a consortium of co-operatives providing personal and social care in Italy; and Mondragon, the group of co-operative businesses in the Basque country. One and a half million people in Europe co-own their workplaces through their membership of worker co-ops. In Britain the number of worker co-ops is small but growing, and the pace of growth has increased steadily in recent years.

Introducing the film and facilitating discussion after the film will be Andy Woodcock, from Co-operative Business Consultants, which has provided professional support to several local worker co-ops. He and other co-operative advisers will be on hand at this event to talk to anyone who is interested in being part of a worker co-op, through a buy-out of their existing employer, by working in an established co-operative, or by forming a new one.

This event is sponsored by the Co-operative Party to mark International Co-operative Day.

After the film and discussion, there will be a performance on the Broadway terrace by the Atmosphere Glee Choir, a mixed ability choir from Beeston which is in the process of becoming a co-operative.