

Working Together: recording and preserving the heritage of the workers' co-operative movement

Ref no:

Name: Andrew Bibby

Worker Co-ops involved in: Oakleaf Bookshop (Milton Keynes), Leicester and County Co-operative Development Agency, Federation of Alternative Booksellers (FAB – later became the Federation of Radical Booksellers FRB)

Date of recording: 25/01/2018

Location of interview: National Co-operative Archive

Name of interviewer: Philippa Lewis

Number of tracks: 2

Recording Format: Wav 16bit 48 khz

Recording equipment: Zoom H2 Handy Recorder

Total Duration: 00:32:56

Track 1: 00:25:43

Track 2:00:07:13

Additional Material: Oakleaf books material deposited at the National Co-operative Archive.

Reference

GB 1499 OLB

Copyright/clearance: Assigned to the National Co-operative Archive

Transcript compiled by: Philippa Lewis

Number of transcript pages: 17

Interviewer's comments:

Summary:

Track 1

[00:00:02] Andrew Bibby briefly outlines his involvement in the worker co-operative movement [Oakleaf – a radical bookshop in Milton Keynes; Leicester and County Co-operative Development Agency]. [00:00:40] Outlines how Oakleaf was set up and it's early days. [00:04:47] Briefly outlines Oakleaf's closure. [00:05:25] Discusses the structures of Oakleaf and Leicester and County Co-operative Development Agency. [00:06:56] Talks about decision making within Oakleaf. [00:10:58] Discusses ICOM and CDA's in relation to the worker co-operative scene in the early 1980s. [00:12:02] Talks about links between Oakleaf and the Open University, and the Federation of Alternative Booksellers (FAB) which later become the Federation of Radical Booksellers (FRB). [00:13:23] Talks about involvement of Oakleaf with wider political activities include trade unions and the European Nuclear Disarmament. [00:14:44] Outlines how became involved with Leicester and County Co-operative Development Agency. [00:16:52] Outlines work conducted at Leicester CDA. [00:18:22] Discusses work as a journalist following leaving Leicester CDA. [00:22:36] Talks briefly about the wider background to the UK worker co-operative movement 1970s. [00:24:43] Talks about supporting other radical bookshops through Oakleaf.

Track 2

[00:00:00] Andrew describes some of the photographs brought along. Discusses renting out rooms upstairs in the shop and how the original funds for the shop were raised but community loan. Talks about fascists in relation to radical booshops at the time. Discusses what books were stocked and how decisiosn were made on stocking books. Talks about the shops clients. Discusses the opening of a second bookshop in central Milton Keynes.