

# Annual Report of the Central England (Northern Region) Society Party Council for the year ended 31 December 2019

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## Officers

Chair:	Mark Grayling
Vice Chair:	Peter Dean
Secretary:	David Brede
Treasurer:	Tricia Goodwin

## Council Members

Marlene Bennett	Derek Clarke
Celia Cox	John Fuller
Anne MacDonald	Ollie Pardo

Elaine Dean and Tanya Noon – representing Central England Co-operative Board of Directors

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The Northern Region has four active branches which meet on a regular basis, working to promote the Society's co-operative values and principles.

Local members include Derby South MP Margaret Beckett and Hardya Dhindsa.

In 2019 we had 40,000 registered supporters. There are 815 Labour and Co-op councillors across Britain and 41% of Co-op Councillors are women. We are very proud of the campaigns to support food justice and the modern day slavery campaign.

### Derby Central Branch

One of the most pleasing things over the last year or so has been a few younger members joining the branch. One of these younger members who joined a couple of years ago, Joanna West has become Chair and has replaced Anne MacDonald who has stepped down after numerous years serving the branch. We all wish her well.

We presented a submission to the Co-op Party Conference on Climate Change, Energy and Environment which was written by one of our members, Alison Martin, which was well received by Conference. We also agreed to send a motion to the Prime Minister asking him to apologise about his comments about Jo Cox and his comments he made to female Labour MPs. We received an acceptance of our motion but nothing else.

### Chesterfield, Bolsover and NE Derbyshire Branch

The branch stands at 50 for the year. Long standing member David Hill passed away

in February after a lengthy illness. He was instrumental in building links with Drone Valley Brewery which produced the Co-op Centenary Ale for the Party's celebrations in 2017.

The Branch submitted policy contributions to Conference on Community Place and Power: The UK constitutional settlement is broken and unbalanced, it should be replaced by a written constitution which establishes devolved responsibilities and powers to unitary local authorities supported by national regional assemblies. Community development must be enshrined above all else, as the basis for all local government.

Climate Change, Energy and Environment: energy policy should focus on the transition to renewables with delivery based on models of co-operative ownership. Building regulations should require new building to meet zero carbon emissions and a comprehensive programme established to retrofit existing real estate. Key to reducing carbon emissions is affordable, reliable, publicly or co-operatively owned public transport that meets the needs of both rural and urban communities.

We have links with other not for profit groups Chesterfield FC Community Trust, Spiral Arts Group, Stainsby Festival and Drone Valley Brewery. The branch owns a share of Four Winds Energy which operates a wind turbine at Duckmanton. We supported Chesterfield TUC May Day, we also backed the campaign to save Parker/Unwin (St Andrews) Church at Barrow Hill which is being closed down by the Church of England.

## Annual Report of the Central England (Eastern & Southern Region) Society Party Council for the year ended 31 December 2019 *cont.*

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### **NEMCO (Amber Valley and Derbyshire Dales) Branch**

Mike Smith was elected as Chair and Samantha Hart as Vice Chair at the AGM. Celia Cox as Secretary and Chris Emmas- Williams as Treasurer.

Bi-monthly meetings have been held with reports being received and a range of topics being discussed. Policy discussions on climate change, energy and environment were held and submissions made to the national party conference.

An event was held at Ripley Superstore during Fairtrade Fortnight and the Branch again supported the Ripley Music Festival and awarded a financial prize. Members also welcomed John Boyle - Party Support Officer, to a meeting where he spoke about his role in the Party.

Several new members have joined and been welcomed at the meetings.

### **High Peak Branch**

High Peak Borough Council like many other councils has declared a Climate Change Emergency and the branch sent a delegate to the conference to help formulate the Council's policy.

Anne Clarke the Vice Chair is in the process of setting up a Fair Trade Stall at the New Mills Co-op shop for Fair Trade Fortnight. This was very successful last year with a lot of products being sold at the shop. The Branch, like all branches, has been very supportive of Labour / Co-op Party candidates in the General Election.

We have sent delegates to the Co-op Party Annual Conference in Glasgow and also to the Midlands Regional Conference in Coventry.

Derek has put himself forward for the Party's Disciplinary Committee as he has some experience of the role, being on the regional committee on the North West of the NEU and dealt with a number of issues.

On behalf of the Society Party Council and all our branches we would like to say we greatly appreciate the continued support we receive, from Central England Co-operative Board and Officers.

**Mark Grayling** - Chair

**Tricia Goodwin** - Secretary

# Society Party Council Central England (Northern Region)

## Income & Expenditure Account

Year ended 31 December 2019

	2019		2018	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>				
Society Grant		7,500		7,400
Membership subscriptions		680		141
Interest Received		-		1
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>8,180</b>		<b>7,542</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
<b>Operations</b>				
Conferences and Meetings	2,941		1,384	
Election Grants	3,638		-	
Affiliation fees	350		100	
Grants to Party Branches	6,100		6,100	
	13,029		7,584	
<b>Establishment</b>				
Bank Charges	63		58	
Honorarium	138		136	
	201		194	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>13,230</b>		<b>7,778</b>
<b>Excess / (Deficit) of income over expenditure</b>		<b>(5,050)</b>		<b>(236)</b>
<b>Balance Sheet</b>				
as at 31 December 2019				
<b>Assets</b>				
Co-op Bank plc Deposit Account		17,366		22,416
Co-op Bank plc Current Account		-		-
		17,366		22,416
<b>Funded by</b>				
General Fund				
Balance brought forward		22,416		22,652
Excess / (Deficit) of Income over expenditure		(5,050)		(236)
		17,366		22,416