

This trail will take you to the Heywood Industrial Co-operative Society buildings and sites which are part of the story of the development of the town centre. The 471 bus route serves Rochdale, Heywood, Bury and Bolton. Tram or train services link Manchester to Rochdale and Bury. The trail starts near Market Place and will take about 45 minutes to 1 hour to reach number 9. The walk may end here or to continue to number 10 it will take a further 15 mins each way. Each step is detailed below.

1 Boot and shoe store, 6 Hind Hill Street

The building now Cope Funeral Services was a Co-operative Boot and Shoe department store. Later it became Heywood Co-operative Funeral Services. A stone plaque can be seen near the entrance.



Boot and shoe store, 6 Hind Hill Street

2 Gentleman's Department store, Market Place

Opposite St Luke's Church and next to the Nat West Bank was a Co-operative Gentleman's Department Store. In the 1980's there was a Co-operative Electrical shop near the Freemasons Arms.



Heywood Market Place, 'Heywood Co-operative Centenary', 1850-1950

Fold here

3 Headquarters and Boardroom, 6 Bethel Street

This impressive building with a datestone of 1879 was once the Headquarters and Boardroom of the Heywood Industrial Co-operative Society. This street has been renamed. It was formerly Wilton Street where Charles Howarth lived. His home is said to have been near 'where the members drew their divi'.



6 Bethel Street

4 Co-op Drapery Department Store, 13 Market Street

Now the Jack Fulton Freezer Store, this building was The Co-op Drapery Department 'once the centre of fashion'. The distinctive rounded corner windows remain but sadly the clock has long gone. Old photographs show the Picturedome later named the Roxy cinema next door to the Drapery then 'The Co-op Citadel'. These premises provided a news room, library, hairdressers and barbers, a butchers - the Co-op had its own slaughterhouse - grocers and greengrocers. In later years a Furnishings Department, a Pharmacy and Sweets and Tobacconists were added. Thus the Heywood Co-op had a prime position on one of the main thoroughfares through the town centre. Laundry, Dairy and Coal Delivery services were operated by the Heywood Co-op for their members.



Manchester National Co-operative Archive

5 The Reform Club, 18-20 Market Street

The Reform Club, built in 1850, was the Headquarters of the local Liberal Party. It is now a hardware store. It served as a Mechanics Institute for a time and had a library, reading room, billiard room and committee rooms. The large public hall could hold 1,000 people. Heywood Co-op acquired the building and used it for social events, members meetings and a café. A canteen on the premises provided lunches for mill workers.



Market Street, 'Bygone Heywood', Local Studies

Walk along Market Street then turn left at St James Street. Turn right onto Wilton Street and you can see the Avon Flats and the blue plaque.

6 Charles Howarth blue plaque, Wilton Street

On the side of a wall at the Angel Meadow Flats is a Blue Plaque in commemoration of Charles Haworth. He died in 1868 after a life time of devoted service to the Co-operative Movement. He was involved in the creation of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, of which he became a Director, and also the Co-operative Insurance Company. He is buried in Heywood Cemetery but his legacy lives on, in the many aspects of Co-operation that exist today.

From Wilton Street turn left along an unnamed street and head towards St. James Church, which is on Tower Street. Turn right to reach the corner of Cartridge Street and the Tower Street branch store.



The Trail

Heywood Industrial Co-operative Society was founded in 1850 and its first shop was in Longford Street. The first manager was a William Bell, a leading local Chartist. The Society prospered over the years and by 1950 had 8,000 members, a significant presence in the town centre and 17 branches throughout the districts.

Heywood has a distinctive niche in the annals of Co-operation when it became the home in 1850 of Charles Haworth, the innovator of 'the divi', a founder member of the Rochdale Pioneers in 1844 and its President in 1845. He became auditor and keen supporter of the Heywood Society.

The history of the society can be traced on this trail despite the changing face of the town centre over the years.



Heywood Industrial Co-operative Society Heritage Trail



Fold here

7 Branch store and butchers, 23 Tower Street

Situated amongst rows of terraced houses (many now demolished) and mills, this was no doubt a busy and popular Co-op shop. Despite alterations to the shop front (the building is now flats), you can still see the original features and the adjoining butcher's shop. The upstairs rooms were used for meetings and social events. The building extends round the corner into Cartridge Street.

Retrace your steps to Market Street and head back to the town centre. At the 'Edwin Waugh' pub turn left on to Moss Street.



Tower Street branch store

8 Co-op Education Department, Moss Street

Now a short side street due to redevelopment, it was once linked to the top of Bamford Road. Here were a range of 3 storey buildings built by the Heywood Society in 1861.

They were the premises of the Co-op Education Department, the venue for lectures. The Women's Guild met here. Alongside was the Bamford Road branch store. This later became one of the first self service stores in the area.

9 First Heywood Co-op store, Longford Street

In 1850 the first Co-operative store was situated on Longford Street. Nearby on Bamford Road in a cottage situated just off the highway lived Mary Duerr who was well known locally for the fine home made jams she produced. She was asked to supply preserves for the Heywood Co-op Society, when the Heywood buyer was having difficulty obtaining preserves of a sufficiently high quality. He was upholding one of the principles of the first successful Co-op store, 'The Rochdale Equitable Pioneers' which was 'pure food at reasonable prices not adulterated'. Mary Duerr agreed and at first all the cooking was done in her kitchen in Heywood with her husband trundling the jars of jam in a handcart to the Co-operative in Heywood town centre. Soon the business became so successful they had to move to larger premises in Guide Bridge, North Manchester and later to Old Trafford. The Duerrs Company today is based in Wythenshawe and still family owned.

10 Hooley Bridge Branch store, 266 Bamford Road

Now an empty dilapidated building it once served a thriving industrial community. The Fenton Mills across the road manufactured cotton and there were numerous textile mills all around the Heywood area. The Co-op had its own mill 'The Perseverance', a Spinning and Weaving mill, built in Railway Street in the 1860's. A photograph shows two employees perhaps celebrating a prize in a window display competition. The Co-op prided themselves on attractive window displays and there were national and local competitions.

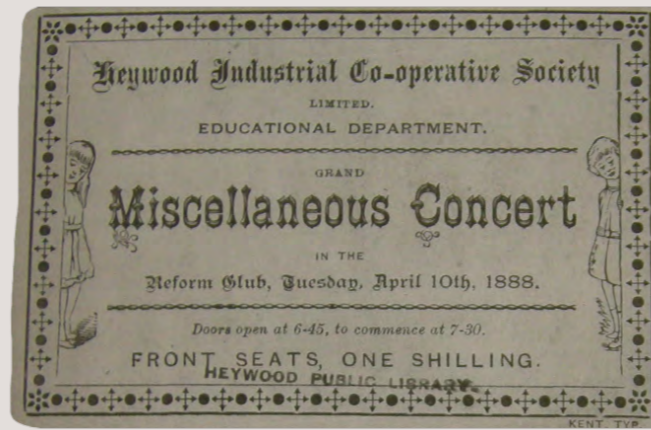


Hooley Bridge Branch Store, 266 Bamford Road

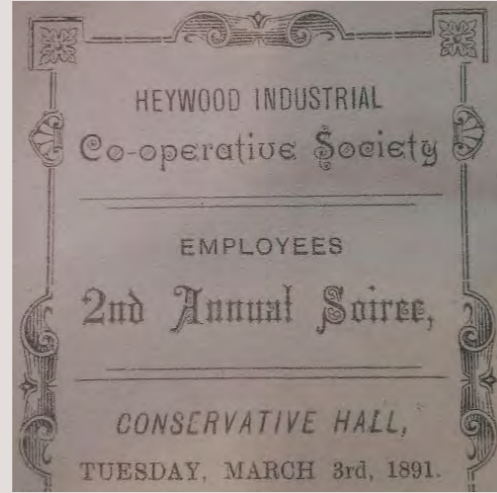
In the 1960's the Co-operative Retail Services had branches but they retained the name Heywood Industrial Co-op Society. Thus the Co-op was part of everyday life right up to the mid 1980's when the last Co-op stores closed in Market Street.

Heywood Industrial Co-operative Society Heritage Trail

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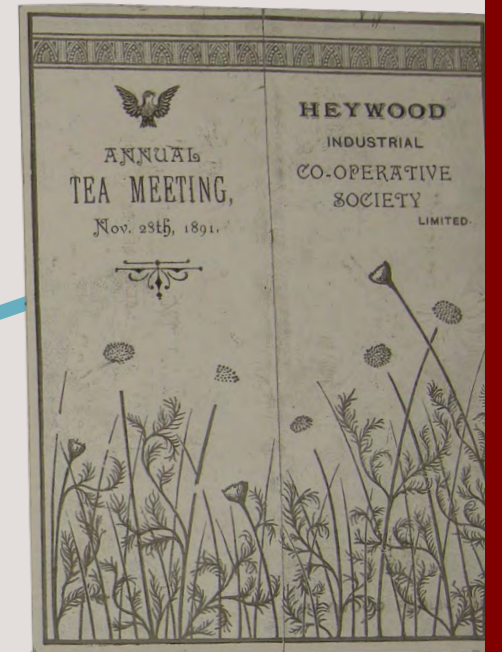
Heywood Local Studies collection



Organisation of the 2dn Annual Soiree



The Egerton Street Branch



Heywood Local Studies collection



This document was created by The Co-operatives History Group (Rochdale), in collaboration with Rochdale Council, Link4Life and Rochdale Pioneers Museum.

- Visit the web page and download the leaflets at: www.rochdalepioneersmuseum.coop/cooperheritagetrails.
- For more information, contact the Visitors Information Centre at Touchstones Rochdale 01706 924928 - vic@link4life.org
- Explore the Five Ways to Wellbeing at: <http://fiveways.rochdale.gov.uk>