

YOUNG CO-OPERATORS NETWORK 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



OUR YOUNG MEC MEMBERS

Following last years Member Engagement Committee (MEC) elections, we are thrilled to have 4 of the 9 elected, as young members! They have spent the last year in and out of meetings to represent the views of young people within our society, well done guys! And a massive congratulations to Conor O'Neil for making it onto the MEC this year, we look forward to having on board with us in the new year!



After attending COP 27 last year, dedicated Young Co-operator Amelia Crews has again shone the light on her passion for climate change; she has been spreading her message on educating young people on the importance of us all being aware of what is going on – and what we can do to help.

Amelia discusses her background of environmental concern, her views on the future of the environment as well as stigma around the word 'activism' on her Community Podcast Session 'Dream big, believe bold'



All About Community

This series is all about community! From hearing stories from colleagues as well as people in wider society about their volunteering and community work, these podcasts are designed to make us re-examine our busy lives to think of ways we can give back to the world, and be part of a rewarding community in the process. Each episode has it's unique angle, this week's is about the environmental and activism.

In this episode we hear from Amelia Crews, the energy innovation co-ordinator here at Midcounties. Amelia discusses her background of environmental concern, her views on the future of the environment and how a perceptions of activism are so important. She also discusses the stigma around the word activism and how people can contribute towards environmental efforts.


Amelia Crews


Conor O'Neil


PODCAST
Series 1


PODCAST

[Click here to listen...](#)


PODCAST

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

We are proud to have spent time with our charity partner Walsall Young Careers this year to give them great insight into life after college with our catered 'University Survival Guide' and Career Workshops, where we took the time to explore:

- How to pick a career you will enjoy
- Career stories from young co-operators
- How to write a CV
- Mock interviews
- Imposter syndrome!



OUR SUSTANABLE SWAP SHOP

A huge thank you to Hannah from the Wild Earth Movement who set up our Young Co-operators Sustainable Swap Shop at our AGM this year; with great insight on how we can be sustainable in the way we shop and even showcasing sustainable methods on washing/ drying our clothes! We look forward to working closer with Hannah in the new year, she has some fantastic ideas on how we can become more sustainable in our day to day lives and we hope to bring her knowledge to life, 'Helping young people be the best they can be!'



OUR YCN AMBASSADORS

We have appointed our first ever YCN Food Ambassadors, Megan Smith from Chipping Norton food store and Romi Turton from Stourbridge Food! They have been engaging with our young customers, keeping an eye on what we can do to get more young people involved in our Society!





NATIONAL YOUTH SUMMIT

Young Co-operator Co-ordinator Ayesha Di'Angelo was appointed onto the Youth Summit Advisory Board alongside other young co-operators from other co-operatives this year! From picking the venue to deciding the speakers she had full reign on making the event as best as possible!

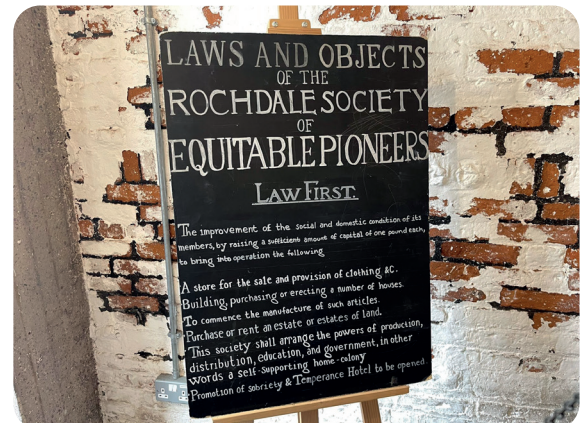


We supported the event by hosting a history stand in conjunction with the Co-operative Heritage Group and by seating young co-operator Amelia Crews on the panel alongside Andy Burnham!

We received some great feedback about the event and over 80 young people were in attendance.

TRIP TO ROCHDALE MUSEUM

Young co-operators attended a trip to The Co-operative Heritage Trust Museum, in Rochdale Town Hall, this was alongside our Co-op History Group, it was great to see a mixture of older and younger co-operators come together to learn about the origins of the co-operative movement! We cannot wait to host this trip again in the new year, it's a fantastic opportunity to educate yourself on the birthplace of the modern co-operative movement – keep a look out for dates and announcements!



GLOBAL INNOVATIONS SUMMIT COMPETITION

This year we launched the first ever 'Global Innovations Competition' where 3 lucky winners (Conor O'Neill, Shannon Williams & Ben Johnson) got the chance to attend the Global summit alongside CEO Phil Ponsonby in Paris!

Exclusively for colleagues under the age of 30, this was not only a chance to travel but also a great opportunity for career development, the colleagues won their place by taking part in a "Dragons Den" style pitch.

The trio spent their time learning about new trends in the fields of social, technological, and managerial innovation! (as well as exploring the great city of Paris and its incredible surroundings) A massive well done to Conor for sitting on the panel on the topic of 'Generational Transition: Attracting and giving their full place to millennials' and delivering his answers both genuinely and passionately!



Shannons experience:
"Overall, I think this was an amazing opportunity and I appreciate everyone that took the time out to put this competition together. I think more opportunities like this should happen and I highly recommend taking part in them if you have the chance. It was insightful to learn more about cooperatives on a global scale and I feel I've been able to learn a lot from this experience, which in turn I will apply to my current role. I look forward to seeing how we all grow into a more inclusive and resilient co-operative world together."

Lastly, my final takeaway from this experience that I would like to add is I now strongly believe I am a wine connoisseur, and I will be ordering Châteauneuf-du-Pape on a regular basis!"

END OF YEAR GIVEAWAY



To celebrate what a fantastic year we have had, we are offering all colleagues and members the chance to WIN a Series 8 Apple – in the colour of your choice!

We are focussing on 'Helping young people be the best they can' in 2023, so to be in the chance of winning just email across how you plan to make more time for yourself and your mental health in the new year!

Email it over to ycn@midcounties.coop

Make sure you include:

- Your Midcounties membership number
(So we can verify you are a member)
- Your Contact number
(So we can let you know if you have won!)

WIN a Series 8 Apple Watch



Terms and conditions apply.
Picture for illustration purposes only.
Not a representation of the actual product.

Deadline for this competition is 20th January 2023



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www.midcounties.coop/our-communities/work-experience/

If you'd like to find out more about the YCN,
please email YCN@midcounties.coop