

0500 The Coop

The original Co-op, together with a coffee shop, was founded in 1887 to attract the men away from the village alehouses. It did not at first issue dividends. This project failed but it was reopened again only to fail again, in 1908, when it be reopened shortly afterwards as a traditional Co-op and in alliance [initially at least] with a shop in Iwerne Minster. It was based in what is now Bartley house and continued trading until at least 1963.



According to the Millennium book this photo was taken before the first world war. According to the owner of the picture it is 1922. Since the adverts in the windows are the same as in the pictures above of the vans [see below] I favour the latter date. In the doorway to the main shop stands an older man, distinguished by a dark waistcoat instead of a jacket and he carries a book of accounts. If this picture does date from 1922 then this could be Arthur Moore [35], the manager, or possibly Thomas Shackleton [27], the bookkeeper. At Mr Moore's [or Shackleton] feet stands a small dog [breed unknown] and they are flanked by a display of large square metal biscuit tins.

Three young men decked out in white jackets and white aprons stand outside the stores. One carries a milk can. Between them is a young boy resting on the arms of a hand card used to make deliveries. The 1921 census reveals that in addition to those mentioned the store also employed Frederick Arnold [14] as an errand boy, Frederick Ballam [26] and Reginald John Davies [16], shop assistants.

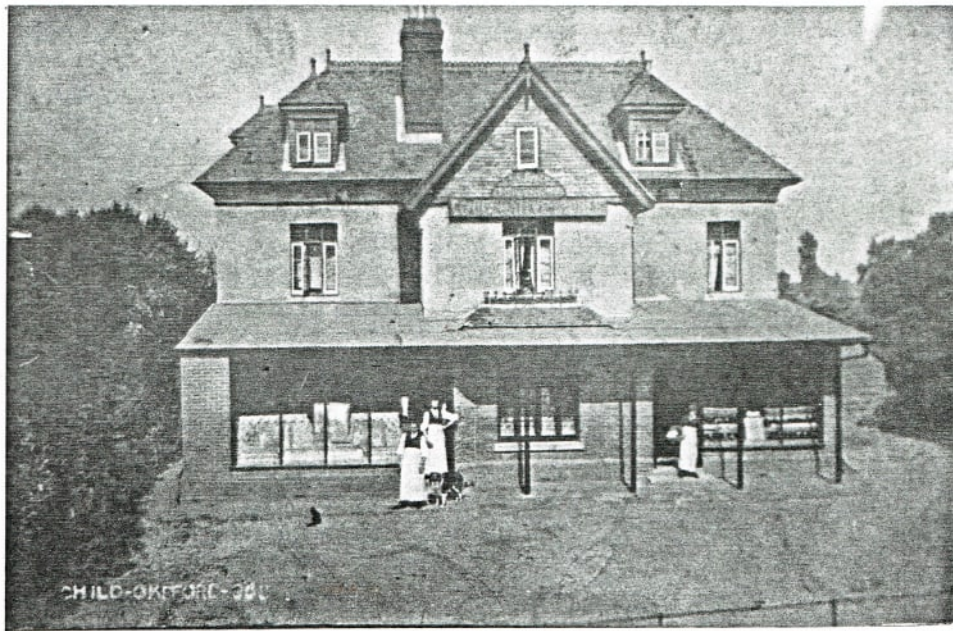
Over the door is a large sign Child Okeford and District Co-operative Society. The shop had two halves and two entrances. The right hand side side has a sign over the door CWS SILVERTON Fluid and Tablets whilst it's window display is mainly of what appears to be 'cookware'. The window sign advertises PELAW BOOT POLISHES. Over the entrance Silvox fluid is advertised once again as is PELAW cake flour. The main display

window advertises Cooperative Wholesale Society's Teas Coffees & Cocoa's as well as PELAW cake flour. Other windows advertise PELAW Bronchial Balsam and Cod Liver Oil Emulsion. All of these products were made by the Cooperative Wholesale Society works at Pelaw junction near Gateshead.

On display are some picture frames and a variety of canned goods that cannot be identified. It is nearly Christmas as there is a display labelled 'Christmas Fruits'. A large thumbprint appears on the left of the picture presumably by the man who developed the print.

Owner: John Davies

0501 & 0502 The outside of the Co-op.



The Co-operative Stores at Bartley House



The date is unknown, but these are the same pictures, just differently cropped. Two men in white aprons stand with a dog in outside the left hand entrance whilst a younger boy stands outside the right hand entrance. The dog is a collie.

Owner: not recorded.

0503 & 0504 Bartley House 1999



Bartley House, 1999



Damsel Pit and Bartley House, 1999

After the closure of the Co-op in 1963, after some seventy six years in business, Bartley house had a number of roles. Taken in 1999 the Co-op became a private residence offering Bed and Breakfast

accommodation. There is a fine view in the upper picture of the power line that first brought electricity to the village [or at least the Co-op] in 1931.

Owner: Millennium Book Committee

0505 Co-op Vans 1930



The pictures are labelled 1922 but in the Millennium book it says 1930's. The Millennium book is probably correct. Four men stand outside the Co-op [today Bartley House]. In the background can be seen the upper storey of Damsel pit demonstrating the difference in level between the properties. Each man stand in front of a selection of delivery vans arranged in order of size. H Fudge stands beside the biggest which has 'No 1' on it's side. A sign 'Childe Okeford & Iwerne Minster Cooperative Society Model Bakery' can be seen on the side. S Brown stands by the next biggest. G Yeatman the third and J Hutchings the smallest. The smallest van bears the number plate TK 6473 and stands next to TK 6011.

TK series registration numbers were Dorset numbers issued between December 1927 and January 1933.

Owner: John Davies

0506 More Vans



The vans in the previous picture have been moved around and the signs on their sides are now more clearly visible. The drivers however are in the same attire indicating it was taken on the same day in 1922.

Owner: John Davies

0507 Staff at the Co-op



Co-op Staff 1923 L to R: Florrie Rolls, Fred Gray, Marie Wareham, Ronald Douch

Labelled Co-op staff 1923 in the Millennium book is almost certainly ten years out. Four happy young people stand outside the store. On the left is Florrie Rolls. Her left arm rests on the shoulder of Fred Gray. Next comes Marie Wareham with her right arm on Fred's shoulder and her left arm interlinked with the boy on the right – Ronald Douch. Florence Rolls was just 8 years old in the 1921 census and Ronald Douch just 11. There are several Warehams in the 1921 census with the name Mary and which this girls is is not known.

Owner: not recorded.