

Statement by the Chairs of the Plunkett Foundation and the Society for Co-operative Studies

This is the first issue of the *Journal* since it became a joint publication of the Society of Co-operative Studies and the Plunkett Foundation. It is now retitled *Journal of Co-operative Studies incorporating the World of Co-operative Enterprise* and its inside cover will indicate that it is published in association with the Plunkett Foundation.

Although the *World of Co-operative Enterprise* had been published annually, and the *Journal* three times per year, they appeared to be natural candidates for a merger. Both had long histories, the *World of Co-operative Enterprise* from 1926 and the *Journal* since 1967. Each had gained considerable prestige in the Co-operative world. They also offered complementarity; the *World of Co-operative Enterprise* having agricultural and rural co-operation as its main focus and the *Journal* traditionally being concerned with consumer co-operation, both of which will continue in the merged publication.

In future each organisation will provide copies of the new *Journal* to their respective memberships three times per year. While the Society for Co-operative Studies will produce the *Journal*, appointing its Editor and retaining ultimate editorial control, Plunkett will continue to operate its own referee system through its Editorial Board. It will also appoint an Associate Editor who will handle the day-to-day liaison with the Journal Editor. In addition two members of the Plunkett Editorial Board will join the Editorial Advisory Board of the Society for Co-operative Studies.

Those wishing to contribute to the *Journal* are invited to submit their articles through either the Society for Co-operative Studies or the Plunkett Foundation.

We commend the new *Journal* to our joint readerships, believing that it offers complementarity while maintaining the quality and prestige of its predecessors.

Rita Rhodes, Chair, Society for Co-operative Studies
David Button, Chair Plunkett Foundation

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