



**Society for  
Co-operative Studies Ireland  
Membership News  
September 2020**

Dear all,

Sorry, this newsletter is a little later than usual, but here it is just in time to still qualify for the September edition of the SCSi update. Hope that you find something of interest here.

Patrick Doyle, Communications Officer, SCSi

**Olive McCarthy** and **Noreen Byrne** published a new piece on The Conversation website earlier this month about the importance of credit unions – especially as a way to take on the phenomenon of predatory payday loans. It has a particular focus on the UK but also contains plenty of relevance for Ireland too. **‘Payday loans: clampdown was vital, but credit unions must expand after coronavirus to fill gap’**: <https://theconversation.com/payday-loans-clampdown-was-vital-but-credit-unions-must-expand-after-coronavirus-to-fill-gap-145583>

Earlier on in the summer the **Co-operative College** in the UK organised an event to launch a new **Union Co-ops Manifesto**. The manifesto explores a model for co-operative and trade union collaboration – something that has been taking place in the USA already through the United Steelworkers. The manifesto makes the co-operative case for decent work and a better world. It can be read here: <https://www.co-op.ac.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=6f6190a6-1731-470b-bf02-be2d7f2e80ba>

**Co-operative Alternatives** are running a series of five webinars taking place through to November on the theme of **The Transformational Power of Co-operatives**. Co-operatives offer answers to many of the problems facing communities and local economies. The webinars are for anyone involved in economic and community development and for people interested in hearing first-hand experiences from new emerging co-ops in Northern Ireland and beyond. Pre-registration is essential so please visit Eventbrite and select the webinars you want to attend. More details available here: <http://www.coopalternatives.coop/events-2020/> .

**Trademark** have also been championing the co-operative model in recent years. Over the summer they conducted a series of podcast interviews with **Joe Guinan** from the **Democracy Collaborative** to discuss the potential for **Community Wealth**

**Building in Ireland.** Essential listening for co-operators. The podcasts are available here: <https://anchor.fm/trademark-belfast/episodes/Community-Wealth-Building---Onwards-to-Municipal-Socialism-ehqmee> And a new article that appeared in **Look Left** magazine by Seán Byers and Joe Guinan also explores some of these ideas: <https://www.lookleftonline.org/2020/09/the-case-for-community-wealth-building-in-ireland/>