



Eleanor Barton 1872-1960

Co-operative Guild activist,

Sheffield City Councillor &

Parliamentary candidate for Nottm Central

Eleanor was born in Manchester, little is known of her early life but her family seem to have been active in the early Labour movement. In 1894 she married and moved to Sheffield where she was active in the socialist and cooperative movements. She was involved in several branches of the Cooperative Women's Guild becoming national treasurer in 1913 and President in 1914. She went on a speaking tour of the United States in 1919, invited by the Labor Party of America, talking about child welfare. In 1921, she became assistant secretary of the Guild, then secretary in 1925, serving until 1937.

In 1919, she was elected to Sheffield City Council as a joint Labour Party and Co-operative Party candidate, one of the first two women elected in the city. She stood for the Co-operative Party in Birmingham King's Norton at the 1922 and 1923 general elections, then in Nottingham Central in 1929, but was never elected - she lists her address as the Market Place. She also was involved in NUWSS. During the 1930s, Barton promoted the white poppy symbol for the Guild, and was prominent in the Peace Pledge Union and Hands Off Russia campaign. She also held numerous co-operative movement posts, including directorships of the Co-operative Permanent Building Society and the Co-operative Newspaper Publishing Society. By 1949, Barton's husband and son had both died, and she moved to Papatoetoe, New Zealand to live with her daughter, Mrs. Linda Bennett. She died in Papatoetoe in 1960.