

**U DCP                      Records of the Communist Party of Great Britain                      1970-1989**  
**(Hull Branch)**

**Accession number:** 1994/14

**Historical Background:**

The Communist Party of Great Britain was established in August 1920. The Party was based upon the philosophy of Karl Marx (1818-1883) and was inspired by the Russian Revolution of November 1917. The Communists believed that before long revolution would overthrow Capitalism and end the exploitation of the working class. The Communist Party supported the Russian Revolution and for many years accepted Russian funds in order to spread its ideas. During the next 70 years hopes of revolution faded as the Communists remained a minority party. However, despite its small size the party maintained its international links and continued to campaign for improvements in the lives of working people.

In 1991, when the Soviet Union broke up, the Communist Party of Great Britain decided to disband and became the Democratic Left, a left-leaning political think-tank rather than a political party.

**Custodial history:**

Donated via Christopher Ketchell, Local History Unit, Hull College, 15 Apr 1994

**Description:**

The records of the local branch of the Communist Party, covering the period 1970-1989, comprise minute books, correspondence and papers relating to national and district congresses. Amongst the notable items is an 8ft by 3ft banner, inscribed with Communist Party of Great Britain Hull Branch, an interview with Frank Swift on the history of the branch, and papers relating to the events in 1956 which resulted in the establishment of the journal *The Reasoner* by E. P. Thompson and John Saville.

**Arrangement:**

U DCP/1-4 Minutes, 1970-1989  
U DCP/5-18 Correspondence and other files, 1977-1989  
U DCP/19-22 Miscellaneous, 1970s-1980s

**Extent:** 0.5 linear metres

**Related material:**

Archives of the Communist Party of Great Britain, Labour History Archive and Study Centre, People's History Museum [GB 0394]

**Finding aids:** Entry in Modern political papers guide

**Access conditions:** Access will be granted to any accredited reader

**Language:** English

# Hull History Centre: Records of the Communist Party of Great Britain (Hull Branch)

U DCP/1	Minute Book Includes 'Notes on the History of Hull Branch - Interview with Frank Swift August 1970', on pp.248-250. With envelope containing papers (Yorkshire District Committee) relating to 'The Reasoner', E. P. Thompson and John Saville (Aug-Nov 1956). 1 volume	5 May 1970- 26 Aug 1975
U DCP/2	Minute Book 1 volume	17 Sep 1975- 18 Apr 1977
U DCP/3	Minute Book 1 volume	30 May 1977- 19 Mar 1984
U DCP/4	Minute Book 1 volume	21 May 1984- 16 Jan 1989
U DCP/5	File. Correspondence to Hull Town Branch 1 file	1977-1980
U DCP/6	File. District Committee Papers Relating to Yorkshire District. 1 file	1981-1983
U DCP/7	File. District Congresses 1980 & 1982 Papers relating to the 20th and 21st Congresses of Yorkshire District. 1 file	Nov 1980- Nov 1982
U DCP/8	File. District Congresses 1984 & 1986 Papers relating to the 22nd and 23rd Congresses of Yorkshire District. 1 file	Nov 1984- Nov 1986
U DCP/9	File. 1979 CP Congress Papers relating to the 36th National Congress of CPGB. 1 file	Nov 1979
U DCP/10	File. Papers relating to the 37th National Congress of CPGB 1 file	Nov 1981
U DCP/11	File. National Congress 1987 Contains mainly miscellaneous Yorkshire District material. 1 file	1987-1989
U DCP/12	File. Local elections (Hull) 1 file	1977-1979

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U DCP/13	File. Councils By-elections Papers relating to Hull Beverley/Botanic Wards. 1 file	May-Jun 1979
U DCP/14	File. Women's TUC 1986 Papers relating to the 56th Women's Trades Union Conference. 1 file	Mar 1986
U DCP/15	File. Yorkshire Communist 1 file	1975-1981
U DCP/16	Box file. Miscellaneous papers Includes: a) File. 'Dues & General Cash Matters' (1978-1988) b) File. Anti-racism leaflets (1970s) c) Miscellaneous correspondence, leaflets, etc. (1978-1979) 1 file	1978-1988
U DCP/17	File. Educational material 1 file	1970s
U DCP/18	File. Local material (Hull) 1 file	1970s
U DCP/19	Information pack. 'On the Road: activities for Branch Development' 1 item	c.1975
U DCP/20	Notebook. 'Moving Left Show' Largely unused. 1 item	c.1975
U DCP/21	Notebook. 'People's March' Notes regarding anti-unemployment march. 1 item	c.1985
U DCP/22	Banner. 'Communist Party of Great Britain Hull Branch' 8 x 3 feet 1 item	late 20th cent.