

# FROM CHOCOLATE TO CHARITY: THE ARCHIVES OF THE CADBURY TRUSTS

**Kevin Roberts**

To many the name Cadbury is most closely associated with the manufacture of chocolate. Indeed it was the family's success in business that allowed them to pursue their other great interest: philanthropy. The archives of the Cadbury Trusts record the formation and development of the eight interrelated trusts and companies established by Barrow and Geraldine Cadbury and their son Paul.

Shared family governance, a steadfast commitment to Quaker principles and a connection to Birmingham and the Black Country underpin the historic and contemporary work of the Cadbury Trusts. Through a cataloguing project commissioned by the Barrow Cadbury Trust, the archives of the Cadbury Trusts are available to researchers at the Library of Birmingham. The records of other independent Cadbury family trusts do not form part of this project.

The Cadbury Trusts' collection consists of over three-thousand files and volumes documenting the internal administration of the Trusts and the activities of thousands of grant recipients working in a variety of fields ranging from penal reform to neighbourhood development. The Cadbury Trusts' collection contains the records of eight organisations: the Barrow and Geraldine S. Cadbury Trust, the Barrow Cadbury Fund (a benevolent fund), the Paul S. Cadbury Trust, the Barrow Cadbury Fund Ltd. (a charitable company), the



The Cadbury Trusts' archive is located at the Wolfson Centre for Archival Research, the Library of Birmingham.

Southfield Trust, the Worgan Trust, Chapmans Hill School Farm Ltd. and the Barrow Cadbury Trust.

Three figures dominate the Trusts' history: Barrow Cadbury, Geraldine Southall Cadbury and Paul Strangman Cadbury. It was Barrow and Geraldine who decided to establish a trust bearing their name in 1920 as a formal extension of their considerable giving to charitable causes. Four years later the couple created the Barrow Cadbury Fund to allow them to expand the scope of their giving to include non-charitable causes.

Barrow and Geraldine's son Paul and his wife Rachel established their own charity, the Paul S. Cadbury Trust in 1931. By 1958 Paul was chairman of this trust in addition to the trust and fund established by his parents. Under his leadership the Trusts were transformed from a small family-run concern to an innovative and professional grant-making foundation.

The grant files of the Trusts contain many fascinating stories about race relations

and community organising in Birmingham and the Midlands. A sampling of these include job placements for German conscientious objectors in Halesowen, community-police relations in Handsworth during the 1970s and 1980s, car repair courses in Erdington for those at risk of offending, and support for the campaigning activities of the Bangladeshi Workers Association.

The Cadbury Trusts' archive contains a wealth of untapped primary sources relating to all manner of social, economic, racial and gender justice projects in Birmingham (and beyond). Of particular value are grant files pertaining to organisations that no longer exist whose records may not survive elsewhere. The collection can be viewed by appointment in the Wolfson Centre for Archival Research at the Library of Birmingham under the collection reference MS 1579. ●

**Kevin Roberts** was, until recently, the Barrow Cadbury Trust Archivist at the Library of Birmingham.