

## **Committee Report - Principle 5 AGM 2019 updated March 2020**

Principle 5 co-operative resource centre provides a facility for members to develop ideas about co-operation - how co-operatives evolved from individual organisations into a Movement with the potential to transform society for the better, and how co-operatives are changing the world. It's a place where anyone can develop a sound understanding about how to play a part in the transition towards social ownership and control through co-operative ventures.

The lending library is full of books which tell stories of the successes and failures of co-operatives, practical information for people involved in co-ops and research materials for social historians. The Collection includes back editions of Co-operative News which are being indexed. The Centre is a friendly and accessible place where anyone can learn more about the Co-operative Movement. The Centre is open for anyone to use and appointments can be made by contacting Steve Thompson [steve@sheffield.coop](mailto:steve@sheffield.coop).

### **Principle 5 is a member of:**

Co-operative College  
Co-operative Press (publishers of Co-operative News)  
Co-operatives UK  
Sheffield Co-operative Development Group  
UK Society for Co-operative Studies  
Webarchitects  
Wortley Hall

## **Indexing Co-operative News**

Yingjia Cao (Jade) has helped us to develop a searchable index of the back editions of Co-operative News. This is an on-line resource. The Principle 5 collection goes back to 1997. This is a huge task but it will be well worth it. Co-operative News is one of the most valuable resources for co-operative research because everything of interest to the Co-operative Movement has been reported on in a weekly newspaper (now a monthly magazine). The complete collection going back to 1871 is in the National Co-operative Archive in Holyoake House.

## **The Sheffield Co-operator**

Chris Olewicz is putting together another edition of the Sheffield Co-operator. We will ensure that all Principle 5 members get a copy when it is ready.

The first Principle 5 pamphlet has gone to the printers (Footprint Workers Co-operative) and will be available in March 2020. The title of this pamphlet is 'Sheffield and Socialism'.

## **Principle 5 Study Group**

Anyone wishing to be a part of the study group please contact us. So far it is an e.mail group with study notes being circulated.

## **The Co-operative College**

Principle 5 is now a member of the Co-operative College which is celebrating its centenary this year and is working to become a university.

### **The Principle 5 Library and Archive**

A programme of library improvements is under way which will make for a much better experience for visitors and researchers. The glass and metal shelving has been replaced by much more suitable book cases. The filing cabinet has now gone and this will make more space for bookshelves. The back editions of Co-operative News are now housed on the bookshelves. There is more space in the resource centre now that we have good quality folding chairs. Rosemary Telfer, the Principle 5 librarian is organising these improvements and helping to bring the whole collection into better order.

### **Sheffield Co-operative Showcase**

In September, Principle 5 organised for the first time a two-day 'Co-operative Showcase' in Sheffield. It was a gathering of co-ops for networking, presenting their products and services, and meeting the public. The event was part of Heritage Open Days and took place in the Aizlewood's Mill conference room.

Visitors were treated to a welcoming mini-bazaar of displays and stalls by various types of co-op, including food, education, publishing, print, phone, telecomms and co-op development.

## **Festival of Debate**

Principle 5 took part in the Festival of Debate again this year with an event in the Millenium Gallery.

Two events will take place in May 2020.

The first event, which will take place on Friday, 8 May, will be an introduction to the co-operative model led by Cath Muller. She will share her experience of living and working in a co-operative as well as the basics of how co-ops work.

On Saturday, 9 May, a second event will explore ethics and change within the co-operative movement. Academic and author Tony Webster will examine why some Co-op Group stores have closed while Cath Muller will talk about her recent low-carbon tour of co-operatives in Europe and the Americas. She will focus on some of the alternative co-operative economies, radical worker co-operatives and strategies for social change discovered during her journey.

## **Co-op Maps**

The co-op mapping system, developed by Steve Wagstaff is available for use in the Resource Centre, but it requires further development.

## **The Principle 5 Team**

Jonathan Cook – Chair

Rosemary Telfer – Librarian

Steve Thompson – Membership Secretary

Dennis Chambers – Sustainability and Mitigation

Chris Olewicz – Publications

Steve Wagstaff – Co-opMaps

Yingjia Cao (Jade) – Information Systems

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