

# Principle FIVE

# P5

March 2021



Walter Crane. From article in Co-op News Jan 2006



## Study Group

The discussion piece from the last edition has been slightly updated in the light of some comments which we have received. The First paragraph now reads (changes highlighted):

“ The Co-operative Movement as it was known up until the end of the twentieth century has all but vanished. Of course there are some good consumer retail societies which are based on the mutual model and offer a much needed alternative to the mainstream supermarket chains. But co-operative culture has receded into the margins. It's driving purpose towards the co-operative commonwealth has evaporated. The co-operative auxiliaries as they were known, in many cases, have been lost. Such organisations include **The British Federation of Young Co-operators (1942-1961), The Co-operative Women's Guild (1883 - 2016), The National Guild of Co-operators (1926 – 2019)**. Many more could be added to the list. Every Co-operative Society had its Education Committee which linked the membership with these auxiliary organisations in active participation. And through all sorts of networks, co-operators kept alive co-operative education and culture. The network of co-operative societies which drove this movement have been swallowed up into much larger societies and something of co-operative culture has been lost. And a vital ingredient of this culture was the social and recreational life of the movement”.

### [Revised discussion piece](#)

The Co-operative Movement's loss of control of the supply chain together with the loss of much of the culture and support network suggests that the aspiration of a Co-operative Commonwealth is all but lost. [The Co-operative Group](#) no longer has a commitment to such ideas. Like other mainstream businesses it supports charities rather than playing a part in the Co-operative Movement. Through disposals and outsourcing it can no longer play the federal role of the old CWS.

What will be the new driver of the movement to build a Co-operative Commonwealth?

Edgar Parnell

has sent us his video

[Culture is Crucial in Co-ops,](#)

Although he has made a series of videos, he says that this one is particularly significant.

The other videos are available at:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/7221973>

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## **Community Wealth Building**

Traditional economic development practice and developer-led regeneration are failing to address the economic challenges of our time. Community wealth building is a new people-centred approach to local economic development, which redirects wealth back into the local economy, and places control and benefits into the hands of local people.

[Centre for Local Economic Strategies](#)



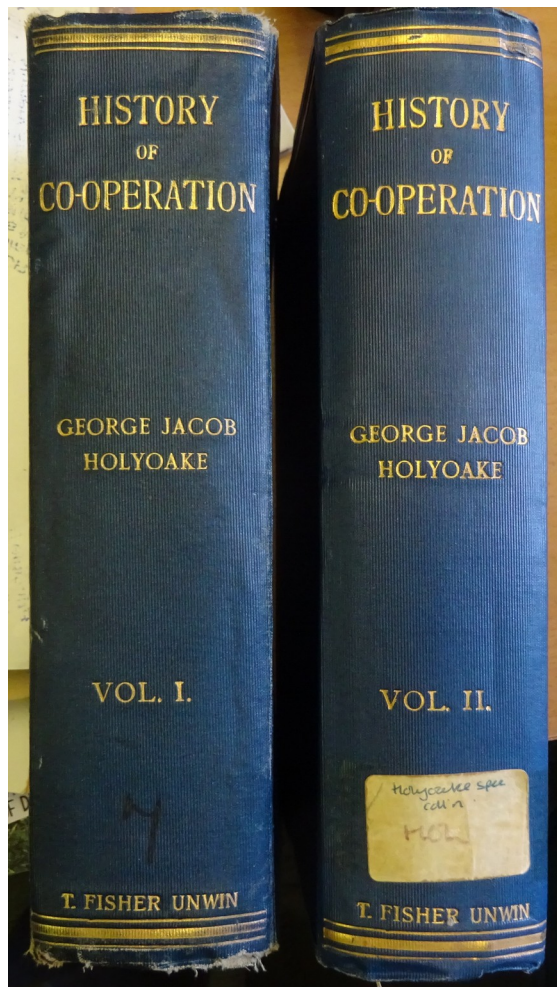
Preston City Council is putting Community Wealth Building into practice



<https://www.preston.gov.uk/article/1335/What-is-Community-Wealth-Building->

## The Lending Library

Books are being added to the lending library all the time Check the catalogue  
<https://www.principle5.coop/archives>



Born on 13 April 1817, the son of an engineer, **George Jacob Holyoake** began his working life as a very young child helping his mother make horn buttons at home. When he was old enough, around the age of eight, he was apprenticed as a whitesmith, working in tin – but took every educational opportunity open to him, attending lectures and evening classes. His ability as a speaker was soon recognised and he became a Social Missionary, employed to travel the country disseminating the ideas of Robert Owen and other socialists.

He was a publicist and advocate of Co-operation, a historian and storyteller and a writer for [Co-operative News](#). He was a speaker and educationalist and social missionary.

Holyoake introduced to the English language the word **secularism** and was a pioneer of the [National Secular Society](#) which is still going strong. He was the last person in Britain to be imprisoned for blasphemy. He made reference to the armed services being put on half pay, because the country was at peace and they were not needed; he suggested that God could be put on half pay. This landed him a six months prison sentence.

Read the full article about George Jacob Holyoake by Gillian Lonergan in this month's **Co-operative News**  
[A look at the grand old man of the movement](#)

## **MPs continue their inquiry into LV= demutualisation**

**Gareth Thomas, Labour/Co-op MP and chair of the All-Party**

**Parliamentary Mutuals Group, has written to buyer**

**Bain Capital inviting its CEO to its inquiry**

The All-Party Parliamentary Mutuals group is inviting senior staff at Bain Capital staff to appear at parliamentary inquiry into the company's acquisition of LV='s life and pensions business.

LV= Liverpool Victoria

Miles Hadfield writing in Co-operative News 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021

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### **Principle 5 Directory**

**Catalogue**

**Study Group**

**Reading Group**

**Past Newsletters**

**Co-op News index**

**Membership info**

The Sheffield Co-operator, June 1934

The Sheffield Co-operator 2017

The Sheffield Co-operator 2018

The Sheffield Co-operator 2020

The Revival of the Sheffield Co-operator – Co-op News





P5 Yorkshire Co-operative Resource Centre  
Aizlewood's Mill, Nursery Street, Sheffield S3 8GG

[www.principle5.coop](http://www.principle5.coop)  
[steve@sheffield.coop](mailto:steve@sheffield.coop)