

From the times when wealthy and powerful people began to privatise common land, there have been those who aspired to a Co-operative Commonwealth. Ownership of land, trade and industry gives unregulated power to the owner, at the expense of the lives of the multitude who work for them. Thus, the industrial revolution mechanised a criminal exploitation of the masses of ordinary people who saw no alternative but to work in unregulated industry.

It was during these times that the concept of Co-operation came into being. That a Co-operative Commonwealth could be brought about where the people who worked on and consumed the produce of the land, also owned it. Private interests and competition could be eliminated, through people co-operating with each other and owning and controlling land, industry and trade. A new society could be created where innovative models of industry and distribution could be democratised for the benefit of all people. And life could then become more human, social and truly fulfilling.

Does this sound impossibly utopian?

Huge progress has been made towards the Co-operative Commonwealth. There have also been huge setbacks. Principle 5 Yorkshire Co-operative Resource Centre was set up to provide a facility to explore the progress made towards the Co-operative Commonwealth. To celebrate its successes. To learn from its failures. And to bring together all the ingredients to make the aspiration of a Co-operative Commonwealth a reality.

Joining Principle 5

Principle 5 is funded by individuals and organisations who value co-operative education and want to support the 5th Co-operative Principle 5 (Education, Training and Information).

There are two categories of membership:

User Members take an active part in the co-operative through study and research, and in the activities and events. Because of their contribution to co-operative education, the annual membership subscription is £10.

Supporter Members ensure that Principle 5 can continue to provide a service to the Co-operative Movement through their financial contribution. They pay a minimum subscription of £30 per year, and are encouraged to pay more if they can.

Co-operators everywhere, please join Principle 5 and help to build a real Co-operative Commonwealth!



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Principle FIVE

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Principle 5 is a co-operative which offers research facilities and a lending library for individuals and co-operatives.

As a co-operative it is member run and owned.

Principle 5 supports study of the Co-operative Movement through publications and events.