

# Principle FIVE

# P5

April 2022



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APRIL 2022

SHEFFIELD'S CO-OPERATIVE NEWSPAPER

## START A FOOD CO-OPERATIVE TODAY LOWER YOUR FOOD BILLS REBUILD YOUR COMMUNITY SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATOR CELEBRATES CENTENARY

FOOD CO-OPERATIVE STARTER PACK INCLUDED IN THIS EDITION

AT LAST! There is a new consumers co-operative movement. Or perhaps it is safer to say, that there is a little cloud, no bigger than a child's hand, which might yet grow into a new consumers co-operative movement!

Across the country, neighbours and friends are starting new food co-operatives on their streets and their estates, supported by an organisation called Co-operation Town.

Why are people starting food co-operatives now? Because they have collectively decided that the best way that they can support themselves is to pool their resources, so they can buy the food that they need in bulk at a cheaper price.

In doing so, they are building up a fresh community spirit in areas of the country often considered to be 'left behind', and making the luxuries of life that little bit more affordable.

### CO-OPERATION IN ACTION

Most importantly, these people are discovering co-operation. A hundred and eighty years ago, in Rochdale, a group of ordinary workers reached the same conclusions as Co-operation Town and its activists. That individuals cannot always rely on the Government of the day to help them make their lives secure.

Rather than wait for a favourable outcome in a future election, these activists have realised that a better way for working people to improve their lives is through self-help and community. After more than a decade of austerity, and forty years of technological upheaval, they have decided that enough is enough.

The co-operative movement has al-



## COOPERATION TOWN

ACROSS THE COUNTRY PEOPLE ARE COMING TOGETHER WITH NEIGHBOURS AND FRIENDS TO START CO-OPERATIVES TO REBUILD THEIR COMMUNITIES AND FINANCIAL RESILIENCE

ways been built on the backs of ordinary people sharing in a singular vision. That through voluntary association, communities can make themselves self-sufficient from the 'middlemen' who charge high prices for low-quality goods and services. At the 'co-op', members can buy high-quality unadulterated food and home items at affordable prices, with profits distributed among members, just like a corporation. It is in this tradition that the *Sheffield Co-operator* offers its support to Co-operation Town, and reprints their Starter Pack, first published in 2020.

### THE CENTENARY OF THE SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATOR

This edition of the *Sheffield Co-operator* marks the centenary of the paper. Among its aims is the desire to inspire the crea-

tion of a number of Co-operation Town co-operatives in Sheffield.

Across a series of articles, it will show that there is as much a place for consumer co-operation in the 21st century than in the 19th, and that all that is needed is a small number of people willing to give up a small amount of their time to make it work.

The *Sheffield Co-operator* insists that co-operation should be extended to all people regardless of their income or background. If properly supported by the wider movement, local councils, and politicians, Co-operation Town co-operatives can provide an alternative means of supporting people who are short of money without them having to resort to the indignity of foodbanks.

An estimated 40% of all claimants of Universal Credit are in work. The cost of living crisis is real, and it cannot be solved by simply accusing those with-

out money of being lazy. Across the country, people are trying their best to make ends meet, and it is simply not possible for them all to relocate to London, where up to a third of the new jobs over the past decade have been created. To suggest that they simply 'get on their bike to find work' is in itself lazy, for it wishes away the problem of under-employment without facing up to the realities of economic change driven by technology which has created a new generation of low-paid jobs with no security.

### SCARED OF CO-OPERATION

In the past, the Conservative Party and its friends in industry were scared of co-operation, because it promised a very different economy in which shareholding - through co-operative society

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## **The Sheffield Co-operator (1922 - 2022)**

The 170 editions between 1922 and 1939 were published by Sheffield Co-operative Party. Principle 5 members can read about this in the UK Societies for Co-operative Studies Journal

Principle 5 is a member of the [UKSCS](#)

The April 2022 edition of the Sheffield Co-operator is available now  
contact [steve@sheffield.coop](mailto:steve@sheffield.coop)  
if you would like a copy

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## **The Festival of Debate 2022**

Principle 5 is again taking part. To book a place go to:  
[The Future of Co-operation](#)

Tue 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
[Union Street](#), Sheffield, S1 2JP

Cath Muller and Colette Harvey  
will be joining us for the event

*For many people, the past two years have been a time of isolation, loss and rising inequality. As we emerge from the pandemic, these societal divisions have the potential to grow and cause a landslide of further hardship.*

*We believe a more collective and co-operative future would address societal rifts and resource inequality. There is power and strength in organising ourselves co-operatively. We can have a greater positive impact if we work together.*

*But in a society which prioritises and rewards individualistic approaches, how do we enable and facilitate people to organise their activities and work co-operatively?*

*Do we focus on growth at scale and speed through engaging with established infrastructure and local government? Or do we concentrate our energies on developing the deep roots of cultural change through education and direct democracy?*

*Co-operative activists and advisers working in different parts of the movement will each present a case for taking a particular approach and will work with the audience to explore whether it's possible to combine approaches or develop something new. The event will illuminate co-operators' passion for change, analysis of possible strategies and the resources available to achieve it. We hope for a dialectical debate creating synergy, rather than winners and losers - the essence of co-operation.*

### **Bio - Cath**

*Cath Muller is a worker and housing co-operator, with a background in radical collectives. For money and for love she advises new co-ops on how to embed values in their*



*governance and practice and is currently setting up a commune in South Yorkshire.*

### **Bio - Colette**

*Colette Harvey is the local coordinator for the Ownership Hub, a joint project between Co-operatives UK and the Employee Ownership Association supporting the #1MillionOwners campaign which aims to grow worker and employee business ownership across the UK, with the first pilot programme running here in South Yorkshire.*

Tue 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
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Union Street, Sheffield, S1 2JP

We look forward to seeing you there

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

Co-operatives UK

Co-operative Press – publishers of Co-op News

Sheffield Co-operative Development Group

The Co-operative College

UK Society for Co-operative Studies

Webarchitects

Wortley Hall



Alice Honora Enfield was a key figure in the growth of international co-operation amongst women in the 1920s and 1930s, first as General Secretary of the Women's Co-operative Guild from 1921-1926 - succeeding Margaret Llewelyn Davies - and then as Secretary of the International Co-operative Women's League from 1926 until her death in 1935.

## **THE FUTURE OF CO-OPERATION**

Principle 5 Pamphlet No: 3

This startling collection of excerpts from A. Honora Enfield's book *Co-operation: Its Problems and Possibilities* remains as relevant now as when the original volume was published in 1927. With razor like clarity, Enfield (1882-1935) a former Secretary of the Women's Co-operative Guild and founding Secretary of the International Women's Co-operative Guild, outlines the history of the co-operative movement and its radical potential to bring peace and transform the world economy into one that runs on co-operative lines.

Believing that the real alternative to capitalism lays between state ownership and co-operation, it is time for Enfield, a forgotten figure, to once again speak for the co-operative movement. At a time when people are once again questioning the long-term sustainability of a free market in which so much wealth is diverted to so few individuals and organisations, her thoughts ring true, and with a new wave of automation threatening long established working patterns, they can offer a potential guide for how co-operation might help write a future which is yet unwritten.

Principle 5 Pamphlet No: 3

## **The Future of Co-operation**

### **By A. Honora Enfield**

This is the third Principle 5 pamphlet.

The cover price is £2.00

order your copy  
[steve@sheffield.coop](mailto:steve@sheffield.coop)

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## **Co-operative Identity**

The February edition of [Co-op News](#) carried some articles about the Co-operative Identity.

Alice Toomer-McAlpine contributed a piece called

### **The Co-operative Identity - a timeline**

[The current statement of Co-operative Identity](#)

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## **Empowering Co-operation: New strategy and branding for Co-operatives UK**

Co-operatives UK, the national apex body for co-ops, has launched its [new branding](#) and three-year strategy. The new logo will run alongside a new strapline: [Empowering Co-operation.](#)

The strategy has a focus on reaching young people, embracing technology and inspiring communities. “Our aim is to inspire everyone to join a co-op, and every co-op to become a member of Co-operatives UK – to help create a fairer society together,” says CEO Rose Marley. “It made

perfect sense that, as we launch an exciting and ambitious new strategy, we need a fresh look and feel to appeal to a wider audience.”

To achieve this, the organisation has been having conversations with [dotCoop](#) (which verifies the international co-op marque) and [Calverts](#) (which created the marque).

“They have a vision that the marque can be used as a stamp or badge alongside a co-op’s own branding to help raise more awareness,” says Ms Marley. “At the same time, we were wrestling with the need for Co-operatives UK to have its own identity.

You can read the full article

**[HERE](#)**

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**Members are always welcome to visit the resource centre.**

**For appointment contact [steve@sheffield.coop](mailto:steve@sheffield.coop)  
Tel: 0114 282 3132**

**[www.principle5.coop](http://www.principle5.coop)**

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