

# Principle FIVE

# P5

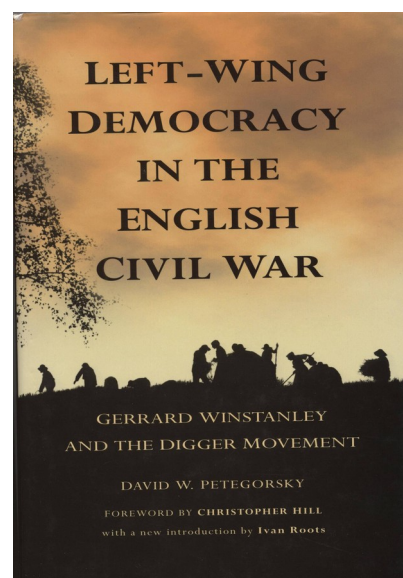
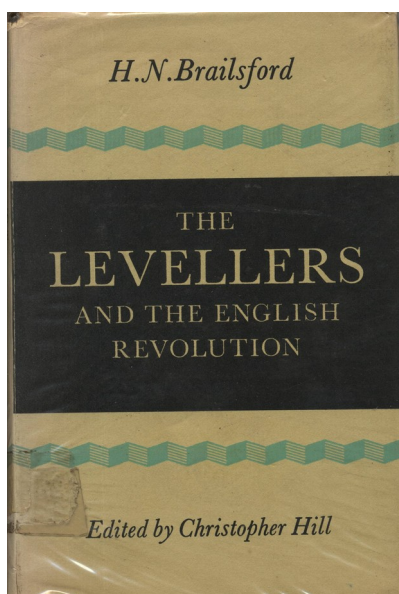
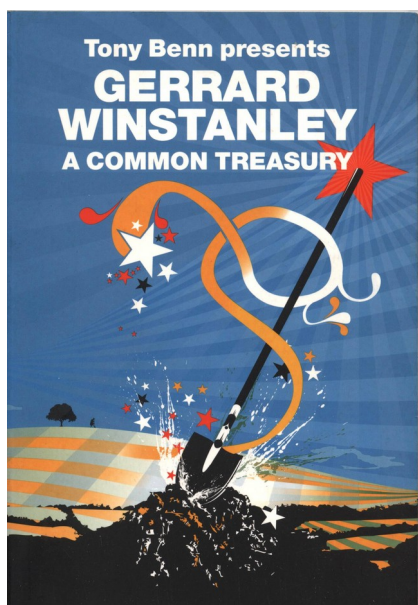
Yorkshire Co-operative Resource Centre

February 2025

The Principle 5 Library has become a useful collection with the addition of books and documents in 2014. This and future newsletters will bring to notice some of the books that are available to borrow from the Library.

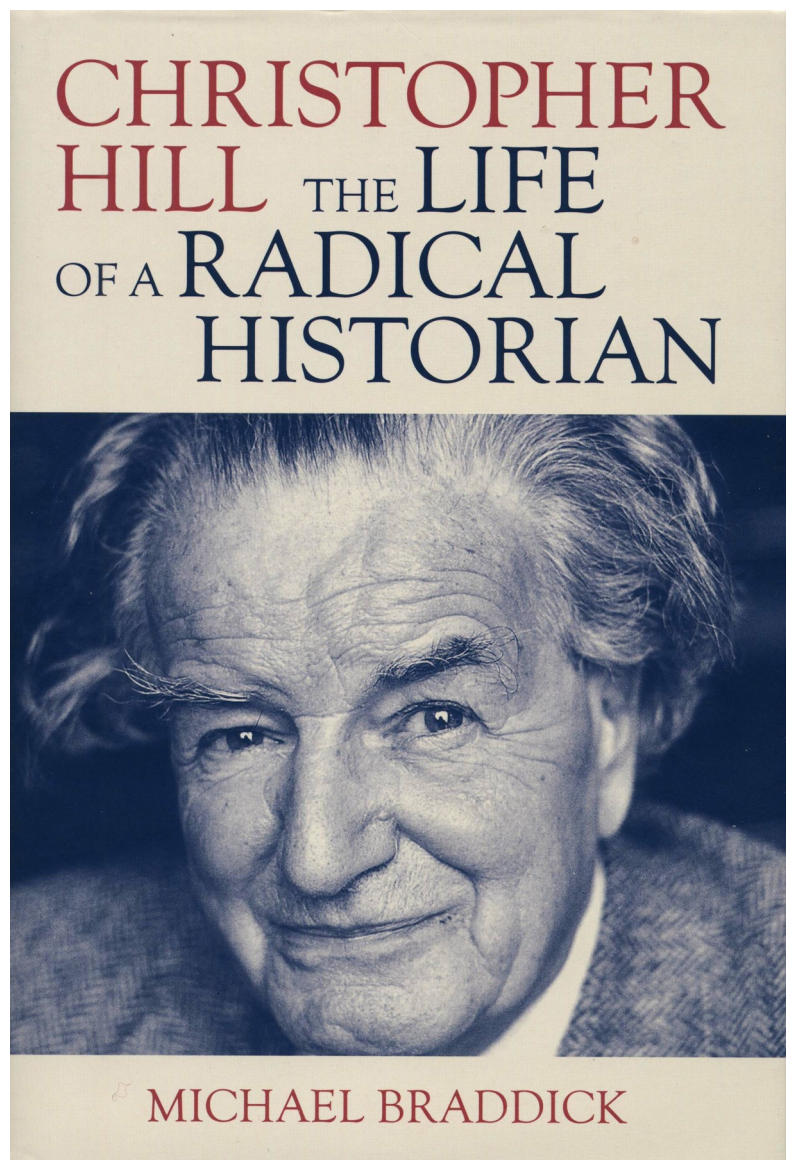
Amongst the first attempts to put co-operation into practice took place on St George's Hill in London. King Charles I was executed in 1649 and it was argued that 'the King that possessed the lands by the Norman Conquest being dead, they were returned again to the common people'. The Diggers and Levellers held land to be a 'common treasury'. A group of people claimed the land as a common resource to grow much needed food for the community.

Much of the early inspiration for co-operative common ownership came from the writing of Gerrard Winstanley. We have a book of his writings in the P5 Library.

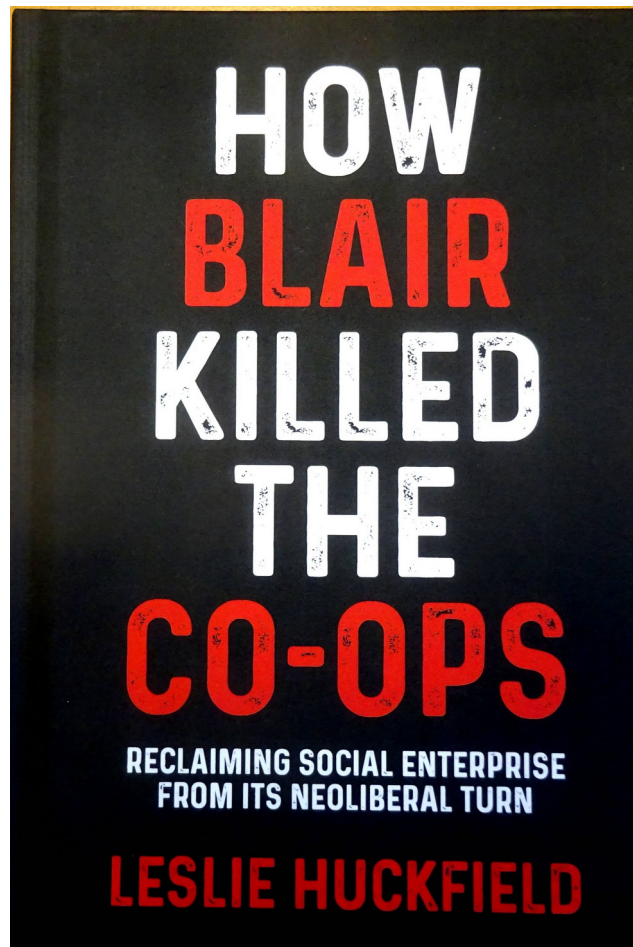


These books record early examples of common ownership, later called communism, socialism and co-operation. The meaning of these words has been lost over time. The historians whose dedication has allowed this legacy to help us to understand the present in the context of the past are amongst the heroes of our time

As this newsletter comes to you, a new book is being published which gives recognition to Christopher Hill, an historian of the English Revolution in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. The launch will be at [Housman's Bookshop](#) in March. This book is not in the Principle 5 Library.



The latest book to be added to the P5 Library is  
'How Blair Killed the Co-ops'  
By Leslie Huckfield  
You can read the Introduction to this book on the 'Books'  
page of the Principle 5 Website:



[From the Introduction to How Blair Killed the Co-ops](#)

“Organisations labelled ‘social enterprises’ are now redefined, reinvented and written up widely as though they were for low cost delivery of public services. Social enterprise today is also frequently presented as an alternative to, as an amendment or even resistance to neoliberalism and capitalism. But in this book the author shows that, far from forming an alternative to neoliberalism, social enterprise and much of the third sector now feature as platforms for its incursion into ever

wider spheres of public life. As a central part of this process, especially for the Labour Party, a previous emphasis on co-operatives and locally controlled democratic organisations is now largely jettisoned”.

Les Huckfield is a lecturer and researcher at the Open University and supervises doctoral students at Glasgow Caledonian University.

Following previous experience in the House of Commons and European Parliament, he remains a trade union activist.

He has two main specialities – European Union affairs and the third sector (voluntary, community, social enterprise and co-operatives)

You can read more on the ‘Books’ page of the Principle 5 website [\*\*HERE\*\*](#)

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## From the Co-op College Newsletter

Co-op Party

Chris Herries leadership programme

We were delighted to carry out the first in our six-session ‘Chris Herries leadership programme’, designed to inspire, empower and build community amongst female leaders within the Co-operative Party. The programme is funded through a legacy from Chris Herries, a former Co-op Party chair, Co-op Group director and the first ever female chair of Co-operatives UK, who was herself an advocate of female representation and advancement within the co-operative movement.

The programme covers topics including the history and role of women in the co-operative movement, equality, diversity and inclusion in action, and wellbeing through the lens of co-operative values. In addition to online and in-person sessions, the course uses an online community platform to support and encourage strong networking in-between sessions.

See further info and updates in the [College News](#)

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Suggestions for newsletter content are always  
welcome,  
contact: [steve@sheffield.coop](mailto:steve@sheffield.coop)

Members are always welcome  
to visit the resource centre.

For appointment contact [steve@sheffield.coop](mailto:steve@sheffield.coop)

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