

Principle FIVE

P5

Yorkshire Co-operative Resource Centre

August 2026



Principle 5 stall at the South Yorkshire Festival

Wortley Hall. 10th August 2026

The South Yorkshire Festival used to take place on International Co-operatives Day, the first Saturday in July every year, but is now in August. It has always been a celebration of the Labour Movement – Trades Unions,

Political Organisations and Co-operative Organisations.
And a day of entertainment and socialising for families and friends.

After the Second World War, Wortley Hall, the seat of the Earls of Wharnccliffe, came on to the Market. It was bought by a collective of Labour Party and Co-op Party members, Trades Unions and various socialist organisations and individuals. It was registered as a co-operative and known as the 'worker's stately home' and it has been used since it's foundation in 1950 to the present day for holidays, courses, schools, conferences, celebrations etc.

Principle 5 has an excellent book all about Wortley Hall by John Cornwall.



10 years of unlocking community investment £5 million
invested. £20 million unlocked.

[https://co-operativesuk.cmail19.com/t/t-e-wuudihd-
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Sheffield Co-operatives

Sheffield co-ops is a website for everything co-op in Sheffield. The listing below is taken from the website. If there is anything which is incorrect or anything that you would like to add, please reply to steve@sheffield.coop

- [Accountability Northern Ltd](#)
- [Alt-Sheff](#)
- [Beanies](#)
- [Brambles Housing Co-operative](#)
- [Co-op Group](#)

- [Community Made Solutions](#)
- [Cooperation Sheffield](#)
- [Fireside Housing Co-operative](#)
- [Gardeners Rest Community Society Ltd](#)
- [Jamboree Arts Ltd](#)
- [Lembas](#)
- [No Masters Co-operative Ltd](#)
- [Otto Personal Management](#)
- [Pedal Ready](#)
- [Portland Works](#)
- [Principle 5 — Yorkshire Co-operative Resource Centre](#)
- [Regather](#)
- [Share Instead Housing Co-operative](#)
- [Sheffield Co-operative Development Group](#)
- [Sheffield Co-operative Party](#)
- [Sheffield Community Land Trust](#)
- [Sheffield Community Transport](#)
- [South Yorkshire Community Bank](#)
- [Sheffield Creative Guild](#)
- [Sheffield Hackspace](#)
- [Sheffield Maternity Cooperative](#)
- [Sheffield Renewables](#)
- [Sheffield Student Housing Co-op](#)
- [Shipshape Health & Wellbeing Co-op](#)
- [South Yorkshire Country Markets](#)

- [Swann-Morton](#)
- [Thundercliffe Grange](#)
- [Townhead Housing Co-operative](#)
- [Union Street](#)
- [Webarchitects](#) — Webarch Co-operative Limited
- [Wortley Hall](#)

https://sheffield.coop/wiki/Main_Page

Other Yorkshire Co-operatives

There is no website for Yorkshire Co-ops, but Co-ops UK have a national directory: <https://www.uk.coop/directory>

[Footprint Worker's Co-op](#). Environmentally conscious, radical riso printers in Leeds

[A Commune in the North](#) Bentley, Doncaster

<https://mc3.coop/> Connecting Communities

Let us know about co-operatives in Yorkshire and we will add them to this directory. steve@sheffield.coop

It is with sadness that we report the death of Dave Woodall whose funeral took place on the 21st of July at Hutcliffe Wood. Dave was a member of the Friends of Wincobank Hill and also a lifetime co-operator. Paul Grassick gave the following address:

“I first met Dave in 1982 when delivering to Lembas at John and Leslie's house on Upper Valley Road. Dave used to come and help unload the deliveries from Nova Wholefoods (now Essential Trading) in Bristol. In 1983 I moved to Sheffield and briefly worked at Lembas, and got to know Dave much better, especially when he helped on the allotment Annie and I had taken on.

When Matthew was born Dave got a job at Down to Earth, mainly because of the flexible hours, and that meant that he could play a role in bringing the children up. By then I was working at Nottinghamshire Co-op Development Agency. Dave took on the finance/bookkeeping role at Down to Earth and asked if I could teach him the bookkeeping system that most of the co-operatives in Nottingham were using.

One of the co-ops in Nottingham which was set up was Hiziki, also a wholefood shop, and they started to form a relationship with Down to Earth, even buying together.

In August 1989 Dave did not turn up on the allotment on the Sunday. I had a board meeting the

next day in Nottingham and Ian from Hiziki asked me how Dave was. I said I had not seen him over the weekend as he had not come to the allotment. Ian realised that I did not know about Dave's accident and told me what had happened.

As he recovered Dave started coming to the allotment. I remember when he first came back, I had recently planted some onions, which Dave pulled up, because he thought they were weeds. Eventually Dave started work at the Archaeology dig near Malton, which involved him living in a tent during the week, and returning to Sheffield each weekend.

A year or so later a job vacancy came up at Hiziki, which Dave decided to apply for. He was successful in getting the job. It did involve travelling to Nottingham 4 – 5 days a week, but Dave preferred this to being away all week at Malton.

In 1994 Lembas came up for sale, and Dave asked if I could help if he bought it for the sum of £17,500 which came from the compensation he had received from the accident. I used to do the accounts for Lembas on Friday nights after work, and gave Dave advice on turning the business round. After a year, Lembas was actually making a small profit, and I reduced my work at Notts Co-operative Development Agency to 4 days a week and therefore could work all day Friday at Lembas.

We then computerised and Andy McAuley asked if he could work part-time at Lembas, and attend university to learn to write databases, using Lembas as the database he would construct while doing the course. The wages at Lembas were low at the time (I worked for free). And everyone received the same hourly rate and did many hours of unpaid overtime. In order to reward the employees Dave agreed that as profits increased he would receive a dividend, and give out some shares to the employees. This also meant that Lembas could use the profits to grow, to a point where decent wages could be paid.

Because of this Lembas started to grow rapidly, and I gave up my job in Nottingham to work three days a week at Lembas. We took on extra units at Gordon Works as the business continued to grow, but soon outgrew the space. We were turning over enough to increase wages, and pay Dave good dividends and look for a warehouse.

We ended up getting a custom built warehouse in Whiting Street. Dave and I plus Simon's parents and Matt's mother put in loans of £10,000 each, Lembas contributing £40,000 from cash we had built up and borrowed £160,000 from the bank.

After moving in to the warehouse over the Xmas holidays in 2000, turnover, employee number, wages and profits grew quickly. All the loans were repaid by 2005, and most of the employees owned some shares, although Dave still owned the

major shareholding. Andy had already left, although he kindly did work to improve the database on a self-employed basis, at a special rate.

I was planning to retire in 2008, and so Dave decided that he would want to leave as well. Using the same idea of distributing dividends we set a target of paying total dividends per share of £2,000 over the next few years, and once this was achieved put all the shares into an employee benefit trust, like a mini John Lewis. All the sacrifice and hard work made it all worthwhile.

In 2007 Dave decided to leave and work part time with Beanies (another wholefood co-op), which he did until retirement.

Dave always believed in worker co-ops, equality, equal pay and fairness. It really has been the greatest pleasure to know and work with one of the kindest and most generous people I have known.

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Members are always welcome to visit Principle 5 library.

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www.principle5.coop

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