

Principle FIVE

P5

Yorkshire Co-operative Resource Centre

September 2026



Principle 5 is pleased to welcome into membership Our Co-op, the largest independent co-operative society in Britain. This Society has been created by the merger between:

Central England Co-operative Society,
Midcounties Co-op
Chelmsford Star Co-op.

You will find co-op stores in Yorkshire and Derbyshire, but sadly, not in Sheffield.



Janette Hurst
Principle 5 Librarian

We are delighted to welcome Janette Hurst to the Board of Principle 5. Janette will take up the position of Librarian.

Janette is a Trustee and Membership Secretary of the

UK Society for Co-operative Studies.

She works at Sheffield Hallam University in the Business, Management and People Division where her work focuses on leadership, sustainability, and ethical and responsible management. Her research looks at the lived experience of individuals in worker co-operatives.

The Principle 5 Board

Dave Berry
Nick Edmondson
Janette Hurst
Chris Olewicz
Robert Smith

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The Principle 5 Library has a collection of books about theatre in Sheffield. Performance has always played a significant part in social culture, and the putting on of a play can be a wonderful group activity. The production of a play is a good example of co-operation in action.

There was a time when it was quite common for Co-operative Societies to have drama groups. The Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Players were excellent. Our archives include a folder of the programmes and photographs from the B & C players.

The development of our drama collection is timely. A group of Principle 5 members have been taking an interest in the Little Theatre at Upperthorpe in the inter-war years. It was a focus of the life of the Sheffield Educational Settlement under the wardenship of Arnold Freeman. There are wonderful stories to be told about that. Research into the activities of the Settlement have led to a greater understanding of the social issues of this place and time from the end of the first world war until the 1960s.

Principle 5 has joined with a community drama group, Zest / Upperthorpe Library (This Community Can (TCC), and Netherthorpe School in a project which will culminate in the putting on of a play.

The Upperthorpe Settlement Education, Work and Life a Century Ago

Over 100 years ago the Sheffield Educational Settlement was established in Upperthorpe, to achieve education for local workers and the community. Local people were encouraged to learn together, sharing hopes, aspirations and experiences. The aim was to lay foundations, and equip working people for being more capable as citizens, parents + community leaders. They read books and heard lectures but also learnt from producing drama together, in their very own Little Theatre.

This project uses records of their personal testimony to describe the Upperthorpe community as it was then and looks at what it became. This is not only a story of the past but also of the present and future. How did the experience help that community shape its own future and can we learn from it today? Can we imagine what life was like for Upperthorpe people of the time and what became of them? How does it compare today? Can we create that shared learning again and shape the future for today's generation?

We will use traditional learning methods but will also seek to create an experience through drama that engages with the people living here today.

Can this help today's generation shape their future?

The Project Exhibition will be launched at Zest:
Zest Centre, 18 Upperthorpe, Sheffield, S6 3NA

15th September 2026 as part of **Heritage Open Days**.

3:00pm

It will be a family friendly event which will appeal to people of all ages.

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What is a Co-operative?

The answer to this question is given by the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA):

Statement on the Co-operative Identity

A co-operative is owned and controlled by its members, not outside shareholders or funders. Members might be customers, workers, suppliers, tenants, residents or a community. They have a say in how the co-op is run and share in its benefits.

The usual legal forms available to co-operatives in the UK are Co-operative Society and Community Benefit Society. Principle 5 is registered as a Private Company Limited by Guarantee. Our rules (Articles of Association) are provided by Co-operatives UK, and we are guided by the values and principles of the ICA.

A co-operative might be unincorporated.

Here is an interesting example of another form of worker controlled business, the Employee Ownership Trust (EOT).

Abbeydale Brewery Ltd becomes 100% employee owned

Extract from **Beer Matters** Posted on 9th October 2024 by
[Andy Cullen](#)

Sheffield based Abbeydale Brewery Ltd is delighted to announce that it has become an Employee Ownership Trust, strengthening the commitment to its talented team, safeguarding its long-standing values and securing the legacy of the business. This change of ownership covers the whole business, encompassing the brewery itself and their pub, The Rising Sun in Nether Green. Both the brewery and pub are now 100% employee owned, with a company name chosen by the new employee owners of Sheffield Beerworks EOT Ltd.

Since its foundation in 1996, Abbeydale Brewery have always utilised a people-focused ethos, growing organically over the past three decades and being open to learning from the team.

The business, which employs over 50 staff (split between the brewery itself and their pub, The Rising Sun in Fulwood), has always been firmly rooted within the community. It benefits from an engaged and committed workforce, all of whom reside within the local area.

Employee ownership will ensure that the business can continue to drive forwards with the values of independence, community and teamwork which it holds as

key – overall retaining, building upon, and further developing the principles held for the past 28 years. Selling owner Sue Morton says “as well as trying to grow the business safely and organically, we have always tried to maintain an inclusive and supportive culture with the people who work with and for us. The future of the business is important to us, and we have always said we would not sell out to the ‘big boys’. We can think of no better option to secure the legacy of Abbeydale Brewery than to trust our team with the business they have helped us to build, together – we’re looking forward to seeing the exciting new developments they will bring forward”.

A limited-edition beer will be released to commemorate the occasion. With a recipe that was democratically chosen by the team, “Trust” will be a sessionable pale ale, intended to capture the essence of the beers that have enabled the business to reach this milestone. It will be available in cask, keg and can, and will launch at the Rising Sun on Monday 14th October, and will also be on the bar at the Steel City Beer Festival at Kelham Island Museum from Wednesday 16th October.

Brewery founders Pat and Sue Morton will continue to be involved with Abbeydale Brewery – whilst they will step back from the day-to-day running of the business, their positions on the Board of Directors will remain, and they will continue to play an advisory role in the management of the business.

The new Board of Trustees will be comprised of Jon Conroy who will be the independent chair, Pat Morton (selling owner), Dan Baxter (Co-Managing Director of Abbeydale Brewery Ltd and Abbeydale Inns T/A The Rising Sun), and two employee representatives – Finlay MacDonald who is a bartender at the Rising Sun and brewer Christie McIntosh representing the manufacturing side of the business. Dan

says “I could not be more proud of our team and everything we have achieved together over the years. We are a humble bunch, mentored by Pat and Sue, and have a vast skill set amongst our staff at both the brewery and the Rising Sun. The future for the business is very exciting! The support of our customers and our community is paramount as it always has been. So a massive thank you for enjoying our beer. We will continue to do what we do best”.

Abbeydale Brewery join a growing movement of EOTs that also includes companies such as Aardman Animations, cosmetics supplies Lush, and fellow Sheffield based Gripple and Swann Morton.

Principle 5 Members and visitors are always welcome to book an appointment to come to the library.

We look forward to seeing you.

steve@sheffield.coop

Tel: 0114 282 3132

www.principle5.coop

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Aizlewood's Mill, Nursery Street, Sheffield, S3 8GG

