

## UK Society for Co-operative Studies (UKSCS)

### Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2024

#### Candidate Statements



#### **John Maddocks**

John Maddocks is an independent researcher and accountant. Recently retired from paid work, John has over 30 years of experience as an accountant, working in and with voluntary and community groups, charities, co-operatives and credit unions. He has a broad experience of charities, in various roles including as: board member, manager, employee and accountant.

Prior to retiring John undertook PhD research, looking at social accounting and, in particular, accounting for social value. Previous work roles include: Policy and Technical Manager at CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy), Director of Research at the Centre of Excellence in Accounting and Reporting for Co-operatives (CEARC), at Saint Mary's University, Nova Scotia, and many years working as a Community Accountant.

John was Treasurer of UKSCS from September 2016 to March 2021, followed by a break before rejoining the board of UKSCS in 2022.

#### **Mike Wistow**

Mike has been a Trustee of UKSCS since 2019 and has been Chair for the two years 2022/23 and 2023/24.

He has worked with colleague-Trustees to promote the aims of UKSCS:

- delivering more direct contact with Members through the publication of regular mails to Members as well as through the website
- re-positioning the *Journal* as an open access journal to promote knowledge, research and innovation within and about the co-operative sector
- returning, post-Covid, to in-person Conferences, in Lincoln in 2023 and Lichfield in 2024
- running the Co-operative Conversations series
- simplifying some of the governance of UKSCS through the creation of an overview dashboard and a standardised agenda for Board meetings.

Mike has recently been elected as a Director of Lincolnshire Co-op.

More broadly, he has a long history of involvement at Board level. He has previously been a Trustee in a Community Arts organisation, a College of Further Education and a criminal justice charity. He was also Secretary and then Chair of NPRIE, the national research organisation for the Probation Service.

He is the founding Director of Aegir Consulting Limited which has worked with commercial, public and third sector organisations in developing and implementing longer-term strategies.

Registered office:  
Holyoake House  
Hanover Street  
Manchester M60 0AS

info@ukscs.coop  
www.ukscs.coop

**Ruth Hall**

My name is Ruth Hall, and I am seeking re-election to the Board of Trustees for UKSCS. I have been on the Board for two terms and have been involved in the building of the website, manage social media and support in the delivery of events.

I have a background of having previously worked for The Co-operative Group for 15 years, and previously sat on the Board of The Co-operative College. I am elected as Secretary of the Scottish Co-operative Party and elected to The Co-operative Party's National Executive Committee where I am Vice Chair.

I am keen to be re-elected to the Board and to continue supporting the UK Society of Co-operative Studies in engaging with the Co-operative movement and those outside of the academic sphere, to grow and build an understanding of how co-operation can build a better world.

**Stephen Gill**

As a Trustee, I offer a unique blend of practical experience and academic insight deeply rooted in the cooperative movement. With my tenure as CEO of VME Coop and nearly three decades of involvement with the UK's retail co-ops, I possess a comprehensive understanding of cooperative dynamics across various stakeholder groups. Holding non exec board positions at Revolver Coop, Kandaroo CIC, workers.coop and Coops UK underscores my unwavering commitment to advancing social justice through cooperative values and principles.

Moreover, my recent academic pursuit culminating in a Masters in Cooperative Management from St Mary's, Canada, provides me with the scholarly foundation necessary for informed decision-making within the UKSCS. Additionally, as a co-founder of Coop Exchange, I have demonstrated dedication to innovative solutions for cooperative capital and wealth inequality mitigation.

I am drawn to the UKSCS's rich history and its pivotal role in fostering cooperative studies and research. I believe my hands-on experience coupled with academic rigor align seamlessly with the Society's mission to promote knowledge exchange and impactful research in the cooperative sphere. I am eager to contribute my expertise to furthering the UKSCS's objectives and advancing the cooperative movement both domestically and internationally.