

From the times when wealthy and powerful people started to privatise common land, there have been those who aspired to a co-operative commonwealth. Ownership of land, trade and industry gives unregulated power to the owner at the expense of the lives of the multitude who are forced to work for them. Thus, the industrial revolution mechanised a criminal exploitation of the masses of ordinary people who saw no alternative but to work in unregulated industry. It was during these times that the concept of Co-operation came into being. That a Co-operative Commonwealth could be brought about where the people who worked on and consumed the produce of the land, also owned it. Private interests and competition could be eliminated, through people co-operating with each other and owning and controlling land, industry and trade. A new society could be created where innovative models of industry and distribution could be democratised for the benefit of all people. And life could then become more human, social and truly fulfilling.

Does this sound impossibly utopian?

Huge progress has been made towards the Co-operative Commonwealth. There have also been huge setbacks.

Principle 5 Yorkshire Co-operative Resource Centre was set up in order to provide a facility to explore the progress made towards the Co-operative Commonwealth. To celebrate its successes. To learn from its failures. And to bring together all the ingredients to make the aspiration of a Co-operative Commonwealth a reality.

Join Principle 5

Principle 5 is a co-operative which offers research facilities, and a lending library for individuals and co-operatives. As a co-operative it is member run and owned. Principle 5 endeavours to support study of the co-operative movement through publications and events.

There are two categories of membership. Principle 5 is funded by those individuals and organisations who value co-operative education and want to support Principle 5 (Education, Training and Information).

User Members take an active part in the co-operative through study and research, and by taking part in the activities of the co-operative. Because of their active contribution to co-operative education the annual membership subscription is £20 per year.

Supporter Members ensure that Principle 5 can continue to provide an educational service to the Co-operative Movement through their financial contribution. They pay a minimum subscription of £45 per year but are encouraged to pay more if they can.

Co-operators everywhere, please join Principle 5 and help to build a real Co-operative Commonwealth.



For more information about joining Principle 5
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Principle FIVE

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