

UK SOCIETY FOR CO-OPERATIVE STUDIES

England & Wales · Charity number 1175295

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2017-10-23

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Holyoake House
Manchester
M60 0AS

Phone 0161 214 1750

Email info@ukscs.coop

Website www.ukscs.coop

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC CONCERNING ALL ASPECTS OF THE CO OPERATIVE MOVEMENT, AND CO-OPERATIVE FORMS OF STRUCTURE, AND IN PARTICULAR TO ASSIST, COMMISSION AND/OR IDENTIFY, AND TO PUBLISH RESEARCH INTO THE AFOREMENTIONED AREAS AND TO PROMOTE THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCE ON CO-OPERATIVE STUDIES AND RESEARCH.

Activities: We publish the Journal of Co-operative Studies; put on an annual public lecture; and organise our annual conference, along with other ad hoc events.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£12,452	£3,853	-	-
2024-03-31	£9,160	£5,777	-	-
2023-03-31	£12,190	£9,365	-	-
2022-03-31	£3,285	£6,314	-	-
2021-03-31	£4,970	£866	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Bibby		2025-11-25
Dr Anita Mangan		2023-01-20
Dr Elisavet Mantzari		2023-05-19
Dr Francesca Gagliardi		2019-12-10
GILLIAN LONERGAN		2017-10-23
Ian Adderley		2018-08-31
Janette Hurst		2022-01-21
John Maddocks		2022-07-15
NICK MATTHEWS		2018-08-31
Stacey Marie SALT		2025-11-25

UK SOCIETY FOR CO-OPERATIVE STUDIES

England & Wales - Charity number 1175295

Accounts



UK Society for Co-operative Studies

(Registered charity, number 1175295)

Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

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UK Society for Co-operative Studies

Trustees' annual report for the year ended 31 March 2025

Full name: UK Society for Co-operative Studies

Organisation type: Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered charity number: 1175295

Principal address

Holyoake House
Hanover Street
Manchester
M60 0AS

Trustees

Ian Adderley	– Secretary
Francesca Gagliardi	– Trustee
Stephen Gill	– Trustee (Co-opted, May 2024, elected September 2024)
Ruth Hall	– Vice-Chair
Janette Hurst	– Membership Secretary
John Maddocks	– Treasurer
Elisavet Mantzari	– Chair (from October 2024)
Nick Matthews	– Trustee
Colin Talbot	– Trustee (Co-opted, January 2025)
Mike Wistow	– Chair (until October 2024), resigned, January 2025
Anita Mangan	– Ex-officio (Editor in Chief of the <i>Journal</i>)
Gillian Lonergan	– Ex-officio (Production Editor of the <i>Journal</i>)

Governance and management

The UK Society for Co-operative Studies (the Society) is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 1 September 2017. Trustees are all members of the Society and apart from ex-officio officers are appointed by members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The trustees may also co-opt members to the board during the year. Co-opted trustees must stand for election at their first AGM following co-option to confirm their appointment.

Objects and Activities

The Society's objects are to advance the education of the public concerning all aspects of the co-operative movement, and co-operative forms of structure, and, in particular, to assist,

commission and/or identify and publish research into the aforementioned areas, and to promote the exchange of information and experience on co-operative studies and research.

The main activities of the Society include production of the *Journal of Co-operative Studies*, supporting study networks, organising seminars, online conversations and hosting a conference.

Annual General Meeting

We held our Annual General Meeting (AGM) as a standalone event at 1pm on 3 September 2024. We presented our annual report and accounts for the year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, and held trustee elections.

Membership Type and Contact with Members

On 31 March 2025, we had 117 Individual Members and 7 Organisational Members. The Constitution allows for a 'grace period' of six months between subscriptions falling due and Membership being terminated.

Members have received email updates throughout the year, been invited to events, and received copies of the *Journal of Co-operative Studies*.

Public benefit statement

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit (PB1, PB2, and PB3).

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit:

Main activities during the financial year included:

- Publication of the *Journal of Co-operative Studies*
- Hosting a Lecture
- Organising the annual Co-operative Studies Conference
- Hosting the Co-operative Conversations Series
- Supporting other events across the Co-operative Movement

Summary of the main achievements during the period

We are grateful to our members for their continued support and additional subscribers to the society's *Journal*. In particular, we recognise the many hundreds of hours put in by volunteers across all aspects of the activities described below.

Publication of the *Journal of Co-operative Studies*

The *Journal of Co-operative Studies* is published three times a year. It is a journal that accepts both peer-reviewed articles from academic contributors and short articles from practitioners. It is distributed in Canada in co-operation with the Canadian Association of Studies in Co-operation (CASC) and in Ireland in co-operation with the Irish Society for Co-operative Studies. While one role of the *Journal* is the dissemination of the results of research, we remain keen to ensure that its contents also reflect the role of the Society in acting as a bridge between theory and practice in advancing knowledge and understanding of co-operation.

2024-25 has been another busy and productive year for those of us involved in the production of the *Journal of Co-operative Studies*, with one open issue and two special issues. Last year we moved to green open access (without the six-month embargo) and to add DOIs to all new papers. Both of those developments have been monitored throughout the year, giving the team some new insights into user visits and popular papers. This year we updated our social media presence with a [LinkedIn](#) profile and [BlueSky](#) account, while continuing our [Mastodon](#) account.

We are continuing to promote the *Journal* through our website and social media channels and to improve access and visibility both for those publishing in the *Journal* and to potential readers and subscribers. The Society's website has received 25,707 views (22,931 in 2023-24, a 12% increase) from 127 countries over the year (116 in 2023-24). There has been an increase in traffic for all countries in the last year. The *Journal* pages remain the most popular first visit with 2,045 file downloads of current and past issues of the *Journal*, and related material (1,751 in 2023-24).

Volume 57 was the first full year of green open access without an embargo period and with DOIs on all papers. The open call Summer issue ([Vol 57, No 1](#)) showcased the variety of co-operative research being undertaken, featuring articles about Europe and Australia, written by both academic and practitioner authors. Topics included a macro-level analysis of the factors that could influence a person's motivation to joining a co-operative, accountability among farmers who are members of an Australian agricultural marketing co-operative, and a history of co-operative housing in Germany.

The Autumn issue ([Vol 57, No 2](#)) was a special issue on Co-operative Education, which was guest edited by Esther Gicheru, Malcolm Noble, and Cilla Ross. The special emerged from an online workshop held in September 2023 and it showcased co-operative education both as a global practice and radical response to capitalist permacrisis. Themes included a history of co-operative education, the signature pedagogies of co-operatives, the essence of co-operative learning, psychosocial approaches, building co-operative education into the co-operative

journey, and experiments in empowerment. Examples came from the UK, Chile, France, and Malawi.

The Winter issue ([Vol 57, No 3](#)) was also a special issue, but it was unusual in that it consisted of editor reviewed extracts from Ian Adderley's (2025) *Co-operatives: Linking practice and theory*, a text that introduces people to co-operatives by offering a comprehensive overview of the field. The seven topics used in the issue were a summary of the UK co-operative movement today, contextual material, co-operative governance, legislative history, co-operative economics, co-operative ideology, and the relationship between co-operatives and social responsibility.

During the year, we also issued [calls for papers](#) for special issues on imagining co-operatives (scheduled for Summer 2026) and co-operatives and co-operative principles in sport (scheduled for 2026-27). All the suggestions from the last AGM on potential contributors / contributions were gratefully received and have been followed up for inclusion in future issues.

Finally, thanks go to all contributors, and everyone involved in reviewing, editing, proofing, printing, and distributing both the online and hard copy editions of the *Journal*.

Reference

Adderley, I. (2025). *Co-operatives: Linking practice and theory*. Co-operative Press Limited/UK Society for Co-operative Studies.

Hosting a Lecture

Co-operative housing expert, Blase Lambert, delivered a lecture titled: 'Co-operation in housing'. The [event took place online](#) on 8 October 2024. Blase Lambert is the Chief Executive of the Confederation of Co-operative Housing, and is a board member of both Co-operative Housing International, and the International Co-operative Alliance.

Organising the Annual Co-operative Studies Conference

Our 56th conference took place on 21 and 22 February 2025 in Belfast. It was a joint conference, with the [Society for Co-operative Studies in Ireland](#).

The theme of the conference was '*Co-operation among co-operators: The Irish-British connection*'. We were pleased to welcome Northern Ireland's Minister for the Economy, Dr Caoimhe Archibald as a keynote speaker. You can [read more in reports from the conference](#).

Hosting of a Co-operative Conversations Series

We continue to run our 'Co-operative Conversations'. This hour-long evening event involves interviewing a member of the co-operative movement about their personal history and contribution, supplemented by broader discussion amongst members.

[During the year](#) *Conversations* have been held with:

- April 2024 - Patrick Doyle (Chair of the Society for Co-operative Studies in Ireland) and Peter Couchman (former Chief Executive of the Plunkett Foundation), sharing insights from Ireland, which became the genesis of the 2025 joint conference
- July 2024 - Richard Irving (Secretary, Football Supporters' Association), focusing on co-operation in sport as a precursor to a forthcoming edition of the *Journal*
- July 2024- Kate Still (Chair, CEO, and former national social enterprise lead), talking about her wide experience across public, private and third sectors
- November 2024 - Natalie Bradbury (Writer and Researcher), reflecting on the role of women's periodicals as an educational space for co-operative women, including – topically – specific content on the role of the Co-operative Women's Guild in the promotion of the White Poppy
- February 2025 - Matt Otridge (Chief Operating Officer of the Music Venue Properties), on community ownership of, and wider support for, grassroots music venues
- March 2025 - Colin Talbot (Academic and Adviser), exploring why and how humans co-operate and reflecting on the lack of wider recognition for this instinct in the UK's public realm political economy.

These conversations have not only provided spaces to bring people together to share knowledge and understanding but have acted as catalysts for other educational activity.

Supporting other Events across the Co-operative Movement

This year, the Society has actively worked with other organisations in the co-operative movement in support of its charitable objective to advance the education of the public concerning all aspects of the co-operative movement, and co-operative forms of structure, and, in particular, to assist, commission and/or identify and publish research into the aforementioned areas, and to promote the exchange of information and experience on co-operative studies and research. In particular, this year has seen successful joint-working with the Society for Co-operative Studies in Ireland.

Indication of Reach

Google Analytics is attached to our website. It collects basic information from the site and helps us by providing a snapshot at specific times or over time into how the site is being used, how people find us, what they are interested in, and the country from which they are visiting. The information we use is high level data and does not identify individuals and individual demographics.

Measure	Number	Comment
Number of users	7,955	This refers to the number of discrete users. It is a 35% increase on the numbers recorded last year (↑2064).
Total views of pages and screens	25,707	There has been increased engagement and interaction with the website over the year. Of the total of 82,187 interactions (page click, form submit, scroll, file download, etc), just under a third were more active visits and interaction with specific pages.
Top 5 pages viewed Journal of Co-operative Studies UKSCS UKSCS/Home UKSCS Conference 2025 About us	4000 2849 2531 967 635	The top 5 pages as first entry/main viewing have remained the same although the 'traffic' to each has increased. Most (especially new users) find us through a general web search although a third of users use a direct page URL. Just over 10% come through a link provided through another medium (e.g. LinkedIn)
International reach (users) United Kingdom United States Germany China India	2,575 (32.45%) 1,531 (19.29%) 385 (4.85%) 349 (4.4%) 336 (4.23%)	Individuals from 127 countries engaged with the site – viewing and downloading information. UK, US, and India remain in the top 5 countries where visitors come from and this year there has been increased interest from individuals in China and Germany. The first may link to the Robert Owen special issue and to a call for papers for a special issue; the latter may link to the 'push' via social media of the popular article listed below in file downloads.
File Downloads	2151, in total	As we get more of the journal archive online, the number of downloads continues to increase. A big difference to last year has been the introduction of digital object identifiers (DOIs), which provides a way of finding and tracking individual articles, as shown below.
Top 5 downloads 1 and 2: UKSCS / SCISI Conference 2025 Co-operation among Co-operators: The Irish-British Connection	A =199 B= 81	A=Conference announcement/initial information B=Follow up call for papers/conference programme
3. Journal of Co-operative Studies, 57(1), 39-53	62	Pfattereicher et al. (2024). Housing co-operatives in Germany: 160 years of evolution and resilience. https://doi.org/10.61869/GCSP6342
4. Journal of Co-operative Studies, 57(1), 7-23	50	Sala-Ríos, M. et al. (2024). Co-operatives' significance in Europe: Assessing the influence of social, political, and economic factors. https://doi.org/10.61869/TTAT3512
Submission guidelines	50	Guidelines for authors who may be considering submitting an article to the Journal.

This is in addition to our presence on social media – including Instagram, BlueSky, and Mastodon. In January 2025, we closed our account on X (formerly Twitter).

Trustee Attendance at Board Meetings

We held four meetings during this reporting period. Three took place online. A strategy day was held in person on 18 October 2024.

Name	Possible	Actual
Ian Adderley	4	4
Francesca Gagliardi	4	3
Stephen Gill	3	2
Ruth Hall	4	3
Janette Hurst	4	3
Gillian Lonergan	4	4
John Maddocks	4	3
Anita Mangan	4	4
Elisavet Mantzari	4	4
Nick Matthews	4	2
Colin Talbot	0	0
Mike Wistow	4	4

Valuing our Volunteers

Volunteers organised and participated in setting up, running and reviewing a variety of activity and events during the year including:

- the AGM
- production of the annual report
- editing and producing the *Journal*
- administering and fulfilling *Journal* orders
- planning and running the Conference
- administering membership
- keeping Members informed through the website, e-mails, Co-operative Conversations, individual conversations and the many small interactions which keep any membership organisation running
- managing funds
- bookkeeping and financial management
- liaising with partner organisations
- secretarial activities associated with facilitating and supporting board meetings
- managing our website and IT infrastructure
- running our social media channels.

We could not function without the generous support of our volunteers.

Financial Review

The Society achieved a surplus for the financial year ending March 2025, with net receipts of £8,599. There were, however, liabilities of £3,001 at year end, which mostly related to the annual conference held in February 2025, and included monies owed to the joint conference organisers as well as conference speaker expenses. The Society's main income sources continue to be a mix of grants, membership fees, events, and journal orders. One noticeable change in income was the additional funding secured for the annual conference, which helped keep conference ticket prices relatively low. Overall the Society continues to find itself in a sound financial position due in no small part to the contribution of volunteers in developing, organising, and sustaining the various activities of the organisation.

The Society's policy on reserves

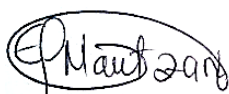
We have three unrestricted designated funds established to support the activities of the charity:

- *Operating reserve £8,000 (to cover up to 12 months core activities)*
- *Journal production and distribution fund £5,000 (to meet commitments)*
- *Conference bursaries fund £2,000 (to offer free or discounted places)*

Thank you

Thanks to all the society members and trustees for their support and work over the year. Also, thanks to funders, the co-operative societies and all with whom UKSCS have worked over the year 2024-2025.

Signed on behalf of the Society's trustees:



Elisavet Mantzari, Trustee and Chair

Date: 30/11/2025

**UK Society for Co-operative Studies
Statement of assets and liabilities
at 31 March 2025**

2024		Note	2025
£			£
34,007	Cash assets		
	Bank accounts		42,606
-	Cash in hand		-
<u>34,007</u>			<u>42,606</u>
	Other monetary assets		
-	Debtors	5	-
10	Shares	6	10
<u>10</u>			<u>10</u>
	Assets retained for the charity's own use		
	The charity does not have any items of equipment or other assets retained for the charity's own use		
	Liabilities		
-	Creditors	7	2,881
120	Advance receipts - journal orders		120
<u>120</u>			<u>3,001</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed 
Elisavet Mantzari, Trustee and Chair

Date 30/11/25

UK Society for Co-operative Studies
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received, and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

2. Grants & donations

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Co-operative Group	1,000	3,000	4,000
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>

3. Funds analysis

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	(Payments) £	Transfers £	Closing balance £
Restricted funds					
Journal	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Conference	-	2,000	(287)	-	1,713
	<u>-</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>(1,287)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,713</u>
Unrestricted designated funds					
Operating reserve	8,000	-	-	-	8,000
Journal	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
Conference	2,000	-	-	-	2,000
	<u>15,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,000</u>

UK Society for Co-operative Studies Notes to the accounts - continued

4. Volunteers' expenses

Volunteers' expenses amounting to £138 arose during the financial year. These expenses were a reimbursement of travel expenses to a trustee attending a UKSCS trustees meeting held in Manchester. All other trustees meetings held during the year took place online using Zoom.

5. Debtors

There were no debtors at year end.

6. Shares

The shares are in Co-operative Press Limited and have a nominal value of £10.

7. Creditors

	£
Conference - Speakers expenses	581
Conference - SCSI (joint conference organisers)	2,300
	<u>2,881</u>

8. Trustees' remuneration

None of the trustees were paid any remuneration during the period.

9. Glossary of terms

Advance receipts: These are amounts received by the charity in the accounting period, for use in a future period.

Creditors: These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid in the accounting period.

Debtors: These are amounts owed to the charity, but not received in the accounting period.

Restricted funds: These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but within the general objects of the charity.

Unrestricted designated funds: These are unrestricted funds set aside by the trustees for specific purposes.

UK SOCIETY FOR CO-OPERATIVE STUDIES

England & Wales - Charity number 1175295

Accounts



UK Society for Co-operative Studies

(Registered charity, number 1175295)

**Annual report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

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	Trustees' annual report
	Receipts & payments account
	Statement of assets & liabilities
	Notes to the accounts

UK Society for Co-operative Studies Trustees' annual report for the year ended 31 March 2024

Full name: The UK Society for Co-operative Studies

Organisation type: Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered charity number: 1175295

Principal address

Holyoake House
Hanover Street
Manchester
M60 0AS

Trustees

Ian Adderley	– Secretary
Francesca Gagliardi	– Trustee
Ruth Hall	– Vice-Chair
Janette Hurst	– Membership Secretary
John Maddocks	– Treasurer
Elisavet Mantzari	– Co-opted May 2023
Nick Matthews	– Trustee
Jan Myers	– Resigned October 2023
Rory Ridley-Duff	– Resigned June 2023
Mike Wistow	– Chair
Anita Mangan	– Ex-officio (Editor in Chief of the <i>Journal</i>)
Gillian Lonergan	– Ex-officio (Production Editor of the <i>Journal</i>)

Governance and management

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 1 September 2017. Trustees are all members of the charity and apart from ex-officio officers are appointed by members at the AGM. The trustees may also co-opt members to the executive committee during the year. Co-opted trustees must stand for election at their first AGM following co-option to confirm their appointment.

Objects and Activities

The society's objects are to advance the education of the public concerning all aspects of the co-operative movement, and co-operative forms of structure, and, in particular, to assist, commission and/or identify and publish research into the aforementioned areas, and to promote the exchange of information and experience on co-operative studies and research.

The main activities of the society include production of the *Journal of Co-operative Studies*, supporting study networks, organising seminars, online conversations and hosting a conference.

Annual General Meeting

We held our Annual General Meeting (AGM) as a standalone event in the evening of 2 October 2023. We presented our annual report and accounts for the year 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, and held trustee elections.

Membership Type and Contact with Members

On March 31st 2024, UKSCS had 101 Individual Members and 6 Organisational Members. The Constitution allows for a 'grace period' of six months between subscriptions falling due and Membership being terminated. [It may be worth noting that, at the time of writing (July 2024) a number of overdue Memberships have been successfully followed up since that date.]

We are also pleased to note that Members have received two – three e-mailed Briefings each quarter. This has been a significant increase on earlier years and has covered both notification of upcoming events and reporting back on UKSCS activities. The following pages give an overview of activities that UKSCS has undertaken in the 2023 – 2024.

Public benefit statement

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit (PB1, PB2, and PB3).

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit:

Main activities during the financial year included:

- Publication of the *Journal of Co-operative Studies*
- Hosting a Lecture
- Organising the annual Co-operative Studies Conference
- Hosting the Co-operative Conversations Series
- Supporting other events across the Co-operative Movement

Summary of the main achievements during the period

We are grateful to our members for their continued support and additional subscribers to the society's *Journal*. In particular, we recognise the many hundreds of hours put in by volunteers across all aspects of the activities described below.

Publication of the *Journal of Co-operative Studies*

The *Journal of Co-operative Studies* is published three times a year. It is a *journal* that accepts both peer-reviewed articles from academic contributors and short articles from practitioners. It is distributed in Canada in co-operation with the Canadian Association of Studies in Co-operation (CASC) and in Ireland in co-operation with the Irish Society for Co-operative Studies. While one role of the *Journal* is the dissemination of the results of research, we remain keen to ensure that its contents also reflect the role of the UK Society for Co-operative Studies in acting as a bridge between theory and practice in advancing knowledge and understanding of co-operation.

2023-24 has been a busy and productive year for those of us involved in the production of the *Journal* with two open issues and one special issue. The new editorial team has established itself and a productive working relationship has been established with the international Editorial Advisory Board.

The most significant development in 2023 is that following consultation with the *Journal's*

Editorial Advisory Board, the UK Society for Co-operative Studies Board opted to remove the six-month embargo on publications and to add DOIs (Digital Object Identifiers) to all new papers. Our green open access policy means that neither readers nor authors are charged fees. As an international peer-reviewed *journal*, we think that this is an important way of supporting the co-operative ecosystem because it makes published research accessible to readers, while also ensuring that prospective authors do not face prohibitive costs. The 56(3) Winter issue was the first with DOIs and without a six-month embargo period. Volume 57 will be the first full year of green open access without an embargo period and with DOIs on all papers. Work is ongoing to add DOIs to the recent archive.

We are continuing to promote the *Journal* through our website and social media channels and to improve access and visibility both for those publishing in the *Journal* and to potential readers and subscribers. The UKSCS website has received 22,931 views (18,776 in 2022-23) from 116 countries over the year. There has been an increase in traffic for all countries in the last year. The *Journal* pages remain the most popular first visit with 1,751 file downloads of current and past issues of the *Journal*, and related material.

The open call Summer issue ([Vol 56, No. 1](#)) featured articles about Canada, South Korea, England, and Wales, written by both academic and practitioner authors. Themes included the potential for worker co-operatives to provide social care, the connections between the Hansalim Life Movement and New Cooperativism, co-operative publishing, the evolution of the Centre for Alternative Technology, and the joys and difficulties of worker co-operatives.

The Autumn issue ([Vol 56, No. 2](#)) was also an open call, but the papers were broadly similar in that they all addressed the future of co-operatives by investigating areas such as the sustainable development goals (SDGs), business models, Strategic Renewal, and the role of education in promoting social transformation. Examples came from Turkish co-operatives, Irish credit unions, consumer co-operatives around the world (UK, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Italy, France, Canada, Australia, South Korea, and Japan), and the Preston Cooperative Education Centre.

We received positive feedback on the Winter issue, *Robert Owen and co-operation*, ([Vol. 56, No. 3](#)) which was a special issue produced to mark the 250th anniversary of Robert Owen's birth. The issue showcased the global reach, diversity, and continued relevance of Owen's work. It explores Owen's legacy, adult and co-operative education, utopian and realism in co-operatives, land reform, civil rights, co-operative and labour movements, and a co-operative model of entrepreneurship. The special issue was guest edited by Professor Chris Williams, who brought together an impressive group of scholars from around the

world. The Editorial Team were shocked and deeply saddened to learn of his untimely death. Chris brought vast knowledge, skill, friendship, and co-operative spirit to the special issue. He was also a valued member of the *Journal's* Editorial Advisory Board.

During the year, we also issued [calls for papers](#) for special issues on co-operative education (schedule for Autumn 2024), worker co-operatives (scheduled for 2025), and co-operative futures in China (scheduled for 2025). All the suggestions from the last AGM on potential contributors / contributions were gratefully received and have been followed up for inclusion in future issues.

Finally, thanks go to all contributors, and everyone involved in reviewing, editing, proofing, printing, and distributing both the online and hard copy editions of the *Journal*.

Hosting a Lecture

In December 2023, we hosted co-operative law expert, Ian Snaith, in 'Reflections on Co-operative Law'. The event took place online during the day on Monday 4 December 2023, with the recording available on our website and YouTube Channel:

<https://www.ukscs.coop/events/reflections-on-co-operative-law-with-ian-snaith>

Ian gave his reflections on the field of co-operative law, and his thoughts for the future, with a Law Commission review of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 underway.

Organising the Annual Co-operative Studies Conference

Our 55th conference took place on March 1st and 2nd 2024. It was held in Lichfield and UKSCS was supported by Central Co-op with venue and arrangements. The Conference title was "*Sustainability Of The Co-Operative Ecosystem: The Role Of Secondary Co-Operatives And Federations*"

The keynote presentation was from the Chief Executive of Central Co-op and the subsequent Panel Session consisted of senior representatives from: the Federation of Worker Co-ops; the Building Societies Association; the Strategy & Intelligence function in Co-op Group.

The Conference is intended to be a national focus for Co-operative practitioners and researchers and the format included the opportunity to visit/discuss: Central Co-op community stores; the city of Lichfield and the reasons for the location there of the new Central Co-op office buildings; Central Co-ops apprenticeship schemes.

These discussions were followed in the evening with the opportunity for networking, a session from Co-operative Education, a presentation on worker co-ops in Catalonia, and a presentation on the work of Central Co-op in Malawi.

Day 2 continued to provide a focus for networking and considered discussion, with the focus on recent academic insights from leading Co-operative academics from the Ireland and India as well as the United Kingdom.

Though attendance was smaller than the previous year, feedback was positive and the Conference was financially successful.

Hosting of a Co-operative Conversations Series

UKSCS has developed an online conversation format, which is now called 'Co-operative Conversations'. This hour-long evening event involves interviewing a member of the co-operative movement about their personal history and contribution, supplemented by broader discussion amongst members.

During the year Conversations have been held with:

- *Laura Dunne, Head of Marketing & Membership at Lincolnshire Co-op, and Tom Blount, Science Park Director, Lincoln*
- *Rory Ridley-Duff, Professor of Co-operative Social Entrepreneurship at Sheffield Hallam University and former UKSCS Chair*
- *Henry Leveson-Gower, Founder and CEO of Promoting Economic Pluralism*
- *Rose Marley, Chief Executive of Co-operatives UK*
- *Tanya Noon, Director of Central Co-op, Director of Co-ops UK (amongst others)*
- *Graham Boyd, Founder of Evolutesix,*

Supporting other events across the Co-operative Movement

This year, the Society has actively worked with other organisations in the co-operative movement in support of its charitable objective to advance the education of the public

concerning all aspects of the co-operative movement, and co-operative forms of structure, and, in particular, to assist, commission and/or identify and publish research into the aforementioned areas, and to promote the exchange of information and experience on co-operative studies and research.

The Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal* and the Associate Editor (Production) are members of CoRNet, the co-operatives research network.

The Editor in Chief represented the Journal at a 'Co-operative publishing' session at the ICA Conference, University of Dundee, 24-26 June 2024.

Indication of Reach

It is not possible, nor probably useful, to be statistically encompassing about the reach of UKSCS – one idea from one conversation with a particular individual might significantly change an approach to national policy, for example. However the UKSCS website does provide us with numbers and the following are some of the key ones for the year April 2023 – March 2024:

Measure	Number	Comment
Number of users	5,900	Up from 4.2k the previous year
Total views of pages and screens	22,931	Up from 18,776 the previous year
Top five pages viewed		The importance of the website as a means of accessing the <i>Journal</i> is also highlighted when looking in detail at the number of interactions (ie clicking a button or submitting a form etc, rather than passively viewing a web page) which was more than 11,000
<i>Journal of Co-operative Studies</i>	3499	
UKSCS	3235	
UKSCS – Home	1559	
UKSCS Conference 2024	910	
About us	771	
International Reach (Users)		The figures to the right are the top five from a list of 116 countries identified.
UK	2076	
USA	950	
Poland	423	
Canada	245	
India	223	
File Downloads		The figures to the right are the top five identified from a total of 1,751
JCS, 55(1) 2022 Special issue: Johnston Birchall – An appreciation	188	
Conference 2024	143	
JCS, 55(3) 2022 Special issue: New cooperativism	123	
JCS, 54(3)	100	
JCS 55 (2)	95	

The Executive Committee Attendance at Committee Meetings

We held four meetings during this reporting period, all taking place online.

Name	Actual	Possible
Ian Adderley	4	4
Francesca Gagliardi	3	4
Ruth Hall	2	4
Janette Hurst	3	4
Gillian Lonergan	4	4
John Maddocks	3	4
Anita Mangan	4	4
Elisavet Mantzari	4	4
Nick Matthews	4	4
Jan Myers	2	2
Rory Ridley-Duff	2	2
Mike Wistow	4	4

Valuing our Volunteers

The society could not function without the generous support of its volunteers. Volunteers organised and participated in a setting up, running and reviewing a variety of activity and events during the year including:

- the AGM
- production of the annual report
- editing and producing the *Journal*
- administering and fulfilling journal orders
- planning and running the Conference
- administering membership
- keeping Members informed through the website, e-mails, Co-operative Conversations, individual conversations and the many small interactions which keep any membership organisation running
- managing funds
- bookkeeping and financial management
- liaising with partner organisations
- all the activities associated with facilitating and supporting committee meetings

Financial Review

The Society achieved a surplus for the financial year ending March 2024, with net receipts of £3,383. The charity's main income sources continue to be a mix of grants and donations, membership fees, events and journal orders. There is, though, some change in the mix with a noticeable shift away from print and towards digital versions of the journal. Membership income has remained fairly steady while the 2024 annual conference achieved a healthy surplus. Overall the Society continues to find itself in a sound financial position, due in no small part to the continuing contribution of volunteers in developing and sustaining the various activities of the organisation.

The charity's policy on reserves

The charity has three unrestricted designated funds established to support the activities of the charity:

- Operating reserve £8,000 (to cover up to 12 months core activities)
- *Journal* production and distribution fund £2,000 (to meet commitments)
- Conference bursaries fund £2,000 (to offer free or discounted places)

Thanks

Thanks to all the society members and trustees for their support and work over the year. Also, thanks to funders, the co-operative societies and all with whom UKSCS have worked over the year 2023 -2024

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



Mike Wistow, Trustee and Chair

Date: 15/12/2024

**UK Society for Co-operative Studies
Statement of assets and liabilities
at 31 March 2024**

2023			2024
£		Note	£
30,624	Cash assets		
	Bank accounts		34,007
-	Cash in hand		-
<u>30,624</u>			<u>34,007</u>
	Other monetary assets		
-	Debtors	5	-
10	Shares	6	10
<u>10</u>			<u>10</u>
	Assets retained for the charity's own use		
	The charity does not have any items of equipment or other assets retained for the charity's own use		
	Liabilities		
-	Creditors	7	-
120	Advance receipts - journal orders		120
<u>120</u>			<u>120</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed M. [Signature] Date 13/12/24
, Trustee

UK Society for Co-operative Studies
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received, and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

2. Grants & donations

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Co-operative Group	1,000	1,000	2,000
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>

3. Funds analysis

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	(Payments) £	Transfers £	Closing balance £
Unrestricted designated funds					
Operating reserve	8,000	-	-	-	8,000
Journal	6,000	-	(837)	(163)	5,000
Conference	2,000	-	-	-	2,000
	<u>16,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(837)</u>	<u>(163)</u>	<u>15,000</u>

UK Society for Co-operative Studies
Notes to the accounts - continued

4. Volunteers' expenses

During the accounting period, no reimbursements relating to trustees' travel and meeting expenses arose, mainly because all meetings took place online via Zoom rather than face to face.

5. Debtors

There were no debtors at year end.

6. Shares

The shares are in Co-operative Press Limited and have a nominal value of £10.

7. Creditors

There were no creditors at year end.

8. Trustees' remuneration

None of the trustees were paid any remuneration during the period.

9. Glossary of terms

Advance receipts: These are amounts received by the charity in the accounting period, for use in a future period.

Creditors: These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid in the accounting period.

Debtors: These are amounts owed to the charity, but not received in the accounting period.

Restricted funds: These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but within the general objects of the charity.

Unrestricted designated funds: These are unrestricted funds set aside by the trustees for specific purposes.

UK SOCIETY FOR CO-OPERATIVE STUDIES

England & Wales - Charity number 1175295

Accounts



UK Society for Co-operative Studies

(Registered charity, number 1175295)

**Annual report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

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12	Statement of assets & liabilities
13	Notes to the accounts

UK Society for Co-operative Studies Trustees' annual report for the year ended 31 March 2023

Full name: The UK Society for Co-operative Studies

Organisation type: Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered charity number: 1175295

Principal address

Holyoake House
Hanover Street
Manchester
M60 0AS

Trustees

Ian Adderley	Trustee
Francesca Gagliardi	Secretary
Ruth Hall	Deputy Chair
Janette Hurst	Membership Secretary (Co-opted Jan 2022, elected Aug 2022)
John Maddocks	Elected 2023 (Treasurer from July 2022)
Elisavet Mantzari	Trustee (to Oct 2022)
Nick Matthews	Trustee
Jan Myers	Ex-officio up to January 2023 (Editor in Chief of the Journal); Co-opted January 2023
Rory Ridley-Duff	Chair to October 2022
Hirsch Sharma	Treasurer to July 2022; Resigned July 2022 (Co-opted Jan 2022)
Mike Wistow	Chair from October 2022
Anita Mangan	Ex-officio (Editor in Chief of the <i>Journal</i> since January 2023)
Gillian Lonergan	Ex-officio (Production Editor of the <i>Journal</i>)

Governance and management

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 1 September 2017. Trustees are all members of the charity and apart from ex-officio officers are appointed by members at the AGM. The trustees may also co-opt members to the executive committee during the year. Co-opted trustees must stand for election at their first AGM following co-option to confirm their appointment.

This year, two trustees were co-opted – the previous Editor of the Journal and a former Trustee who had been on maternity leave from her work.

Objects and activities

The society's objects are to advance the education of the public concerning all aspects of the co-operative movement, and co-operative forms of structure, and, in particular, to assist, commission and/or identify and publish research into the aforementioned areas, and to promote the exchange of information and experience on co-operative studies and research.

The main activities of the society include production of the *Journal of Co-operative Studies*, supporting study networks, organising seminars, online conversations and hosting a conference.

Public benefit statement

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit:

Main activities during the financial year included:

- Publication of the *Journal of Co-operative Studies*
- Hosting a Co-operatives Fortnight Lecture
- Organising the annual Co-operative Studies Conference
- Hosting the Co-operative Conversations Series
- Making available the videos of the New Co-operativism research seminar series
- Supporting other events across the Co-operative Movement

Summary of the main achievements during the period

We are grateful to our members for their continued support and additional subscribers to the society's *Journal*. In particular, we recognise the many hundreds of hours put in by volunteers across all aspects of the activities described below.

Publication of the *Journal of Co-operative Studies*

The *Journal of Co-operative Studies* is published three times a year. It is a journal that accepts both peer-reviewed articles from academic contributors and short articles from practitioners. It is distributed in Canada in co-operation with the Canadian Association of Studies in Co-

operation (CASC) and in Ireland in co-operation with the Irish Society for Co-operative Studies. While one role of the *Journal* is the dissemination of the results of research, we remain keen to ensure that its contents also reflect the role of the UK Society for Co-operative Studies in acting as a bridge between theory and practice in advancing knowledge and understanding of co-operation.

2022-23 has been a busy and productive year for those of us involved in the production of the *Journal* with two special issues and welcoming a new editorial team and editorial advisory group members. In January 2023, [Dr Jan Myers](#) stood down from her role as editor of the *Journal* after nine years first as co-editor and then editor-in-chief. She has continued to support the development of the *Journal* as a co-opted member of the UKSCS Board and as a member of the *Journal's* editorial advisory board. After working alongside Jan for several months, we were pleased to announce that as of January 2023, [Dr Anita Mangan](#) is now the new editor of the *Journal*. She will be supported by a new deputy editor – [Dr Francesca Gagliardi](#) – and an [international advisory board](#).

We are continuing to promote the *Journal* through our website and social media channels and to improve access and visibility both for those publishing in the *Journal* and to potential readers and subscribers. We remain committed to providing open access to the *Journal* (subject to a six-month embargo) on the UKSCS website, which has received 19000 views from 125 countries over the year. The *Journal* pages remain the most popular first visit with just under 900 file downloads of current and past issues of the *Journal*, and related material.

The 2022 editions of the *Journal* consisted of two special issues and an open call issue. We received positive feedback on both specialist issues, particularly the Summer issue ([Vol. 55, No. 1](#)) which was produced to mark the contribution and work of Johnston Birchall, past Editor of the *Journal*; a special thank you to a great champion of co-operation and member-owned businesses and supporter of UKSCS who died in 2020. The issue featured appreciations from friends and colleagues, and reproduction of articles published in the *Journal* from 1984-2011 together with a bibliography of his work.

The Autumn issue ([Vol. 55, No. 2](#)) also featured an appreciation of another fellow co-operator and champion of both co-operation and adult education – Nigel Todd, who died in 2021. In addition, we featured articles from the USA, Nepal, the UK and a review of a new publication of workers' self-management in Argentina. Themes included worker autonomy, the role of co-operatives and broader issues of co-operative contributions and solutions in relation to sustainable development, and social care and the impact of the cost of living crisis on the British credit union and community lender sector.

Our second special issue of the year ([Vol. 55 No. 3](#)) was guest edited by Professor Rory Ridley-Duff (Sheffield Hallam University/FairShares) and Dr Mary O’Shaughnessy (University College Cork) and focused on ‘new cooperativism’. It was produced together with a series on online seminars available on the UKSCS website with input from the EMES International Research Network (EMES) and the European Research Institute for Co-operative and Social Enterprise (EURICSE). The guest editorial board included Professor Linda Andersen (Roskilde University), Dr Nicole Göler de Ravensburg (Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences), Silvia Sacchetti (University of Trento), and Marcelo Vieta (University of Toronto).

During the year, we also issued [calls for papers](#) for a special issue for 2023 on Robert Owen and Co-operation with guest editors Professor Chris Williams and Nick Matthews, and an issue celebrating the centenary of the Woodcraft Folk due in 2025. Also in the planning stages are special issues focused on co-operative education (scheduled for 2024), and worker co-operatives (scheduled for 2025). All the suggestions from the last AGM on potential contributors / contributions were gratefully received and have been followed up for inclusion in future issues.

Finally, thanks go to all contributors, and everyone involved in reviewing, editing, proofing, printing, and distributing both the online and hard copy editions of the *Journal*.

Hosting a Co-operatives Fortnight Lecture

On 30 June 2022 we hosted a lecture in memory of the late Professor Johnston Birchall. David Rodgers explored the origin of humanity’s capacity for Co-operation and conflict and why we must foster and develop the former to prevent the latter. Drawing on Professor Birchall’s works including ‘Co-op the People’s Business’ and ‘Resilience of the Cooperative Business Model in Times of Crisis’, the lecture set out why Co-operatives are necessary for economic stability and addressing the growth of inequality.

The lecture, ‘The Origin of Co-operation’ was well attended and is [available to watch online](#) (<https://youtu.be/xLHGk9J1xUQ>). Accompanying [lecture notes are also available](#).

Organising the Annual Co-operative Studies Conference

Our 54th conference took place on 24-25 February 2023 at the Double Tree by Hilton in Lincoln, hosted by our Conference Chair Dr Francesca Gagliardi on the theme of “Consumer Co-operation: What Works Well”. The conference programme is accessible at <https://www.ukscs.coop/pages/ukscs-conference-2023>.

The first keynote was given by Debbie Robinson, CEO at Central England Co-operative, who addressed the conference theme with a talk entitled “A Members’ Owned Business Today”. The second keynote was given by Tony Webster, Professor in History at Northumbria University. He addressed the conference theme by providing some examples of strategic renewal in consumer co-operation.

The conference attracted 45 delegates and included some international speakers from Canada and India. The feedback provided by delegates during and after the event suggested high levels of satisfaction with the overall conference experience.

With receipts of £6,280 and expenses of £4,916, the event generated a healthy surplus of £1,364.

Making available the videos of the New Co-operativism Research Seminar Series

In line with the Society’s chartable object to “to promote the exchange of information and experience on co-operative studies and research”, the videos from the New Cooperativism seminars have been reviewed and made available in on the UKSCS website:

<https://www.ukscs.coop/articles/co-operativism-seminar-series>

Hosting of a Co-operative Conversations Series

During the various restrictions on movement and meeting up during the pandemic, the Society developed an online conversation format, which came to be called ‘Co-operative Conversations’. This hour-long evening event involves interviewing a member of the co-operative movement about their personal history and contribution, supplemented by broader discussion amongst members.

Initially Conversations were held with UKSCS Trustees, but towards the end of the previous reporting period for the year 2021 - 2022, the Conversations series was opened more widely to include Steve Stanley, former Chair of the national research body in the Probation Service and Paul Gerrard, Campaigns & Public Affairs Director at the Co-op Group.

During 2022 - 2023, Co-operative Conversations have been held with Russell Gill, Ruth Cohen, Jan Myers & Anita Mangan. A summary of the background and focus of the interviewees, and therefore the Conversations, is included below:

- **Russell Gill – Head of Membership & Co-operative Relations, The Co-operative Group:**
Russell Gill manages The Co-op Group's relationship with the wider co-operative movement, Chairing Co-op Academies Trust, has been a trustee of Co-op College, member of Eurocoop's Board sub-committee on co-op identity, trustee of the People's History Museum, and instrumental in establishing Co-op Heritage Trust. During his 30 years at The Co-operative Group, Russell has been involved with its Governance, Membership and Community activities. He has lived and worked through the transitions that have led it to the Society we know today.

- **Ruth Cohen - Author:**
Ruth Cohen is the author of *Margaret Llewelyn Davies: With women for a new world* (Merlin Press), summarised in Andrew Bibby's Review as "Margaret Llewelyn Davies was much more than a leading co-operator of her time. She was a socialist with a strong commitment to trade unionism and a lifelong fighter for women's rights. She also became, in the years after the First World War, a tireless campaigner for pacifism. Her story is an important one, and Ruth Cohen's biography is a significant contribution both to co-operative history and to women's history".

- **Anita Mangan & Jan Myers - Current and Former Editors of the Journal of Co-operative Studies:**

Dr. Anita Mangan works in the University of Bristol Business School. Her research is broadly themed around social justice. Her main focus is on co-operatives and credit unions as alternative forms of organising which offer a counter-narrative to neoliberalism and austerity. She is also interested in community activism and volunteering processes.

Dr. Jan Myers recently concluded a long and successful period as Editor of the *Journal of Co-operative Studies*. Jan has a background of working in and with co-operatives, third and public sector organisations. She worked with self-help and mutual aid organisations both in the UK and internationally before moving into higher education. She was until recently Associate Professor in Business & Society and is now Visiting Fellow at Newcastle Business School, Northumbria University.

Supporting other events across the Co-operative Movement

This year, the Society has actively worked with other organisations in the co-operative movement in support of its charitable objective to advance the education of the public concerning all aspects of the co-operative movement, and co-operative forms of structure, and, in particular, to assist, commission and/or identify and publish research into the

aforementioned areas, and to promote the exchange of information and experience on co-operative studies and research.

The Editor-in-Chief of the Journal and the Associate Editor (Production) are members of CoRNet, the co-operatives research network <https://www.ukscs.coop/pages/cornet->

The Board has had an initial contact from the Irish Society for Co-operative Studies about the potential for developing further the two societies. The broad areas to explore would be:

- whether there might scope for some future discussion of potential projects we might work on?
- Whether there might be scope for a joint event at some stage.

The Executive Committee Attendance at Committee Meetings

Name	Actual	Possible
Ian Adderley	5	5
Francesca Gagliardi	5	5
Ruth Hall	2	5
Janette Hurst	3	5
Gillian Lonergan	5	5
Hirsch Sharma	2	2
John Maddocks	5	5
Anita Mangan	1	1
Elisavet Mantzari	1	2
Nick Matthews	4	5
Jan Myers	5	5
Rory Ridley-Duff	5	5
Mike Wistow	5	5

Valuing our Volunteers

The society could not function without the generous support of its volunteers. Volunteers organised and participated in a setting up, running and reviewing a variety of activity and events during the year including:

- the AGM
- production of the annual report
- editing and producing the *Journal*
- administering and fulfilling journal orders

- planning and running the Conference
- administering membership
- keeping Members informed through the website, e-mails, Co-operative Conversations, individual conversations and the many small interactions which keep any membership organisation running
- managing funds
- bookkeeping and financial management
- liaising with partner organisations
- all the activities associated with facilitating and supporting committee meetings

Membership Type

Membership as at 31st March 2023:

Individual members	82
Co-op organisations	13
Associate members	19
Total	114

Following the generally successful bedding in of the website and a number of other discussions, not least during the February UKSCS Conference, the Society is reviewing the nature, content and timing of contact with Members during 2023/24.

Financial Review

In some respects, this financial year has seen a return to 'normal' in terms of expected levels of income. Membership income has returned to a similar level as that in 2019. While conference income is similar to that achieved in 2019 (the last time the Society had a face-to-face conference), conference costs are substantially lower, and this appears to be due to a change in venue and time of year (moving from August/September to February).

Grants and donations income is much higher than in 2022 although a little lower than in 2020 and 2021 and substantially lower than in 2019. Reasons for this variability are mainly to do with the extent to which grant funding was or was not sought or required in any particular year.

On the expenditure side, one continuing trend is the drop in volunteer expenses which is a legacy of the move to zoom meetings and the related drop in travel expenses. Accounting/bookkeeping costs are a little higher than previous years, due in part to a rise in the costs of the annual software license but also, for a short period, the Society tried an alternative accounting software package. The Society has since returned to the original software used.

Bank charges are higher than in the previous year mainly because of the return to a face-to-face conference and related booking transactions. Even so, it is worth noting that booking transaction charges are much lower than for previous face to face conferences because the Society is now able to process bookings through the UKSCS website rather than through Eventbrite or similar.

The increase in office expenses relates to payment for use of the registered address. This includes access to franking facilities, which the Society uses for distribution of print copies of the Journal. Increases in internet and website costs are linked to increasing use of the website including the number of members and other users of the site. Journal costs are lower than in 2022 in part because of being up to date with no need to print journals for earlier years.

Overall, the society achieved a healthy surplus which is the result of the various factors mentioned above, along with the very important contribution made by volunteers in all areas of the Society's activities, and without which the Society would cease to be financially viable.

The charity's policy on reserves

The charity has three unrestricted designated funds established to support the activities of the charity:

- Operating reserve £8,000 (to cover up to 12 months core activities),
- Journal production and distribution fund £6,000 (to meet commitments),
- Conference bursaries fund £2,000 (to offer free or discounted places),

Thanks

Thanks to all the society members and trustees for their support and work over the year. Also, thanks to funders, the co-operative societies and all with whom UKSCS have worked over the year 2022 -2023

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



Mike Wistow, Trustee and Chair

Date: 3/10/23

UK Society for Co-operative Studies
(Registered charity, number 1175295)
Financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

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UK Society for Co-operative Studies
Receipts & payments account
for the year ended 31 March 2023

2022			Unrestricted	Restricted	2023
Total			Funds	Funds	Total
Funds		Note	£	£	Funds
£					£
	Receipts				
5	Grants & donations	2	1,000	1,000	2,000
2,825	Membership		3,260	-	3,260
330	Journal receipts		600	-	600
105	Conference receipts		6,280	-	6,280
20	Other events		50	-	50
-	Sundry receipts		-	-	-
<u>3,285</u>	Total receipts		<u>11,190</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>12,190</u>
	Payments				
-	Volunteers' expenses	4	-	-	-
288	Accounting software & support		325	-	325
128	Bank charges		283	-	283
6	Office expenses		480	-	480
581	Internet & web site		781	-	781
3,168	Journal		1,436	1,000	2,436
171	Conference		4,916	-	4,916
-	Other events		144	-	144
1,972	Wheels for co-operation project		-	-	-
-	Sundry payments		-	-	-
<u>6,314</u>	Total before transfer of funds		<u>8,365</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>9,365</u>
(3,029)	Net receipts		2,825	-	2,825
30,828	Cash funds at start of this period		27,799	-	27,799
-	Transfers between funds		-	-	-
<u>27,799</u>	Cash funds at end of this period		<u>30,624</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,624</u>

UK Society for Co-operative Studies
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2023

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received, and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

2. Grants & donations

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Co-operative Group	1,000	1,000	2,000
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>

3. Funds analysis

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	(Payments) £	Transfers £	Closing balance £
Unrestricted designated funds					
Operating reserve	8,000	-	-	-	8,000
Journal	6,000	-	-	-	6,000
Conference	2,000	-	-	-	2,000
	<u>16,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,000</u>

UK Society for Co-operative Studies
Notes to the accounts - continued

4. Volunteers' expenses

During the accounting period, no reimbursements relating to trustees' travel and meeting expenses arose because all meetings took place online via Zoom rather than face to face.

5. Debtors

There were no debtors at year end.

6. Shares

The shares are in Co-operative Press Limited and have a nominal value of £10.

7. Creditors

There were no creditors at year end.

8. Remuneration

None of the trustees were paid any remuneration during the period.

9. Glossary of terms

Advance receipts: These are amounts received by the charity in the accounting period, for use in a future period.

Creditors: These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid in the accounting period.

Debtors: These are amounts owed to the charity, but not received in the accounting period.

Restricted funds: These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but within the general objects of the charity.

Unrestricted designated funds: These are unrestricted funds set aside by the trustees for specific purposes.

UK SOCIETY FOR CO-OPERATIVE STUDIES

England & Wales - Charity number 1175295

Accounts



UK Society for Co-operative Studies
(Registered charity, number 1175295)

**Annual report and
financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

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Trustees' annual report
Receipts & payments account
Statement of assets & liabilities
Notes to the accounts

UK Society for Co-operative Studies Trustees' annual report for the year ended 31 March 2022

Full name: The UK Society for Co-operative Studies

Organisation type: Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered charity number: 1175295

Principal address

Holyoake House
Hanover Street
Manchester
M60 0AS

Trustees

Ian Adderley – Re-elected 2020 (Chair up to October 2020)

Francesca Gagliardi - Elected 2020 (Secretary)

Ruth Hall – Re-elected 2021 (Deputy Chair from October 2020)

Janette Hurst (Co-opted December 2021, Membership Sec from Jan 2022)

Gillian Lonergan (Ex-Officio, Production Editor of the *Journal*)

John Maddocks (Co-opted July 2022)

Elisavet Mantzari – Elected 2019 (Treasurer, from April-December 2021)

Nick Matthews – Re-elected 2020 (Book Review Editor of the *Journal*)

Dr Jan Myers (Ex-Officio, Editor of the *Journal*)

Prof Rory Ridley-Duff (Chair) – Re-elected 2021 (Chair from October 2020)

Hirsch Sharma (Co-opted Dec 2021, Treasurer from Jan 2022, Resigned July 2022)

Mike Wistow – Elected November 2019

Governance and management

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 1 September 2017. Trustees are all members of the charity and with the exception of ex-officio officers are appointed by members at the AGM. The trustees may also co-opt members to the executive committee during the year. This year, two trustees were co-opted to cover the roles of membership secretary and treasurer. Co-opted trustees must stand for election at their first AGM following co-option to confirm their appointment.

Objects and activities

The society's objects are to advance the education of the public concerning all aspects of the co-operative movement, and co-operative forms of structure, and, in particular, to assist, commission and/or identify and publish research into the aforementioned areas, and to promote the exchange of information and experience on co-operative studies and research.

The main activities of the society include production of the *Journal of Co-operative Studies*, supporting study networks, organising seminars, online conversations and hosting a conference.

Public benefit statement

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit:

Main activities during the financial year included:

1. Publication of the *Journal of Co-operative Studies*
2. Hosting a Co-operatives Fortnight Lecture
3. Organising the annual Co-operative Studies Conference
4. Co-hosting a Research Seminar Series
5. Hosting of a Co-operative Conversations Series
6. Supporting other events across the Co-operative Movement

Summary of the main achievements during the period

We are grateful to our members for their continued support and additional subscribers to the society's *Journal*. In particular, we recognise the many hundreds of hours put in by volunteers across all aspects of the activities described below.

1. Publication of the *Journal of Co-operative Studies*

The *Journal of Co-operative Studies* is published three times a year. It is a journal that accepts both peer-reviewed articles from academic contributors and short articles from practitioners. It is distributed in Canada in co-operation with the Canadian Association of Studies in Co-operation (CASC) and in Ireland in co-operation with the Irish Society for Co-operative Studies. While one role of the *Journal* is the dissemination of the results of research, we remain keen to ensure that its contents also reflect the role of the UK Society for Co-operative Studies in acting as a bridge between theory and practice in advancing knowledge and understanding of co-operation.

We continue to operate a version of green open access, which means that articles and papers are publicly available on the UKSCS website subject to an embargo of six months after they are published. Before this, copies are available only to members. This policy continues with the aid of a website/membership system provided by White Fuse operated throughout the year.

The continued development of the UKSCS website has meant we have been able to develop additional content on co-operative studies and a more accessible format for issues of the *Journal*. We were able to do some basic tracking of site usage and user behaviour which we hope to develop further. Over the year, there were over 3,000 new users visiting the website. While 36% are UK-based, visitors were recorded from a range of countries. Of the almost 18,000 views (and over 50,000 interactions), nearly 5,000 of the pages visited were related to the *Journal*.

At the start of the year, we were able to catch up on the final printing and distribution of a backlog of hard copies of the *Journal*.

The Summer edition of the *Journal* was a special issue on the issues and challenges for Irish co-operatives. Guest editors were from the University College Cork Centre for Co-operative Studies - Bridget Carroll (also from the Society for

Co-operative Studies in Ireland) and Olive McCarthy (also Journal associate editor for Ireland). Articles included research and reflections on community renewable energy co-operatives; the potential for co-operatives to enhance tenant management in housing; the importance of a conducive legislative environment for co-operative development; member engagement in agriculture co-operatives; the role of co-operatives, particularly worker co-operatives, in Northern Ireland; a systems approach to co-operative appraisal; and the activities of credit unions during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Autumn issue was a special issue on co-operation between Canadian universities and the co-operative sector, coordinated through our sister organisation, the Canadian Association of Studies in Co-operation, by Professor Darryl Reed (deputy editor for Canada). Guest editors were Claude-Professor André Guillotte (Director of IRECUS – the Research and Education Institute for Co-operatives and Mutuals at University of Sherbrooke) and Josée Charbonneau, a research professional at IRECUS. There is a long, shared history between co-operatives and universities and the articles and case studies in this issue combine to illustrate the potential for co-operation over a broad range of activities from research and teaching to community development.

The Winter edition of the Journal was an open issue. As well as including articles originally submitted to the 2020 annual conference on the theme of “The politics, policies and practices of co-operative movements” (accounting and reporting frameworks; a new co-operative bank for Wales; and a think piece on the essence of self-help and mutual action), published articles ranged from ‘the talk and walk’ of co-operative principles and values in Australian co-operatives; multistakeholder co-operatives as vehicles for self-regulation; and the development of co-operative alternatives to personal assistance provision in the UK. A new departure for the Journal was the inclusion of an interview with Rose Marley reflecting on her first 100 days as CEO of Co-operatives UK. We also noted, with sadness, the death of Professor Johnston Birchall, who was instrumental in changing the face and content of the Journal from a news and member-oriented bulletin to an academic-practitioner journal with international reach and announced a special issue celebrating his legacy and contribution to be published in 2022.

Also in this period, we published an additional special issue on Journalism and Co-operation ‘Constructing the co-operative imaginary: Journalism’s past, present, and emerging contributions.’ Guest editors were Mitch Diamantopoulos, Andrew Bibby, Alex Bird, with Rebecca Harvey and Siôn Whellans. The impetus for this special issue was the celebration in 2021 of 150 years of Co-operative News; first published in September 1871. Articles covered a range of themes: movement journalism and early Co-operation; the neglect and bias in mainstream media coverage; and exemplars of contemporary co-operative news innovations. Contributions came from the UK, Canada, Finland, Greece in addition to examples from Spain and France.

The project to re-produce older issues of the Journal and the Bulletin continues. Issues 1967-1985 will be re-produced as ‘annuals’, and a searchable archive listing will be completed during 2022.

Looking to the coming year: A special issue of the Journal will commemorate the contribution of Johnston Birchall (summer 2022) and work continues on a special Issue on 'New Cooperativism'. This issue, guest edited by Professor Rory Ridley-Duff (Sheffield Hallam University/FairShares) and Dr Mary O'Shaughnessy (University College Cork), is in partnership with the EMES International Research Network (EMES) and the European Research Institute for Co-operative and Social Enterprise (EURICSE). The guest editorial board includes Professor Linda Andersen (Roskilde University), Dr Nicole Göler de Ravensburg (Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences), Silvia Sacchetti (University of Trento) and Marcelo Vieta (University of Toronto), and will be published in Winter 2022. A special issue for 2023 on Robert Owen and Co-operation is also underway – with guest editors Professor Chris Williams and Nick Matthews.

A review of the editorial advisory board commenced towards the year end and we welcomed and will continue to welcome new members over the coming year. Thanks to Dr Paul Jones (Liverpool John Moores) who will step down from the deputy editor role to join the editorial advisory board when a new deputy editor joins the team. Similarly, a search for a new editor of the Journal to commence the role in 2022-2023 is underway.

Finally, thanks go to all contributors and everyone involved in reviewing, editing, proofing, printing, and distributing of both the online and hard copy editions of the Journal.

2. Hosting a Co-operatives Fortnight Lecture

Twenty-four people attended our annual lecture, which was delivered this year by Dr Tara Mulqueen. Her presentation about "Co-operatives and legal recognition in the UK" took place on 22nd June 2021. It was organised to coincide with Co-operatives Fortnight. The lecture is available online at <https://youtu.be/l2FivAnceL4>.

3. Organising the Annual Co-operative Studies Conference

In 2021, our annual conference took place online between the 9th – 11th September, hosted by our new co-chairs Dr Francesca Gagliardi and Dr Elisavet Mantzari on the theme of "Inter-cooperation between co-operators and co-operatives". The number of submissions was lower than 2021, but still sufficient to fill a 2-day programme.

All keynotes and presentations are accessible via:

<https://www.ukscs.coop/events/3-ukscs-53rd-annual-conference-2021>.

The first keynote was given by Bruno Roelants, Director General of the International Co-operative Alliance, who addressed the conference theme by delving into the history of the movement's development and its implications for present day inter-cooperation. The keynote is available via YouTube on:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyEZJ0jS4y8>.

The second keynote was given by Peter Hunt, the Managing Partner of Mutuo, which offers policy advice and consultancy services across the mutual sector. He addressed the conference theme by considering opportunities in the shift to

sustainable business, threats from demutualisation and the need for innovations in the co-operative form. His keynote is available via YouTube on:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0G_P8BFijdo.

The conference attracted 49 delegates to listen to 25 speakers from 12 countries. Conference receipts were £105. Conference expenses were £171 for a Zoom license.

The board have continued to review the COVID-19 situation and believe it is now safe to plan for a face-to-face format conference in 2022-23.

4. Co-hosting a Research Seminar Series

To support the theme of the special issue on *New Cooperativism* (due winter 2022), we delivered a series of online seminars between June and November 2021. The series was a collaboration between the UK Society for Cooperative Studies (<https://ukscs.coop>), EMES International Research Network (<https://emes.net>) and European Research Institute for Co-operative and Social Enterprises (<https://euricse.eu>), and it was facilitated by the FairShares Institute at Sheffield Hallam University.

A total of 146 people registered to participate in five seminars. Attendance for the individual sessions oscillated between 12 and 30 people. All the seminars were recorded using Zoom with the goal of processing, transcribing and publishing them via the [ukscs.coop](https://www.ukscs.coop) website at <https://www.ukscs.coop/events/22-new-co-operativism-a-seminar-series>. Videos from Seminar 1 are available, but the remainder are still to be processed and uploaded.

An important part of this project was to build a scholarly network that could clarify issues important to two new waves of cooperative development (the first rooted in social/political reactions to neo-liberalism between 1970s and the early 2000s, and a second wave linked to technology changes that build a social and solidarity economy (SSE)). We originally planned 10 themes to be explored in five seminars. Theme 7 (on gender/ethnic sensitivities) had to be cancelled after both facilitators had to withdraw for personal reasons. The following nine themes were debated in seminars that took place between June – November 2021:

- 1 – New cooperativism and sustainable development (June)
- 2 – Updating co-operative values and principles (June)
- 3 – Legal innovations for multi-stakeholder governance (July)
- 4 – Funding and incentives for new cooperativism (July)
- 5 – Learning for new cooperativism (Sept)
- 6 – Policy initiatives and spaces for new cooperativism (Sept)
- 8 – Conceptions of (cooperative) wealth (Oct)
- 9 - Digital and platform co-operatives (Nov)
- 10 – Co-operative communications and publishing (Nov)

Numerous people contributed to the series. Below is a list of the 29 people (listed alphabetically by surname) without whom we could not have run this seminar series.

Ian Adderley (Panellist) (Theme 3)
Ana Aguirre, Panellist (Seminar 5, Theme 9)

Michele Bianchi, Panellist (Seminar 1, Theme 1)
 Javier Borelli, Panellist (Seminar 5, Theme 10)
 Graham Boyd, Panellist (Seminar 4, Theme 8)
 Dave Boyle, Panellist (Seminar 2, Theme 4)
 Joanna Brzozowska-Wabik, Panellist (Seminar 3, Theme 5)
 Sara Capuzzo, Panellist (Seminar 1, Theme 1)
 Ali Ercan Ozgur, Panellist (Seminar 5, Theme 9)
 Guilia Galera, Facilitator (Seminar 1, Theme 1), Panellist (Seminar 1, Theme 2)
 Steve Gill, Panellist (Seminar 2, Theme 4)
 Nicole Goler Von Ravensberg, Facilitator (Seminars 3 and 4, Themes 5 and 8)
 Rebecca Harvey, Facilitator (Seminar 5, Theme 10)
 Olivia Henry, Panellist (Seminar 5, Theme 10)
 Elisavet Mantzari, Facilitator (Seminar 2, Theme 4)
 Maureen McCulloch, Facilitator (Seminar 4, Theme 8)
 Jan Myers, Facilitator (Seminar 1, Theme 2)
 Rocio Nogales, Facilitator (Seminar 5, Theme 9)
 Sonja Novkovic, Panellist (Seminar 1, Theme 2)
 Mary O'Shaughnessy, Facilitator (Seminars 1 and 3, Themes 1 and 6)
 Rory Ridley-Duff, Host/Tech (All Seminars), Facilitator (Sems 1, 2, 4 and 5)
 Daphne Rixon, Panellist (Seminar 4, Theme 8)
 Silvia Sacchetti, Facilitator (Seminar 2, Theme 3)
 Gianluca Salvatori, Panellist (Seminar 3, Theme 6)
 Nathan Schneider, Facilitator (Seminar 5, Theme 10)
 Simon Teasdale, Panellist (Seminar 3, Theme 6)
 Sara Vicari, Panellist (Seminar 3, Theme 5)
 Marcelo Vieta, Facilitator (Seminar 3, Themes 5, 6), Panellist (Sem 1, Theme 1)
 Christian Wolf, Panellist (Seminar 3, Theme 5)

We also want to thank the New Cooperativism Editorial Board who supported this seminar series and have peer-reviewed submissions to the special issue.

- Jan Myers, Editor, UKSCS (UKSCS Board member and EMES Member)
- Rory Ridley-Duff, UKSCS (UKSCS Chair and EMES Member)
- Mary O'Shaughnessy, University College Cork (EMES Board Member)
- Linda Lundgaard Andersen, Roskilde University, Denmark (EMES Board Member)
- Marcelo Vieta, University of Toronto, Canada (CASC Board Member)
- Silvia Sacchetti, University of Trento / EURICSE, Italy (EURISCE Board Member)
- Nicole Göler von Ravesburg, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences, Germany (EMES Board Member).

The seminar series fuelled interest in new cooperativism and stimulated scholarly activity. Two further special issues on new cooperativism (in Germany and Austria) were stimulated by this seminar series.

5. Hosting of a Co-operative Conversations Series

Throughout 2021 and early 2022, the Society prepared to open up the online conversation format developed by Mike Wistow to a wider audience of members (and supporters). This hour-long evening event involves interviewing a member of the co-operative movement about their personal history and contribution, supplemented by general chat amongst members.

This year, there have been conversations with Ruth Hall (UKSCS Trustee, March); Ian Adderley (UKSCS Trustee, August), and Steve Stanley (Former Probation Service Researcher and Advisor to the Home Office, October). In addition, the Society prepared to take the conversation series public, setting dates and organising publicity for conversations with Paul Gerrard and Russell Gill of the Co-operative Group.

6. Supporting other events across the Co-operative Movement

This year, the Society has actively worked with other organisations in the co-operative movement to promote the study of co-operatives.

Prof Rory Ridley-Duff participated as a speaker and panelist in the event organised by Co-operatives and Mutuals Wales to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Owen. The event “Building on Robert Owen’s Co-operative Legacy” took place online on the 14th May.

The Society has agreed to support a research project led by Dr Francesca Gagliardi at the University of Hertfordshire which has been funded by the Independent Social Research Foundation. The project investigates the contribution of co-operative values and principles to sustainable development. During this reporting period the project was initiated, and members have contributed to the research effort to prepare for a 2-day seminar that will be held in December 2022. In addition to Francesca Gagliardi, two other board members are on the steering group (Elisavet Mantzari and Prof Rory Ridley-Duff).

The Society actively supported the 150th anniversary of Co-op News, not only by working with co-operative journalists to publish a special journal issue, but also by hosting a research seminar event focused on co-operative communications and publishing as part of the New Cooperativism Seminar Series.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Attendance at committee meetings

Name	Actual	Possible
Ian Adderley	3	5
Janette Hurst	0	1
Francesca Gagliardi	5	5
Ruth Hall	4	5
Gillian Lonergan	5	5
Elisavet Mantzari	3	5
Nick Matthews	3	5
Jan Myers	3	5
Rory Ridley-Duff	5	5
Hirsch Sharma	1	1
Mike Wistow	5	5

Valuing our Volunteers

The society could not function without the generous support of its volunteers. Volunteer activity during the year included: organising and participating in events including the AGM, editing and producing the *Journal*, administering and fulfilling journal orders, administering membership, managing funds, bookkeeping and financial management, production of the annual report, liaising with partner organisations, and all the activities associated with facilitating and supporting committee meetings.

Membership

Type	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17
Individual members	64	58	55	67	76	69
Co-op organisations	15	15	13	17	8	7
Associate members	17	3	7	6	n/a	n/a
Associate organisations	0	1	3	1	n/a	n/a
Total	96	77	78	91	84	76

The increase in membership owes a lot to the development of a new website, and the increasing number of events that provide opportunities to raise the profile of the society and attract new members.

Financial review

The Society recorded a deficit of £3,029 for the financial year ending 31 March 2022. Reasons for this deficit include a final payment of the balance of restricted funds held for the Wheels for Co-operation project and the drop in grant income received during the year. Going forward, there are no further restricted fund payments to be made to Wheels for Co-operation and grant funding has been approved for receipt in 2022/23. The charity continues to have a diverse mix of income sources which includes grants and donations, membership fees, *Journal* orders and event income. Expenditure and income remain lower during the period of the COVID pandemic because events are held online rather than in person. The amount charged for online events is lower than for face to face, reducing the income we derived from the annual conference.

The main areas of expenditure during the year were journal printing costs (to clear the backlog), ongoing website maintenance and payment of the balance of funds held for the Wheels for Co-operation project.

The charity's policy on reserves

The charity has three unrestricted designated funds established to support the activities of the charity:

- Operating reserve £8,000 (to cover up to 12 months core activities),
- *Journal* production and distribution fund £6,000 (to meet commitments),
- Conference bursaries fund £2,000 (to offer free or discounted places),

Thanks

Thanks to all the society members and trustees for their support and work over the year. Also, thanks to funders, the co-operative societies and the Co-operative College.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



Rory Ridley-Duff, Trustee and Chair

Date: 1st August 2022

UK Society for Co-operative Studies
Receipts & payments account
for the year ended 31 March 2022

2021			Unrestricted	Restricted	2022
Total		Note	Funds	Funds	Total
Funds			£	£	Funds
£					£
	Receipts				
2,275	Grants & donations	2	5	-	5
2,455	Membership		2,825	-	2,825
240	Journal receipts		330	-	330
-	Conference receipts		105	-	105
-	Other events		20	-	20
-	Sundry receipts		-	-	-
<u>4,970</u>	Total receipts		<u>3,285</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,285</u>
	Payments				
-	Volunteers' expenses	4	-	-	-
263	Accounting software & support		288	-	288
89	Bank charges		128	-	128
-	Office expenses		6	-	6
333	Internet & web site		581	-	581
181	Journal		3,168	-	3,168
-	Conference		171	-	171
-	Other events		-	-	-
-	Wheels for co-operation project		-	1,972	1,972
-	Sundry payments		-	-	-
<u>866</u>	Total before transfer of funds		<u>4,342</u>	<u>1,972</u>	<u>6,314</u>
4,104	Net receipts		(1,057)	(1,972)	(3,029)
26,724	Cash funds at start of this period		28,856	1,972	30,828
-	Transfers between funds		-	-	-
<u>30,828</u>	Cash funds at end of this period		<u>27,799</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,799</u>

UK Society for Co-operative Studies
Statement of assets and liabilities
at 31 March 2022

2021		Note	2022
£			£
30,828	Cash assets		
	Bank accounts		27,799
-	Cash in hand		-
<u>30,828</u>			<u>27,799</u>
	Other monetary assets		
-	Debtors	5	-
10	Shares	6	10
<u>10</u>			<u>10</u>
	Assets retained for the charity's own use		
	The charity does not have any items of equipment or other assets retained for the charity's own use		
	Liabilities		
-	Creditors	7	-
1,972	Advance receipts - grant: wheels for co-operation		-
1,560	Advance receipts - journal orders		120
105	Advance receipts - membership		-
<u>3,637</u>			<u>120</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed 

Date: 1st August 2022

Rory Ridley-Duff, Trustee

UK Society for Co-operative Studies
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2022

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received, and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

2. Grants & donations

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Sundry donations	5	-	5
	<u>5</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5</u>

3. Funds analysis

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	(Payments) £	Transfers £	Closing balance £
Restricted funds					
Wheels for co-operation	1,972	-	(1,972)	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>1,972</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,972)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Unrestricted designated funds					
Operating reserve	8,000	-	-	-	8,000
Journal	6,000	-	-	-	6,000
Conference bursaries	1,000	-	-	1,000	2,000
	<u>15,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>16,000</u>

UK Society for Co-operative Studies

Notes to the accounts - continued

4. **Volunteers' expenses**

During the accounting period, no reimbursements relating to trustees' travel and meeting expenses arose because all meetings took place online via Zoom rather than face to face.

5. **Debtors**

There were no debtors at the end of the year.

6. **Shares**

The shares are in Co-operative Press Limited and have a nominal value of £10.

7. **Creditors**

There were no creditors at the end of the year.

8. **Trustees' remuneration**

None of the trustees received any remuneration during the period.

9. **Glossary of terms**

Advance receipts: These are amounts received by the charity in the accounting period, for use in a future period.

Creditors: These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid in the accounting period.

Debtors: These are amounts owed to the charity, but not received in the accounting period.

Restricted funds: These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but within the general objects of the charity.

Unrestricted designated funds: These are unrestricted funds set aside by the trustees for specific purposes.

UK SOCIETY FOR CO-OPERATIVE STUDIES

England & Wales - Charity number 1175295

Accounts



UK Society for Co-operative Studies
(Registered charity, number 1175295)

**Financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

Page	Contents
2-6	Trustees' annual report
7	Receipts & payments account
8	Statement of assets & liabilities
9	Notes to the accounts

UK Society for Co-operative Studies Trustees' annual report for the year ended 31 March 2021

Full name: The UK Society for Co-operative Studies

Organisation type: Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered charity number: 1175295

Principal address

Holyoake House
Hanover Street
Manchester
M60 0AS

Trustees

Prof Rory Ridley-Duff (Chair) - Elected 2018 (Chair from October 2020)

Ian Adderley – Re-elected 2020 (Chair up to October 2020)

Francesca Gagliardi - Elected 2020 (Secretary)

Ruth Hall – Elected 2018 (Deputy Chair from October 2020)

Gillian Lonergan (Ex-Officio, Production Editor of the *Journal*)

John Maddocks – Elected 2018 (Treasurer, up to March 2021)

Elisavet Mantzari – Elected 2019 (Treasurer, from April 2021)

Nick Matthews – Re-elected 2020 (Book Review Editor of the *Journal*)

Mike Wistow – Elected November 2019

Dr Jan Myers (Ex-Officio, Editor of the *Journal*)

Dr Cilla Ross – Retired 2020

Dan Crowe – Retired 2020

Governance and management

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 1 September 2017. Trustees are all members of the charity and with the exception of ex-officio officers are appointed by members at the AGM. The trustees may also co-opt members to the executive committee during the year.

Objects and activities

The society's objects are to advance the education of the public concerning all aspects of the co-operative movement, and co-operative forms of structure, and in particular to assist, commission and/or identify, and to publish research into the aforementioned areas and to promote the exchange of information and experience on co-operative studies and research.

The main activities of the society include production of the *Journal of Co-operative Studies*, supporting study networks, organising seminars and hosting a conference.

Public benefit statement

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit:

Main activities during the financial year included:

- Preparation and publication of the *Journal of Co-operative Studies*
- Co-operatives Fortnight Lectures
- Annual Co-operative Studies Conference
- Support for a Research Seminar Series

Summary of the main achievements during the period

We are grateful to our members for their continued support, the subscribers to the society's *Journal*, and the hundreds of hours put in by volunteers across all aspects of our activity.

109 people attended our annual lecture, which was delivered this year by Prof Sonja Novkovic, Chair of the International Co-operative Alliance Research Committee. Her presentation about "Humanism, participation and co-operative governance" took place on 29 June 2020. It was organised to support Co-operatives Fortnight. The lecture is available online at <https://youtu.be/Pb8CekZb1Ec>.

75 people attended a second lecture during Co-operatives Fortnight delivered by Andrew Bibby about: "Reassessing early producer co-operatives: Worker democracy then and now" on 2 July 2020, which can be access online at <https://youtu.be/9dWfBbLMAjA>.

We held our Annual General Meeting (AGM) online on 23 September 2020. Given the situation with the COVID pandemic, the annual conference was organised to take place on a separate date. The conference was supported this year by Heart of England Co-operative Society and the FairShares Institute for Co-operative Social Entrepreneurship at Sheffield Hallam University. The conference will continue online for the time being, in light of the COVID-19 situation.

In October 2020, we agreed new co-chairs for the 2021 conference. We give thanks to our out-going conference chairs Dr Jan Myers and Prof Rory Ridley-Duff, who organised the 2017, 2018 and 2020 conferences. Dr Francesca Gagliardi and Dr Elisavet Mantzari, who were part of the 2020 committee, have now taken up the role of co-chairs.

The *Journal of Co-operative Studies* is published three times a year. It is a peer-reviewed international journal published by the Society that accepts contributions from practitioners as well. It is distributed in Canada in co-operation with the Canadian Association of Studies in Co-operation (CASC) and in Ireland in co-operation with the Irish Society for Co-operative Studies. While one role of the *Journal* is the dissemination of the results of research, we are keen to ensure that its contents also reflect the role of the UK Society for Co-operative Studies in acting as a bridge between theory and practice in advancing knowledge and understanding of co-operation.

The production of the *Journal* has continued to be challenging this year, partly due to the academic research assessment exercises for universities and the impacts of COVID-19. We have been able in the period to catch up with the backlog of both production and distribution, thanks to the volunteers who help in reviewing, editing, and producing both online and print copies and to the submitting authors – academics, early career researchers, and practitioners. We have also included, as print and PDF copies for members and subscribers, production of a 2021 re-issue of the 1967 *Society of Co-operative Studies Bulletins*. We will be continuing to produce an “annual” reprint of *Bulletins*, which will be available on the new UKSCS website.

Looking forward, there has been a lot of work this year towards the production of the summer edition of the *Journal*, a specially themed issue on the issues and challenges for Irish co-operatives. We thank guest editors from the University College Cork Centre for Co-operative Studies - Olive McCarthy (also *Journal* deputy editor for Ireland) and Bridget Carroll (also from the Society for Co-operative Studies in Ireland). In Autumn, we welcome the contribution from Canadian co-operators and researchers with an issue co-ordinated through our sister organisation, CASC, by Professor Darryl Reed (deputy editor for Canada).

Work has also continued on a 2020 Conference Special issue to develop the conference theme of “The politics, policies and practices of co-operative movements”. This special issue is being co-edited by Elisavet Mantzari, Francesca Gagliardi and Rory Ridley-Duff.

In January 2021, a call for a special Issue on *Journalism and Co-operation* was issued. The guest editors are: Andrew Bibby, Alex Bird, Mitch Diamantopoulos, Rebecca Harvey and Siôn Whellans. The impetus for this special issue is the celebration in 2021 of 150 years of *Co-operative News*; first published in September 1871. In March 2021, a call for a special Issue on *New Cooperativism* (due end of 2022) was issued jointly by UKSCS with the EMES International Research Network (EMES) and European Research Institute for Co-operative and Social Enterprise (EURICSE). The guest editors are: Rory Ridley-Duff and Mary O’Shaughnessy, with an editorial board that includes Professor Linda Andersen (Roskilde University), Dr Nicole Göler de Ravensburg (Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences), Silvia Sacchetti (University of Trento) and Marcelo Vieta (University of Toronto). The special issue on *New Cooperativism* is being developed alongside a series of seminars for 2021, which will also feed into a book project - ‘The Roads to New Cooperativism’ to be authored by Professor Rory Ridley-Duff (Chair of UKSCS; co-founder of FairShares Association Ltd) and published in 2023. The seminar series will be jointly facilitated by a *New Cooperativism Editorial Board* (which is made up of members of the UKSCS, EMES, EURICSE and CASC co-operative research networks).

The development and launch of a new UKSCS website also mean we are developing additional content on co-operative studies and a more accessible format for issues of the *Journal*, including reproducing the journal archive as new readable/searchable PDFs and producing a searchable tool of all articles. We

continue to operate a version of green open access, which means that articles and papers are publicly available on the UKSCS website subject to an embargo of six months after they are published. Before this, copies are available only to members and subscribers. This policy was aided by switching to a website/membership system provided by White Fuse (agreed Jan 2021).

In February and March 2021, Mike Wistow tested a new *Pub Conversation* format online. This hour-long evening event involves interviewing a member of the society sandwiched between general chat amongst members. Based on the two trials of the format interviewing Gillian Lonergan and Nick Mathews, the trustee board has agreed to extend it to all members during the next reporting period.

As we were compiling this report, we heard of the deaths of two great friends of the co-operative movement – Nigel Todd and Johnston Birchall. Nigel was a passionate advocate of adult education, a keen local historian and chair of the Co-operative College trustee board. Johnston, professor emeritus at Stirling University and past editor of the *Journal*, leaves a legacy as an eminent researcher and author on member-owned businesses, co-operative history, governance, and mutualism. They will be sadly missed.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Attendance at committee meetings

Name	Actual	Possible
Ian Adderley	6	6
Dan Crowe	3	3
Francesca Gagliardi	6	6
Ruth Hall	6	6
Gillian Lonergan	6	6
John Maddocks	5	6
Elisavet Mantzari	5	6
Nick Matthews	4	6
Jan Myers	5	6
Rory Ridley-Duff	6	6
Cilla Ross	3	3
Mike Wistow	6	6

Valuing our Volunteers

The society could not function without the generous support of its volunteers. Volunteer activity during the year included: organising and participating in events including the AGM, editing and producing the *Journal*, administering and fulfilling journal orders, administering membership, applying for and managing funds, bookkeeping and financial management, production of the annual report, liaising with organisations, and all the activities associated with facilitating and supporting committee meetings.

Membership

Type	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
Individual members	58	55	67	76	69	63
Co-op organisations	15	13	17	8	7	8
Associate members	3	7	6	n/a	n/a	n/a
Associate organisations	1	3	1	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	77	78	91	84	76	71

Financial review

The Society achieved surplus for the financial year ending 31 March 2021, with net receipts of £4,104. The charity continues to have a diverse mix of income sources which includes grants and donations, membership fees, *Journal* orders and events. Expenditure and income have been lower during the period of the COVID pandemic because events are held online rather than in person. The main areas of expenditure during the year were website development and bookkeeping. The Wheels for Co-operation project has a remaining balance of £1,972 which has been carried forward as a restricted fund.

The charity's policy on reserves

The charity has four unrestricted designated funds established to support the activities of the charity:

- Operating reserve £8,000 (to cover up to 12 months core activities),
- *Journal* production and distribution fund £4,000 (to meet commitments),
- Conference bursaries fund £1,000 (to offer free or discounted places),

Thanks

Thanks to all the society members and trustees for their support and work over the year. Also, thanks to funders, the co-operative societies and the Co-operative College.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Rory Ridley-Duff, Trustee and Chair

Date: 3 August 2021




UK Society for Co-operative Studies
Receipts & payments account
for the year ended 31 March 2021

2020 Total Funds £	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total Funds £
Receipts				
2,060	Grants & donations	2,275	-	2,275
2,124	Membership	2,455	-	2,455
720	Journal receipts	240	-	240
-	Conference receipts	-	-	-
90	Other events	-	-	-
-	Sundry receipts	-	-	-
4,994		4,970	-	4,970
Payments				
573	Volunteer expenses	-	-	-
158	Bookkeeping software & support	263	-	263
87	Bank charges	89	-	89
-	Office expenses	-	-	-
2,118	Internet & web site	333	-	333
-	Journal	181	-	181
-	Conference	-	-	-
120	Other events	-	-	-
-	Wheels for co-operation project	-	-	-
-	Sundry payments	-	-	-
3,056	Total before transfer of funds	866	-	866
1,938	Net receipts	4,104	-	4,104
24,786	Cash funds at start of this period	24,752	1,972	26,724
-	Transfer between funds	-	-	-
26,724	Cash funds at end of this period	28,856	1,972	30,828

UK Society for Co-operative Studies
Statement of assets and liabilities
at 31 March 2021

2020		Note	2021
£	Cash assets		£
26,724	Bank accounts		30,828
-	Cash in hand		-
26,724			30,828
Other monetary assets			
-	Debtor	5	-
10	Shares	6	10
10			10
Assets retained for the charity's own use			
The charity does not have any items of Equipment or other assets retained for the Charity's own use.			
Liabilities			
	Creditors	7	-
1,972	Advance receipts – grant: Wheels for co-operation		1,972
1,320	Advance receipts – journal orders 2019 to 2021		1,560
105	Advance receipts – membership		105
3,397			3,637

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed  Date: 03/08/2021

Rory Ridley-Duff, Trustee

UK Society for Co-operative Studies
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2021

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received, and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

2. Grants & donations

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Co-operative Group	2,000	-	2,000
Heart of England Co-operative	250	-	250
Sundry donations	25	-	25
	2,275	-	2,275

3. Funds analysis

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	(Payments) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
Restricted funds					
Wheels for co-operation	1,972	-	-	-	1,972
	-	-	-	-	-
	1,972	-	-	-	1,972
Unrestricted designated funds					
Operating reserve	8,000	-	-	-	8,000
Journal	4,000	-	-	2,000	6,000
Conference bursaries	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Website development	2,000	-	-	(2,000)	-
	15,000	-	-	-	15,000

UK Society for Co-operative Studies

Notes to the accounts - continued

4. Volunteers' expenses

During the accounting period, no reimbursements relating to trustees' travel and meeting expenses arose because all meetings took place online via Zoom rather than face to face.

5. Debtors

There were no debtors at year end.

6. Shares

The shares are in Co-operative Press Limited and have a nominal value of £10.

7. Creditors

There were no creditors at year end.

8. Trustees' remuneration

None of the trustees received any remuneration during the period.

9. Glossary of terms

Advance receipts: These are amounts received by the charity in the accounting period, for use in a future period.

Creditors: These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid in the accounting period.

Debtors: These are amounts owed to the charity, but not received in the accounting period.

Restricted funds: These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but within the general objects of the charity.

Unrestricted designated funds: These are unrestricted funds set aside by the trustees for specific purposes.