



## **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 56<sup>th</sup> 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
<b>Number of users</b>	7,955	This refers to the number of discrete users. It is a 35% increase on the numbers recorded last year (↑2064).
<b>Total views of pages and screens</b>	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.
<b>Top 5 pages viewed</b> 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)
<b>International reach (users)</b> 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.
<b>File Downloads</b>	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.
<b>Top 5 downloads</b> 1 and 2: UKSCS / SCSI 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	Pfatteicher et al. (2024). Housing co-operatives in Germany: 160 years of evolution and resilience. <a href="https://doi.org/10.61869/GCSP6342">https://doi.org/10.61869/GCSP6342</a>
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. <a href="https://doi.org/10.61869/TTAT3512">https://doi.org/10.61869/TTAT3512</a>
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 Loneran	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

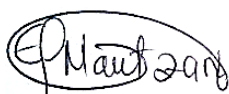
We have three unrestricted designated funds established to support the activities of the charity:

- *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:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elisavet Mantzari', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

Elisavet Mantzari, Trustee and Chair

Date: 30/11/2025

**UK Society for Co-operative Studies**  
**Receipts & payments account**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

2024				2025	
Total			Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Funds			Funds	Funds	Funds
£		Note	£	£	£
	<b>Receipts</b>				
2,000	Grants & donations	2	1,000	3,000	4,000
3,170	Membership		3,680	-	3,680
120	Journal receipts		172	-	172
3,870	Conference receipts		4,600	-	4,600
-	Other events		-	-	-
-	Sundry receipts		-	-	-
<u>9,160</u>	<b>Total receipts</b>		<u>9,452</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>12,452</u>
	<b>Payments</b>				
-	Volunteers' expenses	4	138	-	138
324	Accounting software & support		403	-	403
222	Bank charges		319	-	319
540	Office expenses		540	-	540
1,054	Internet & web site		778	-	778
1,837	Journal		232	1,000	1,232
1,656	Conference		-	287	287
144	Other events		156	-	156
-	Sundry payments		-	-	-
<u>5,777</u>	<b>Total before transfer of funds</b>		<u>2,566</u>	<u>1,287</u>	<u>3,853</u>
3,383	<b>Net receipts</b>		6,886	1,713	8,599
30,624	Cash funds at start of this period		34,007	-	34,007
-	Transfers between funds		-	-	-
<u>34,007</u>	<b>Cash funds at end of this period</b>		<u>40,893</u>	<u>1,713</u>	<u>42,606</u>

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

2024			2025
£		Note	£
34,007	<b>Cash assets</b>		42,606
-	Bank accounts		-
<u>34,007</u>	Cash in hand		<u>42,606</u>
	<b>Other monetary assets</b>		
-	Debtors	5	-
10	Shares	6	10
<u>10</u>			<u>10</u>
	<b>Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>		
	The charity does not have any items of equipment or other assets retained for the charity's own use		
	<b>Liabilities</b>		
-	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 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
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>
<b>Unrestricted designated funds</b>					
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.