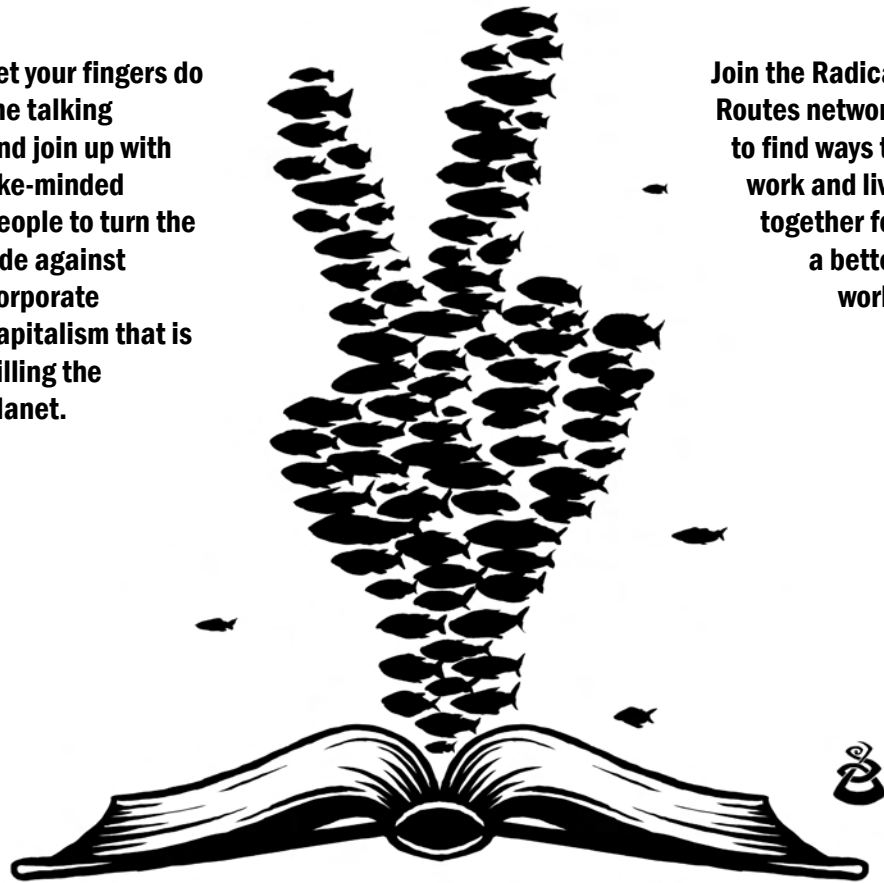


**Don't get drowned in the mainstream...**

Let your fingers do the talking and join up with like-minded people to turn the tide against corporate capitalism that is killing the planet.

Join the Radical Routes network to find ways to work and live together for a better world



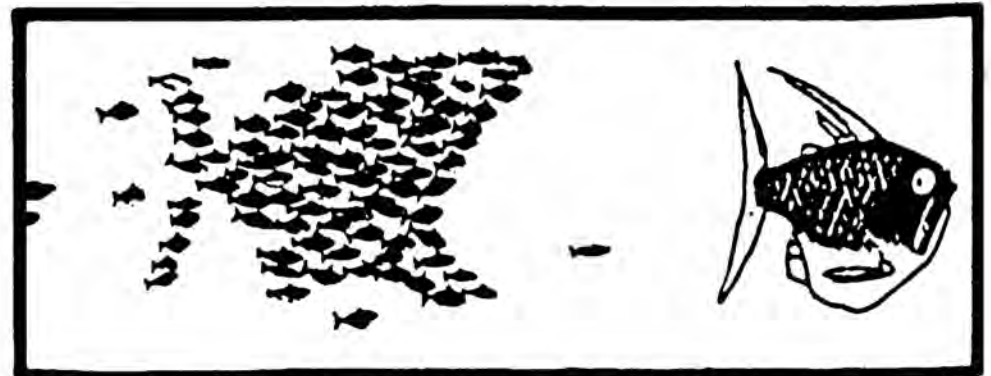
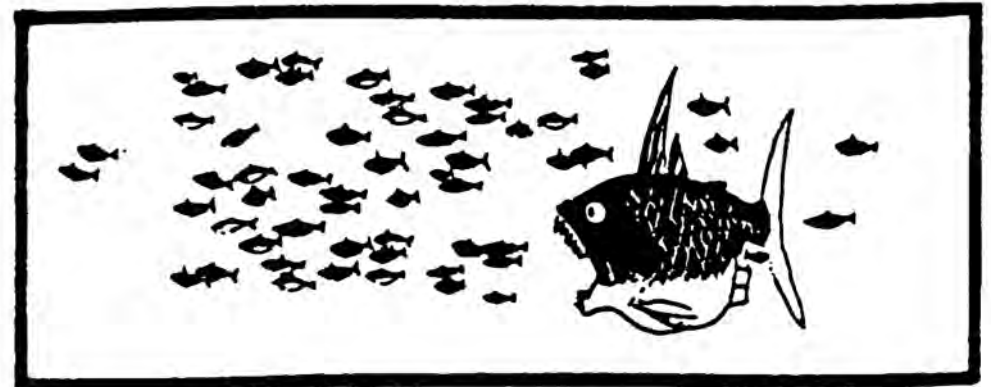
**Radical Routes** is a network of housing co-ops, workers co-ops and social centres across the UK that works for social change. We want to see a world based on equality and cooperation, where people give according to their ability and receive according to their needs, where work is fulfilling and useful and creativity is encouraged, where decision making is open to everyone with no hierarchies, where the environment is valued and respected in its own right rather than exploited.

**This £1 booklet is a directory of the current member co-ops of Radical Routes.**

It provides contact details, for members to stay in touch, and for interested people to find their nearest Co-ops. For a list of our other publications, including guides to setting up your own co-op, please visit our website: [www.radicalroutes.org.uk](http://www.radicalroutes.org.uk)

# Radical Routes

## 2011 Directory of Member Co-ops





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 16 Sholebroke Avenue, Chapelton, Leeds, LS7 3HB West Yorkshire.  
 Tel: 0113 262 4408 E-mail: footprint@footprinters.co.uk  
 Web: www.footprinters.co.uk*

**Introduction**

**Here we are in twenty-first-century Britain, in a world not of our making but one that has been molded over thousands of years of exploitation and injustice. Our world is shaped by the forces of greed, capitalism and materialism, where maximum production and optimum profits are vigorously pursued, making life a misery for many and putting us and the environment at risk.**

The system is ultimately controlled by the rich and powerful, the capitalists and bureaucrats, through the use of many mechanisms such as ownership of the economy (making people slaves to a job) and control of the media (creating a passive culture).

**Radical Routes** is a network of co-ops and individuals seeking to change all this. We want to see a world based on equality and co-operation, where people give according to their ability and receive according to their needs, where work is fulfilling and useful and creativity is encouraged, where decision making is open to everyone with no hierarchies, where the environment is valued and respected in its own right rather than exploited.

We want to take control over all aspects of our lives. However, as we are not all in a position of control we are forced to compromise in order to exist. We are working towards taking control over our housing, education and work through setting up housing and worker co-ops, and co-operating as a network. Through gaining collective control over these areas we aim to reduce reliance on exploitative structures and build secure bases from which to challenge the system and encourage others to do so.

Radical Routes developed from an idea in the mid 80s into a secondary co-op registered in April 1992. In 1986 New Education Housing Co-op was loaned £7,000 by supporters to put down a deposit on a house in Birmingham.



*For more info see:*

*[www.radicalroutes.org.uk](http://www.radicalroutes.org.uk)*

From that housing co-op Radical Routes has grown via staging educational events, the spreading of information, a will to seek like-minded people and investment from supporters into an expanding nationwide network of like-minded co-ops and individuals.

The formation of the secondary co-op provided a legal structure to pursue our collective aims in a more efficient way, and made it possible to raise investment centrally through a national investment scheme.

In 1998, this idea was taken a stage further with the establishment of Rootstock ([www.rootstock.org.uk](http://www.rootstock.org.uk)), an investors co-operative which raises the funds that Radical Routes then lends to member co-ops as top-up loans for house purchases or loans to buy equipment for workers co-ops. Radical Routes' "peer-to-peer" lending approach has proved remarkably successful and robust, with no outstanding bad debts after almost 20 years of operation.

Radical Routes has limited resources and recognises that its particular work towards the above aims is one part of a spectrum of many valid activities. The specific means that Radical Routes is pursuing are:

- The setting up of housing co-ops to house people and projects with the above aims.
- The setting up of workers co-ops which operate with the above aims.
- The promotion and organisation of participatory education through skills and knowledge-sharing events, Taking Control events, informative material and workshops.
- The raising of finance to take control over resources (property, technology, land...) through co-operation and economic interlocking of the co-ops.
- The support of like-minded projects.

Radical Routes is a network of radical co-ops whose members are committed to working for positive social change. Four times a year, the member co-ops get together at "gatherings". These weekend events have a social function, but are also the places at which all important decisions are taken. They are open meetings and anyone is welcome to attend, though active decision-making is limited to nominated representatives of the member co-ops.

Radical Routes uses consensus decision-making to try to achieve the best possible decisions that all the members can live with. In addition, at every gathering there is a parallel programme of introductory workshops for new groups and individuals, and plenty of time for informal networking and socialising.

**There are various ways you can find out more and get involved:**

- Check out the website ([www.radicalroutes.org.uk](http://www.radicalroutes.org.uk)) for more information and documents to download
- Contact Radical Routes by email ([enquiries@radicalroutes.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@radicalroutes.org.uk)), phone (0845 3304510), or mail (RR Enquiries, 16 Sholebroke Avenue, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS7 3HB)
- Come along to a gathering (see website for details of upcoming gatherings)
- Last but not least, use this Directory to get in touch directly with member co-ops near you!

# Member Co-ops: Housing Co-ops

## Black Combe

Black Combe Housing Co-op  
c/o 8 Blades Street, Lancaster,  
LA1 1TT

## Brambles

Brambles in Sheffield is a home for an eclectic mix of people and urban wildlife and a stop-over point for many more. We come from a mix of genders and social backgrounds with a wide range of skills to share between us. The co-op itself has been running for over 10 years and has housed over 60 people during this time; with members staying from months to many years. We share two neighbouring houses, vegetable patches, fruit trees, wildlife garden and frog pond in a vibrant, multicultural but economically poor area of Sheffield. Brambles provides its members with a secure, supportive environment from which we both work together and do our own stuff too. The co-op acts as a focal point for resources and information and as a free meeting space for local groups. Brambles is ecological and anarchic in focus with no rotas and very few boundaries and a lot of learning under our collective belts. Communal meals generally happen and the recycling and compost systems are pretty funky and efficient.  
Tel: 0114 279 7164

## Branches

Branches is a new housing co-op set up in Bradford. We are a group of people who met through the local Peace movement and the local Peace Studies Department. We are all committed to working in the local community and have close links with the local squatters and social centres like the 1in12 Club and Tree House Cafe. We are also involved in distributing Zapatista Coffee. We always welcome friends and visitors for tea but make sure that you tell us first - we may not be in!

Branches Housing Co-operative, 106 Preston Street,  
Bradford, BD7 1DP

Email: [branches@riseup.net](mailto:branches@riseup.net)

## Cornerstone

Established in 1993, Cornerstone has two three story Victorian houses in Chapeltown, (an ethnically diverse and run-down area of) Leeds. Both houses need a lot of maintenance, but have large gardens front and back, where we are applying permaculture principles to create beautiful and productive landscapes. We house up to sixteen people between the two houses and there are often short and long-term visitors swelling our numbers.

Members spend their time studying, gardening, printing, wood-crafting, metal-working, bike-maintaining, healing, doing artistic, sewing-related and other DIY activities, squatting social centres, campaigning on peace, environmental, social and animal rights issues. We are currently pet-free but that does not mean we don't want animals... We also love our local children! Evening meals are vegan and communal in the separate houses, and we try to have one joint co-op meal every three months.

Footprint Workers Co-op is based in one of the houses. We are also the enquiries point for Radical Routes publications. The e-mail address and phone number below are checked but not very regularly.

Cornerstone Housing Co-op, 16 Sholebroke Avenue,  
Chapeltown, Leeds, LS7 3HB Tel: 0113 262 9365  
Email: [cornerstone@cornerstonehousing.org.uk](mailto:cornerstone@cornerstonehousing.org.uk)  
Web: [www.cornerstonehousing.org.uk](http://www.cornerstonehousing.org.uk)

## Coventry Peace House

Coventry Peace House opened in January 1999. We were born out of the Coventry Peace Camp as a permanent resource for our city. We are involved with migrant solidarity, mend bikes and put up exhibitions!

We have space for new members. Criteria for membership involves commitment to working actively towards peace, living a simple green life style, and being involved with the support and fun co-operative living brings.

We are made up of six little houses painted bright yellow! We are fifteen minutes walk from the city centre in a multicultural area and have a nice big garden.

Coventry Peace House, 311 Stoney Stanton Road, Coventry, CV6 5DS, Warwickshire.

Tel: 02476 664616

Email: [info@covpeacehouse.org.uk](mailto:info@covpeacehouse.org.uk)

Web: [www.covpeacehouse.org.uk](http://www.covpeacehouse.org.uk)

## Dragonfly

Dragonfly housing coop has been running since 2000, housing five people in a quiet road in East Oxford that backs onto Florence Park. The house was previously home to Jigsaw housing coop. Our current members have campaigned against GM, war, the cuts, roads and runways and worked for student activism, sustainability, NVDA training, activist legal advice, campaign publicity / props and Climate Camp.

Dragonfly Housing Co-operative, 178 Campbell Road, Oxford, OX4 3NR. Tel: 01865 770833

## Equinox

Equinox Housing Co-op was set up in 1994 and moved into a large house in inner-city Manchester. Its aims were to provide affordable, quality accommodation to people involved in social change work. We are a group of 8 (plus dog) living communally and trying to build a supportive community based on the principles which we believe will help to make a better world.

Our members are involved in a wide range of activities and projects including local community groups, non-violent direct action groups on many issues, from no borders to genetics, ecological renovation, climate campaigning, seed saving, vegan organic farming, herbalism, websites, woodlands, Radical Routes and many others. We also find time to enjoy the gardens, be sporty, play music and have (we are told) legendary parties. We have carried out extensive environmental improvements (rainwater toilets, insulation, community office) and are looking towards further renovations (solar heating/PV) which will make us more sustainable. We are also in the process of setting up a community allotment project, involving active workshops on vegan organic food production, permaculture design and eco-building (we will be building a cob kitchen). Exciting times ahead! Visitors and helpers welcome.

Membership waiting list in operation – contact us!

Equinox Housing Co-op, 161 Hamilton Road, Longsight, Manchester, M13 0PQ. Tel: 0161 248 9224

## Golem

We are a group of six people based in Swansea looking for a property. Our aims are to provide affordable housing for our members, to support and encourage cooperative living and participation in social change activities while maintaining members' autonomy, to allow members to live an environmentally and socially responsible lifestyle.

Our members are involved in skill-sharing; green building; gardening; involvement in community groups, such as Bi-Swansea, Women in Tune and Transition Towns; composition and performance of music; upcycling; communal cooking; crafts; wine-making.

c/o 21 Rhondda Street, Mount Pleasant, Swansea, SA1 6GR  
Email: [golem.coop@gmail.com](mailto:golem.coop@gmail.com)

## Gung Ho

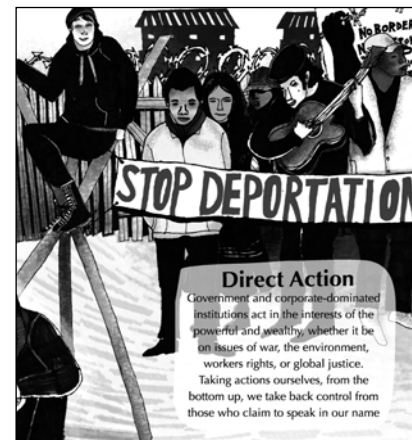
Gung Ho (*formerly Enheduanna*) is a housing co-operative with five members in Selly Park, South Birmingham. We bought our property in September 2009 and since then we have been spending a lot of time renovating the house and cultivating the garden.

Our members are involved in work with asylum seekers and refugees, supporting Coventry Peace House's shelter and the No Borders network. We also promote cycling and recycling through the Peace House and Birmingham Bike Foundry, a worker co-op that most of us are also members of. We have supported the establishment of a food co-operative, providing access to affordable, healthy and ethically sourced food for people in our local community.

We are keen to use our recent experience of establishing a housing co-operative to help others to do the same. Please get in touch with us on the details below if you are in this position.

Gung Ho Housing Co-op, 986 Pershore Road, Selly Park, Birmingham, B29 7PX  
Tel: 0121 472 6309

Email: [brumcoop@gmail.com](mailto:brumcoop@gmail.com)



## The Hive

The Hive began as a bunch of people who spent months drinking in the Beehive Inn, pretending to be planning a housing co-op, until one day we realised we'd taken it a bit too far... We are from a diverse range of tendencies [anarchist, socialist, environmental /permaculture, theatre and arts...] united by a shared belief in social change through grassroots action (solidarity campaigns, housing and student rights, community food growing, Social Centres such as the 1 in 12 Club) and of course, co-operation.

We are a mixture of people from Bradford and those new to the area; for our sins and for cheap curries and infamous nightlife. We reached a limit of tolerance of squalid living conditions and naughty landlords that dominate the Bradford property scene. So we decided to own our own squalid living conditions, in a friendly, sustainable and DIY manner.

In June 1997, having secured an Ecology Building Society mortgage and a Radical Routes loan, we dived into a brilliant but sadly neglected four storey house in sunny Manningham. Initially, much of the energy of the co-op was invested in setting our house in order and doing lots of repair work. Since then, we've dug in a bit, or rooted, or whatever it is you're meant to do, had the odd change of member, and at a steady pace waddled towards many of our original aspirations, whilst revising others. These include: a reasonable bit of DIY repair and renewal, the most exciting moments occurring in the upper echelons of the building, nothing to do with the view of the Valley Parade corner flag; the development of a nice wee garden cum scrapyard; the establishment of a street association and community garden; playing an active role in Radical Routes; the 1 in 12 Club, a radical anarchic social centre; crazy artistic intervention at the playhouse; and a bicycle breeding programme that's seen us chasing off Raleigh corporate spies. Just around the corner are our more daring dreams: serious ecorenovation, a unilateral declaration of independence, and a permanently tidy hallway.

The Hive Housing Co-operative, 16 Spring Gardens, Bradford, BD1 3EJ Tel: 01274 745002  
E-mail: [hive@riseup.net](mailto:hive@riseup.net)

## Mary Ann Johnson

We are a group of individuals from north London, most of us are either on welfare benefits or low waged. To solve our joint housing problems, and to take control of this part of our lives, we have set up a housing cooperative. We recently bought and converted a house in north London.

All of us are also involved in Haringey Solidarity Group which is a non-aligned local campaigning group. As part of the housing co-operative we hope to incorporate a meeting space and a few small office/work spaces, for campaigning groups and others. If you want to know more get in touch.

Mary Ann Johnson Housing Co-op,  
PO Box 2474, London N8 0HW  
E-mail: maj@haringey.org.uk  
maryannjohnsonhousingcoop.blogspot.com

## Nautia

Nautia is a four to five person housing co-op in Norwich, currently looking to expand.

We are making new links with radical and sustainability projects and groups in Norwich and Norfolk, including Critical Mass, Dr.Bike, student groups, food co-ops, Foodcycle (freegan community meals) and Freeshop.

We also play lots of music, and ride lots of bikes!

Nautia Housing Co-operative,  
3 Eade Road, Norwich, Norfolk,  
NR3 3EH. Tel: 01603 663546  
Email: nautia.house@googlemail.com

## Ned's

Ned's is a housing co-op based in Forest Fields, Nottingham that has been going since 2001. It is less than a minutes' walk from the Sumac Centre and was bought at about the same time. It consists of a large townhouse (housing 7 people), a converted garage that is now a self-contained flat (housing 2 adults and 3 children), a converted flour loft (housing one adult) and a large ex-factory space used for workshops and hosting gatherings.

We provide housing for people involved in a wide variety of voluntary environmental, animal rights and social change activities. We are currently moving towards improving the ecological footprint of our building.

Ned's Housing Co-operative, 73 Beech Avenue, Forest fields, Nottingham NG7 7LR Tel: 0115 9780019  
Email: nedshousingcoop@riseup.net

## Nutclough

*(previously known as Zion)*

We moved into the Nutclough Tavern in Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire in December 2002. Current residents are nine humans, two dogs, three cats and thousands of bees (all called bee). We each have a small private space. The majority of the old pub and gardens is communal and we encourage neighbours to enjoy the studio and gardens. Many of our members are performers, artists and activists so they are often away from home at weekends and over the summer. Our evening meals are vegetarian delights and we often have guests to eat and stay. We welcome visits from members of other co-ops and love to share our knowledge of the flora and fauna in the beautiful woods on our doorstep. Check out HX7 8HA. We encourage perspective members to participate fully in the co-op. When a room becomes available all unhoused members are considered. We welcome contact from anyone wishing to know more.

Nutclough Tavern, 6-8 Nutclough, Hebden Bridge,  
HX7 8HA. Tel: 01422 845990  
Email: info@zionhousingcoop.org.uk  
Web: www.zionhousingcoop.org.uk

## Out of Town

We are a group adults and children who have been renting houses in Brighton for many years. In early 2009 we finally achieved our dream of buying and converting a large house giving us 9 bedrooms and lots of space. However we don't all fit it the new house so we continue to rent other places. Ultimately we aim to rescue a second ramshackle palace from the clutches of naughty landlords! But recently we have rescued six chickens.

130 Hollingbury Park Avenue,  
Brighton BN1 7JP Tel: 01273 553247  
Email: outoftown@riseup.net

## Plan B

Plan B established ourselves as a co-op in the summer of 2009 and found a house in 2010 which we promptly fell in love with. It was communally owned for 30 years previously and had a history of involvement in the city's radical culture.

As well as liberating our members from landlords, we also have a converted basement space which now serves as a free meeting space for political groups in the city. It sometimes doubles as a sky sports bar or even edgy nightclub!

The house emerged from Manchester's anti-capitalist, anti-authoritarian scene which we hope to support and foster for years to come. We also have a really great bath.

31 Park Range, Rusholme,  
Manchester, M14 5HR  
Email: planB@aktivix.org  
Web: www.planbco-op.blospot.com

## Random Camel

Random Camel exist to stem the exodus of youth, talent, creativity and radical intent from Ipswich!

We are developing co-operative initiatives within the town that range from a publicly open food co-operative, independent film screenings, environmental education and communication workshops and hope to partner with the Transition group to produce an energy co-op which can benefit from the Feed-In Tariff system.

We want to accommodate local bands who can't afford to pay for studios and give them a cheap rehearsal space. We grow fruit and vegetables organically, with a heavy bent towards permacultural methods.

Things happening to our town that we abhor: 'waterfront regeneration', student dorm/ yuppie flat new-builds, the potential sale of habitat for the UK's largest toad population, decision to allow a super-Tesco in the town-centre.

Things we think worth living here for: beautiful parks and ancient buildings, real ale pubs, a vibrant punk and hardcore scene, the people's community garden, a fledgeling zine distro, our food co-op, 10 minutes from Suffolk countryside, and a supportive and friendly, diverse community!

Our house will be a stable base for people wanting to get involved in community action and empowerment, as well as an intentional community by itself. Join us!

We are looking for loanstock too, if you want to invest in an ethical enterprise in an area that needs inspirational examples, choose us!

Random Camel Housing Co-op,  
165 Burrell Road, Ipswich, IP1 8AA  
/ 23-27 Foundation St, Ipswich Suffolk  
Tel: 01473 684 449 / 07816 146 567

## Rhizome

Rhizome Housing Co-operative is currently a group of adults living in Nottingham. We have not yet found a building to live in together.

The founding principles and secondary rules strive for:

- vegetarian or vegan household
- strong commitment to anarchist living and mutual aid
- minimal consumption of resources

Rhizome is inviting expressions of interest from people who would like to live in Nottingham

Rhizome Housing Co-operative,  
c/o 245 Gladstone Street, Forest Fields,  
Nottingham, NG7 6HX

Email: anim\_al67@yahoo.co.uk



## Shiro

We are a group of eight people in Sheffield looking to buy a property. We aim to house ourselves (and future members) in an ecologically and socially sustainable way, and to create a hub for local organic food growing, skills sharing and non-hierarchical community activism.

Currently we're involved in a variety of projects across Sheffield and beyond including:

- Grow Sheffield, a network of individuals and groups promoting organic urban food-growing, and its off-shoot project Abundance, a group that seeks to harvest and freely distribute fruit growing in Sheffield that would otherwise go unused.
- New Roots, a volunteer-run not-for-profit shop selling groceries and wholefoods in order to raise awareness of environmental and social justice issues and to support asylum seekers living in Sheffield.
- Sheffield Social Centre, a collective aiming to establish an anti-capitalist, non-hierarchical and non-discriminatory space in Sheffield.
- Comac, an initiative to collect scrapped or unused bikes and bike parts and collectively rebuild them to be donated to destitute asylum seekers.
- Pedal Ready, a co-operative of cycling instructors and mechanics getting and keeping Sheffielders on their bikes.

Shiro Housing Co-operative  
c/o 61 Carfield Avenue, Sheffield, S8 9HZ

## Skylark

Skylark is looking for property in Suffolk.  
c/o 16 Railway St, Brighton, BN1 3PF.  
Email: info@skylarkhousingcoop.org.uk

## Some Friends

c/o 4 Creekside, London, SE8 4SA

## Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones is based at Highbury Farm, overlooking the beautiful Lower Wye Valley near the village of Redbrook. We are currently renovating the old farm house which houses some members and provides communal living space, while other people live in caravans and other low impact structures.

The co-op is inspired by a vision of finding ecological and socially sustainable ways of living together as a community. We are exploring how to manage our land without exploitation of animals and all food on the farm is vegetarian or vegan. We regard children and young people as an essential part of any sustainable community and are developing our policies to ensure that they and their parents are always able to participate in the running of the co-operative projects at Stepping Stones. This includes renovating an old cider apple and perry pear orchard, managing local rare species rich unimproved grassland, working with Natural England to coppice in adjacent Highbury Woods (a national nature reserve), establishing new vegetable gardens and fruit tree plantings and designing and building systems to supply our own energy needs. We are also able to host small gatherings for like minded groups and would like to develop the site as a space for environmental education camps and courses.

To find out about visiting opportunities give us a ring. We have vacant accommodation and are currently looking for new members to join us.

Highbury Farm, Redbrook, NP25 4LX,  
Monmouthshire, Wales. Tel: 01600 713942  
Email: highburyfarm@yahoo.co.uk  
Web: www.highburyfarm.freeserve.co.uk

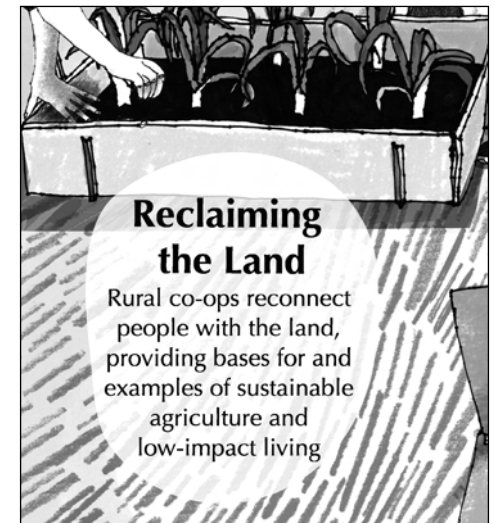
## Talamh

Talamh is Gaelic for earth or soil, and the co-op is fortunate to be set in 50 acres of fields and mixed habitats with a 17<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse (needing constant maintenance!).

Talamh has been in existence since 1993, and a housing co-op since 1996 and has housed many people over that time. Talamh currently houses nine adults and two children plus often extra visitors. Talamh has gardens, woodland, wetland, a lake, veg terraces, a polytunnel, and lots of wildlife about. We either live in the farmhouse or in caravans on the land.

Over 10,000 native broadleaf and conifer trees have been planted on the land not including hedgerows. Although rural, Talamh is adjacent to large open-cast coal mines, the M74, dairy farming and a gravel quarry. Talamh allows individuals access to land and resources and is idiosyncratic and active with a DIY style. Membership is firstly by spending time here, visiting and volunteering.

Birkhill House, Coalburn,  
South Lanarkshire, ML11 ONJ, Scotland.  
Tel: 01555 820555 or 820550.  
Email: talamh@lineone.net  
Web: www.talamh.org.uk



## Walden Pond

Walden Pond was set up in 1997 to provide affordable and secure housing for people working for social change. The co-op is committed to social justice, environmental responsibility and community involvement.

Walden Pond aims to provide its members with living, working and campaigning space, to nurture a creative spirit of collaboration and sharing, and to promote engagement with wider society.

In January 2001 Walden Pond bought a large Victorian house in St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex, and we settled into a much more stable and productive lifestyle! In 2002 the co-op bought a nearby flat to house more members.

2006 saw the completion of council-funded renovation work on our flat, and we decided to rent the 3 other flats in the same building to allow us to accommodate an increased membership and have control of the entire house and garden. Areas in which our members are active include anti-war campaigning, climate change activism, promoting cycling, alternative/appropriate technology, allotments, and home education. We do not generally seek new members but we will gladly provide advice and support for anyone interested in learning about co-ops and thinking of setting up their own.

29 Gensing Road, St Leonards on Sea,  
TN38 OHE, East Sussex. Tel: 0845 4589572  
Email: waldenpond@btinternet.com

## Wild Peak

For co-operative and sustainable housing in the Peak District.

Initially, we aim to buy property and land in the Peak District. As well as housing the members and managing the property, the Co-op has further project ideas for the future, including:

- Conserving and developing the architectural and heritage value of our buildings.
- Exploring the possibility of sustainable and/or low impact new buildings and conversions to enhance the architectural and landscape value of the site.
- Ecologically based land management to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the site.
- Sustainable, local, quality food production and food services.
- A base for community enterprise and cultural and recreational activity.
- A place for children to experience educational contact with nature and food production.
- Developing renewable energy solutions that work in harmony with the sensitive landscape of the Peak District.

Wild Peak Housing Co-op, 22 Rise End,  
Middleton-by-Wirksworth, Matlock,  
Derbyshire, DE4 4LS  
Email: wildpeak@phonecoop.coop  
Web: www.wildpeak.org.uk

# Associate members – Housing and Land Co-ops

## Affinity

Steward Community Woodland,  
Moretonhampstead,  
Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ13 8SD.  
Tel: 01647 440233 / 07050 674464  
Email: info@stewardwood.org

## Crabapple Community

Berrington Hall, Berrington, Shropshire  
SY5 6HA. Tel: 01743 761418

## Blackcurrent Centre

24 St. Michael's Avenue, Northampton  
NN1 4JQ. Tel: 01604 628956  
Email: dig@blackcurrentcentre.org.uk

## Cog

5 Daisy Road, Bristol, BS5 6JS.  
Tel: 0117 9511611

## Common Ground

Email: Hayley@catalystcollective.org

## Corani Housing and Land Co-op

10-12 Bartholomew Street, Leicester, LE2 1FA  
Tel: 0116 254 1403 Email: info@corani.org  
Web: www.corani.org

## The Drive

Walthamstow, London  
Email: enquiries@thedrive.coop  
www.thedrive.coop

## Fireside

61 Melrose Road, Sheffield, S3 9DN.  
Tel: 0114 2769093 / 0114 272 5908  
Email: fireside@blueyonder.co.uk

## Fox

Werndolau, Gelli Aur, Carmarthenshire,  
Wales. SA32 8NE. Tel: 01558 668798 / 668013  
Email: foxers@ukonline.co.uk /  
foxcoop@googlegmail.com

## Haramia

Email: haramiahousingCoop@googlegmail.com

## Mornington Grove Community

14 Mornington Grove, London, E3 4NS  
Tel: 020 8980 4534

## New Education

c/o Diggers and Dreamers, c/o Edge of Time  
Ltd. BCM Edge, London WC1 3XX

## One Community

Keval Farm, Looe, PL13 1PA, Cornwall.  
Tel: 01503 250215  
Email: ediblewolfpeaches@btinternet.com



## Pangaia

Hen Parcau Farm, Bwlch-y-groes, Boncath,  
SA37 0JY, Dyfed, Wales.  
Tel: 01239 841675 / 659

## Ringo

53 Beaconsfield Villas, Brighton, BN1 6HB.  
Email: ringohousingcoop@yahoo.co.uk

## S19

c/o 41 Mountcastle Road, Leicester, LE3 2BW  
Tel: 0116 282 4272  
Email: s19co\_op@yahoo.co.uk

## Tortoiseshell

c/o Radical Routes enquiries, 16 Sholebroke  
Avenue, Leeds LS7 3HB

## Uncarved Stone

Tel: Paul Martin 07752818759 / Clayton Eliot  
07967588038 / Pete Dangerfield 07980606188  
Email: cornwallhousingcoop@  
googlegroups.com

## Xanadu

31 Cliff Mount, Leeds LS6 2HP.  
Tel: 0113 244 4376

# Trading Co-ops Network

**The Trading Co-ops Network has been set up within Radical Routes specifically to encourage the establishment of new worker co-operatives and other kinds of co-ops and to support those already existing.**

Worker co-operatives, community co-ops, co-operative social centres, food co-ops, etc are businesses, and as such they have to be sustainable in the state-and market situation in which we find ourselves. The 'imperatives' of the market set many limits on how we work. For instance, under capitalism we must generate surplus through labour by selling workers short for what their work is really worth. This is the basis of the wage system.

Worker co-operatives, community co-ops, co-operative social centres, food co-ops, etc are a great way to reclaim control over our working lives and access to services. Co-ops are businesses that aim to provide meaningful employment and democratic control over the business. We are creating a new, more equal society, not based on greed, violence and inequality. We are all forced to either work under capitalism or submit to the degrading requirements of state welfare. By organising our own workplaces we use our time, skills and energy for the benefit of our communities and ourselves, rather than making money for bosses or shareholders.



Even in a new society there will still be a need for productive activity – we are taking steps towards a better world!

Any economic activity can be done cooperatively, whether by paid staff, volunteers or a mixture of both. Connected to the Trading Co-ops Network are bike projects, social centres, food co-ops, printers, accountants, researchers, caterers, hostels, trainers, food growers, wholefood shops, software consultants, outdoors activity instructors, woodland managers, arts collectives, publishers, journalists, alternative power projects, a compost collection project, designers and more groups are getting interested all the time.



# Member Co-ops: Social Centres

## The Cowley Club

The Cowley Club is a social centre on London Road in Brighton. It houses a cafe and bookshop during the day, a members bar during the evenings, a library, and is a base for a variety of other projects.

The club is collectively owned and run as a base for those involved in grassroots social change and those sympathetic to such activities, giving us control over our social space and resources. It is run entirely by volunteers – no one gets paid, and no one is making any profit. Instead, we are trying to provide a much needed alternative to everything else around us.

The Cowley Club, 12 London Road, Brighton, BN1 4JA.

Email: [cowleyclub@riseup.net](mailto:cowleyclub@riseup.net)

Web: [cowleyclub.org.uk](http://cowleyclub.org.uk)

## The Sumac Centre

The Sumac Centre (*formerly the Rainbow Centre*) is an activist and community resource centre and a secondary co-operative with two housing and two worker co-ops as members. These co-ops are Ned's and Rhizome Housing Co-operatives, Veggies Catering Campaign and Wild Things who are involved in eco-education with children of all ages.

The centre has a cafe, a bar, a radical library and computer facilities. We aim to provide housing, work, social facilities and advice and help to people working towards social change.

The Sumac Centre, 245 Gladstone Street, Forest Fields, Nottingham, NG7 6HX.

Tel: 0845 458 9595

Email: [info@veggies.org.uk](mailto:info@veggies.org.uk)

Web: [www.veggies.org.uk/sumac/](http://www.veggies.org.uk/sumac/)

## Manchester Social Centre

The Manchester Social Centre is a project that is trying to set up an autonomous community space to act as a hub for activism in the city of Manchester.

Since The Basement closed there has been a growing need for a non-commercial, free space for groups to use to organize their events

We are currently looking for a building to host the MSC. Once we have achieved this, we hope to run a café and a radical bookshop / library. We will provide meeting space, a music venue and space for art exhibitions. We also wish to provide access to free computers.

Email: [manchestersocialcentre@gmail.com](mailto:manchestersocialcentre@gmail.com)

[www.manchestersocialcentre.org](http://www.manchestersocialcentre.org)

# Member Co-ops: Workers Co-ops

## Bartleby's Brewery

15 De Vitre Street, Lancaster, LA1 1QU

## Birmingham Bike Foundry

Birmingham Bike Foundry is a workers' co-operative. We promote cycling activities and recycle discarded bikes.

We offer training in bike maintenance and cycle proficiency to members of the public, schools and businesses. We offer bicycle hire, a tool club where you can come along and use our workshop and a bespoke building service for people with specialised cycling needs.

Our aims are to promote cycling activities, reduce waste by recycling discarded bikes and provide fulfilling employment for our members. We hope to improve access to cycling for people who find it hard to afford a reliable bike and do not yet have the knowledge to maintain it themselves. In the long term we aim to generate a vibrant cycling culture in Birmingham – a city with a toxic addiction to cars, leading to serious health and environmental problems.

Please contact us for details of our premises.

Email: [birminghambikefoundry@gmail.com](mailto:birminghambikefoundry@gmail.com)

Web: [www.birminghambikefoundry.org](http://www.birminghambikefoundry.org)

## Catalyst Collective Ltd

We are a workers' co-operative, who offer free help and advice for and about housing and worker co-ops, plus a cheap registration service for new co-ops and help preparing accounts. We have over 14 years experience, and more than 100 satisfied customers.

We can visit you if appropriate, to help you develop your co-operative ideas. Contact us for more details.

We are based in Norfolk, however we work with groups nationwide. We offer a cheap/free service because we believe in what we do, and are always open to donations to further our work.

Catalyst Collective, (Radical Routes Finance Worker Co-op), 16 Princess Way, Earsham, Bungay NR35 2SY. Tel: 0845 223 5254

Email: [hayley@catalystcollective.org](mailto:hayley@catalystcollective.org)

Web: [www.catalystcollective.co.uk](http://www.catalystcollective.co.uk)



## Footprint

Footprint Workers Co-operative is a printing co-operative based at Cornerstone Housing Co-op in Leeds. We currently have five members and two different sorts of printing equipment - Riso digital duplicators and an Oki laser printer. We sadly dismantled our offset litho in 2008 and sold it for scrap.

In addition to printing we offer web hosting and web design services.

Most of our customers are environmental and social activist organisations, bands and individuals, but we also print for a number of small businesses in and around Leeds. For more information regarding our set up and our environmental and social policy take a look at the website.

16 Sholebroke Avenue, Chapeltown,  
Leeds LS7 3HB Tel: 0113 262 4408  
Email: [footprint@footprinters.co.uk](mailto:footprint@footprinters.co.uk)  
Web: [www.footprinters.co.uk](http://www.footprinters.co.uk)



## Knott Wood Coppicers

We started managing Knott Wood, near Hebden Bridge, in 1994. In 1997 we became a worker's co-op.

Our aim is to manage the woodland to enhance biodiversity, create saleable wood products and preserve woodland crafts which have been neglected in recent years.

The woodland is a mixture of Victorian sycamore plantation, semi natural birch/oak woodland and open fields. Much of the site is on steep, south facing slopes. The management plan has concentrated on felling areas of sycamore and restocking with native hardwoods, and planting open areas. The main species planted are hazel for coppice, with some ash, oak, sweet chestnut, rowan and field maple.

We have also planted two small orchards in the open areas, and a small area of larch. There is a forest schools area, including a new pond, and we carry out regular biodiversity surveys.

We are now at the stage of felling our first coppice coups of hazel, as well as continuing to fell some of the sycamores to create new coppice areas.

Knott Wood Coppicers was also central to the creation of climate awareness and re-forestation group Treesponsibility in 1998. We continue to work in this group, planting 5 hectares of new land each year throughout Calderdale, for flood protection, biodiversity and woodfuel.

We run an open day once a year, usually in late spring, and have working days and weeks throughout the year.

10 Broughton Street, Hedben Bridge, West Yorkshire, HX7 8JY  
Email: [knottwood@uk.coop](mailto:knottwood@uk.coop)

# Associate Members: Worker Co-ops & Social Centres

## The Accountancy Co-op

The Accountancy Co-operative offer services from VAT returns to financial and management accounts, taxation & payroll services, and I.T. based services including planning and implementation of computerised accounting software, training, advice and ongoing support.

56 Dorchester Road, Lyttchett Minster, Poole, Dorset BH16 6JE. Tel: 01202 621622.  
Email: [info@accountancy.coop](mailto:info@accountancy.coop)

## Alternative Choices

Alternative Choices is an independent social enterprise which earns money from consultancy on community development finance and similar work, and uses some of this money to support work that we feel needs doing but isn't financially viable, such as writing musicals which tackle political themes.

Alternative Choices Ltd. Unit 210 The Greenhouse, The Custard Factory, Gibb Street, Birmingham B9 4AA,  
Email: [info@alternativechoices.info](mailto:info@alternativechoices.info)

## Corporate Watch

Corporate Watch is a radical research co-operative based in London. From Corporate Watch's beginnings looking at PFI roadbuilding, we have broadened out to examine the oil industry, globalisation, genetic engineering, food, toxic chemicals, privatisation and many other areas, to build up a picture of almost every type of corporate crime and the nature and mechanisms of corporate power, both economic and political. We have worked with and provided information to empower peace campaigners, environmentalists, and trade unionists; large NGOs and small autonomous groups; journalists, MPs, and members of the public.

Over twelve years we have transformed a loose association of activists and researchers into a respected professional research and campaigning organisation, run effectively as a workers' co-operative.

c/o Freedom Press, Angel Alley, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London, E1 7QX.  
Tel: 020 7426 0005  
Email: [info@corporatetwatch.org](mailto:info@corporatetwatch.org)  
Web: [www.corporatetwatch.org](http://www.corporatetwatch.org)  
/ <http://corporate-rule.co.uk/>

## Dig Workers Co-op

Leafcycles Organic Veg Box Scheme  
24 St. Michael's Avenue, Northampton NN1 4JQ. Tel: 01604 628956  
Email: [dig@blackcurrentcentre.org.uk](mailto:dig@blackcurrentcentre.org.uk)

## Gaia Wholefoods

Gaia is a cooperatively owned wholefood shop run according to principles of sustainability social justice and non-violence.

7 Regent Place, Leamington, Warwickshire CV31 1EH. Tel: 01926 338805 (daytime)  
Email: shop@gaia.coop

## Green Action

The Green Action Food Co-op is an organisation within Leeds University Union run entirely by volunteers to provide cost price ethical food to its members.

www.greenactionleeds.org.uk

## Growing Heart

We are a small, not for profit, workers co-operative, based in West Wales. We work as forestry contractors, tree planting, for large forestry companies, and collecting tree seeds, for the forest nursery industry. We have now planted in excess of 2 million trees, mostly native hardwoods, and collect tree seeds throughout Wales and the south coast of England. We hope to expand into collection in Scotland.

We are now able to supply on a commercial scale, firewood, kindling and fencing, as well as producing our own cider, apple juice, and certified organic vegetables.

Growing Heart, Henparcau Farm, Boncath, Pembrokeshire, SA37 0JY. Tel: 01239 841675  
Email: growingheart@cooptel.net

## Highland Wholefoods Workers Co-op

Since 1989 we have been supplying local communities in the Highlands and Islands and north-east Scotland with organic, vegetarian, GM-free and fair trade products.

Unit 6, 13 Harbour Road, Inverness IV1 1SY  
Tel: 01463 712393

## Lupine Adventure Co-operative

Lupine Adventure provide outdoor education, recreation and training. Some of the activities that we are involved in are as follows.

- Vegan and Vegetarian walking holidays
- Navigation Training
- Rock climbing courses including single pitch, multipitch and leading instruction
- Scrambling Courses
- Winter walking (mountaineering) and skills training
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expedition programmes
- Sponsored walk supervision

Lupine Adventure Co-operative, 16 Sholebroke Avenue, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS7 3HB  
Tel: 0845 217 8917  
Web: www.lupineadventure.co.uk

## OrganicLea

A workers' cooperative growing food on London's edge in the Lea Valley.

We produce and distribute food and plants locally, and inspire and support others to do the same. With a workers' co-operative at our core, we bring people together to take action towards a more just and sustainable society. We run a box scheme, market stall, support for community food growing projects.

Email: info@organiclea.org.uk  
Tel: 020 8558 6880 (box)  
OrganicLea, c/o Hornbeam Centre,  
458 Hoe Street, E17 9AH

## Sailboat Project (Brighton)

Sail Boat Project is a workers cooperative, registered as a Community Interest Company, based in Brighton.

After a year of searching and saving Sail Boat Project workers co-op have bought 'Karic' a 32ft Ketch (two masts, one slightly smaller) to at last fulfill our aims of offering affordable sail training, sea transport and sail holidays. We've also got a Hobie Cat on Brighton beach and a load of inflatable kayaks.

We aim to:

- offer people access to the nearest UK wilderness – the sea
- provide UK and international sail transport for individuals and groups involved in positive social change activities
- support the development of a whole range of skills among people involved in the project, like: sailing, group-work, engine maintenance, navigation
- be an example of sustainable sailing boat practice

Tel: 01273 553247  
Email: sailboatproject@post.com  
Web: www.sailboatproject.org

## Seeds for Change

Seeds for Change is a co-op of activist trainers doing training and support for co-ops and grassroots campaigners.

Here's just some of the workshops we offer, but if you're wanting something that's not on this list then ask us - we may be able to help, or know someone who can! (Workshops for unfunded groups are usually free).

- Co-ops - help in setting up your co-op, working out how to work together, choosing a structure, working out your business idea. We support worker's co-ops and any other kind of co-operative venture.
- Consensus and Facilitation
- Direct Action, action skills and working out a strategy for your campaign
- Training for trainers

You'll also find a wide range of free guides and briefings on our website, with lots of practical skills and ideas to make your meetings run smoothly and painlessly, and make your campaign or your co-operative a success!

Seeds for Change Network  
www.seedsforchange.org.uk

Seeds for Change Oxford  
(for South England and South Wales)  
Email: oxford@seedsforchange.org.uk  
Tel: 01865 403 134

Seeds for Change Lancaster (for Scotland, N. England and N. Wales) Email:  
lancaster@seedsforchange.org.uk  
Tel: 0845 330 7583 or 01524 840028



## Somerset Co-op Services

The SCS mission is to promote the application of international co-operative principles, to help people establish new social enterprises and to enable social enterprises to work together to be financially, environmentally and socially sustainable. We aim to provide high quality services to our user members and secure, fairly rewarded work to our worker members. We offer specialist support to co-operatives, particularly those bringing different groups together and those that make measurable impacts on the reduction of carbon emissions.

Somerset Co-operative Services CIC, 12 North Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6QP.

Tel: 0845 458 1473

Email: alex@somerset.coop

Web: www.somerset.coop

## Sound Bites

Sound Bites is an independent wholefood shop which specialises in local, organic and fair trade food. We stock a wide range of great value wholefoods as well as local organic vegetables, eco household products, cruelty free toiletries, daily prepared sandwiches and much more. Now also home to Yaffle Cafe and Bookshop!

11 Morledge, Derby, DE1.

Tel: 01332 202971 (h), 01332 291369 (w)

Web: www.soundbitesderby.org.uk

## Veggies Catering Campaign (Nottingham)

Veggies is volunteer-led, a community-based, social enterprise, promoting mutual support & communication between groups working for the rights & welfare of animals, for human rights, sustainable living, peace & social justice since 1984.

Veggies Catering Campaign provides food at almost any event – from campaign rallies to community festivals, from family celebrations to green gatherings. We offer tasty, wholesome snacks, as well as information exploring the links between diet, animal suffering and the environment.

Veggies Directory facilitates networking with a wide campaign community. Radical Routes Co-ops (and like-minded groups) are invited to add details at <http://www.veggies.org.uk/directory/>.

245 Gladstone Street, Nottingham, NG7 6HX

Tel: 0845 458 9595 / 0115 960 8254 /

07870 86187

Email: info@veggies.org.uk

Web: www.veggies.org.uk

Follow Veggies news at

<http://twitter.com/veggiesnottm>



The illustrations that appear on pages 1, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 19 and on the inside front-cover are taken from a banner by Imogen Shaw, shown here in full.