

Dragons Housing Co-operative Established 2015



Co-operative history
and origins

Many kinds of co-operatives today

- Worker co-operatives, businesses owned and controlled by their workers
- Retail co-operatives, shops that trade for the mutual benefit of and are answerable to their customers
- Housing co-operatives, tenant groups who come to together to act as socially responsible landlords

Co-ops share a common origin and values

- Robert Owen 1800
- Rochdale pioneers 1844
- International co-operative alliance 1895
- Present day 250 million people are members or employees of cooperatives

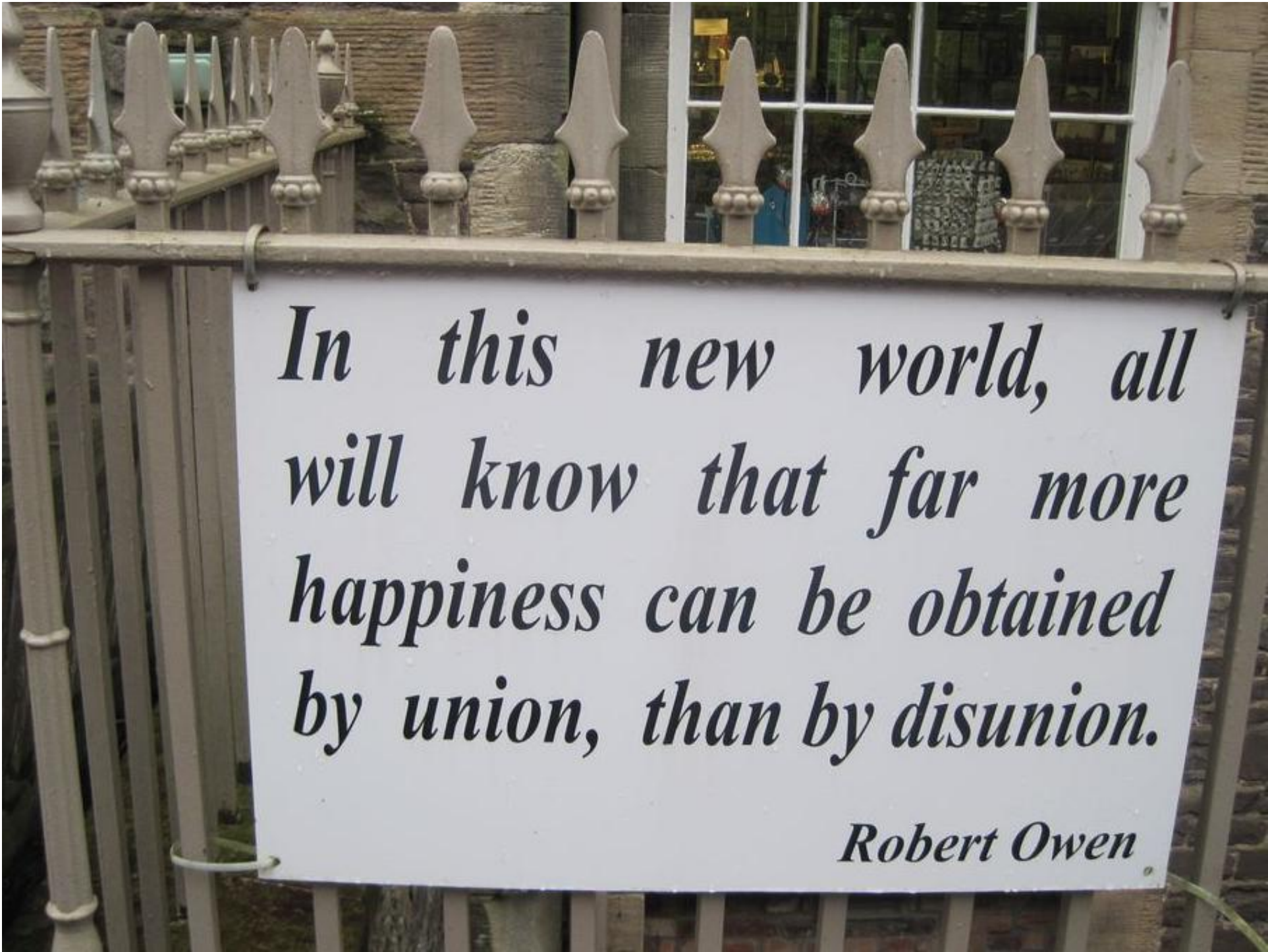
Robert Owen

New Lanark Mill

Robert Owen



- Robert Owen (14 May 1771 – 17 Nov 1858), born in Newtown, Montgomeryshire, Wales was a social reformer and one of the founders of socialism and the cooperative movement.
- Karl Marx named Owen's philosophy Utopian Socialism, based upon three intellectual pillars:
 - * First, no one was responsible for his will and his own actions, because his whole character is formed independently of himself; people are products of their environment, hence his support for education and labour reform, rendering him a pioneer in human capital investment.
 - * Second, opposition to Religion, because all religions are based on the same absurd imagination, that make man a weak, imbecile animal; a furious bigot and fanatic; or a miserable hypocrite; (in dotage, he embraced Spiritualism). [1]
 - * Third, supported the cottage system instead of the factory system.



*In this new world, all
will know that far more
happiness can be obtained
by union, than by disunion.*

Robert Owen















*Every child of man should be,
from his birth, as well trained
and educated, as his original
organs, faculties and powers,
will admit.*

Robert Owen



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*War may always be prevented,
by those who adopt the principles
of peace, being at all times, prepared
to resist injustice and oppression;
and this preparation may easily
be effected by wise arrangements
in the education of the young.*

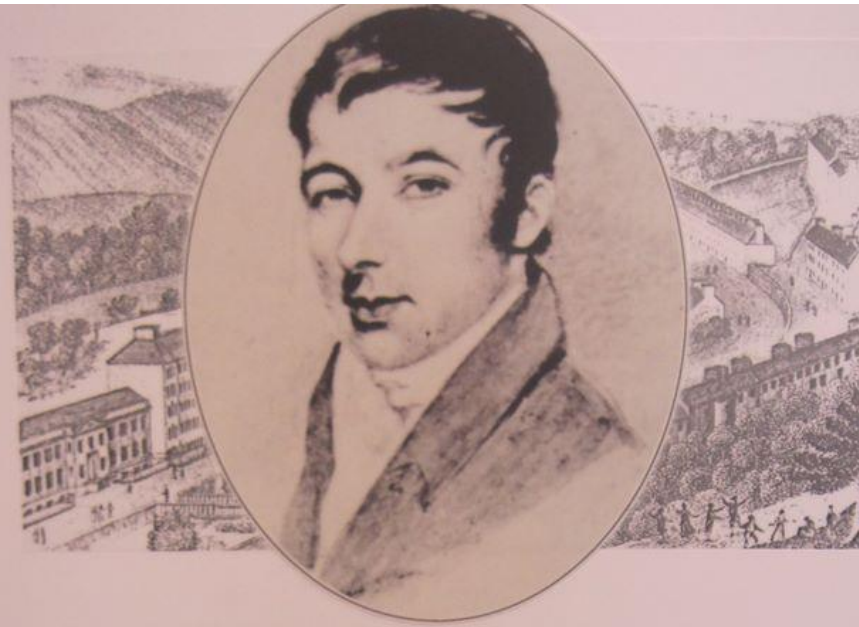
Robert Owen

Practical cultivators of the
soil know that the most
favourable circumstance for
promoting the growth
of vegetation is a
due supply of moisture.

Robert Owen
(1771-1858)

Nature requires
its own time to
mature all things,
whether mineral,
vegetable, animal,
or mind and spirit.

Robert Owen
(1771-1858)



WHEN ROBERT OWEN came to New Lanark in 1800 there were lots of small traders in the village, selling poor quality goods at high prices. Many of the villagers were in debt.

AS PART OF HIS PLAN to improve the health and standard of living of his workers, Owen opened a new company store in this building. Goods were bought in bulk to keep prices low, and everything was of the best quality. Coal, clothing and all sorts of household goods were sold, as well as groceries, butcher-meat and spirits.

THANKS TO THE SAVINGS they could make by buying at the new Village Store, the people soon cleared their debts; they were encouraged to budget sensibly. In spite of the lower prices, the Store made a profit, and this was used to help pay for Owen's new schools.





IN 1844, a group of Lancashire workers, inspired by Robert Owen's example, set up a small store in Toad Lane, Rochdale. Like him, they wanted to make sure that ordinary people got good value for money, a share in the profits, and the opportunity for education.

They came to be known as the
ROCHDALE PIONEERS...



THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT grew out of these trading experiments. Soon co-operative societies were springing up all over the country.

WITH THE FORMATION of the International Co-operative Alliance in 1895, the movement became world-wide. A century later, there are co-operatives in 80 countries with over 700 million members.







The Co-operative movement 1844

Principles of co-operation

The Rochdale Principles are a set of ideals for the operation of cooperatives.

They were first set out in 1844 by the Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers in Rochdale, England.

They are the basis on which co-operatives around the world continue to operate.



Rochdale Pioneers

28 skilled craftsman, mainly weavers from the Rochdale area formed the Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers in 1844.

Aiming to build on the work of earlier pioneer co-operatives they established the 7 principles of co-operation

Guiding values for the co-op movement worldwide

7 Principles of co-operation

1: Voluntary and open membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all people able to join or use its services who are willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

7 Principles of co-operation

2: Democratic member control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members—those who buy the goods or use the services of the cooperative— actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.

7 Principles of co-operation

3: Economic participation

Members contribute equally to, and democratically control, the capital of the cooperative. This benefits members in proportion to the business they conduct with the cooperative rather than on the capital invested.

7 Principles of co-operation

4: Autonomy and independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members.

If the co-op enters into agreements with other organizations or raises capital from external sources, it is done so based on terms that ensure democratic control by the members and maintains the cooperative's autonomy.

7 Principles of co-operation

• **5. Education, Training and Information**

^{E_o}_T

Cooperatives provide education and training for members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperative.

^{E_o}_T Members also inform the general public about the nature and benefits of cooperatives.

7 Principles of co-operation

• 6. Cooperation among Cooperatives



Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7 Principles of co-operation

- **7. Concern for Community**

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While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of communities through policies and programs accepted by the members.

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Dragons co-operative

- **Affordable, tenant managed housing**
- **Co-op shop supporting local artists, crafters and producers**
- **Providing information and support for new co-ops**
- **Raise the profile of co-operative support organisations as well as ethical investment**



Find out more about co-operatives and community enterprises

- **Co-operatives.uk**
- **Plunkett foundation**
- **Triodos bank**
- **Radical Routes**
- **Catalyst collective**
- **Good Energy**
- **Share Energy co-operative**

Thank you very much for listening



[Www.DragonsCooperative.org.uk](http://www.DragonsCooperative.org.uk)

