

PROGRAMME

v4 1/2/2014

Saturday 5th April 2014

The Priory Rooms, Quaker Meeting House, 40 Bull Street, Birmingham, B4 6AF

Co-operatives; how to set one up and how to get involved

Co-operatives are one of the world's fastest growing forms of enterprise. Even here in the UK despite de-mutualisation and the reshaping of the consumer (retail) co-operative movement there are many new exciting small co-ops, doing a wide range of activities. So how can you be part of the co-op revival?

Timings

Refreshments, from 8.45

Introductions, Housekeeping and Meeting for Worship 9.00 – 9.30

What is a co-op? 9.30 – 10.45

Nick Matthews Vice-Chair Co-operatives UK (www.uk.coop) will introduce the key co-operative principles and an exploration how in different places and sectors they have created socially responsible businesses.

How can I get involved in an existing/large co-op?

Olivia Birch main board director of Midcounties Co-operative (www.midcounties.coop) will outline her journey. Midcounties is a large regional co-op that has food shops, funerals, travel, childcare and more recently energy. Last year she topped the poll in the Society elections.

Break ½ hour 10.45 – 11.15

Coffee Break

Paul Birch, CEO of Revolver World (www.revolverworld.com), will be telling you about and letting you taste Revolver World Coffee. RW is a multi-stakeholder co-op that has members from coffee producers to customers and produces tremendously good fair trade and organic coffee.

Lunch 1 hour 12.30 -13.30

AGM 13.30 – 14.00

Break ½ hour

So how do I start a brand new co-op? 14.30 – 16.00

A practical workshop session lead by co-operative development worker Jim Pettipher from Co-op Futures (www.futures.coop) on how to start a new co-operative business.

Discussion Session - What we have learnt today 16.00 – 16.30

Conclusion and Meeting for Worship 16.30 – 17.00

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