



## Chinley Coop newsletter – June 2025

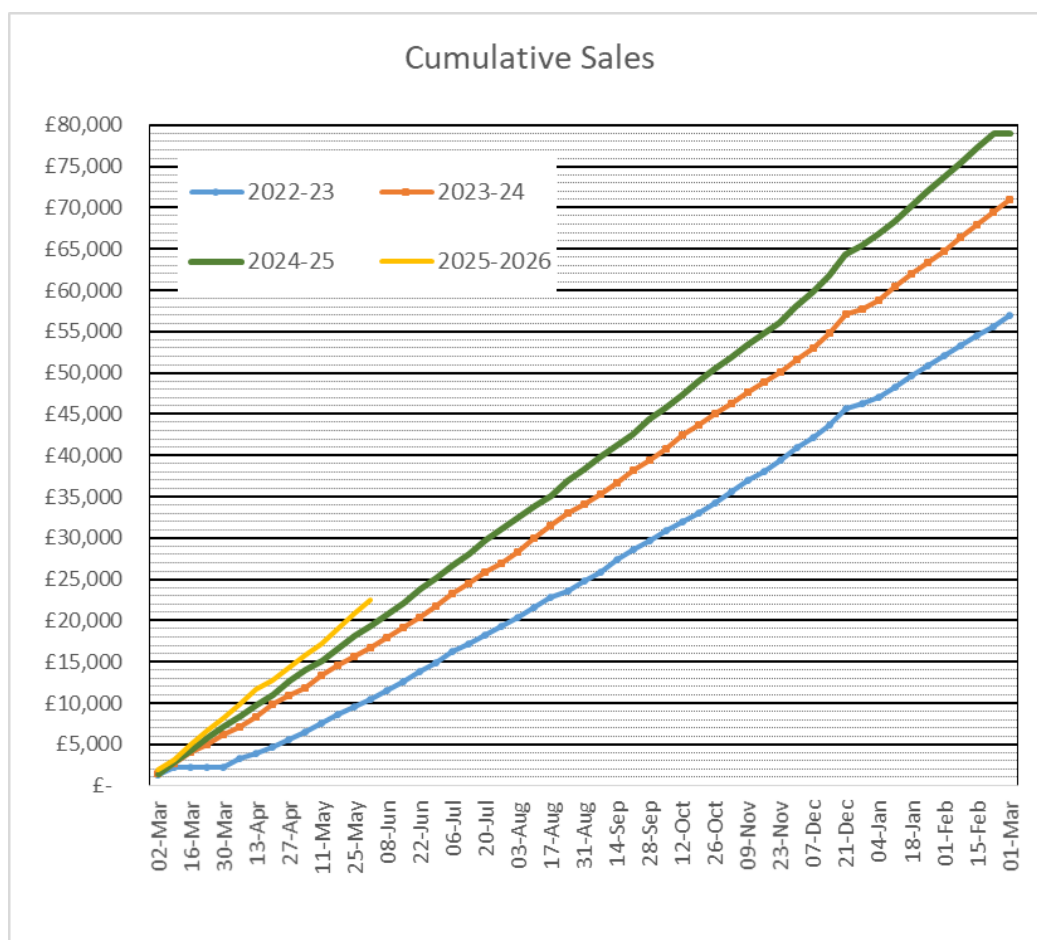
**Opening Hours – Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10-4 and Thursday 4-7**

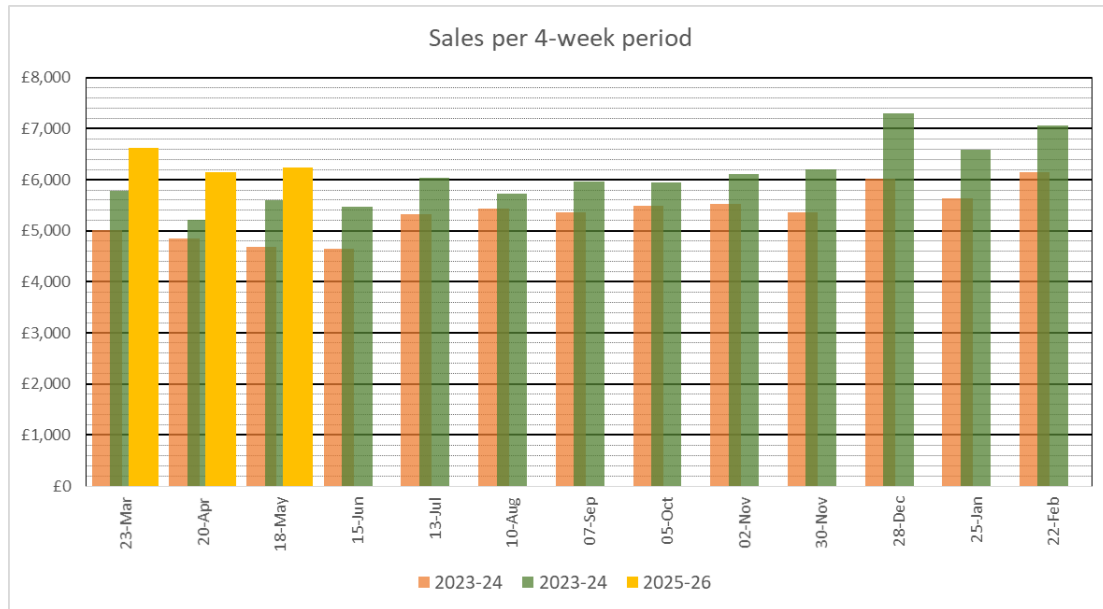
### Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be at **7pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at the WI Hall**. Our legal structure, which is Chinley Community Benefit Society, requires us to hold an annual AGM where our shareholders decide if we need to appoint an auditor (based on the treasurer's report of the accounts) and vote for the members of the management committee who are standing for re-election. Everyone is welcome to attend our AGM but only shareholders (*i.e.* members) may vote. At the AGM we will update you on all aspects of the coop and be offering refreshments.

### Our sales

We have now been trading for 3 years and 3 months. In terms of weekly customer numbers and sales, we have grown consistently as shown the graph below. We have shown a small profit each year after paying our bills which are mostly stock, rent, electricity and insurance. We have a good base of loyal customers with a steady demand for ethical sustainable products. Our weekly sales so far this year are averaging over £200 more than last year, representing a 15% increase in sales and number of customers.





## Our prices

Many of our products are cheaper compared with the equivalent quality of product elsewhere due to bulk buying and low mark-up. We can't always compete with the supermarkets, sometimes we even pay more for the products ourselves before mark-up. This is the cost of protecting the environment and treating workers well. One way Chinley Coop can help you to reduce your food bill is by providing grains, cereals, rice, beans and pulses, all of which are inexpensive compared with meat and dairy or processed foods. The table below gives some examples of how our prices compare with a major supermarket chain (Sainsbury's).

## Our waste reduction

Our main method of reducing waste is by providing a refill service. Below are some examples of packaging that we diverted from recycling or land fill. During 2024 we sold 405 litres of washing up liquid saving around 40 - 80kg of plastic, and our locally produced shampoo bars have saved around 11kg of plastic so far in 2025. Hand soap sales saved 24kg of plastic but also reused 480 pump dispensers.

Product	2024 sales	Packaging saved by Chinley Coop in 2024	Chinley Coop price	Sainsbury's price
Organic porridge oats	520 kg	500-1000 bags/boxes	£2.40/kg	£3.10/kg
Olive oil	190L	750 – 92 glass bottles	£13.00/L	£7.00 - £22.00/L
Oregano	1.25 kg	125 glass bottles	£2.45/100g	£4.40 - £9.30/100g
Peppercorns	12 kg	266 glass bottles	£1.64/100g	£1.70 - £2.80/100g
Smoked paprika	4.2 kg	100 glass bottles	£1.60/100g	£1.90 – £2.50/100g
Organic pasta	160 kg	320 bags/boxes	£3.00/kg	£2.70 - £5.80/kg
Organic red lentils	100 kg	200 bags/boxes	£2.80/kg	£4.80/kg
Organic basmati rice	202 kg	400 bags/boxes	£3.30/kg	£6.00/kg
Washing up liquid	405L	40-80kg plastic	£2.40 - £2.90/L	£3.00 - £5.00/L
Hand soap	240L	24kg plastic	£3.20 – £4.20/L	£3.10 - £6.50

## **Our volunteers**

We have a fantastic team of around 45 volunteers and, on average, about half of the volunteers have worked a shift during the previous fortnight. Every week 18 people work a 3 hour shift in the shop. In December 2024 we took the bold step of extending our Monday opening hours, and our volunteers stepped up to make this happen. We also have volunteers who are ordering, cleaning, pricing, window dressing, refilling & stocking and looking after our finances. We always welcome new volunteers and do our best to accommodate individual needs. Please pop in and see us or email [admin@chinleycoop.org.uk](mailto:admin@chinleycoop.org.uk) if you would like to find out more about volunteering.

## **Our community involvement**

Andrea is still running regular Tuesday morning sessions for two students from Peak School. These sessions are going really well and the students are happy to receive customers. If you are around from 10-11 on a Tuesday please pop in and see the students at work. Chinley scouts are using our garden to grow produce that will be donated or sold through the shop. We had a post-Christmas party for our volunteers. We sell calendars for Friends of Chinley Park and donate to local fund raising events.

## **Shareholder investment**

The coop was only able to begin by raising money from the community to buy our starting stock. Investors could buy £10 shares and many people invested more than the minimum £10 share. We are immensely grateful to our shareholders who took the risk of losing their investment in return for zero interest over 3 years. Now that we are a self-sustaining community business we will be asking our shareholders if they would like their investment to be repaid. Alternatively we will pay a low rate of interest to those holding £500+ shares from February 2025 to be paid at the end of February 2026. We will be writing to all shareholders to give more information.

## **Our aims and how we achieve them**

We would like Chinley Coop to be a friendly place where it's easy for locals to shop with minimal waste relying on suppliers who have been carefully selected to be trustworthy, sustainable and ethical.

Specifically we hope that our coop will

### **Reduce our village carbon footprint**

- less packaging is recycled or thrown away by refilling from our bulk products
- fewer journeys are made outside Chinley helped by complementing the other shops in Chinley - Chinley Cheese, Henshall's butchers and Londis – reducing environmental impact plus saving money and time
- less consumption of meat and dairy or processed foods by offering quality alternatives such as grains, cereals, rice, beans and pulses
- sharing point for excess garden produce and other reusable items

### **Save our customers money**

- low mark up on our products - only what we need to pay our rent and bills.
- bulk buying cost savings are passed onto our customers

- grains, cereals, rice, beans and pulses are low cost sources of protein

#### **Support the local economy**

- paying our rent
- bringing shoppers into the village who then support other businesses
- selling products made in Chinley or Chapel such as eggs, cakes, muffins, jams and chutneys, shampoo and conditioner bars and recycled wood kindling

#### **Protect wildlife and reduce environmental damage globally**

- selling organic products that reduce herbicide and pesticide usage – these chemicals impact on insects, pollinators and are associated with reduced biodiversity, plus their manufacture contributes to fossil fuel usage and greenhouse gas emissions
- lowering our carbon footprint helps mitigate global warming which is having an effect on wildlife and people through climate change causing extreme weather events such as high rainfall and flooding, droughts and fires, high winds and so on

#### **Improve working conditions in the UK and globally**

- selling Fairtrade products such as coffee and tea from Northern Tea Merchants, Clipper teas
- selling products that focus on reducing slave and child labour such as Tony's chocolonely, Montezuma chocolate
- selling products that improve sanitation in low income economies such as Who Gives a Crap toilet rolls
- selling products that aim to protect wildlife and the planet such as Bird & Wild coffee
- buying from workers cooperatives with an eco-friendly ethos such as SUMA, SESI, Honest Toil olive oil
- paying tax on our small profit

#### **Improve our local environment**

- we are now discussing the best way to contribute financially to projects aiming to improve our local environment

### **Our suppliers**

We stock around 1000 different products and our main suppliers are listed below along with a brief description of why we consider them to be eco-friendly and/or ethical.

[SUMA](#) is wholefood collective and worker's cooperative established in 1977 and now based in Elland, West Yorkshire. They deliver over 7000 vegetarian, natural, responsibly sourced products to businesses and communities across the UK.

[SESI](#) provide sustainable detergents with low impact on the planet. Their plastic containers are refilled rather than recycled. They work to keep up with important issues such as farming, human rights, animal rights, food justice, forestry protection, personal health and the impact of our way of life on the environment.

[Northern Tea Merchants](#) – tea blenders, tea bag manufacturers, coffee roasters and specialist contract packers of teas, coffees, cocoa, super foods and chocolate located in Chesterfield. Northern Tea are licensed Fairtrade importers and pack both non-organic and organic products.

[Bird and Wild coffee](#) – organic, shade-grown coffee helps to preserve native tree coverage offering suitable migratory bird habitat. All coffee is certified as Bird Friendly and Shade-Grown by the Smithsonian Migratory

Bird Centre plus 6% of sales is donated to the RSPB. Coffee is roasted in the country of origin reducing shipping weight and supporting the local economy.

[Who Gives a Crap](#) - make eco-friendly toilet paper, tissues and paper towels without using any trees and donate 50% of profits to charity partners so they can build toilets and improve sanitation in developing countries. Who gives a crap products are manufactured in China. For recycled paper products using UK recycled paper and made in the UK see our [Ecoleaf](#) range.

[Happy Valley Honey](#) - located in Bollington with over a 100 colonies of worker bees pollinating British crops and harvesting nectar from the surrounding towns and villages. The honey is sustainably sourced, direct from the bees and is cold extracted then coarsely filtered. It is never blended or pasteurised.

[Whiteholmes Apiaries](#) – a family-run bee farm near Matlock.

[Jill Kerr](#) linocuts – handmade unpackaged cards and tea towels based on Chinley artist Jill Kerr's linocut prints. Cards are unpackaged and printed on recycled paper.

Cakes from Home by Linda – fresh-baked in Chinley and available from Thursday evening until sold out.

Muffins by Kasia - fresh-baked in Chinley and available from Wednesday morning until sold out.

Designed for the Planet by Ian – shampoo, conditioner and washing up bars hand-produced in Chinley.

Recycled pallet kindling and wood blocks - hand-chopped by Alistair in Chinley.

Brambles of the High Peak – home-made jams and chutneys, sometimes using foraged fruit or fruit that would otherwise go to waste, made locally in Chapel-en-le-Frith. Jars may be returned to be reused.

Cards by local artists – Jill Kerr, John Howard, Susan Eversfield, Alison Rowland.

Wayside Eggs - laid by free-range Cream Legbar hens in the Wash, Chinley.

