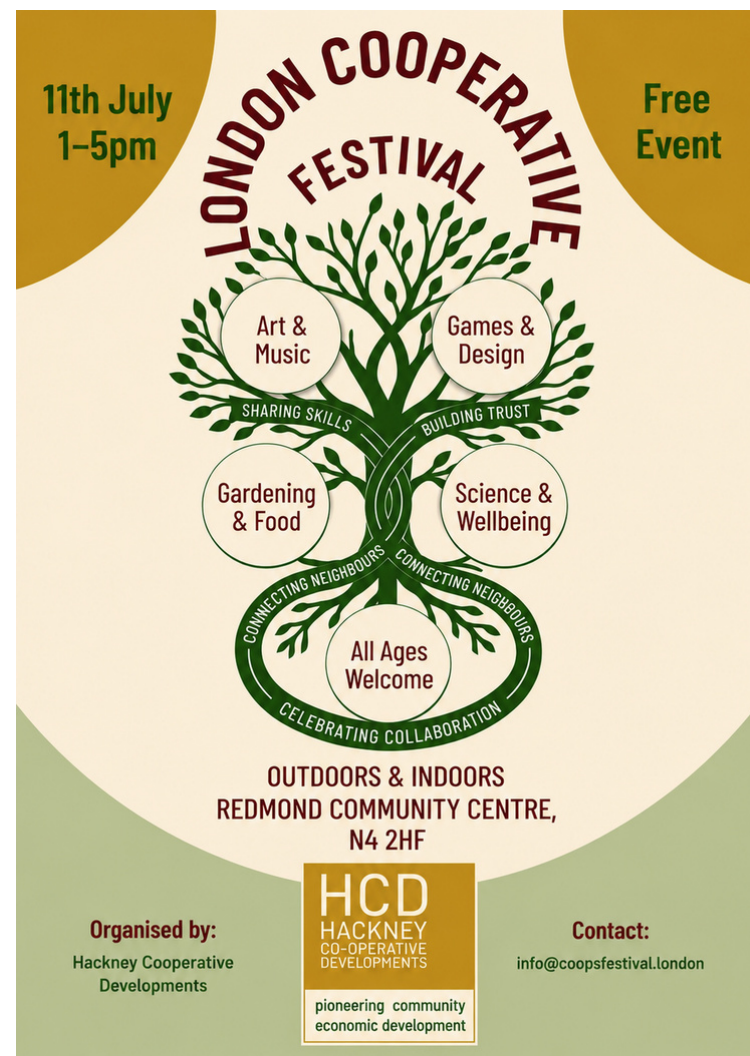




Evaluation of the London Cooperative Festival



Each year, cooperatives around the world celebrate International Cooperative Day recognising the role of cooperation in building stronger communities.

Inspired by this year's theme, Peace, Hackney Cooperative Developments organised the London Cooperative Festival on 11 July at Woodberry Down.



Hosted outdoors, this free, family-friendly festival helped ignite community spirit, strengthen relationships between local stakeholders, and encourage collaboration among people of different ages and backgrounds.

Making connections

Through a range of collaborative activities, the event brought together local residents, community organisations and members of cooperatives.

We also welcomed four representatives from Hackney Council, including the newly elected Mayor of Hackney.

Alexus engaged us through interactive game in conversations about challenges of a person from BAME background



Douglas from HCD inspired young and old to learn new skills of typewriting and badge making



Suzanne from *Creativity in our hands* helped explore our artistic potential using colourful beats



Charlotte and Layla from *Lifefabs Isntitute* brought their lab tools for us to discover the world of mycelium



Small Actions Spark Wider Participation

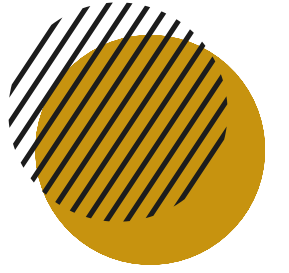
Douglas set up a badge-making station and typewriter in the main gazebo, where two young girls were the first to stop and take part. As they began drawing portraits, typing their names and making badges, more children were drawn in.

Within a short time, over a dozen children were actively creating together.

It was a proof of how even simple activity can quickly become a catalyst for genuine engagement, bringing people together through shared learning and creativity.



Our Simple Event Process



Quantitative Evaluation

Budget:

We had no budget. We need to raise funds for next year.

Costs:

Our costs were £50 for printing and £60 for gazebos

The 2 gazebos we purchased were low cost, and it were not built to resist heavy winds. We managed to keep it down with a few pegs, but we need better equipment

Attendees:

We counted 47 people attending the festival. Next year, we would like to at least double the number of participants.



Operational Evaluation

The team:

Aga, and Douglas

Planning:

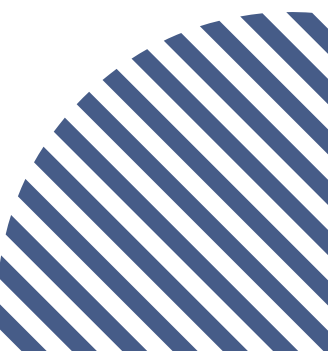
We wanted to celebrate cooperatives at Woodberry Down as this is a community space that HCD promotes.

Collaborators:

There were 4 stalls run by local artists and small businesses. In future, we would like to involve even more local collaborators.

Promotion:

We designed flyers and distributed them locally, via social media platforms, and by word of mouth





Strategic Evaluation

HCD dynamics

We only had 2 staff members from HCD attend and Aga, who coordinated the event's planning and delivery. We need to make sure that in future there is more (paid) staff engaged, thus we need to have a budget, and work on improving communication with other stakeholder



Green Party

We had strong support from the mayor of Hackney Zoe Garbett and 2 councillors, who participated in the event. This is an excellent response and we need to follow up and engage them for next year.

Cooperative Party

Only Sam Pallis attended the festival, but spent just few minutes with us before moving on. We need to engage the local Cooperative Party in this festival.

Redmond Centre

Arianna, event manager, was supportive in a process of preparation towards running our events on the same day. We need to work on building better relationships with Finn and others from Manor House Community Development Trust, which runs the Redmond Centre as communication was uneven and we got information about their plans very late. Douglas considered joining the board of directors hoping this would help improve the communication.



Coops UK

Louis from Coops UK did visit but could not unfortunately find us and left without making contact. We need to be in better communication with Coops Uk.

Notting Hill Genesis

We had a good engagement with Grace and with some local residents. We need to follow up and offer more opportunities to engage with NHG.



Workers Coop Movement

Sion from Principle 6 and the Worker Coop Federation supported us on the day and engaged with a few people interested in setting up cooperatives.

Cooperation Town

Our relationship with Cooperation Town has been uneven, communication and cooperation needs more work. We attended their event on the 4th July, but they did not attend our event on the 11th July.