

The Big Issue

The Big Issue is a limited company. At the centre of its work is the magazine “The Big Issue”. The magazine is sold on the streets by homeless people so as to provide them with an income. To assist the self-help approach of the Big Issue Magazine, the Big Issue Foundation was set up in 1995. The Foundation is a registered charity. It helps homeless people to find suitable employment, access health care, housing, training and other support services.



Hackney South Credit Union



The credit union began with a committed group of local volunteers, concerned about the high levels of debt in the area. Many of the local residents were forced to borrow money, at high rates of interest, from loan sharks and less reputable financial companies. The organisation was registered as an Industrial & Provident society in 1988. It provides affordable financial services to people living in South Hackney. Its members save together and the joint savings are used to provide loans at a cheap rate of interest.



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Croyland Community Radio Station

The licensing of community broadcasters has been problematical in the UK, and this community radio station operates using 28-day special event licences. The first special event broadcast was in June 1988 on the site of the Edmonton Carnival. They launched their weekly webcast Real Audio & MP3 radio show on 1st May 2000, covering local events. Their 2003 special event licence was on air on 1494 kHz AM from the 26th Edmonton Pageant of Motoring on Sat/Sunday 28/29th June. The aims are to provide a radio-based community information station. They are funded by members' donations and feature speech-based programming for the local voluntary, charity, social and arts sector. All the Croyland crew are volunteers, with financial support from two founder members.



Kennington Office Cleaners



Kennington Office Cleaners was set up as a co-operative in 1978, with a £1,000 bank loan. It began with ten women, from an impoverished estate in south London, who were dissatisfied with working inflexible hours, at below the recommended minimum wage, for other cleaning companies. Seven of the ten founder members were employed. The company offers employment to women on the estate. It provides cleaning services to housing co-operatives, health clubs, community and other organisations. The management committee is formed from its membership.



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