



We wanted to share with you a Christmas update after what has been quite a year. First and foremost, our heart goes out to everyone who has lost loved ones due to Covid-19. We empathise with anyone whose livelihood has been affected, as well as those who have been separated from friends and family. As 2021 shows glimmers of hope, we hope to come together once more and rebuild our special community.

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A note that **Covid restrictions** are still in place meaning Gillett Square is unable to host any events, but that doesn't mean we can't plan ahead. Please contact Douglas Racionzer (d.racionzer@hcd.coop) about activities in Springtime in the hope that the situation improves.

Thanks to herculean efforts from the project team, we can finally announce the **Dalston Works** redevelopment is underway having overcome various unforeseen challenges. The project will see improvements to the south side of Gillett Square and the creation of new workspaces, safeguarding 265 jobs and generating at least 69 more. Monthly updates will be displayed in the Square from January, and there will be opportunities in the new year to speak to contractors about the project. Find out more: www.hcd.co.uk/premises/future-property-developments.

The **Community Advice Project**, in partnership with the MRS, continues to help older people and those with disabilities who are not using advice agencies. Members of the community have also formed a breakfast club in Gillett Square to reach even more people often overlooked by society to ask for help where needed.

We run accredited **employability and training programmes** such as Essential Digital Skills, and the HM Courts & Tribunals Service Assisted Digital Project, which helps people solve legal problems online. The programme's achievements include supporting over 385 people to improve their basic digital skills, enabling 6 unemployed participants to find work and 10 to progress into further education, and mitigating the digital divide by providing 60 vulnerable people with tablets, smartphones and laptops including support on how to use them.

We believe passionately that **social enterprise** offers individuals the opportunity to come together to create businesses that are better for them and society. We're always keen to support emerging social enterprises through our start-up support programme

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So, all that's left is to send our warmest season's greetings to all of you - our friends and supporters. We hope that 2021 will be a year of rejuvenation and prosperity for all and we look forward to connecting again soon.

Hackney Co-operative Developments Community Interest Company
Spaces to Thrive