

A Bookfair in 2012 ???

This document sets out some of the options for 2012 doing the rounds; some issues they'll encounter; lists the basic roles that need filling; and gives an idea of the bookfair costs.

Some Options For 2012

1. Do absolutely nothing.
2. Do exactly the same as in 2011 – same format (60 stalls, about 30 meetings in 4 separate rooms, cafe), same venue etc, after-party. Remember that in 2011 different groups held at least 1 event each night for 6 days in the run up to the bookfair.
3. Hold a simpler event, say just a bookfair in a large hall, with a cafe, but skip the meetings & films.
4. Hold a 2 day event - simple bookfair on the Saturday, and a series of longer meetings on the Sunday to allow deeper discussions. Will people get up on the Sunday for the meetings?
5. Another suggestion is that whilst the bookfair is public, the meetings on the second day are more of a closed event for committed anarchists – a conference perhaps, to discuss aims, strategies and tactics?
6. Hold a much longer event, a 'Festival of Anarchy', over 2 to 4 weeks, with the bookfair as the climax/right in the middle. Different groups would need to commit to putting on different events on a daily basis – gigs, films, talks, plays, comedy, quizzes, discussions, actions etc. This leaves the bookfair collective to just organise the bookfair and administer a general events list, and perhaps facilitate communication between groups and/or those groups attend bookfair collective meetings..?

Other ideas to consider

- Invite a wider range of groups/projects from outside the broadly anarchist movement to hold stalls/meetings and debate with us. A further suggestion is to drop 'Anarchist Bookfair' and have a 'Radical Bookfair' encompassing all the left groups in the region, perhaps involving them in the organisation too. But where would we draw the line? Does the term 'Anarchist' put people off?
- Alternatively we could harden the definition of 'anarchist' (ie exclude stalls & meeting proposals that are not explicitly anarchist), to hold perhaps a smaller bookfair, but one that is purely anarchist. For example check last years stall list and consider who wouldnt make it in this time!
- Venues – which ones and where? In 2011 we used Hamilton House for around £600, but they've implied this could go up to around £1100 in 2012 (although no discussions have happened yet for 2012). Is there another suitably large venue? Could the event on the day happen in multiple venues? Whilst with advance planning we can access a number of legal venues (sympathetic, cheap or free) for smaller meetings, and socials, there is also the fact that a number of our squatted social spaces are under threat, and may not be replaced?
- Publicity – so far we've made huge efforts with posters & flyers. We've also had an online presence, hammered email, and used facebook last year. Should we place more emphasis on online publicity and social networking? Is this a cost factor - less printed publicity cuts costs and needs less time to distro?
- Organising – if more people are involved in putting on events/the bookfair, how do we share out tasks better, and makesure shit is done. Is their a proven alternative to well attended meetings and clear roles?
- Theme for the event(s). Is something needed, or necessary?

Bookfair collective roles/tasks

This sets out most of the organisational tasks. Some have in the past been done by just 1 person, others by several. We think its better to share them more widely?

1. Printed publicity – design, layout, printing & distro
2. Online publicity – website updates, email, facebook and other social networking
3. Admin – meeting minutes & communications, taking stall bookings/payments, maintaining list of proposed workshops/meetings, banking and accounts, checking for post (at Kebele), checking email account(s), compilation of programme
4. Cafe liason – with whoever takes on the cafe, so far its been Kebele cafe
5. Venue liason – finding and negotiating with venue(s) & sorting problems, room layout, room equipment and maybe hire or loan, venue access, organising/chasing banners for the day, set up & take down on the day
6. Indymedia liason – with the Bristol Indymedia room
7. BRHG liason – for their stalls and meeting room
8. Other events liason – building a list of them (avoid obvious clashes), chasing up, helping publicise
9. Fundraising/benefits & Other events – all aspects of putting them on including costs

Costs of the bookfair

These are the outline figures for May 2011:

Expenses - £1626.50

(includes £600 – venue; £345 – table/chair hire; £246 for poster/flyers; £110 printing programme; £87 – admin; £200 – t-shirts; £38 – may day films)

Note: people in the collective also donate small amounts via expenses they dont ask for back, along with time. In addition the stickers cost about £70 and were donated to us.

Income - £2000.00

(includes £645 – stalls; £1000 – door donations/t-shirt sales; £45 – fundraiser; £10 – film night; £100 – donations from BRHG/Bindymedia; £200 – cafe donation)

Balance on year: £373

We donated out £200, leaving £173.

Closing Balance: £1073 in bank/cash

For 2011 our income from benefits was about £500 down on previous years, although door donations was up by £2-300. A result of that was that we only donated out £200 compared to £650 in 2010. We also incurred no costs on travel for speakers, although BRHG did.