



Johnny Tomlinson will be on hand to give free money advice at the Green Man Community Centre.

Free money advice

Expert advisers from the charity MyBnk will be delivering free one-to-one money guidance sessions all day at the Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale on 17 August, with another day of sessions planned for 14 September.

The programme is ideal for residents facing life-changing events such as redundancy, new jobs, starting families, entering university or leaving education. Whatever the query, from debt and benefits to student loans and pensions, advisers can help. Sessions are confidential and you can also book a follow-up meeting.

The new national government-backed effort seeks to boost everyday financial know-how to help people break the debt cycle. It has been funded by a levy on banks and the financial

services industry.

Mark Healey, the Green Man's centre manager, said it was "exactly the type of help and support we want to have available at the centre" and a "great opportunity for residents to speak to someone about their finances if they want a little advice".

To book a session, call Patrick on 020 8883 4916 or e-mail patrick.o'brien@peabody.org.uk quoting Money Advice Service. Bookings begin at 9am and finish at 5pm and are on a first-come-first-served basis.

Gift Aid means more

By Diana Cormack

The North London Hospice can now claim Gift Aid on goods donated to their shops. This means that if you agree to be a Gift Aid donor, they will be able to claim an additional 25% at no additional cost to you. Forms for this purpose are available in our local hospice shop at 123 High Road, telephone 020 8883 6493.

When you take your donations to a charity shop always go inside and hand them over to an assistant. Things left outside can get stolen, soiled or strewn about the pavement.

It is also worth remembering that some of the 'charity' bags put through your letterbox are not what they seem. To find out if a genuine charity is involved you can try checking online, but the safest way to ensure that your unwanted goods will really be doing good is to take them into your chosen charity shop.



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When the siren sounded

By Daphne Chamberlain

Six year-old Pauline Taylor was on her way to Manorside School when the air-raid siren sounded. Children in World War 2 were always told: "If you hear the siren, run to home or school, whichever is nearer". Pauline was at the school gates, but turned and raced home. Luckily her house was very near, in "the dip", the lower level of Squires Lane by the railway.

Another time, the siren went off in the middle of the night. She says: "I remember my mother dragging me by the hand to the shelter in the garden. She was carrying my younger sister. I can still see those doodlebugs coming towards us, and wanted to run the other way, away from them, not towards them!"

Old familiar places

This January she met up with the siren again, or at least the bottom bit of it, still standing at the corner of Manor View. Now Pauline Lynch and living in Wales, she had always driven around Finchley on previous visits. This time she was on foot.

She went inside Manorside School (for the second time in 30 years) and her old home. The present occupant kindly allowed her in, reviving memories of seeing another doodlebug through the window. She was sure it would hit her house, but it actually caught St Paul's Church in Long Lane.

Pauline, whose grandfather owned H.J. Taylor's hardware store at 224 Long Lane, has happier memories of shops around the Squires Lane/Long Lane junction. At the age of 12, she knitted a Fair Isle jumper with wool from Mrs Plummer's shop, and almost everyone made phone calls from Mr Mitchell's Post Office.

Squires Lane Indoor Baths, for bathing as well as swimming, has gone, but the Sea



Photo by Rob Jarvis

Cadet centre, known for its parties, survives. Oak Lane Clinic, with its animal silhouettes on the ceiling and walls, and a room of little basins for spitting into, was where she had teeth out. Walking round Finchley proved to be "very emotional".

Does anyone know of any other remnants of the wartime sirens? Neither Barnet Highways department nor the Archives could help us, but maybe you can. Drop us a line at the-archer@lineone.net or The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA.

Time short for family support

The East Finchley Advice Service has been warned it could be forced to close as soon as September, after its budget was cut by Barnet Council.

Run by part-time projects manager Ruby Joseph and a group of volunteers, the service had £16,000 cut from its annual funding last December. Ruby told *THE ARCHER* in June that the team was desperate for new volunteers and financial support to keep going.

EFAS operates from the Green Man Community Centre providing free advice on money, benefits, legal matters and housing to anyone who needs help.

Ruby told the Hendon and Finchley Times last month that the service had received financial support from charities and other organisations but was still a long way short of covering its annual costs.

To make a donation, contact Ruby on 020 8444 6265 or email help@efas.org.uk

Top marks!

By Alison Gold

School leavers from Martin primary school have gone out on a high this summer with the announcement that the school had its best ever SATs results and a school leavers' production of *Oliver Twist* that thrilled its audiences.

The school took receipt of its key stage 2 SATs results in July and found that the school had outperformed the national average for all subjects. Headteacher Helen Morrison put the results down to the pupils' hard work and the high and consistent standard of teaching which has enabled them to make such good progress throughout their time at the school. Having finished their SATs, year 6 pupils started work on their leaving show. The one-hour version of *Oliver Twist* included 10 and 11-year-old children singing confident solos, with brilliant group song and dance routines and a range of acting from comedy to tragedy. A spectacular Victorian street scene set was painted by Team leader Kate Galletti.

Teachers coached pupils to prepare for the show during lunchtimes and afternoons over a few weeks to a level that many (admittedly biased) members of the audience felt would be worthy of the West End or Broadway.

East Finchley Baptist Church

Just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2

Sunday Mornings at 10.30 am

For more information

please contact the Church Office

Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke)

Visitors always welcome

All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.

Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.

(Refreshments are served after mass on Sunday and Thursday)

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

The Parish has a flourishing social life.

Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,
on 020 8883 9315.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.

Experienced singers are always welcome.

Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>