



Jobs project pilot for Grange Estate

By David Melsome

A new project is being piloted on the Grange Estate and the immediate surrounding area in East Finchley to help residents find or stay in paid employment.

BOOST is a government-funded initiative under the Jobs Plus umbrella that is open to anyone aged 16 or over, living on or very close to the Grange Estate, who is not working or who is looking to improve their current job situation.

Tailored support

The range of assistance on offer includes creating and updating CVs, sourcing vacancies, writing applications and preparing for interviews, along with financial support and incentives whilst in work.

Project manager Andrew Potter said: "We understand that everyone's situation is unique, so we tailor our support to meet your specific needs."

"Our goal is to help residents into work by developing essential employability skills, overcoming barriers to employment, boosting motivation, and increasing confidence."

BOOST is part of The Barnet Group. Find out more at boostbarnet.org or contact the project team by emailing boost@barnet.gov.uk

Jobs Plus is being delivered to pilot sites across the UK in collaboration with the Department of Work and Pensions and the Learning & Work Institute.

All eligible individuals with the right to work in the UK, whether receiving benefits or not, are able to join Jobs Plus. For more information, email JobsPlus@barnethomes.org



Device advice: Joseph and Ruby together at a digital workshop

Free digital skills workshops

The Five Bells Computer Club, which has been active since 2016 providing help with laptops, smartphones and tablets, is starting new classroom-style sessions on Thursday mornings.

Funded by The Good Things Foundation, these will be free, tutor-led workshops at the Set Tuition Centre above East Finchley Library in the High Road, N2, which is a fully accessible venue. The first takes place on Thursday 19 September from 10.30am to 12.30pm, welcoming complete beginners who are looking for help getting started on their computers or devices. That's followed on Thursday 26 September by a session on using emails and avoiding scams. Other topics to be covered later in the autumn include internet search, online shopping, online banking, staying in touch with friends and family on social media, managing your health online, security online and how to take, edit and store photos. There will also be a session on using programs like Word, Excel and PowerPoint. All workshops will be free, but booking a place is essential. You

can book a range of workshops or just one as appropriate. Book via email at FiveBells.ComputerClub@gmail.com or leave a clear voicemail message on 07729 258139.

These Thursday workshops are in addition to the club's regular term-time Tuesday 2pm-4pm drop-in sessions at the Five Bells Pub on East End Road, N2. These resume on Tuesday 10 September and again offer free help with using computers, smartphones and tablets.



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Enlightening and funny: Joe Dennis on stage in Tides

Review: Tides

Camden Fringe, Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate

By Jessica Holt

Written and performed by Joe Dennis, this production takes the audience into an individual's experience of autism. Based on the real-life story of Dylan Ward, it is simultaneously enlightening, moving, funny and educational.

The audience witnesses the complexities of autism such as heightened emotional states, sensitivity to sounds, lights and smells, misunderstandings leading to conflict, the inability to read facial expressions and body language leading to miscommunication on a grand scale.

However, what is fascinating about this drama is all of this is presented not in a self-pitying way but in a way that questions the nature of our society and asks why society is unable to accommodate human beings

with autism.

The design elements serve the play well with a backdrop of twinkling stars and sketches pinned on the black curtain illustrating peoples' faces. The lighting ranges from reds to blues to greens aligning with the landscapes and places Dylan's imagination is taking us to. The music and sounds match Dylan's moods and emotions, all drawing the audience closer to his experiences.

There are figurines on stage which are meticulously arranged

and rearranged throughout to provide some sense of security for Dylan at difficult moments. There is much humour as other characters are drawn on an artpad in caricature and Dylan mimics them as they speak to him.

There are audio clips of his mother and other characters speaking to him from the past. Dylan's 'superpower' as he names it is his talent for creative writing and achieving a first-class honours degree. Joe Dennis gives a first class performance.

Summer's not over yet

Age UK is throwing a Late Summer Music Festival at the Ann Owens Centre in Oak Lane, N2, on Saturday 21 September from 11am to 3pm.

They are inviting people to join them on the last day of summer for live music, from show tunes to popular classics, nearly new stalls, a plant sale, tombola, raffle, plus cakes, food and drink. Entry is £2. For more information contact teresa.gallagher@ageukbarnet.org.uk or call her on 07502 989 403.

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