



Free money for everyone: could it work in N2?

By David Melsome

“Eat free pizza, talk free money”. No, it’s not a scam, but an open discussion being run by the Grange Big Local team in East Finchley about the opportunity to run a trial of Basic Income.

Basic Income is the idea that everyone gets a non-means tested payment every month, providing an income floor below which they cannot sink. They wouldn’t need to apply for it and wouldn’t lose it if their circumstances changed. Supporters of the concept say wealthier people would pay it back in taxes while the universal and unconditional nature of the payments would make them easy to distribute and to administer.

Reasons to be cheerful

Julia Hines, from Grange Big Local (GBL), said: “The idea is that a basic income gives people a foundation. For example it could act as a guarantee to a landlord you can afford rent. Or it can provide some financial certainty if you are a freelancer or work in the gig economy, even in the lean months.

“A basic income can also help if you become ill or cannot work for other reasons. It might allow you to just pay your bills, or give you the chance

to do training instead of taking a second job, or spend some time caring for family. It gives people dignity, away from the stigma of means testing, and it allows them to be brave and entrepreneurial if they want to start their own business.”

Councillor Alison Moore, Mayor of Barnet, who is a member of GBL, said: “With the cost-of-living crisis and the financial challenges so many are facing, it’s important we explore all the options to support those in need.”

Community Centre event

GBL has partnered with the Basic Income Conversation organisation to run the discussion event with the aim of hearing people’s views. It takes place on Tuesday 22 November from 6pm to 8pm at Tarling Road Community Centre, Tarling Road, N2. There will be pizza and some activities to keep children busy. Email info@grangebiglocal.org for more details and let the team know if you need help with access.



Children in knead: Monkey Puzzle nursery youngsters get hands-on at Yasar Halim bakery

On your marks, get set, bake!

Youngsters from the Monkey Puzzle East Finchley nursery got hands-on with flour and dough when they visited the Yasar Halim bakery and patisserie on a day out. They walked up the High Road from their nursery opposite the tube station to the shop on the corner of Kitchener Road, where they were given a special lesson in kneading dough.

Nursery staff said it was a fun trip that helped the young ones with skills like measuring, following instructions and exploring textures. “The children loved the chance to knead the bread dough, watch it bake in the oven, as well as see some of the other delicious baked goods that they got to take home,” said Monkey Puzzle staff member Mira Rogala.

Book awards invite entries

There is still time to submit entries for The Jewish Children’s Book Awards, established to discover inspiring stories based on Jewish history and traditions. Submissions close on Friday 18 November.

One author and one illustrator will each receive a separate £1,000 prize and their work will be considered for publication by specialist children’s book publisher Green Bean Books, run by East Finchley resident Michael Leventhal.

This is the second year for the awards. Last year’s winners were Carol Isaacs in the writing category for *Samira’s Stars*, and Sharon Spitz in the illustration category for *S.Y. Agnon*. Find more details on how to enter this year at www.greenbeanbooks.com

Rare sighting of muntjac deer

Thanks to reader Sally Norris for sending us this photo of a rare sighting of a little muntjac deer wandering in and out of the front gardens in Market Place, N2. She spotted the solitary animal around 6.30pm on Tuesday 4 October, when many people would have been making their way home from work.



Muntjac are usually very secretive and keep away from populated areas. It’s a mystery where it could have come from, although Islington and St Pancras Cemetery, about half a mile away, has been known to have occasional sightings of muntjac. This one might have walked along the embankment of the Northern line, which is used as a nature corridor. *Have you spotted a muntjac anywhere else in the area? Email us at news@the-archer.co.uk or leave a message on our free phone line at 0800 612 0748.*



Spotted: The young muntjac in Market Place, above, and a fully grown adult, right

SUNDAY 27TH NOVEMBER / 11AM - 6PM

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