

Wednesday 22 February 2012

Free money advice at Pollards Hill

On Saturday 3 March 2012 between 9.30am and 6pm Moat is supporting a free money advice day at Pollards Hill. Taking place at the New Horizon Centre on South Lodge Avenue (CR4 1LT), the day is an initiative by Pollards Hill Estate Committee provided in partnership with Illegal Money Lending Team, A4e and a local independent distributor for the Utility Warehouse Discount Club. The day will feature performances by local Aim High Dance Academy, and St Marks Academy, Mitcham who will perform a play about the dangers of illegal money lending .

Proposed reforms to the welfare benefits system in the UK will have a major impact on residents' income across the country and the National Housing Federation (NHF) will provide some explanation of the changes and a question and answer session to raise resident awareness. Pollards Hill is in the London Borough of Merton and the Pollards Hill Estate Committee identified funding for this event in partnership with Moat. This event will be attended by local MP Siobhain McDonagh and will provide access to excellent money advice and financial support information for residents across the borough.

A4e, together with Merton Chamber of Commerce will provide one to one bitesize advice sessions; offering advice about getting into work, and making the most of skills. The new Police Area Commander, Darren Williams, will also be on hand for a coffee and a chat with residents.

Val Neal, Chair of Pollards Hill Estate Committee, says; "We are highlighting the important changes to legislation, but more importantly, the effect that these will have on residents' income and spending. We want to use the money advice day to raise awareness and signpost residents to expert advice and information."

Colin Tanner, Moat's Community Development Officer, says; "This event is the first of its kind at Pollards Hill, bringing together a range of partner organisations to provide advice and information in a stress-free environment. This will be a real community event and to counterbalance the serious nature of the financial advice, there will be lots going on including free 25 minute health MOTs, Reiki and massage therapy taster sessions, face painting, Kiddy Craft and cake decoration as well as lunch and refreshments."

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Additional information

This event provides an excellent opportunity to obtain money and budgeting advice and learn about CV writing skills.

Three ways to get **free** advice and Information on the day;

1. Attend one of the rolling presentations and workshops
2. Visit one of the information pods in the main hall
3. Arrange a confidential appointment with an expert on the day

Attendees can look forward to:

- Free lunch
- Free Kiddy Craft sessions
- Afternoon tea
- Free Cake decoration sessions
- Free raffle – five high quality prizes
- Face painting
- Reiki therapy
- Massage
- Fire Service fire fighting display
- 25 minute MOT health check (by appointment)
- Find out how to avoid illegal loans
- Meet your local Credit Unions.
- Simple advice on how to make budgets go further
- Energy Companies, Citizens Advice, Welfare Benefits, Department of Work and Pension, Job Centre Plus and many other agencies will be on hand to answer questions.