



# THE PIGGY BANK

# SAVING MONEY

A practical guide for the Cumbria and North Lancashire community  
[www.thepiggybank.org.uk](http://www.thepiggybank.org.uk)

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# 4 SAVING MONEY

## TOP MONEY SAVING TIPS

### CLOTHING

- **Shop at charity shops**  
Pick up some fantastic deals.
- **Find out where your nearest 'Exchange' shop is** – often you can get brand new designer clothes for a fraction of the price.
- **Search online**  
For example on Shpock and Ebay.



### GAS/ ELECTRICITY

- **Add an extra layer of clothing**, before plugging in a heater.
- **Don't have your windows open** & your heaters on at the same time!
- **Shop around for the best deals**  
visit: [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply)
- **Fan heaters can be very expensive**  
oil filled radiators are better.

## WHY SAVE MONEY?

### Rainy-day funds

To pay for a repair to your home like a boiler replacement, washing machine or cooker.

### Funds for treats

To pay for treats such as a holiday, an expensive piece of furniture or Christmas.

### Financial protection

You might want to have a fund of money available in case you run into financial difficulties because you lose your job, become seriously ill, disabled or have an accident.

### Future spending

You might want to save up for something specific in the future such as a wedding, a new car or your retirement.

### FOOD

- **Shop late for bargains.**  
Buy supermarket own brand goods and basics.
- **Learn to cook**  
Making food is lots cheaper – make a batch all at once e.g. soup, bolognaise and freeze portion sizes for quick ready meals later in the week.
- **Eat sensibly**  
Fruit and veg is cheaper. Check out local markets & butchers (e.g. butchers often have off-cuts of bacon & sell this at a fraction of the price).
- **Only buy what you need**  
We throw away 1/3 of the food we buy!
- **Food that's absolutely fine**  
If it's gone past its 'best before date' (this just means its 'best' before this date). You only need to check the 'use by date'.
- **Check out recipe books** designed for a tight budget e.g. A Girl Called Jack by Jack Monroe (only about £4 used or £6 new on Amazon).

### TRAVEL

- **Use a bicycle or walk**  
Saving money and good for your health too!
- **Get a discounted rail card**  
Apply at your local train station or buy in advance for deals
- **Get an annual, monthly or weekly bus pass** (rather than paying separately each day)
- **Do you really need a car?** Average how much you spend per week including petrol, maintenance, insurance, tax, etc. Is it worth it?



### GET FREE STUFF

See page 20 for websites

### ENTERTAINMENT, EATING OUT & HOLIDAYS

- **Check out** local festivals, attractions and free film showings in pubs
- **How much do you spend on alcohol and/or cigarettes?** How much is that a year? You may be surprised!
- **Get great half price vouchers** for eating out & local attractions:

#### Locally at:

The Bay Radio E-Vouchers:  
[evouchers.thebay.co.uk](http://evouchers.thebay.co.uk)

#### Nationally at:

Groupon: [www.groupon.co.uk](http://www.groupon.co.uk)  
Living Social: [www.livingsocial.com](http://www.livingsocial.com)

### PENSIONS

Everyone needs money for their retirement, to give you a decent standard of living.

#### How pensions work

You put aside money during your working life into a pension fund. When you reach retirement age, you get your pension to live off for the rest of your life. The amount you get will depend on how much you have saved.

### FURTHER HELP AND INFORMATION

The Money Advice Service offers information about the options available:

[www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/categories/pensions-and-retirement](http://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/categories/pensions-and-retirement)

### TIPS FOR STUDENTS

- Get an **NUS Extra Card** for loads of discounts – [www.nus.org](http://www.nus.org)
- **Get a student railcard**  
Apply at your local train station
- **Full-time students are exempt from paying Council Tax**
- If you're going to university, **join Student Union clubs** and societies for cheap & fun entertainment

Share your tips online at  
[www.thepiggybank.org](http://www.thepiggybank.org)

### OTHER

- **Health** - Complete a HC1 form for help towards prescriptions, glasses and dental care.
- **Buy household products from pound shops** and look out for deals on things that last.
- **Telephone line service charges and mobile phone contracts can be expensive.** Before signing up, ask about the length of contract and what they include.



### ACCOMMODATION

- **Look out for accommodation** where the **bills are included** in the rent.
- **Shop around for the best deals**  
Don't believe everything estate agents say!

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