

Ways to save

Saving money in libraries, shops and restaurants

Libraries

1 The book you want

If you're looking for the latest bestseller or even a very rare book, check if your library has it in stock or will get it for you. Which? member Cath Allwood says her local library helps her reading group by ordering multiple copies of titles they're reading for free. Many people are unaware of the range of books a library will order.

2 Cheap DVDs

Borrowing a CD or DVD from the library is a cheap way to catch up on music and films. DVDs typically cost £2 to borrow – cheaper than many high-street or online shops. Blockbuster online charges from £3.50 for a single film (including prepaid postage both ways). The cheapest package offered by www.lovefilm.com is £3.91 a month, but you're limited to one DVD at a time, two a month.

Above: Norwich Millennium library

3 Surf for free

If you don't fancy paying for internet access at home (or just want to save on your bills), you can surf, email or shop online for free at libraries. You can book times in advance by phone, online, or in person.

4 Play games

Many libraries will let you rent games for the Nintendo Wii, Sony PlayStation 2 and PlayStation 3 consoles. For a similar price to renting library DVDs or CDs, you can try new games or re-visit old ones. You may prefer to borrow rather than buy games if you only play them briefly.

5 Other free things

Many libraries have book clubs linked to them. There are 95,000 people in library-linked groups and the number of groups has doubled in the last four years. Your library may also have a storytime for children and workshops for adults.

Bag a bargain

6 A good time to buy

This is a good time of year to buy a cheap digital camera, as manufacturers refresh their ranges at the end of spring and sell off end-of-line models. We have 42 Best Buys online. See www.which.co.uk/cameras. Also, Argos releases its new catalogue in June, so look out for end-of-catalogue and clearance bargains.

7 Cinema tickets

Sign up for a free Cheap Day Tuesday card at Vue Cinemas, and you can get cheaper film on Tuesdays. Tickets typically cost £4.20 as opposed to more than £6. See www.myvue.com.

Eating out

8 Meal deals

The Sizzling Pub Company chain is offering main meals for £2.99 between Mondays and Fridays until 1 May. If you like wine with your meal, the Ask restaurant chain is offering, until 26 April, two pizzas and a bottle wine for £20, typically saving £7 to £10. There are only two wines you can choose from, Trebbiano white or Montepulciano D'Abruzzo red, however you can pick any pizza.



9 Where to buy

You can make big savings on TVs, DVD players and personal video recorders by buying reconditioned or end-of-line products.

Argos Clearance Bargains eBay store (stores.shop.ebay.co.uk/clearancebargains) sells new and refurbished Argos products up to 40% off the standard Argos price.

Comet's Clearance Auctions (www.clearance-comet.co.uk) auctions Comet products including new and end-of-line goods. There's a big range of DVD recorders and players, and LCD and plasma TVs.

Tesco Direct (www.direct.tesco.com) sells refurbished TVs online with a 12-month warranty.

SAVE WITH THE GOOD FOOD GUIDE



Britain's bestselling restaurant guide, *The Good Food Guide 2009*, includes £50 of money-off vouchers and tips on great-value set menus. To order your copy of *The Good Food Guide 2009* at the special offer of £10.99 including FREE p&p (normal price £16.99), please call 01903 828557 and quote GFGW0509. Offer is valid to 1 June 2009.