



Square deal: Auction winner Chetna Patel with Steve McFadden.

It's EastFinchleyEnders!

The Archer Academy's latest fundraising campaign got a boost with the help of parent and *EastEnders* star Steve McFadden who donated an Albert Square road sign, autographed by the programme's cast. The little piece of Walford was won by Chetna Patel at a quiz night and auction arranged by the school's Friends Association.


The academy is hoping to raise £250,000 to fund the building of a library and study centre for its GCSE students at its site in Beaumont Close, N2. Anyone wishing to support the Make Beaumont Brilliant campaign can visit <https://tinyurl.com/archermbb>.

Bus goes term-time only

Passengers using bus route 603, which runs between Muswell Hill and Swiss Cottage, via East Finchley, Highgate and Hampstead, are being told their service will not run during the school holidays.

Primarily serving seven schools, but available to other passengers too, it runs twice a day in each direction. However, the number of passengers is falling and therefore it will now operate only in term time.

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Recycling bins disappear as part of waste service changes

Waste collection services in Barnet are being changed, starting with the removal of recycling banks, including those outside East Finchley tube station which were taken away last month.

Barnet Council is also scrapping the weekly brown bin food waste collection introduced in 2013. Householders will be expected to place food waste in their existing black bins.

Furthermore, the green bin garden waste will be suspended for three months over the winter when usage is said to be low. Residents will be given a day in January or February for collection of Christmas trees.

Council response to concerns

Many people have expressed their concern about these reductions in the waste service but the council says the changes are based on results of monitoring usage patterns and on cost efficiencies.

The food waste collection is being stopped, says the council, because only 25-30 per cent of residents participated, making the service inefficient for the amount of waste collected.

At the same time, the recycling bank service generated "significant costs" but only low levels of recycling tonnage.

A Barnet Council spokesman said: "This is largely due to the council having to deploy resources on a regular basis to clear fly-tipped materials that are left around the banks. The removal of these banks will

enable street cleansing resources to be deployed more efficiently, as well as helping the council deliver essential savings."

The council is advising that recycling materials can still be taken to the Reuse and Recycling Centre in Summers Lane, N12. That, of course, is only useful for residents who have the transport to get there.



Bin and gone: The recycling banks outside the station shortly before they were removed.

A cautionary tale and an everyday hero on the Northern line

By Julia Lawrence

In these troubled times, it's a relief to know there are still some good people out there. And I was delighted to find one recently on the Northern line.

Commuting from East Finchley on a day of changeable weather, I'd worn my heavy winter Parka coat, and then of course roasted in the packed carriage so decided to slip it off and carry it. Euston station was completely packed and as I tried to board a new train I got nudged back onto the platform (and obviously didn't stand behind the yellow line).

The carriage doors shut and

the train sped off, whisking my Parka away with it, trapped by its hood in the door. Bad enough, but in the pockets were my phone and my house keys. I did what any other person would do in the circumstances: I burst into tears.



Happy ending: Julia with Peter Gaylor

My new hero

And then London suddenly unclenched itself. Out of the melee of grumpy, malodorous commuters emerged a band of lovely people, offering tissues and calling the station supervisor for help. When Peter Gaylor arrived, he instantly became my new hero.

He radioed ahead to Warren Street: had my coat arrived? No it hadn't so that meant it had fallen out in the tunnel somewhere. I mentally waved it goodbye, thinking it would lie there rotting for millennia. Leaving Peter with my contact number, I trudged off miserably.

Two hours later, Peter called. He'd waited until the rush hour was over, then boarded

the cab of a southbound train. Leaning out armed with a torch and special grabbing tool, he'd found my coat on the tracks and plucked it to safety.

The phone still worked, the keys were in the pocket, and despite having been run over by thousands of rush hour commuters that morning the coat didn't look too bad. Shredded and filthy, but still in one piece.

And the message is...

What a gentleman! So thank you Peter (I did thank him in person) and thanks to anyone who put up with a crawling train out of Euston at around 11am that morning. But the message of this tale has to be: stand behind the yellow line, people. It's there for a reason. I was lucky it was just my coat that was shredded!

KATHRYN SCORZA



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Kathryn Scorza
Registered Hypnotherapist
Soul Therapist
and Spiritual Healer

tel: 07703 404 839
email: kathryn@kathrynskorza.co.uk
www.kathrynskorza.co.uk

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