



Kitchen waste collections to restart in March

By John Lawrence

Food waste collections are returning to all households in Barnet at the end of next month. Households in East Finchley can expect to receive a brown caddy for their kitchens along with a small brown waste bin for placing outside by the time collections start in the week of 30 March.

Food waste collections last began in 2013 but were discontinued in September 2018 after Barnet Council said the service was costing £300,000 a year. The present council has had a commitment to reinstate them to help make recycling easier.

Items that you will be able to put into your food waste caddy include: leftover meat, fish and vegetables, solid dairy products, eggs and eggshells, bread, pasta, cereals, tea bags and coffee grounds, and out-of-date food with packaging removed.

Items that you will not be able to include are: liquids such as milk, oil or fats, pet litter, nappies and sanitary products, garden waste and packaging of any kind. Users of the service will be asked to line their caddies with compostable bin liners. A one-off sample of these will be provided when the caddy is first delivered. The caddies and bins will be delivered to individual doorsteps. Residents living in flats are asked to collect their caddies from their communal area or bin stores, one per

household.

Once weekly collections resume, the food waste will be turned into clean energy to power homes and fertiliser to be distributed to local farmland.



Coming soon: Food waste bins will be delivered to all households

Craig Miller, executive director of environment for Barnet Council, said: "By doing our bit, together we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, keep bins cleaner and less full, and support Barnet's journey towards reaching Net Zero by 2042."

To find out more about the new food waste collection service, visit www.barnet.gov.uk/foodwaste

Advice for families of children with Down syndrome

A new website has been launched to bring together essential information and advice for families of children with Down syndrome living in Barnet.

The site is a key part of the Barnet Unified Document for Down Syndrome (BUDDS) pathway, which helps families navigate the local systems across health, education and social care. Find it at www.budds.org.uk

Dr Anna Petsas, co-author of BUDDS, said: "Co-produced with parents and professionals, BUDDS aims to ensure families feel informed, supported and connected at every stage of their journey, while offering principles that are relevant to all families of children with Down syndrome."

"Impressively, the new site has been designed by Barnet parent Michael Wallett who has a child with Down syndrome, ensuring lived experience is truly at the heart of how information is shared."

BUDDS is part of the Barnet Local Offer, which comes from the Barnet Education and Learning Service.



One-stop: BUDDS is a service for Down syndrome families

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Window seat: Jennifer Rainsford in her new café in East End Road, N2. Photo Geoffrey Davies

Café boss: Work experience is crucial for young people

By Geoffrey Davies

In what might seem like life imitating art, a cast member from the hit TV comedy Fleabag is running a café in East Finchley. Actress Jennifer Rainsford opened the Finch community café in East End Road, N2, just days before Christmas.

"People have been very welcoming," says Jenny, who played Boo, best friend to café owner Fleabag, played by Phoebe Waller-Bridge. But more than running a café, Jenny is keen to see the venue become a social hub and also a place to offer barista training to young people.

"I did a Saturday job and I know how important it is to gain the experience of working," says Jenny. "And in a coffee shop people come in already knowing what they want, so it is not a hard sell."

Having set up the café as a Community Interest Company (CIC), Jenny has established connections with groups such as Inclusivity Barnet and Art Against Knives and she wants to see the premises, at the top end of Ossulton Way, become a learning centre. The venture is funded in part by personal loans but also had success through crowd funding. "We have designed a way to group about ten people at a time here after we close, to offer group teaching spaces for subjects that are not religious or political," she says.

"I'm really keen to hear from people who feel they could offer something to young people." Brought up in Watford and now living locally, Jenny has appeared in films such as Prometheus and The Favourite as well as stage productions at the National Theatre. She was inspired to set up her new venture after the death in May of her father Martin Rainsford. He had been a headmaster in Ickenham, north-west London, and was very involved with Partners in Education International, raising educational

standards in schools in several African countries and Brazil. The café already seems to be gaining traction with young mothers, by offering crayons and pens for small children. "It's warm and well decorated," said Keren Kingsley. "I've been in a few times already. It's the nicest café in town."

But unlike the café in the TV series, cheese sandwiches don't cost anywhere near the £12.50 that Fleabag charged and the nearest thing to Boo's real-life guinea pig are toy fluffy ones brought in by young customers.

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