



Courtney Bartram-Richards with Lucas Neill

Daggers drop in

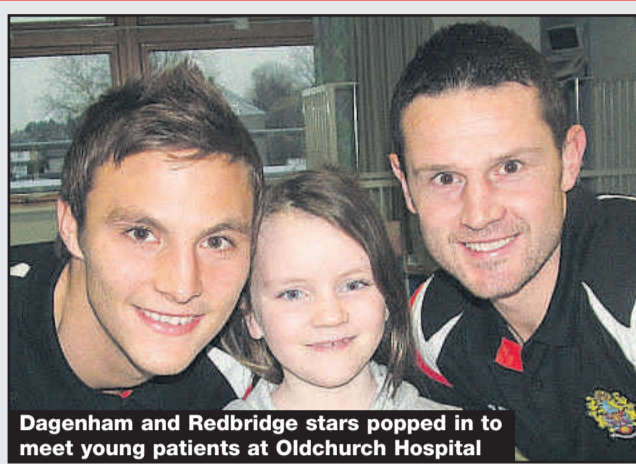
FOOTBALLERS from West Ham United and Dagenham and Redbridge visited sick children in Queen's Hospital over the Christmas period.

The Hammers first team, including manager Gianfranco Zola were first to arrive. Players talked to the children, signed autographs and handed out presents to cheer the patients up. Among those who met the

footballers was Courtney Bartram-Richards, 10, from Dagenham, who had her photograph taken with club captain Lucas Neil.

A few days later Daggers stars came along to the hospital and did the same.

A Queen's spokesperson said: "The players were fantastic. They really took the time to get to know the children, playing games and chatting away."



Dagenham and Redbridge stars popped in to meet young patients at Oldchurch Hospital

● **SOME** major changes will be made to the familiar layout of Barking Market from next week.

From Tuesday, January 6 there will no longer be any stalls in Ripple Road, London Road, and Station Parade.

Stallholders will be relocated to new plots in Barking Town Square, next to the Iceland Supermarket.

The changes are being made to make way for work on the new East London Transit bus route which will eventually link Barking Town Centre with Ilford and the new houses at Riverside.

The ELT is expected to be up and running by 2009.

Chadwell Heath residents receive parking tickets by mistake

Sorry warden, you're in wrong street

By Mark Taylor

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A TRAFFIC warden was caught ticketing cars in the wrong street because he didn't know where the borough's border was.

Residents living in Essex Road, Chadwell Heath, were surprised to find their cars slapped with tickets from Barking and Dagenham Council.

The street, just off Chadwell Heath High Road, is about 400 yards inside the border of neighbouring Redbridge.

Barking and Dagenham Council says the confused warden was new on the job, and all fines will be cancelled or refunded if they have already been paid.

The mistakes happened between October 14 and 19, and a total of 10 tickets were handed out in the wrong patch.

Ajit Mehta, 51, of Essex Road,

received two tickets from the warden for parking his car partly on the pavement.

Mr Mehta said: "Since I moved here in 2000 we've always parked our cars here. The bin men told us to do it otherwise they can't get down the road, and it's not really a foot-path but the end of the greenery."

"All of a sudden I got tickets two days in a row. On the third day I saw the warden and went out and asked him what he was doing."

"I said you're from Barking and Dagenham, and we're in Redbridge. He told me that he would go away and check it."

Mr Mehta's tickets were later cancelled, and he received a letter of apology from the council.

Wilson Chowdhry, of Chadwell

Neighbourhood Watch brought the matter to the authority's attention.

Mr Chowdhry said: "At a time when people are suffering from the current torrid economic climate, it does not help when petty mistakes such as border misunderstandings worsen the situation."

"Barking and Dagenham parking attendants have failed to notice large signs indicating the borough border changes."

A council spokesman said: "We apologise for any inconvenience caused by the issuing of incorrect penalty charge notices."

"The issue came about because a newly established Enforcement Officer entered an area outside of his allotted patrol area."

"As a result, all penalty notices have been cancelled, and we will refund the charges on all of these notices."

'When people are suffering from a torrid economic climate, petty mistakes worsen the situation'

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **ANYONE** heading into London for the January sales this coming weekend should be aware of engineering works on some parts of the underground service.

The Hammersmith and City line from Barking to Edgware Road will be suspended on Saturday, January 3 and Sunday, January 4, and bus travel is advised between these destinations.

District Line trains which run from Dagenham and Barking into town will be unaffected, but some other lines are partly closed.

Travellers are advised to check details by visiting: www.tfl.gov.uk before they set out on their journeys.

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