

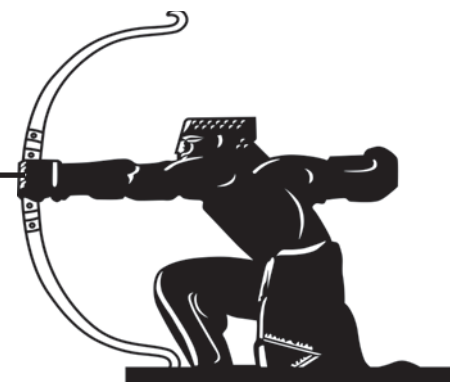


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# The Archer

Local News is our Aim



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**A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.**



Best friends: Michelle and her two dogs. Photo Mike Coles

## Michelle has her hands full

Stage and TV star Michelle Collins has been keeping busy with a fundraising project for her fellow actors... and the arrival of a new four-legged friend. Read the full story on page 7.

## Fire risks and litter hazards in Coldfall Wood

By Ann Bronkhorst

Like most green spaces in London, Coldfall Wood and the playing fields beyond have been a blessing to hundreds of people during the lockdown. For some it's been a revelation to find a little nature reserve within easy reach. Families, joggers, dog-walkers, they've criss-crossed the wood off Creighton Avenue day and night... and unfortunately the heavier footfall has left its mark.

Four large bin bags of rubbish were collected in one hour in June by five volunteers. Dog-poo bags are still being tossed into trees, and picnic leftovers, usually non-decaying plastic and metal, often surround dens and campsites. Den-building is the fashion in north London woodlands so beetles and bugs must compete with humans for the dead wood needed for survival.

### Smouldering fire

By late June Coldfall was very dry so several bright



Morning after: Litter and a smoking fire in Coldfall Wood.

Photo David Bellis

sparks chose to light fires there. One fire was photographed still smouldering at 7.30am; it had been lit the night before. The very angry photographer put it out using water from the stream. Every summer the Friends of Coldfall Wood worry about fire hazards and are grateful to the local 'eyes and ears' for reacting quickly to danger signs and sharing their concerns.

Can this small ancient wood recover from so much human activity or will it be seen, increasingly, as a handy garden

extension, playground or party venue rather than a nature reserve?

### Anti-social behaviour in Cherry Tree Wood

At the same time, residents living near Cherry Tree Wood are being kept awake by noise from barbecues and meet-ups with friends. Several local people have found the litter left behind so unsightly and annoying that they have cleared it up themselves. Read the full story on page 4.

## Phoenix on hold

Trustees and staff at the Phoenix Cinema in East Finchley say they are working hard to ensure it can reopen as soon as possible. A Phoenix statement said it wanted to make sure it was fully prepared to open safely for the sake of staff and customers before setting a date to open its doors again. Cinemas were officially allowed to reopen from 4 July provided they could abide by hygiene regulations.

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