



Dog days: Michelle Collins with Peggy, left, and Humphrey.

## Michelle has her hands full

By Ruth Anders

**Animal-loving actor Michelle Collins is a dynamo. Not only does she help promote our local charity All Dogs Matter, but she has also raised over £33,000 for the Actors Benevolent Fund.**

I met Michelle and her two delightful canine friends in Cherry Tree Wood in late June. She had adopted Humphrey ten years ago and now Peggy is the latest addition to the family. She first fostered her from All Dogs Matter during the lockdown and soon decided to adopt her.

### Actors and writers unite

Michelle's next challenge was to help her fellow thespians. *Archer* readers will be aware of the difficulties Covid-19 poses for performing artists. So with the help of a raft of highly respected mates, along with producers Debbie Gray and Sam Cornish of Genesis Pictures, Michelle assembled a series of monologues to raise funds for actors' union Equity members who are suffering hardship.

More than 50 famous names

took part, including Ian McKellen, Sheila Hancock and Derek Jacobi. The monologues, titled *For the Love of Arts*, can be viewed on the Equity Benevolent Fund's YouTube channel at <https://bit.ly/3cZMh6s>

Michelle told us: "The current crisis has had a devastating effect on my industry, affecting so many of us indiscriminately. I started ringing around friends in the industry; one thing led to another and I suddenly had a list of well-known film, TV and stage actors on board, all wanting to support the project. I also have a group of extremely talented writers who agreed to write monologues for whoever needed one."

### Don't forget dogs

While actors continue to struggle, All Dogs Matter is concerned that, as new dog owners return to work after lockdown, many sadly will want to offload their new pets. General manager Ira Moss stresses that dogs like Peggy appear on their books rarely. Those for whom the charity seeks homes and foster carers are far more likely to be greyhounds or Staffies. For more information about the charity visit [alldogsmatter.co.uk](http://alldogsmatter.co.uk)

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# Buyer steps in to build on site opposite station

By Diana Cormack

**In early July a notice from Deniz Investments, the same company that is developing the Viceroy Close car park in East Finchley, appeared on the hoardings around the former GLH minicab site opposite the tube station.**

It announced proposals to construct 24 luxury flats and one commercial unit. The property was previously expected to be sold at auction at the end of March and was described thus: 'Lot 27: Planning consent granted for 25 flats (with no affordable housing requirement) and B1 Office on the ground and lower ground floor.' The guide price was £4,750,000 but the property was withdrawn prior to auction, presumably to be sold privately.

### Reasons for objection

As often reported in *The Archer*, since planning permission was first granted three years ago, locals and the Finchley Society have vigorously opposed the development. Subsequent modifications have not changed their minds.

It is not only the number of flats, none of them affordable, that they object to, but also the lack of parking and road safety. The High Road site immediately opposite the entrance to the station car park will create traffic problems with access and exit for service



Under development: Hoardings currently surround the former GLH site

vehicles, they argue, threatening increased danger and disruption in an already extremely busy thoroughfare.

### Further reading

Whether there will be another change of planning application is unknown at the time of writing. However, a visit to Barnet Council's Schedule of Site Proposals makes interesting reading for East Finchley residents who care to look.

There are four places listed as sites of current or potential

development: the former Bobath Centre in East End Road, the station car park itself, the disused London Underground electricity substation almost diagonally opposite The Bishops Avenue, and Park House, which stands next door to the GLH site. Interestingly, on the borough's proposals their map shows the Park House and GLH sites as one. *Find the proposals for yourself by visiting [engage.barnet.gov.uk](http://engage.barnet.gov.uk) and searching for 'Draft Local Plan (Reg 18)'*

## Abseiling a long way down to keep the air ambulance up

By Rebecca Wilks

**The London Air Ambulance's red helicopter is likely to be a familiar sight in the sky to many Londoners. For those seriously injured, the charity provides rapid trauma response to hundreds of life-or-death accidents in the capital each year.**

Despite the service's vital role, they rely primarily on donations and fundraising to keep running, and with the current Covid-19 crisis funds are tighter than ever.

I grew up in East Finchley and am going to be fundraising for this amazing cause by taking part in a sponsored abseil from their helipad on top of the 17-storey Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel.

I will be raising funds in honour of my mum Carol Jackson, who lived in East Finchley for over 20 years and was involved in the local community for many years. My mum was tragically killed in a car accident on the High Road in 2019 at the age of 64, and the London Air Ambulance were the first on the scene to provide support.

It is my hope that giving back can help as many other families as possible who may need the service in the future. Any donations would be much appreciated; to donate please visit [www.justgiving.com/carol-jackson-2020](http://www.justgiving.com/carol-jackson-2020).



Loving memory: Carol Jackson, who was killed in a collision on the High Road.